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Warning signs in the polls



Then-chief of staff John Kelly looks on as then-President Donald Trump meets with North Korean defectors at the White House in 2018. | Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP via Getty Images

10/25/2024 05:00 AM EDT

By **MERIDITH MCGRAW**

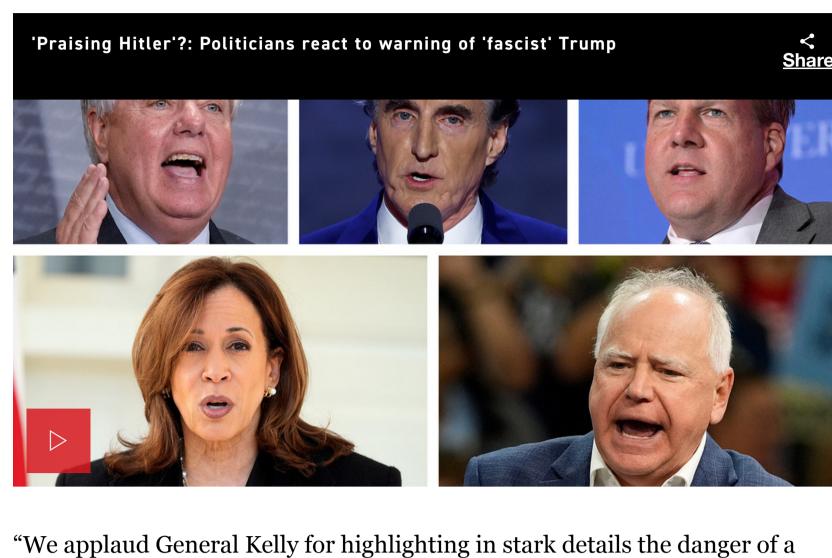
More than a dozen former Trump administration officials on Friday came out in support of former chief of staff John Kelly, who went on the record this week to say the former president fits the definition of a fascist, would govern like a dictator and has no concept of the Constitution.

administration officials — some of the officials have been outspoken Trump critics for years — stated, "this is who Donald Trump is." Advertisement

In a new letter, shared exclusively with POLITICO, the former Trump

SEE HOW WE'RE **ADVOCATING TO MAKE MEDICATIONS MORE** AFFORDABLE FOR MILLIONS. LEARN MORE **Express Scripts** "The revelations General Kelly brought forward are disturbing and shocking.

But because we know Trump and have worked for and alongside him, we were sadly not surprised by what General Kelly had to say," the letter states.



However, there are moments in history where it becomes necessary to put country over party. This is one of those moments" the letter states. "Everyone should heed General Kelly's warning." The letter was signed by Trump administration officials, including Kevin Carroll, former senior counselor to Kelly; former deputy press secretary Sarah Matthews; former assistant secretary of homeland security Elizabeth Neumann; former White House communications director Anthony

second Trump term. Like General Kelly, we did not take the decision to come

forward lightly. We are all lifelong Republicans who served our country.

Scaramucci; former chief of staff at the Dept. of Homeland Security Miles Taylor; former White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham; former press secretary to the vice president Alyssa Farah Griffin; and former national security adviser to vice president Pence, Olivia Troye. Taylor was the author of "Anonymous," a book warning about Trump, and Troye and former press secretary Stephanie Grisham spoke at the Democratic

National Convention.

The letter comes as Harris is leaning into her closing argument that Trump is a threat to democracy and poses a distinct threat if he's reelected. It's a message she and her campaign believes resonates with independents and Trump-weary Republicans who are concerned about the former president returning to the Oval Office.

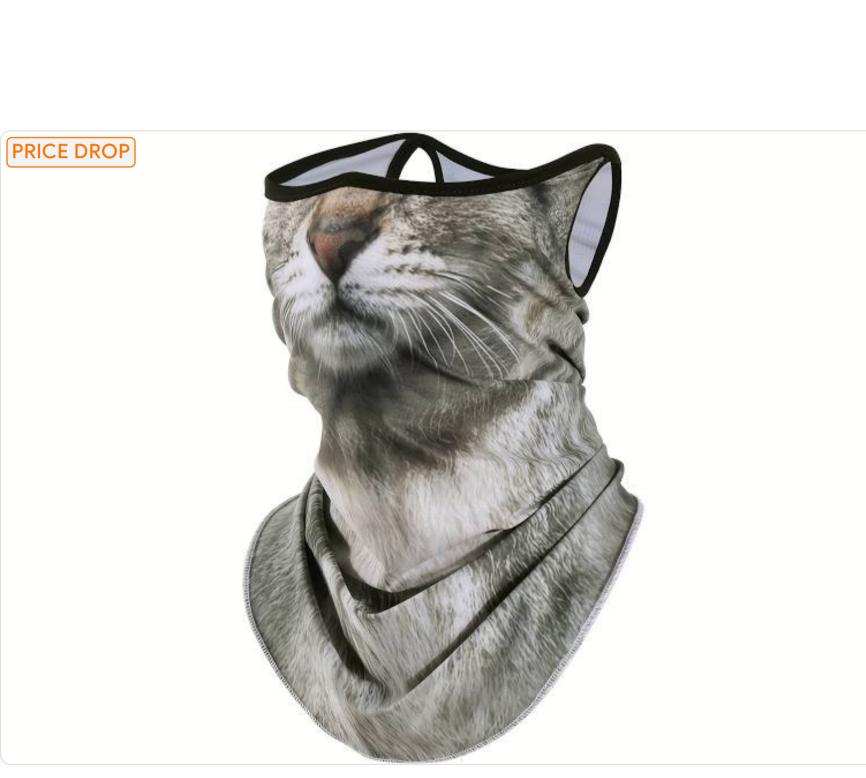


On Wednesday night, Harris' campaign conducted a focus group with

undecided voters in a battleground state, where the participants found Kelly to be credible and trustworthy and his criticism of Trump, according to a campaign official, granted anonymity to discuss the findings, made some of them think twice about the former president. Advertisement



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Trump than Harris as "too extreme," 49 to 39 percent, or a danger to the country, 48 to 43 percent. The release of the letter also comes as several more Republicans defect from

their party and publicly support Harris, including former Michigan Rep. Fred

Upton and the GOP mayor of Waukesha, Wisconsin, a city in the largest

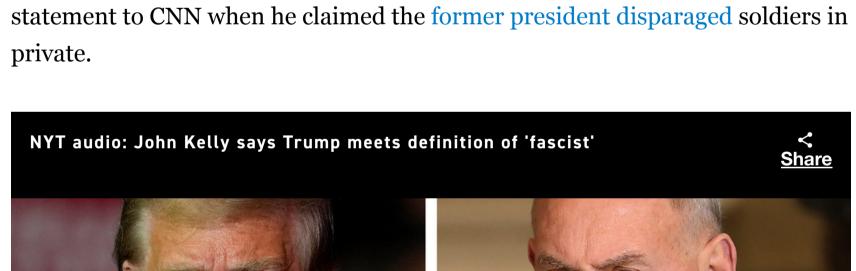
Trump Derangement Syndrome Hatred."

A Wall Street Journal poll released on Wednesday showed that while Trump

has the lead on the issues of immigration and the economy, more voters viewed

Republican county in the state. In a Truth Social post on Thursday, Trump slammed Kelly, a former four star general, as a "lowlife" and "total degenerate" who "made up a story out of pure

"This guy had two qualities, which don't work well together. He was tough and dumb. The problem is his toughness morphed into weakness, because he became JELLO with time! The story about the Soldiers was A LIE, as are numerous other stories he told," Trump posted.



Trump's reference to the story about soldiers is likely about Kelly's 2023



survive as Never Trump pundits fighting over cable news contracts. The fact remains they did not serve their country and President well, and will have to live with that dishonor for the rest of their miserable lives." "President Trump has always honored the service and sacrifice of all of our military men and women, whereas Kamala Harris has completely disrespected

the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, including the Abbey Gate

The new revelations by Kelly — and data showing concerns about a Trump second term could be effective with independent voters — are propelling a blitz of final week ads and events by the Harris campaign.

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During a town hall with CNN on Wednesday night, Harris said the on the

record interviews by Kelly were like a "911 call to the American people:

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\$250/YR OUT-OF-POCKET ON **ALL THEIR MEDICATIONS.** THAT'S NOT A MIDDLEMAN. THAT'S AN ADVOCATE. "I think one has to think about why would someone who served with him, who is not political, a four-star marine general, why is he telling the American people now?" Harris said. "This time, we must take very seriously those folks who knew him best and who were career people are not going to be there to

hold him back."

13," Cheung said.

House."

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By EVERNORTH

Her comments to CNN were turned into a new digital ad by her campaign airing in battleground states. Last week, the Harris campaign produced a TV ad in battleground states making the argument that Trump would "ignore all checks that rein in a

of love."

president's power" and on Wednesday launched an ad in English and Spanish

highlighting Trump's response during a Latino town hall that Jan. 6 was a "day

On Monday, Harris went on tour through the Rust Belt states with former Republican Rep. Liz Cheney to argue that Trump is a threat to the Constitution, and on Wednesday the Harris campaign held a press call with Republican former national security officials.

criticisms about Trump's fitness for office from people who worked for him will culminate with a speech laying out the risks of a second Trump term on Tuesday at the Ellipse on the National Mall, where Trump held a rally before

The ads and events highlighting support from Republican officials and

the violent riots on Capitol Hill. FILED UNDER: ELECTIONS, DONALD TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP 2024, KAMALA HARRIS, •••

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The Epic Talk

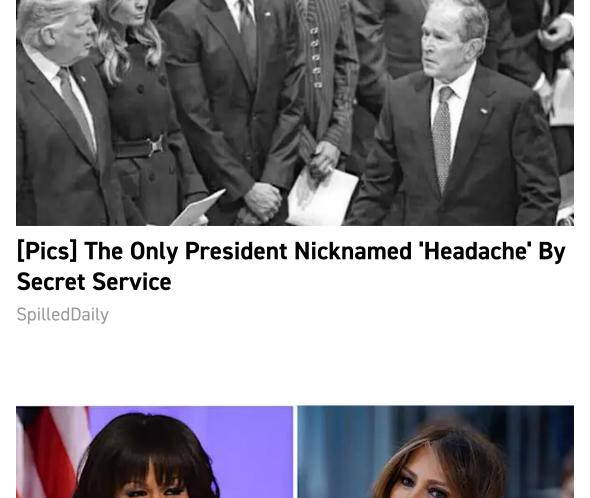
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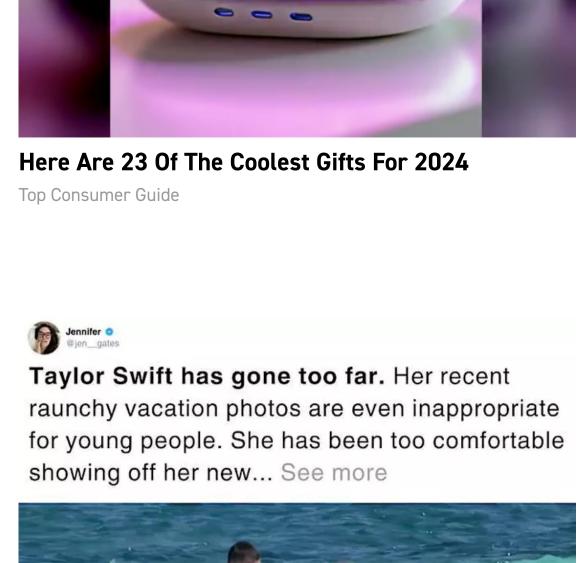


thehealthyfat.com Harry B
@harrythebear One night after we closed the restaurant, **Donald Trump** came in with his then-wife Ivana, their kids, and their friends. In total, there were about 12 of them. The check was about \$1,300. Jim said, 'No check'

and brushed me away. When I bussed the table after, there was a 25 Out-of-Control Customers — Employees Had to Call the Police



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