



## America's Pandemic: Volunteers Can Save the Election

This newsletter is dedicated to exposing the many ways in which our democracy is threatened by big money in politics and by direct attacks on democratic institutions such as elections. Dozens of [billionaires have donated](#) to the Republican National Committee's legal fund that is being used to fight against expanded access to mail-in voting.

We have consistently advocated that every voter must be able to choose to 1) vote by postage-paid mail or drop-off, or 2) vote in-person during an early voting period or on election day. Thus, we have called for every voter to be mailed a ballot that can be returned by USPS or dropped off at designated location.

As of August 19, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) [had not selected a printer](#) for the election. They cannot print ballots or sample ballots until Trump is nominated and until smaller-party candidate petitions are counted/certified. SBE says that printing is to start on September 3 and the mailing to voters of sample ballots and applications for mail-in ballots will occur by September 24 (5 days late under State law). Gov. Larry Hogan stubbornly adheres to his wasteful and complicated emergency order. For voters who receive a mail-in ballot application in September, they will need to apply and mail in their ballot request, the ballot has to be mailed out, and then the voter has to mail in the ballot (or deliver it to a local board of elections office or drop box). This could require four successful mailings.

### What You Can Do

GMOM recommends that if you prefer not to vote in person that you apply online for a Maryland mail-in ballot right now. [Go here](#). Please don't delay and do have it mailed to you via post. Then, if you are able, deliver it to a drop box. This reduces the burden on the Postal Service and increases the chances that your vote will count. (The list of drop box locations will be posted [here](#) when it is available.)

**We invite you to work with us to motivate and educate potential voters.**

- We have formed an alliance with the CCAN Action Fund's [Fight to Vote](#) Campaign. Please click the link to learn all you need to know to vote in Maryland AND to engage in activities such as texting, letter-writing, and phone banking to potential voters. Fight to Vote will have online parties on September 1 and 15. [Click here to register](#).
- If you want to participate but have no experience with this type of contact with voters, **Get Money Out–Maryland will have a special Zoom meeting to introduce you to various voter education activities on today, August 27, at 6:30 pm.** [Click here to join via Zoom](#).
- **You can become a poll worker.** At last report Maryland had about 44% of the poll workers it normally uses for a general election. Without an adequate number of poll workers, early voting and election day could descend into chaos. You would receive training, PPE, and around \$200 per session in pay. [Click here](#).
- **You can become a non-partisan election protector:** monitoring polling places (from your vehicle, or remotely), watchdogging social media for disinformation and voters in need of help, or reaching out to voters to make sure they know their rights. You'll connect voters with trained legal professionals. [Click here](#).

**ACT NOW**

**"Please call @ChrisVanHollen at 202-224-4654 and Sen. Ben Cardin at 202-224-4524 and tell them that a Senate bill with no**

**help to states for a fair election is UNACCEPTABLE.  
#ProtectOurVote"**

**Please also Tweet the above message or post on Facebook.**

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## **America's Pandemic: Corruption is Bipartisan and Systemic**

While working people ponder how they can stay healthy, educate and care for children, and keep a roof over their heads, corporations and politicians are teaming up on schemes like the following:

A measure to bar corporate lobbyists from serving on the Democratic National Committee (DNC) was [rejected](#), with several corporate lobbyists on the DNC Rules Committee voting against it. The DNC previously reversed a ban on receiving fossil fuel PAC contributions and has now [overturned its 2016 plank](#) that advocated ending federal fossil fuel subsidies.

Fossil fuel billionaires and other energy moguls from Texas to New York to Oklahoma, have [opened their wallets](#) wide and raised cash to re-elect Trump, after three-plus years of enjoying Trump's sweeping energy deregulation and tax cuts.

Pam and Russ Martens report, “[A]fter the New York Fed had hired BlackRock to manage its commercial mortgage-backed securities program and its \$750 billion primary and secondary purchases of [debt] in no-bid contracts, Fed Chairman [Powell saw no reason](#) to avoid the conflict of interest of allowing BlackRock to continue managing upwards of \$25 million of his own personal money.... Powell has conducted four confidential phone calls with BlackRock’s CEO, Larry Fink, since March....”

There have been many news reports about Postmaster General DeJoy, but Trump's Chair of the USPS Board, [Mike Duncan, is also a major GOP donor](#). Duncan was confirmed unanimously in the Senate to be on the Board and then elected by the Board as Chair.

Chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, [Democrat Richard Neal, has the backing](#) of the American Hospital Association PAC. Neal helped kill a bill that would have banned "surprise billing," a mechanism whereby patients who go to in-network hospitals to get treatment nevertheless get huge co-pay bills for treatment by out-of-network doctors. Neal uses his chairmanship to effectively prevent consideration of a public option in Obamacare, even though the inclusion of such an option is part of the Democrats' platform.

### **What You Can Do**

**ACT NOW**

**[CLICK HERE to tell Congress: Human Need, Not Corporate Greed - and Fair Elections, Too](#)**

#### **Why does our petition require your address and phone number?**

Our petition instantly emails your message to the Congressperson and Congress requires this information. We do not share your information with anyone.

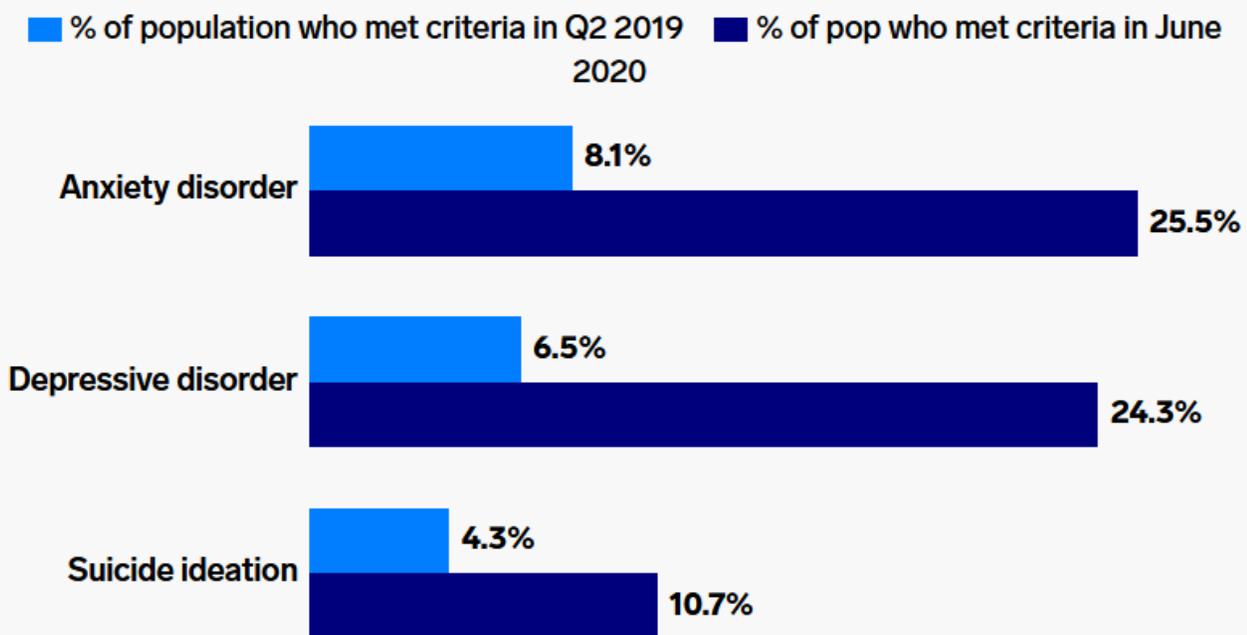
[Please also send a quick message to your U.S senators telling them to amend the U.S. Constitution to protect our right to vote, limit corporate power, and regulate money in politics.](#)

## America's Pandemic: Nearly 11% Considered Suicide in One Month

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [reported](#) that 10.7% of U.S. residents seriously considered suicide in June 2020, more than double the 2018 rate. Other trauma- and stress-related mental disorders are also rampant. "Overall, 40.9% of 5,470 respondents who completed surveys during June reported an adverse mental or behavioral health condition," the CDC determined, citing the pandemic as a cause.

"Mental health conditions are disproportionately affecting specific populations, especially young adults, Hispanic persons, black persons, essential workers, unpaid caregivers for adults, and those receiving treatment for preexisting psychiatric conditions," the CDC said. Unpaid caregivers for adults experienced the highest incidence of mental health impacts.

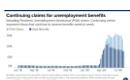
### Prevalence of pandemic mental health issues



Note: 4.3% in suicide ideation is from all of 2018

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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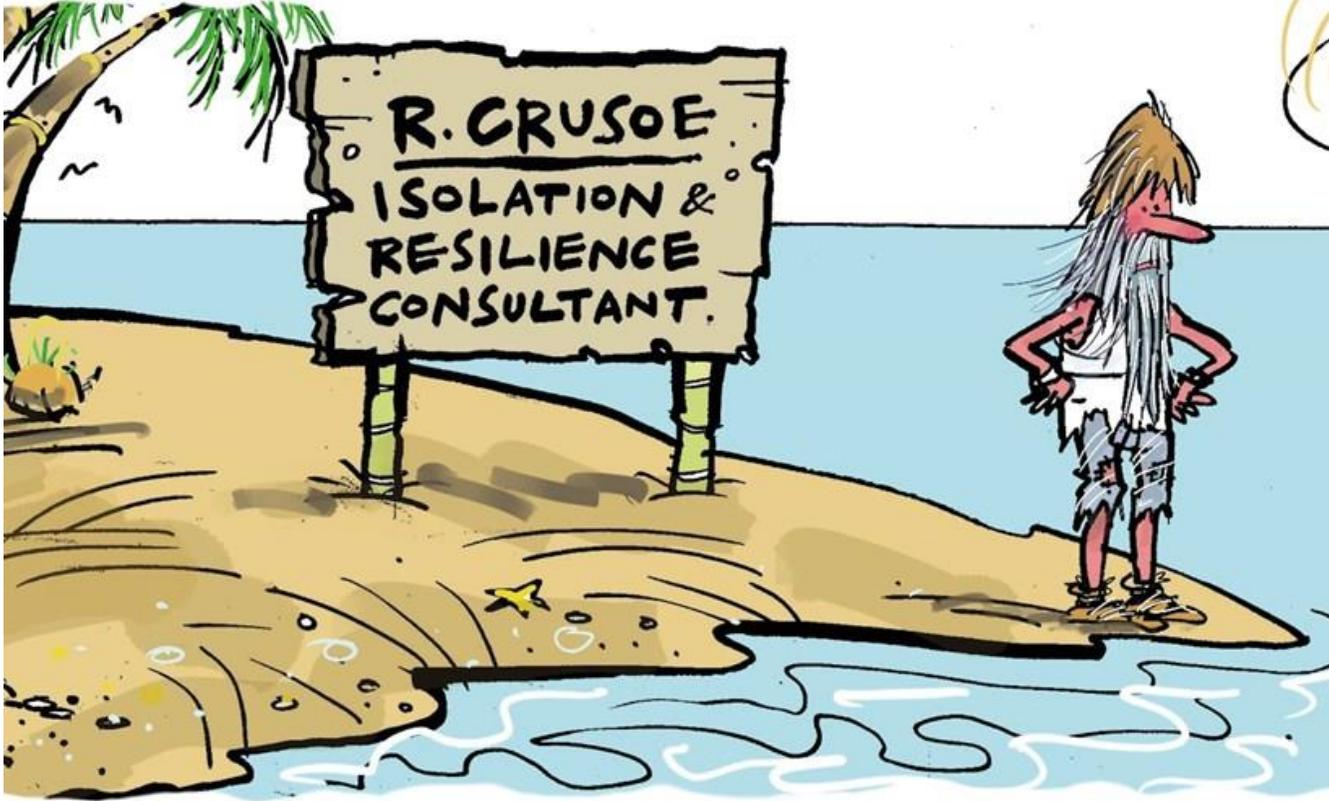


[\(Click image for more info.\)](#)

As of the second week of August, 28 million people were still on unemployment insurance while federal relief had expired. Not only do millions of people now have \$600 per week less in income than they had in July, but certain gig and "contractual" workers are completely cut off. Pres. Trump has repurposed a small sum to provide a \$300 per week unemployment supplement for a few weeks, but that is dependent on states agreeing to put up \$100 and will take weeks to implement. In other words, economic stresses have only worsened since June.

Despite very low mortgage rates, [delinquencies are rising](#) at a record rate. In Miami, 14% of mortgages are at least 30 days overdue. The only ray of sunshine in this depressing picture is that [evictions have not spiked](#), even though the federal and many state moratoriums have expired.

In the 11 weeks since the House of Representatives sent the [HEROES Act](#) to the Senate to die, the Federal government has done nothing effective to ameliorate the pandemic in the public health domain or even to alleviate suffering. Wall Street has recovered because financial institutions received more than \$2.8 trillion in new money created by the Federal Reserve System (more than \$8,500 per person). Meanwhile, people are on their own to face illness, social isolation, poverty, anxiety, and disaster. Wildfires rage in California and the [Gulf Coast is threatened](#) with *two* hurricanes, but our failed response to COVID-19 will undermine emergency response.



**The only way out of this crisis is for a people's movement to build power and take action. Please participate in some of the actions described above and below.**

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### **Previous issues of Corruption Busters**

[Corruption Busters #8](#)

[Corruption Busters #4](#)

[Corruption Busters #7](#)

[Corruption Busters #3](#)

**GMOM Teleconference**  
**Monday, August 31, 7:30 pm**

**Two ways to join the conference**

- 1) Dial 1 301 715 8592, meeting ID: 931 3066 2622. Call 410-624-6095 for the password.
- 2) [Click](#) on your device if you have downloaded the app from [Zoom](#).



**Meeting Agenda:**

We will continue to plan our GOTV/Voter Education efforts and a mid-September panel discussion with filmmaker Gavin Guerra who directed the voting rights documentary, "Let The People Decide."

[GET MONEY OUT - MARYLAND, INC. \(GMOM\)](#) is a group of volunteers trying to get big money out of our political system and make our elections fairer. Through our work on Maryland's [Democracy Amendment Resolution](#), we are pursuing a U.S. Constitutional amendment to guarantee every citizen's right to vote, reserve Constitutional rights for human beings, and regulate money in politics.

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Charlie  
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