



# Letters & Opinions

Amendment 1 - "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press ... or the right of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

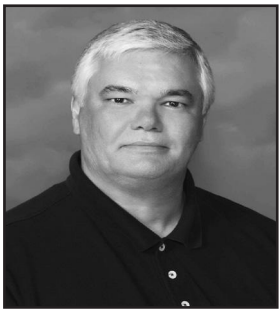
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## Opinions

January 20, masked protestors marched in the streets of Washington, D.C, and according to a NBC reporter on the scene, rioters "armed with cameras and bricks" were breaking store windows. Thousands of police officers dressed in riot gear confronted them with flash bang grenades and pepper spray. The reporter said this "chaotic scene" was just outside the perimeter of the inauguration zone and parade route. Across the nation similar protests and rioting broke out when Donald J. Trump was inaugurated our 45th president in 2017.

### That Was Then, This Is Now

This week America will usher in a new president and vice-president behind multiple layers of fencing and concertina wire. The National Mall and streets of



Daniel L. Gardner

Washington that are securely sealed will be deserted as more than 25,000 military forces plus law enforcement officers diligently guard buildings and dignitaries. Americans and the world will be watching the peaceful transition of power virtually as one administration replaces another. What a sight!

The irony is rich this year. The incoming president played a role in the investigations into the outgoing president months before the 2016 election. It's been a bumpy four years! Democrats, media, and #HATE-Trump folks organized the "Resist Trump" movement even before President Trump was inaugurated. Hatred of Trump and his supporters fueled that movement 24/7/365 for four years, and hatred continues unabated today.

Now that President Trump has left the White House and been removed from social media, what will happen? Trump has been the only issue the LEFT has had

for more than four years. Even though Democrats control both houses of Congress and the White House, media are still likely to continue bashing President Trump and his supporters daily.

But, what changes might we see? Before COVID, unemployment rates fell to historic lows for all races, and wages surged particularly for middle and lower income workers. We had more jobs open than workers to fill them. Will Democrats build that back better? In the last four years America has become energy independent and workers have enjoyed low gas prices. What will gasoline cost under Democrats?

In the past four years taxes have been cut. Oppressive regulations have also been removed fueling a surge in the number of new small businesses. Will Democrats build back higher taxes and more government regulations on small businesses? Will Democrats raise the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour? How might that affect small businesses and employment?

How will America's relationship with Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea change? What affect might those changes have on our economy, or our safety? What will happen to recent peace accords between Israel and her Arab neighbors? Will we continue bringing troops home from Afghanistan and Iraq?

How will President Biden deliver one-hundred million COVID vaccine shots by the end of his first 100 days in office? What other steps will he take to curb this pandemic? Will those steps adversely affect jobs and businesses?

President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris have promised to unify Americans. What will they say and do to reunite Americans? Elections have consequences. What will America look like a year from now? Four years from now? It's time to end reckless political rhetoric. It's time to end social and political violence. It's time to end the hate and fear mongering.

*Daniel L. Gardner is a syndicated columnist who lives in Starkville, MS. You may contact him at PJandMe2@gmail.com.*

## Health Department Moves Covid-19 Vaccination To Paddock Mall

The Department of Health in Marion County is moving its COVID-19 vaccination operations to the Paddock Mall (3100 SW College Road, Ocala) beginning Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. The site, a joint venture with AdventHealth Ocala, Marion County Emergency Management, and Paddock Mall, will be available for vaccinations by appointment only.

The Paddock Mall vaccination site will be a walk-up operation, rather than a drive-through operation that other vaccination sites have used. People with vaccination appointments will park at the Paddock Mall entrance nearest the Belk department store entrance on Southwest College Road.

Residents with appointments will begin the vaccination process at the mall entrance appointment check-in table. They will then walk inside the mall to the registration area, where staff members will verify their information.

Once registration is complete, residents will walk to the vaccination area where medical personnel will provide information about the vaccine they are about to receive and administer the vaccine. After receiving their vaccination, residents will walk to a seated waiting area where medical personnel will monitor them for 15 to 30 minutes for possible adverse reactions. After the monitoring window is complete, individuals will be permitted to depart the mall and return to their vehicles.

Vaccination site staff will have transportation available to help transport residents between their vehicles and the mall entrance. Residents who require wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices are asked to bring their own devices, as they will need to be able to wait in line for their vaccination appointment.

The Paddock Mall vaccination site is currently scheduled to be open for appointments each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The site is projected to schedule several hundred vaccination appointments each day. The department will be unable to support walk-in requests for vaccinations.

Health department staff continuing to schedule vaccination appointments

The department is continuing to schedule appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals who are age 65 and older. Demand for the vaccine has been high. DOH-Marion received more than 50,000 registrations in its week of signups.

"We are continuing to schedule the first 10,000 who registered with us for vaccination appointments. Based on our registration data, this first registration group is almost all individuals who registered on Mon., Dec. 28," said DOH-Marion Administrator Mark Lander. "We are currently able to distribute about 3,000 vaccines each week in combination with our partners."

Meanwhile, opportunities for people who are 65 and older to receive a COVID-19 vaccination continue to expand in Marion and surrounding counties. People who are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination are encouraged to sign up for the shot with locations in the community as they become available.

"Ultimately, we want individuals to be able to get vaccinated as quickly as possible," Lander said. "Being signed up with the health department doesn't disqualify you from checking elsewhere for other available COVID-19 vaccination opportunities, and we encourage you to check all opportunities available to you."

## Letters To The Editor

Letters, or comments, are welcome on any subject. All letters are subject to be edited for length and contents.

In most cases, in criticisms of private citizens, names will be omitted. If the criticism is directed at political or government figures, the names will be printed, if the criticism is directed at their decisions affecting government.

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