

THE Skanner

Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now

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Opinion

Op Deny 270 Urges Voters to Write In Bernie Sanders

For some disenchanted voters, the emergence of Bernie Sanders as a 2016 presidential candidate was a dream come true.

What if a new coalition of America's young voters, people of color and traditional progressives could upend the status quo and transform US politics? What if their candidate could defy the power of Wall Street and the political elites and rise to power in a voters' revolt?

It wasn't to be. The primary elections — hard fought as they were — ended with Democratic voters choosing Hillary Clinton as their candidate.

The dream was dead. But not so fast. A recently formed group called Op Deny 270 is now calling on voters to write in Bernie Sanders instead of voting for any of the candidates on the ballot.

Op Deny 270

Here's what Op Deny 270 says in a letter they sent to *The Skanner News*:

"There are 10 states in which no prior registration is required for write-ins to be counted for Bernie Sanders. These states are Vermont, Oregon, Washington, Iowa, New Hampshire, Rhode Island,



Helen Silvis

The Skanner
Contributing
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Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Alabama, New Jersey.

"California electors have registered and write-ins may count in that state as well, pending confirmation from the Secretary of State.

"Our plan is for Bernie Sanders to win at least 4-6 states through write-in votes. There are enough Bernie supporters and independents for Bernie to win.

"If Bernie Sanders wins several states, he can prevent both Clinton and Trump from getting 270 electoral votes. Trump is doing badly, and will not

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even be close. We would only be taking states from Hillary's side, and not endangering a Trump win, due to his plummeting poll numbers.

"We would like people to be



Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., greets supporters at a rally in support of Colorado Amendment 69, a ballot measure to set up the nation's first universal health-care system, on campus of the University of Colorado, in Boulder, Colo., Monday, Oct. 17, 2016. Amendment 69 would repeal the current health insurance system and make coverage universal.

aware this is an option this election. To get Bernie Sanders as president it is worth a try. People say he is not running,

has every right to follow the Constitution, that the House and Senate are compelled to uphold. We believe this can work, and that people need to be aware, they have other choices, besides Trump and Clinton."

Joel Colombero, a spokesperson for the group has appeared on Canadian television to talk about the strategy. You can view the interview at TheSkanner.com. Bernie Sanders himself is currently campaigning for Clinton.

which is true. His obligation to the Democratic party ends on election day.

"If the people decide to write him in, and force a House vote, then it's the Constitution, and part of American law. Bernie

Hillary's E-mails, Trump's Secret Tapes and Social Security

Since our political discussions are now X-rated — so much so that we must ask children to leave the room before we watch the news — the speeches, and the debates, it's time to add another unmentionable to the X-rated list: Social Security. Silly me, that pales in comparison to what's really important, doesn't it?

Hillary's emails, Bill and Donald's dalliances and sexual conquests are obviously far more critical (and titillating) than a small issue like our disabled and elderly being able to live out their lives without having to worry about silly things like eating, breathing, and paying for life-saving medicines and treatments.

Yes, the cost of living is increasing every day, but cost of living allowances (COLA) for those on Social Security are non-existent or ridiculously and embarrassingly low. The latest COLA "increases" for those most in need were cited in an article on CNN Money:

"Checks for 66 million beneficiaries will rise between 0.2% to 0.5% in 2017. That works out to between \$2.61 and \$6.53 a month more for the typical retiree, according to the American Institute for Economic Research, a non-partisan think tank."



James Clingman

NNPA
Columnist

Say what?!

The article continues, "The average retirement benefit check is currently \$1,305.30, according to government figures. This is by far the small-

"If this nation does not come to its senses and get its priorities properly aligned, it's not going to matter in the least who is the next resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

est percentage increase of any year in which benefits did rise. But it's better than 2016, when Social Security checks didn't increase at all. There have only been three years without any increase at all since Social Security's cost-of-living adjustment was put in place in 1975 — 2010, 2011 and 2016."

Someone said a nation is judged by how it treats the least among its citizens. There is also something that was said by a very special per-

son once: "...what you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me." (Matthew 25:45)

If this nation does not come to its senses and get its priorities properly aligned, it's not going to matter in the least who is the next resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The ethical and moral slide we are on right now is reprehensible and so detrimental to our young people. Moreover, we are standing by while

I am told that a drug for debilitating Rheumatoid Arthritis cost as much as \$2,000 per month for two injections. This is shameful, and it speaks to our condition in this country, our greed, and our willingness to get as much profit as we can without regard for who it hurts. In the United States, it's often money first and people second, maybe even third or fourth.

We should be outraged and appalled at this situation as we watch our parents and grandparents struggle to pay the ridiculous costs to maintain their lives. The cost of living for them is beyond their reach, and many are dying because of it. So what will we do about it? Will we continue to be entertained, mesmerized, and embarrassed by the politicians and their operatives who are too busy trying to find more dirt on one another, or will we turn our attention to the much more important problem of our disabled and elderly and the day-to-day problems they face. Our politics should go from X-rated to Rx-rated.

I believe we can do much better by the least among us. Do you? If so, get involved and make their cost of living decrease and their Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) increase.

our elders are dying for lack of essentials, having to make choices between food and rent, oxygen and heat or cooling and life-saving medicine.

The EpiPen controversy, where the cost skyrocketed over 400 percent to an outrageous \$608.00 for two Epi-nephrine pens that, according to industry experts cost no more than \$30.00 (some say \$20.00) to make and only \$2.00 for the medicine inside the needles, is a prime example of the true cost of living for those with medical issues.