

Michael Edward Luckovich is an editorial cartoonist who has worked for The Atlanta Journal Constitution since 1989 and won the 2005 Reuben, the National Cartoonists Society's top annual award. He is also the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes. ([Wikipedia](#))



Dear friends of democracy, I'm back again after a long spell of silence. The landslide of events since the election has, frankly, taken my breath away and it has been hard to keep ahead of what still can be said to shed any light that isn't already blatantly evident.

There is so much news out there and so little recourse, that I fear resignation is the biggest danger to our chances of recourse.

Today I have a recommendation for how to not feel helpless and become complacent. [5 Calls Org](#) is a service which takes a lot of the background work out of trying to know what to respond to and who to contact. It is accessible online directly (see Link above) or by phone as an app. There you will find a list of the top 11 of 60 impending gov initiatives with condensed descriptions of their intent and impact. You pick 5 that interest you most and the app gives you the contacts of who to call and share your opinion with. It all takes only 5 minutes of your day – but it can potentially make a significant impact on legislative decision making and give flame to the fire of opposition to our nation's values being irreparably compromised. The app even proposes a text you can dictate to the answering machines that pick up your calls. Or you can copy and Paste relevant texts into an Email to your (or other) representatives in Congress.

5 Calls – every day – might be easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact. Try it out. If you want to do more, see this ([Online](#)) spreadsheet of all Senate- & House-member contacts. [Source](#) (megan.neish@gmail.com)

One more thing I personally would like to advocate for:

NWS, NOAA & FEMA are three essential government agencies that have been severely compromised by the Trump administration, causing chaos and havoc instead of efficiency. Everyone should be mad as hell about it. Read this article ([Trump-made disaster will be more deadly than any hurricane](#)) and get informed on how weakening the National Weather Service ([Link](#)), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([Link](#)) and The Federal Emergency Management Agency ([Link](#)) will cost lives and money while diminishing our nation's ability to respond effectively to environmental crises.

Call your representatives in Congress. Scream and shout. Stamp you feet. Resist these egregious infringements on our government's ability to serve its people.

Thank you for reading...

In the words of Joyce Vance, "We are in this together."

The worse it gets, the more we need to rely one another.
Stay aware, be informed, and get smart about where you invest your energy.

Sincerely, Paul Kustermann

Archive of previous Links and Newsletters:

Can be found at my website: <http://www.paulkustermann.de/files/Share/Democracy>

Thank you for your attention.
If you don't want to receive these letters
simply respond with a simple "No, thanks."

If it is helpful – please forward
to others who want to be informed.

With best wishes from Berlin
Paul Kustermann