**ELECTIONS**

From *Rogan’s List*: “In last month's midterm election for the Iowa state legislature, Democrat Kayla Koether lost by only 9 votes. However, 33 absentee ballots were not counted even though some/all of them were properly sent and received according to Iowa law. Now Koether has filed an emergency lawsuit demanding that those 33 ballots be verified for proper submission by the US Postal Service, and that the proper ones be counted. So far, the Iowa Secretary of State has refused to take this action.” (Write-up 12/7/18)

**GIVE** the Iowa Secretary of State a little push to do the right thing

• **Paul D. Pate**, Secretary of State, First Floor, Lucas Building, 321 East 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50319, (515) 242-5952

Probable election fraud in North Carolina’s 9th District led the state’s Elections Board to refuse to certify the House election in that district. Reported fraud includes unauthorized collection of and failure to file mail-in ballots from primarily African-American areas. At least one individual says she was hired to collect mail-in ballots from Democrat-leaning neighborhoods (which is not permissible under North Carolina election law) and to deliver them to a Republican campaign consultant. The Republicans, who have been nationally vocal with their concerns about election fraud, are either ignoring or minimizing this issue. (Write-up 12/7/18)

**TELL** the state’s Republican Governor that he shouldn’t be presiding over a clear failure of democracy within his state and that Americans across the country are looking to him to ensure that North Carolina does the right thing

• **Governor Roy Cooper**, 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301, (19) 814-2000

**ENVIRONMENT**

In yet another gift to the fossil-fuel industry, the Trump administration plans to eliminate the Obama-era requirement that new coal-fired power plants have technology to capture carbon dioxide emissions. (Write-up 12/7/18)

**ASK** our Congresspeople how they intend to respond to this latest assault on our national security and planetary health

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

**INSIST** (yet again) that it’s time for the Environmental Protection Agency to acknowledge the reality of global climate change and the threat this present to the U.S. and the planet

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader, may allow Senator Joe Manchin to become the ranking member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Senator Manchin is in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry and if he takes that chair we can say goodbye to any meaningful action on climate change. His lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters is a deplorable 47%. Manchin supports Trump's EPA and the fossil fuel industry and, therefore, seems an odd choice to be the top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. In fact, in a 2010 campaign ad, Manchin used a rifle to take “dead aim” and shoot a climate change bill. (Write-up 12/6/18)

**EXPLAIN** to the Senate Minority Leader that Manchin is a completely unacceptable candidate for this position

• **Senator Charles Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

**URGE** our Senators to vocally oppose Manchin’s appointment as Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded that the pesticide sulfoxaflor is “very highly toxic” to bees. Nonetheless, the EPA is considering a proposal from Dow Chemical, the manufacturer of sulfoxaflor, to expand its usage. One third of our food depends upon bees and other pollinators. The equation is simple: increasing the use of sulfoxaflor on food crops = increasing the death of bees = decreasing long-term food availability. (Write-up 12/6/18)

**INSIST** that the EPA honor its own findings and deny expanded use of sulfoxaflor

• **Andrew Wheeler**, Acting Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460, (202) 564-4700

**ETHICS**

Elected officials who serve on California’s Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) rolled into the five-star Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn resort Wednesday for a single overnight retreat to talk about *affordable housing* and *how best to spend transportation tax and toll money* in the coming year. Cost: $29,000. Some MTC members did not attend, others commuted to the meeting or paid their own way, but the majority of Commissioners and staffers attending did so on public money. This despite the fact that in 2016 the MTC moved into a $256 regional government building in San Francisco that is accessible by public transportation. (Write-up 12/6/18)

**EXPLAIN** to the MTC that overnights at posh hotels are not an appropriate way to work toward affordable housing

• **Jake McKenzie**, Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 375 Beal St. #800, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 778-6700

• **Scott Haggerty**, Vice-Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 375 Beal St. #800, San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 778-6700

**FAMILY SEPARATION, DENATURALIZATION, and IMMIGRATION**

Congress is in the middle of a flurry of short-term spending deals intended to prevent a government shut-down and to “buy time” (for what?). So far, the Senate has allocated $1.6 billion for what the Democrats are calling border security and the Republicans are calling a wall. (Write-up 12/7/18)

**ENSURE** that our Congresspeople, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader (and probable Speaker come January) know that we do not want to see any more taxpayer dollars going toward a wall

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

• **Senator Charles Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6542

• **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 233 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965

*POLITICO* reports: “Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has requested the deployment of civilian law enforcement officers from several other Cabinet departments to the U.S.-Mexico border as early as [the first week of December], according to an internal memo obtained by *POLITICO*. In what current and former U.S. officials said would be an unprecedented move, the officers—who in most cases have duties entirely unrelated to border security—would help Border Patrol agents repel what the memo calls ‘migrant caravans originating from Central America.’ The request suggests that personnel with such assignments as guarding diplomats, patrolling national parks, and protecting nuclear weapons might effectively “become Customs and Border Protection personnel,” as one former Justice Department official put it, with the power to arrest border-crossers.” (We should also note that what Homeland Security and the press are calling “migrant caravans” are, in fact, asylum seekers, who have the right under U.S. and international law to enter the U.S. and request asylum.) This memo was sent to the Departments of State, Labor, Energy, Transportation, Interior, and Justice. (Write-up 12/7/18)

**DEMAND** that U.S. cabinet members focus on doing they work they are assigned with overseeing and that they reject this request that they reroute personnel to the border as requested by the Department of Homeland Security

• **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520-2204, (202) 647-6575

• **Alexander Acosta**, U.S. Secretary of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20210, (844) 4-USA-DOL

• **Rick Perry**, Secretary of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 2-585, (202) 586-5000

• **Elaine Chao**, Secretary of Transportation, 122 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington DC 20590, (855) 368-4200

• **Ryan Zinke**, Secretary of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

• **Matthew G. Whitaker**, Acting Attorney General, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530-0001, (202) 353-1555

From *Rogan’s List*: “Last month, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that undocumented survivors of violence and trafficking who apply for legal status in the United States will now be placed in deportation proceedings if their petitions are denied. This means that survivors of domestic violence and trafficking will be risking deportation by simply applying for citizenship or other protected status in the United States.” (Write-up 12/7/18)

**JOIN** the National Immigrant Justice Center in asking the USCIS to rescind this policy

• **L. Francis Cissna**, Director, U.S. Citizensip and Immigration Service, 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20529, (800) 375-5283

**GENERAL DECENCY**

Senator Ben Sasse, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee has requested that the Justice Department investigate its treatment of Jeffrey Epstein, who in 2007 received a “sweetheart” plea deal—from then-U.S. Attorney and current U.S. Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta—when facing multiple charges relating to his sexual activities with and trafficking of underage girls. The deal included a (probably illegal under federal law) clause keeping the settlement secret from his alleged victims, so that they could not contest it. (Write-up 12/7/18)

**THANK** Senator Sasse for taking this action

• **Senator Ben Sasse** (R-NE), 136 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4224

**URGE** our Senators, who both sit on the Judiciary Committee, to join this call for an investigation

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

**HEALTH and HEALTHCARE**

From *Rogan’s List*: “[T]he Trump administration—in the persons of Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—proposed to cut costs for Medicare by letting Part D Medicare insurers out of covering drugs currently in six ‘protected classes’—certain drugs for cancer, AIDS, depression, schizophrenia and other conditions. The ramifications of the changes proposed would be devastating for some Medicare recipients.” (Write-up 12/7/18)

**TELL** Azar and Verma that savings at the expense of the health of those they should be protecting are unconscionable

• **Alex Azar**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 690-7000

• **Seema Verma**, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244 (877) 267-2323

**HUMAN and CIVIL RIGHTS**

*BuzzFeed* has reported that three Democratic Senators, including our own Kamala Harris, have “demanded that immigration authorities release documents on the case of Roxsana Hernández Rodríguez, a 33-year-old transgender woman who died in custody earlier this year…. [T]he senators argue that the officials had violated congressional reporting requirements by not making the documents public. The senators also requested documentation related to the training materials surrounding care of transgender individuals in custody. [Their letter states] ‘We request that ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] immediately release a full and complete death review and supporting documentation on Roxsana Hernández to the public. We also request that ICE and CBP each provide us with complete accounting and documentation of the specific training that their officers, agents, and contractors receive related to the processing, medical evaluation and care, and safety of transgender individuals in custody.’” In earlier coverage of Hernández Rodríguez death, *Newsweek* explained that “an independent autopsy report has found that she suffered ‘physical abuse’ before her death. The report by Dr. Kris Sperry, a forensic pathologist from Georgia, found that Hernandez had ‘deep bruising’ to the chest wall and ‘deep contusions extending on to the back.’ Sperry also found that Hernandez’s wrists exhibited bruises ‘typical of handcuff injuries.’” The Newsweek story continues, “In a statement [the day] Hernandez died in a New Mexico hospital, ICE gave the preliminary cause of death as cardiac arrest, adding that that finding was pending an autopsy by the New Mexico medical examiner’s office. That autopsy report has not been released.” (Write-up 12/7/18)

**THANKS** to the Senators demanding a release of information on Roxsana Hernández Rodríguez’s death

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Senator Martin Heinrich** (D-NM), 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5521

• **Senator Tom Udall** (D-NM), 531 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6621

**JOIN** the Senators’ request for this release of information by ICE and **EMPHASIZE** the importance of fair, respectful, humane treatment for all asylum seekers, including those who are transgendered

• **Kirstjen M. Nielsen**, Secretary of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0075, (202) 282-8494

• **Ronald Vitiello**, Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement**,** 500 12th St. SW, Washington D.C. 20536, (866) DHS-2-ICE

From *Rogan’s List*: “Color of Change reminds us that U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents are still boarding Greyhound buses without warrants, then questioning passengers about their immigration and citizenship status. If a person is unable to provide documentation on the spot, they are removed from the bus and detained. By allowing CBP to conduct warrantless searches on their buses, Greyhound is aiding in Trump’s deportation machine that’s tearing apart families and wrecking communities. According to the ACLU, this is a clear violation of these families’ 4th amendment rights, and Greyhound has the ability to stop this. So far, they have refused to do so. Greyhound needs to implement policies to prohibit Border Patrol agents from boarding their buses without a warrant or unless they're at a border crossing.” (Write-up 12/7/18)

**INSIST** to Greyhound executives that they cease this collaboration with ICE and CBP and that they honor the rights and dignity of their passengers

• **David Leach**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greyhound Bus Lines, 350 North St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 75201, (214) 849-8966

• **Tricia Martinez**, Senior Legal Officer, Greyhound Bus Lines, 350 North St. Paul St., Dallas, TX 75201, (214) 849-8966