



Episode 1,769: Trump v. Biden: What Happened

Guest: Dan McCarthy and Roger McCaffrey

WOODS: Gentlemen, a couple of hours ago, I tweeted the following. And it's an obvious observation, but it did get thousands of likes, and I'd like you to comment on it. I wrote this: "If Donald Trump wins, he has accomplished something truly staggering. He has withstood an unprecedented onslaught from the media, the entertainment world, the 'intelligence' community" – *intelligence* is in quotation marks – "the foreign policy establishment, politicized medicine, academia, and woke corporations." Now, I could have added also big tech, and if you want to use the word censorship of his people and supporters. It's the – it's not that they all got together in a room and coordinated this, but if they did, I don't think it would look any different from what they actually did.

MCCAFFREY: They don't have to coordinate. They know what each other things.

WOODS: But what do you think about that? I mean that, really, regardless of how this all came out, this is an astonishing result, really. It's amazing that anyone could withstand that.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, it's totally breathtaking. And if I'm a little bit sedate at the moment, it's only because I'm waiting with bated breath to see what happens in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan. You've got a lot of ongoing vote counting taking place there, which is of course an invitation for mischief now that Democrats know what the outcome is everywhere else. Now, hopefully, we're not going to see any shenanigans, but again, I'm sort of tempted just to wait here.

That said, I mean, we can already pronounce Donald Trump victorious in a number of respects. He has successfully defied everyone who tried to paint him as a racist. Everyone who tried to say that Donald Trump and his policies were going to alienate every nonwhite from the Republican Party, because in fact, Donald Trump seems to have done extremely well with Latino voters. And that allowed Florida, for example, to be called very early for Donald Trump, at least by people who are watching the results come in.

And the left's view of using race as a way to destroy the Republican Party and advance a socialist agenda – which in fact, is very detrimental for Latinos, and of course many Latinos who have immigrated actually came here to get away from socialism in other countries – well, the Democrats have totally screwed everything up. They have a message which doesn't work with Latinos. And I suspect they have actually seen – we don't have the full numbers yet, but I suspect that the black turnout has not been what Democrats were counting on either. And there too, a lot of the sort of race baiting that the Democrats engaged in seems to have failed completely. And what I worry about now is just whether there are so many

white liberals in this country that they may yet come through for Biden in a few of these undecided states.

MCCAFFREY: Well, Dan, as you know, they control the statehouse in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Michigan, which as we speak, are up in the air. So, although Trump has a serious lead, even allowing for the fact that half the vote isn't counted in all three states as we speak, I figure he's got Michigan. But these people won't even certify his victorious vote, right? I mean, whoever certified a secretary of state in Pennsylvania will not certify a Trump win. That's a given. So the whole thing is headed to the Supreme Court, in my view, one way or the other. By the way, Tom, Biden outspent him about two and a half to one. So in addition to everything else, he was hugely outspent.

WOODS: Right.

MCCAFFREY: That didn't matter.

WOODS: Right, so there was that.

MCCAFFREY: But I see an electoral victory for him. I think he's going to get 270-something electoral votes by this time tomorrow.

WOODS: Yeah, by the time people are hearing this — look, we did the best we could. We stayed up — [laughing] everybody who's listening right now, we stayed up as late as we could for you guys to try to get an episode out to talk about this.

I want to add something about the rallies that he did, but particularly, the crazy schedule of the last week where he was doing four or five rallies a day, all over the place. And these rallies brought out enormous numbers of people, and a lot of folks said the polls have to be wrong, because, sorry, nobody who's losing brings out a crowd like that. And I have to say that when I heard that, I was reminded of the Ron Paul phenomenon, where he brought out huge crowds, not Trump-size crowds, but very good crowds, better than Romney could bring out, that's for sure, or Rick Santorum or any of these other people. And you would drive around in the only bumper stickers you'd see were Ron Paul bumper stickers. And you thought, Gee, the polls must be wrong. But then when the polls opened, the polls were right, it turned out. So I wondered about this. But in Trump's case, something really is screwy with the polls. The polls were not even close. I don't know exactly what the polls were saying about Ohio, but at least at this moment, Trump has a pretty convincing lead in Ohio.

MCCAFFREY: They declared Ohio for Trump.

WOODS: Yeah, right. Right, right. So convincingly —

MCCAFFREY: Yeah. But actually, Tom, as we discussed earlier today, if you look at the some of the poll charts, the numbers were screwy in most states. But so the pulse was wrong, but the blood pressure reading, so to speak, was right in several of these Real Clear Politics charts. In Ohio, he was going parabolic in Ohio. Parabolic in Michigan. He was going parabolic in Pennsylvania. If you look at those charts, frozen this morning. So that's why I'm confident he's going to take these states unless something intervenes here in the next 24 hours. But the pollsters are finished, I think anyway, because nobody's answering the phone. It's very simple.

And as for getting through to them on the web, as Joe Biden would say, Come on. That's just ridiculous. There's no such thing as a scientific poll through the web. So thank God, those guys are done forever.

MCCARTHY: It'll be interesting to see whether one or two of the renegade polling firms, which had numbers that were much better for Donald Trump in all of these battleground states, whether they wind up vindicated by this. So Trafalgar is the one pollster that more or less consistently found much higher ratings for Donald Trump than in other states – sorry, than other pollsters found in the battleground states. And Trafalgar's methodology had been questioned by almost everyone, but if it turns out that they were right, that they really did nail it – and certainly they nailed the sort of appearance of things. We'd have to drill down to see exactly how accurate their specific claims have been. But they look like they've got a lot to crow about.

And Trafalgar is interesting, because they were one of the few people that also called Brexit correctly. And the reason they keep making these correct calls, with Brexit and then with the 2016 election and now with the 2020 battlegrounds, is that they have a different approach to their estimates as to voter turnout, because any polling firm has to make a guess as to what the composition of the electorate is going to look like in terms of how many Democrats are going to vote, how many Republicans, how many people who are undecided. And every other pollster has been overweighting for Democrats. And Trafalgar has been saying there are quiet, shy Trump voters who are not eager to tell pollsters who they're going to vote for, but who actually are in fact going to vote for Donald Trump on Election Day.

MCCAFFREY: Right, but Rasmussen also gets an honorable mention, because they called – the last poll I saw for the general was that Biden had a 1% lead in the popular vote. And that's exactly what I'm looking at right now after midnight on Election Day, so Rasmussen came pretty close. And I think they had Biden up in Arizona, but generally, Rasmussen has been almost as reliable, as far as I can tell, as Trafalgar. And yeah, Brexit was supposed to be – I mean, the polls were five points? There was a shift of five to seven points on the last day of Brexit.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, and I want to reemphasize something that Roger has just said, which is even when we talk about the popular vote, which of course doesn't mean anything constitutionally, but it certainly grants bragging rights, it looks as if here we are after midnight the day after Election Day, in fact, and Donald Trump held a lead in the popular vote up until about an hour ago, maybe an hour and a half ago. And we'll see what happens when all the California votes and everything else are counted, but it looks as if Donald Trump has really cut down the deficit he had in the popular vote in 2016 down to something that is going to be much slimmer this time in 2020. He's almost certainly still going to lose the popular vote, but probably not by very much. And this, again, is an indictment on the kind of campaign and the kind of overall agenda that the Democrats have put forward. I mean, they didn't even run a serious campaign. They just said:

Donald Trump is responsible for 200,000 COVID deaths; therefore, you have to elect this mummified old man, Joe Biden, as president. And by the way, you're racist if you don't do that. And here's Kamala Harris to tell you that you're a racist if you don't do that.

Well, that completely failed. Hispanics didn't want to hear that. I don't think black voters wanted to hear it. And Americans in states like Florida and Pennsylvania, white Americans

didn't want to hear that either, except for the liberals who were already voting for the Democrats.

MCCAFFREY: Exactly. And not only Pennsylvania and Florida, but Michigan and Wisconsin. I mean, these things are, at the very least, they're going down to the wire. But again, Trump has a serious lead in Michigan as we speak, and he could take Wisconsin too — all three of them, actually.

MCCARTHY: And it'll be interesting to see, I guess Minnesota hasn't been called yet either.

WOODS: No, it has. They just called it for Biden. Yeah, I was just going to add that.

MCCARTHY: Okay, well, that's —

WOODS: Yeah.

MCCAFFREY: So you can destroy the major city in Minnesota, and Biden didn't say a word for what, weeks? And still, you can win.

WOODS: [laughing] Yeah, apparently.

MCCAFFREY: It's unbelievable. It's unbelievable to see Biden take Minnesota after they've half destroyed —

MCCARTHY: Well, yeah —

MCCAFFREY: His people —

MCCARTHY: My note of caution here, though, is that Kenosha is in Wisconsin, and if it turns out that they're too voters have been willing to tolerate the destruction that we've seen — Wisconsin was very, very close in 2016. It was well under one point.

MCCAFFREY: Kenosha — sorry, Dan. Kenosha has totally flipped for Trump. They're two to one.

MCCARTHY: I hope so.

MCCAFFREY: They were 50/50 Trump and Hillary, but they're two to one this year.

MCCARTHY: Okay. Well, that's great to hear, and I do hope that when this is all called and certified, that'll still be the case. Wisconsin was just so close in 2016 that I do worry about it, the fact that it's going to be a couple of days yet before they make it official. And Pennsylvania, I mean, you've got Philly to deal with. And in Philly, in fact, they already said on Election Day that they were going to stop counting the votes and just kind of wait a while. I mean, it's absolutely insane. Philly is renowned for its voting corruption. And boy oh boy, the fact that they just decided they're going to stop for a while and just kind of see how everything else goes, that really raises an eyebrow.

MCCAFFREY: Yeah, and that case will end up in the Supreme Court, and now so that we're in the hands of Gorsuch and Roberts, Roberts will vote with the other side. It's going to be at best a five-to-four decision, and I don't trust Gorsuch, or Amy Barrett, to be honest.

MCCARTHY: I think you're exactly right, Roger, and look at the way that the media has set this up, where they said for weeks and weeks now, Donald Trump is not going to concede the election. And you're going to have — I mean, you already have Antifa people gathering in front of the White House on Election Day. If this gets protracted, you're going to see Antifa riots again. The media is going to say these riots are brought about because Donald Trump has refused to accept the result and step down. All of this is going to be a big lie, but it's going to be propagated by every single institution out there.

And then you have to factor Republican cowardice into everything. You have people like Romney. You have people like John Roberts on the Supreme Court. These people are not folks you can rely upon if you get to a high-pressure situation. I mean, Mitt Romney of course doesn't even need a high-pressure situation to turn his back on conservatives and Republicans. So I'm very hopeful, but I also think that there is a lot of opportunity for mischief here, and we're going to have to be prepared for some tough times.

WOODS: Well, let me just say quick thing about the numbers, looking at the map right now, because let's assume that there's no room for shenanigans whatsoever. The numbers at the moment that we're recording is Biden 237 and Trump 210. And the remaining places that haven't been called would be Alaska, which is only 3; Nevada, no information yet about them; Montana is going to go Trump; looks like Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia. That's it. Then there's a couple of issues about Maine and Nebraska, because they split their electoral votes. But primarily, that's what we're looking at, those states I just mentioned. So the rest of the states to be called, Nevada is a wild card.

MCCAFFREY: Those that'll go for Biden.

WOODS: Okay —

MCCAFFREY: If Arizona goes for Biden —

WOODS: But he doesn't need it. He certainly doesn't need it. With these states remaining, Trump wins. Just add them up. He gets over the finish line. So it really does come down to the counting of the votes over the next few days in these places.

MCCAFFREY: Correct, correct. He's got Georgia and North Carolina, and he could run the table except Nevada. But he just needs — he's got Georgia and North Carolina. He just needs obviously Michigan. He needs two of the three.

MCCARTHY: Yeah.

MCCAFFREY: Michigan, Pennsylvania.

MCCARTHY: And I mean, Fox called Arizona fairly quickly. Various people I know out in Arizona think that was premature, because Arizona, by the time Fox had called it, Arizona had not even started tabulating the day-of vote, which is of course the overwhelmingly

Republican votes. So it's very rare that you get something called and then recalled, although we certainly recall that happening back in 2000. So even with Arizona, maybe we want to actually get the final vote tall before we concede that that really is in Biden's hands, but it does —

MCCAFFREY: I agree. Biden's headed over to make a statement right now as we tape, so obviously they're nervous; otherwise, the candidate wouldn't be rushing out. Plus, he has to go to bed. It's 12:30.

WOODS: Yeah, so Trump hasn't said anything at this point?

MCCAFFREY: No, but the fact that Biden's rushing out to say something means they're nervous. It means exactly the opposite of what they're projecting here. And in, yeah, Arizona, obviously, that shouldn't have been called.

WOODS: Your email to me, Roger, earlier tonight about — I think you sent it to both of us, about Donna Brazil, I guess is her name —

MCCAFFREY: Right.

WOODS: — who's with Fox News as like one of the non-right-wingers just to make the place look respectable. And she said something like — this was shortly after 8pm tonight — she said, "I'm still cautiously optimistic," or something like that about Biden's chances. [laughing] Like, it's a little early to be talking like that.

MCCAFFREY: Yeah, clearly they knew something was something was going wrong. She said, "I still see a clear" —

WOODS: [laughing] Yeah, there it is. There it is. Yeah. Ouch. That's not what you want to hear.

MCCARTHY: Roger is quite right there. There were a few state-level experts, a few Democratic turnout experts and others who were commenting on Twitter early in the evening before we started getting results, and it was clear that they were very, very disturbed by what they saw in terms of the turnout. And I live in a very Democratic part of Northern Virginia, and I actually live next door to my polling place, so I can just look out my window and see it. And there was nobody voting in person where I live. And I kind of thought that's kind of interesting, because, yeah, I'm sure most of the Democrats voted early and they weren't necessarily going to turn out on Election Day. But there should have been some. there would have been some indication if there really was this overwhelming mass of Biden supporters we've been hearing about the media for weeks and weeks. And of course, it took a very long time for Virginia to be called this past night, because Virginia I think wound up being a bit closer than the Democrats that expected. They really failed to get people enthusiastic and turning out for the Biden-Harris ticket. And you can see why.

MCCAFFREY: Well, that's why I think Trump is still going to emerge the winner, because in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, their turnout's not good either.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, it's hard to imagine that Republicans could make a place like Virginia competitive considering how blue it's gone, and then they would get blown out in a place like Wisconsin or Michigan. So if Virginia was competitive as long as it was on Election Day, then I would think that bodes pretty well for Wisconsin and Michigan.

WOODS: Yeah, well, I hesitate to speculate given that there is still some uncertainty, but I would say, clearly, it's swinging toward Trump, to the point where I haven't actually looked at the betting sites — have either of you looked at any of these betting sites that tend to be pretty good, because people are putting their money where their mouths are about this?

MCCARTHY: Well, they're fluctuating.

WOODS: Okay.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, they were very bullish on Biden at the beginning of the day. Then, of course, as results started coming in, they very swiftly became very bullish on Donald Trump. And then when Arizona was called, they started sort of scaling back. And I don't know what the final or the most recent numbers have been on the betting sites, but I do know that the Arizona results came as a bit of a sobering note to the betting markets.

WOODS: Yeah, but I'll say, if I were running a betting outfit right now, looking at looking at the map, I would say if you're going to go against Trump, we'll throw you a few points or something to make it even at this point.

MCCAFFREY: Right, but I mean, if I had to predict, I'd say again, the whole thing is going to be at least portrayed as needing the Supreme Court. And of course, if Trump's runs the table, that's not going to be the case, but we know that this thing's going to drag on for days now. And this is the importance of not having — let me put it this way, Tom: not having a Democrat in the statehouse. That is, governors matter. Secretaries of state matter. They control a lot, a lot more than you realize.

MCCARTHY: And state judicial elections matter a lot, as well. So a friend of mine from Pennsylvania, who knows the state very, very well, tells me that when Republicans lost a number of the elected judgeships in 2018, that was a really bad sign, not because it meant the Democrats were going to have a strong human turnout in 2020. But what it meant is that when shenanigans happen or when there's confusion, these Democratic judges are going to be in a position to make decisions that are politically biased.

MCCAFFREY: And in Pennsylvania just three days ago, the state Supreme Court ruled unanimously against the Republicans on voting matters. So here we go. But what really gets me is that we've got a Republican Supreme Court now. As we all know, they're totally unreliable. I mean, Amy Barrett, she hadn't even heard a case when she was protesting to the world that she was going to be a good judge. She might as well have just written a private note to the editors of *The New York Times*. That was her audience, after all. You can't really trust these people.

WOODS: Well, let's say a little something — I don't want to keep you guys up all night, even though we're probably going to stay up because that's just the way we are. But given that there is still a little uncertainty over this, I want to hedge our bets a little bit with this type

of question. Let's start with the presumption that Trump emerges as the winner. What do you think the second Trump term looks like, and does it differ from the first one? So either one of you can take that, or both.

MCCAFFREY: Well, he'll immediately, I hope, fire some people. And the first guy who has to go is the FBI Director, recommended to him by Jeff Sessions, I might add. That creep, the other day, obviously he made the decision and sent the FBI out to investigate a bunch of Trump supporters who followed the Biden campaign bus. This guy has to go the morning after the — tomorrow morning. But other people need to go too, and most of them are the mistakes made by the president himself. He's not great on picking personnel. He fires chiefs of staff every 12 to 18 months. So that's the first thing he's got to do, is fire some people, and I think he will. But he's also, I hope, going to ask for some new leadership, if you want to call it that, in the House. The Republicans are going to lose some House seats. And as for policies, we're going to see a ton more spending. In other words, more of the same. But I don't think he's going to be dropping bombs in the Middle East.

WOODS: Well, true. Dan, what do you think? I mean, to me, I think the virus is going to be pretty front and center.

MCCARTHY: Oh, yeah. So I mean, we've all been expecting that Biden wins the election, and then not on November 3rd, but basically come January after Biden has been sworn in, the media suddenly finds that COVID is not nearly as bad as we've all thought it was. And in fact, America is already on the road to recovery, and we can all breathe easy again.

Well, now, of course presuming that Donald Trump does indeed wind up reelected, the media is going to say, Oh, no we're all going to die. I mean, it's going to be 300,000 or 3 million Americans dying of COVID. Anything Donald Trump does will be just killing more Americans. So you're going to see that this same drumbeat that's been hammered at us over the course of the last nine months is going to continue, and I'm sure there will be plenty of other things.

I agree with Roger that you're going to see some personnel turnover. And think about this. This horrible fellow, what's his name? Miles Taylor, right? This Deputy Chief of Staff from the Department of Homeland Security who wrote an op-ed for *The New York Times* under the anonymous pseudonym, basically he was working in the administration, but he denounced the administration. He said, Hey, *New York Times* readers, guess what: there are some Republicans like me hiding in the administration, sabotaging the president's initiatives.

Well, now that Miles Taylor has been identified — he's identified himself. He wanted the publicity. Now that Donald Trump knows there are people like this, like worms eating through the woodwork of his administration, I think there's going to be some real serious efforts to identify these people and get them the hell out of the administration.

MCCAFFREY: Oh, yeah.

MCCARTHY: Already, I've seen some very good appointments with respect to where Donald Trump's foreign policy is going to go in the second term. Douglas McGregor, who I think has been appointed as ambassador to Germany, he's awaiting confirmation. So is William Ruger, who's been appointed as ambassador to Afghanistan. He is awaiting confirmation. But these are guys who are very serious about reforming America's approach to the world and

practicing realism and restraint, and something pretty darn close to noninterventionism, even though it's not going to be obviously a pure noninterventionism. But these are the right kinds of guys you need in order to move our policy in that direction.

And so I think getting out of Afghanistan is going to be probably fast-tracked, probably ahead of the 2022 midterms. I think that you're going to continue to see pressure put on our NATO allies to pony up, pay what they owe. And I think you may also see some rethinking about NATO expansion, perhaps. And I think that you're going to see a lot of good things here, but you will continue to have the media relentlessly attacking the administration on the most spurious of pretexts.

And a lot of second-term administrations are just not very happy. Oftentimes, that's when you get a scandal or something. This time the Democrats, they might try another impeachment at some point, especially if they get control of the Senate maybe in 2022 or thereafter — well, 2022 would be the time. So there's going to be a lot of stress, a lot of continual pressure against the administration. And it won't necessarily be easy just because you've had a victory that's entirely unexpected and really historic, in terms of what the president and his team achieved, winning this race that everyone said was unwinnable. At the same time, though, if the president can pull off a miracle on Election Day, I think his administration can also pull off some miracles in office.

MCCAFFREY: Well, on the COVID front, Dan — well, first of all, foreign policy, I think Pompeo will resign and be replaced by somebody like Terry Branstad, who delivered Iowa to Trump. I mean, he resigned his ambassadorship roughly October 1st, comes home and campaigns for 30 days in Iowa. He's a total master of Iowa. He delivered Iowa to Trump, period. And he's going to be repaid. Pompeo's going to go out and make his 10 zillion dollars. That's obvious. And Bill Barr will probably resign, and someone like Pam Bondi will be the new Attorney General. There's going to be a lot of changes. And as for the pressure, that brings out the best and Trump, so I think he thrives on what we all would hate, which is all the lies and the attacks.

MCCARTHY: Well, yes and no. I mean, I think it really did bother the president a lot that you had this Russia hoax go on for years and years. It's clear that he was completely unprepared sort of psychologically for the utter lies that were going to be promulgated against him and then turned into a series of investigations, including by departments that he is nominally meant to be in charge of as president. The president's a very tough guy. You're right: he thrives on adversity, and he's always a very good counter-puncher. But he's still human, and I think that really, a lot of people out there — and not people like us, but a lot of ordinary Republicans and others didn't give the president enough credit for withstanding the kind of pressure that the media put on him. I mean, they wanted him to resign like Nixon. They wanted to take him down. And it took incredible guts to stand in there and fight for himself and to point out that, in fact, many of the accusations leveled against him were things that people like Joe Biden and his son were actually guilty of.

MCCAFFREY: But to leverage all this and turn it into a victory is astonishing. And I think that'll reinvigorate Trump, if that'd be possible. Yeah, I do agree, Dan, that at some level psychologically, it wounded him. But he's a different cat, an entirely different cat. So he'll be back.

MCCARTHY: It's true. No, he is a dynamo. One of the things we're going to need to see is I hope the administration has a plan for dealing with Congress in the run-up to the 2022

midterms. Because clearly, in the beginning of the first Trump administration, there was too much deference to Paul Ryan and to the typical Republican leadership of losers in Congress. Then, of course we lost the House in 2018, and our Senate majority is pretty darn thin. So in 2022, we're going to have the wind in our face, unfortunately, and it's going to be very difficult to increase the number of Senate seats or to add any seats in the House. But we have to try to buck the trend of presidents losing ground in the midterm, because otherwise, Congress will be a write-off.

The other thing we have to do is we have to do to Congress, basically, what Trump has already done to the Republican approach to the presidency, right? So Donald Trump broke with all of the losers who had opposed him and run against him back in 2016. He broke with the traditions of John McCain and Mitt Romney and of course the Bushes. So he has redefined what it means to be a Republican leader as president and in terms of running campaigns, and the fact that he has just won against all possible odds, at least as things look tonight, that indicates that Donald Trump's new style of leadership really works. At least it's a promising beginning. It trashes what doesn't work. But now we need to see that kind of entrepreneurial verve in politics applied to Congress, because Congress, Republicans in Congress are still, for the most part — there are exceptions, but for the most part, they are running by the old playbook of people like Paul Ryan and all of the people who have been sort of failures and deadbeats over the past 20 years. You need to have a new spirit in Republicans running for Congress and for the Senate, just like you needed a new spirit in the kind of Republican running for president.

MCCAFFREY: And unfortunately, their spokesman is Vice President Pence, so they have a mole in the White House. I mean, is this guy a classic non-entity?

WOODS: He's a non-entity, but my gut tells me that, at the beginning, he was more of a round hole going into a square peg, but I think he takes some of the attacks on Trump as being implicitly attacks on him. And my sense is he's more of a team player now, and I think he defended Trump fairly ably in the debate. I mean, what do you think about that, Dan?

MCCARTHY: Well, there's also the tremendous sort of influence of example that Donald Trump has set by winning an impossible victory. Republicans in Congress, Republican apparatchiks throughout the country, conservative movement apparatchiks, these people have very weak principles. And a lot of them are just attracted to power and they're attracted to success. Donald Trump now defines that, whereas Mitt Romney and the legacy of John McCain and the legacy of the Bushes all signal failure. So sometimes not for the noblest of reasons, but one reason — you know, we'll have to take what we can get — is going to lead a lot of Republicans to change their way of thinking and to readjust their beliefs in a direction that is more closely in line with the president's national conservatism or with other forms of conservatism that are truly on the right. Some of them might become libertarian populists. Some of them might become populists of another kind. But hopefully, they are going to understand that the old neocon and establishment way of getting elected and then wielding power ineffectively and sort of teaming up with the left, hopefully even ordinary Republican officeholders are now going to look at Donald Trump's example and they're going to say, We need to be more like this guy and a hell of a lot less like John McCain, Mitt Romney, and the Bush plan.

MCCAFFREY: One other thing about the internal workings of the White House. I mean, how many of these guys selected by both Pence and the president have written books dissing the

president? I mean, this is ridiculous. These are all Republicans of the sort Dan just described. These creeps are writing books and making a million bucks apiece or more after working for the president.

MCCARTHY: That's right, but things have changed. And there have been changes in the White House Office of Personnel in the last six or eight months, which really do put things on a very different footing. And I think everyone's going to be very happy with what comes forward.

Now, having said that, even with some of the positive changes in the White House Office of Personnel, the Republican Party is still a mixture of different elements, some of which are still very establishment, some of which are pure neocons even. And so there's always going to be some internal rivalry. There's always going to be some, even if it's not outright sabotage, it'll be people with different agendas trying to put their agendas ahead of the president's or put their agendas ahead of a principled conservative one.

So just as Ronald Reagan had to deal with a lot of this — but I really think that Donald Trump, as Roger has said, because of all these awful memoirs, these books that just turned around and bit the hand that fed them, because of these creeps like Miles Taylor, who was in the administration and at the same time writing anonymous op-eds just trashing the president — I think, because of the example these people have said, Donald Trump and his personnel office are going to be much more rigorous in the second term, and they want to make sure that there are no people like that. I also think they don't want to take any more chances on a John Bolton or any of these other sort of neocon types who got in in the first administration. I think you're going to see a dramatic improvement.

MCCAFFREY: One other thing that should be mentioned in Pence's favor is that he represents the moral conservatives. And it cannot be ignored that Trump practically runs the table in the Rust Belt and is not afraid to say things like Joe Biden is anti-God. Let's not ignore that as a factor in this victory. It sure didn't hurt him, did it?

MCCARTHY: I totally agree.

WOODS: Well, let me just say one thing. If by some unforeseen possibility this turns out to be a Dewey-defeats-Truman moment, then everybody listening, I owe you another episode on what the Biden presidency is likely to look like. We will come back and talk about that.

MCCAFFREY: Well, 83% of the vote in Wisconsin and Trump's ahead, 51 to 47. If you prefer, he's ahead by three and a half points with 83% of the vote in. So I mean, that's it. To me, that's it. But as we know, this is going to the high court.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, I'm cautiously optimistic, but there really is a lot of caution there, because, boy, I mean, you look at all the things they've said about this president, all the things they've done, you look at impeachment, you look at the Russia hoax, they will try absolutely anything to stop the president's reelection from being confirmed and going forward. So a three point lead in Wisconsin —

MCCAFFREY: Three and a half.

MCCARTHY: Yeah, it's good, but I'm still not going to breathe easy until we actually get across that finishing line.

MCCAFFREY: Okay, well, you better get a sedative for the next week or two.

WOODS: [laughing] All right, listen, thanks to both of you gentlemen for this very unusual episode of the show recorded so darn late. And boy, when I have to get up to get my kids off to school in the morning, I'm going to be paying for this. But you've got to do what you've got to do. Thank you both very, very much. I appreciate your insights a lot.