

## Manipulating America's Elections

This week saw two disturbing developments in the investigation of meddling in America's elections, with FBI Counterintelligence Chief Peter Strzok appearing before Congress to defend the FBI's partisan manipulations of the 2016 election, and the federal Department of Justice indicting another 12 Russian intelligence agents for hacking American voter databases. Both cases are grotesque and unacceptable.

Peter Strzok gave one of the most twisted, arrogant and incredible displays ever seen before Congress. Strzok was involved in the FBI equivalent of the "trifecta" of 2016 political cases - he was a lead FBI agent on the Clinton e-mail investigation; and on the FBI investigation into the Trump campaign; and was hired - and later fired - by Robert Muller for his Special Counsel investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Rather than being a straight-arrow professional that one should expect from the FBI, Strzok was instead a slimy, deceptive partisan. Repeatedly, through the 2016 election, Strzok boasted to his married mistress, Lisa Page, about how they would 'stop' Donald Trump, and form a 'secret society' against Trump, and create an 'insurance policy' to derail Trump, all while denouncing Republican voters as 'ignorant hillbillies.' And his actions backed that up, such as when he re-drafted the FBI Report on Hillary Clinton's e-mails by carefully removing every reference to criminal liability.

This newspaper has been highly critical of the actions of former FBI Director James Comey (*see "J Edgar Comey Should Resign," 9/16/16*). The pervasiveness of official partisan misconduct - and open hostility to the democratic branches of our government - throughout the leadership of the FBI is very dangerous. If America does not want to go down the path of so many third-world thug regimes - with domestic law enforcement becoming political manipulators and partisan enforcers - criminals - then we need serious reform now.

The indictment of an additional 12 Russians sends an equally strong signal that America needs to stiffen and strengthen our election systems. The Russian government (and presumably other governments such as China) are looking to change our election results by hacking our voting machinery and by adding fake voters and erasing real voters. Add to that the legal manipulations - by buying or manipulating American media companies into giving biased coverage in close elections - and we will see losing candidates elected and a justifiable collapse of public confidence in our elections.

America deserves better, and we need all of our patriotism and vigilance to make it happen

*The Publisher*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Leader* has received several unsigned letters to the editor. We will respect an author's request for anonymity, but must have your name, address, and phone number. We want to hear from you and publish your opinions, so in the future, kindly include the above requested information.

### AN EASY S.T.O.P.

*To the Editor;*

This past weekend I loaded my car with old oil-based and latex paints and headed to Bethpage to the Town of Oyster Bay's Solid Waste Disposal Complex, as a part of the Town's S.T.O.P. program. S.T.O.P. stands for Stop Throwing Out Pollutants. Once a month the Town opens the complex to homeowners.

Upon arrival there was a line but it moved fast. I was asked for ID to prove that I lived in the Town of Oyster Bay. Then I was directed as to what line to get on. I thought to myself, oh no, this is going to take all day. But much to my surprise I was greeted by many helpful and kind Town employees. They helped unload my car in seconds flat. I felt like I was in a pit stop at the Indy 500! I arrived at 9:00am and was home back in Bayville by 10:00am.

I would like thank the Town's workers, and encourage other residents to take full advantage of this program and not to throw out toxic materials and electrics in their regular garbage.

Happy Bayville Homewoner.

### BIPARTISANSHIP IS NOT DEAD

*To the Editor;*

Several months ago, I characterized the Governor's latest Long Island Sound crossing idea as a viral zombie that needed a final crushing head blow to put it to rest for good. Did we get it with the Governor's announcement on June 28th through his Department of Transportation that the Cross Sound tunnel project would not be pursued further "at this time"? Simply, no. The war will rage on no matter how bad an idea this project is. Avarice, power, and greed, out of which this project was born, seemingly will never allow this project to die.

Nevertheless, Long Islanders have won this battle. Due to the combined efforts of many tireless elected representatives as well as private groups and individuals, Albany was beaten back. First of all, if anyone ever tells you that bipartisan politics are dead, tell them they are wrong and point to this issue and our representatives. Both Democrats and Republicans

came together to oppose this proposal.

Our Village has always maintained a policy of not officially endorsing a particular political candidate for office. However, that does not preclude our giving a public thanks and acknowledgement to our officials when they have performed a great service for our residents, such as was done here. At the risk of leaving out many elected officials names, I will specifically thank our own elected representatives. Senator Carl Marcellino was out front on this issue early and strong. Sen. Marcellino, an original environmentalist, brought word to the North Shore Mayors that the Governor was serious about resurrecting the idea of a crossing and he organized the first press conference about it. Assemblyman Charles Lavine, whom I have known since I was a young attorney and whom has always fought for the underprivileged and the underdog, showed true form and actively opposed the proposal. Congressman Tom Suozzi was the first to buck his own party and align himself with Long Islanders over Albany and the special interests behind the project. Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joe Saladino and Councilwoman Michelle Johns, and the rest of the Town Board, came out swinging on our behalf in this fight. Our indefatigable County Legislator for the 18th District Josh Lafazan energized and educated his constituents about the horrible prospects of such a project. While these officials are members of dif-

ferent political parties, that was never an issue. They acted only in Long Islanders' best interests. For this we all should be thankful and encouraged that our leaders can work together for the common good regardless of political affiliation.

Certainly, special thanks go to both the Bayville Anti-Tunnel Committee and the Coalition Against an Unsound Crossing. I have had the privilege to serve alongside their organizer John Taylor on the Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee and have witnessed time and again, his special talents and tireless efforts on behalf of us all. I know he had a great team behind him, including former Bayville Mayor Paul Rupp and newly elected Mayor Bob DeNatale who just picked up the baton prior to DOT's announcement. But it was John's vision, strategy, and energy that galvanized this effort, and made it successful. Also, the efforts of the Coalition's Executive Director Peter Janow and its President Heather Johnson must also be recognized.

We as Long Islanders must be ever vigilant and ready to fight those who would destroy our way of life and who would cast us aside as mere "pebbles" (the Governor's words). Let us continue to work together to improve our environment, roads, and schools to ensure a better life not just for ourselves but for our children too.

Daniel F. DeVita  
Mayor, Village of Laurel Hollow

### Leader Stations

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