

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA aka The True History	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara callers welcome.

NOTE: 2nd CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday
605-313-5166
 Pin Code: 353 863#

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS

B B S LISTENER TOOLS

B B S RADIO STATION 1
 A Night at the Roundtable
 Friday Night Hard News

B B S RADIO STATION 2
 Saturday History Call

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 [NO code needed]

1-804-220-6484
 [No code needed]

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B B S ARCHIVES

- go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the required program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING.**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date.

II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call Grand Goddess Lillie	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:30 MST	Telephone Only	1-605-472-5406 PIN 402-493#
Abundance Call Caroline Oceana Ryan	Every 2nd Wednesday 5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET	Telephone ZOOM	

To be notified: email <https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group>
Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.

Ascension Call Cheryl Croci	Every Sunday, Monday 9 – 10:30 EST	Telephone Only	1-425-436-6260 PIN 9467 441# Call Cheryl for # in your area
Ashtar Legacy Calls Fran Pearre	Every 2nd, 4th Tuesday 5 th Tuesday – no call 9:00 – 10:00 pm EST	Telephone 1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339# Call is free; LD charges are not VOIP/ H D 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339#	1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339# Call is free; LD charges are not 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339#

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>
via Skype Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://ashtarontheroad.com)

III ARCHIVES: provided by B B S RADIO RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

ARCHIVES: B B S

- Go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the desired program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on desired date.

ARCHIVES: Rainbow Roundtable

- Go to <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/>
- **WRITTEN**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See NOTES on RHS
- **AUDIO**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See AUDIO on LHS:
Included: BBS podcast + Conference Call Links

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation:

Rainbird

B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days: Rainbird

- Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF EACH DATE
Also note: This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar!

www.Spacestationplaza.co

Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

11th Friday

8 CABAN

Red Galactic Earth

Healing Aspect

Portal Day – I harmonize in order to evolve . . . our work is be the keeper of the earth – the gifts of planetary harmony, working with intuition – let go of separation

12th Saturday

9 ETZNAB

White Solar Mirror

Warrior Aspect

About working on our groundedness and the wise use of honesty; the gift of skrying the unseen; fluidity let go of any illusions of separateness, have no fear

13th Sunday

10 CAUAC

Blue Planetary Storm

Visionary Aspect

We are in the wave of OC – 10 about manifesting our intentions – working with the creation of transformation for others and for lighting clear thoughts. Let go of despair, fear, illusion of separateness

14th Monday

11 AHAU

Yellow Spectral Sun

Healing Aspect

This is about letting go – we are doing the work of the Sun: rising to Christ Consciousness; rising to wholeness - gift of possibility thinking, Unconditional love, the God tone

15th Tuesday

12 IMIX

Red Crystal Dragon

Artist Aspect

12 tone is the crystal tone – complex stability. We work with creation, trusting in the Universe; clarity of mind. Let go of the illusion of lack of support

16th Wednesday

13 IK

White Cosmic Wind

Visionary Aspect

About co-creation of heaven on earth; truth in all matters; gift of voice of spirit, and spirit working through us. 13 tone is promise of change

17th Thursday

1 AKBAL

Blue Magnetic Night

Artist Aspect

The wave of abundance . Being the mystery of Life -

18th Friday

2 KAN

Yellow Lunar Seed

Healing Aspect

Portal Day – about our openness to life – we are harmony seeking with this energy; timing is important

C. Housekeeping:

- We are asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**
T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the scenes of the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net

B B S RADIO:

- The radio programs are supported by us, the listeners.
- The THREE radio programs cost \$300 per week.
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO

B B S RADIO
58 N Marshside Place
Spring, TX 77389

Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope
 And note inside: "for the Thursday,
 Friday AND Saturday calls"

- **All BBS archives can be accessed FOR FREE by everyone.**
- **NB: AT www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives YOU WILL ALSO FIND**
 - **AUDIO ARCHIVES** (BBS Radio Podcasts plus Conference Calls) **and**
 - **PROGRAM NOTES** (downloadable and printable)

OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

Financial Requirements

WEEKLY		
B B S RADIO/week	\$ 357.09	THANKS for helping catch up!
PERSONAL		
Gas, food, etc	\$200	
Bills	\$150	2 bills here
Miscellaneous/Other		
MONTHLY		
Rent - \$1,150 / mo	\$000	Paid - THANKS

CONTACT INFO

- **Please notify Rama when sending something** koran9999@comcast.net
- **Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc**
 Ram D Berkowitz
 PO Box 280
 Santa Cruz, NM 87567

EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**
 ** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) **
- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal

account: choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: SUPPLEMENTS. This account helps Rama & Tara; it's the source of their supplements

The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram>

a/c # 7000

- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**
- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- check out the heading called **READ MORE: lots of** good information

FREEMART: NUGEN COIN: <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

To help Marshall and support him by signing up under his name:

<https://www.nugencoin.com/marnor>

TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn [Rainbird] or Micah

Carolyn's E-mail: lightenergync@gmail.com

Micah's E-mail: thegreenalchemist@gmail.com

CALL THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION/ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-november-11-2022>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-631-359-9353 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 1.

TO LISTEN TO CALLS ON THE PHONE:

1-631-359-9353

HARD NEWS

Rama, Tara [R, T]

R, T: GREETINGS TO ALL

T: the energies are going very high; taking a nap helps!

Something is moving and changing

R: Tom the Cat and Sweet Angelique were over California and took a picture of the Center of the Milky Way Galaxy [the photo is in Rama's White Knight Report for Nov 17th]
Describes the various solar flares that are coming in!

WE ARE IN THE 5TH DIMENSION – we are being told to focus on the incoming light as it is changing our bodies . . .

T: felt another shift today . . .

R: saw different light frequencies shifting as the day progressed; can get confused about time and what's going on

R: Zelensky had some kind of celebration in a town; RT reported and it was an entirely different story about the same event

T: reads about a journalist – has been in the Ukraine etc since events began – we know Ukrainian law is about prohibition of using words, approaches that do not reflect what is going on can land you in jail – thanks to the US Deep State

R: journalists are being disappeared – reads from an article – both Ukraine and the US want you to believe whatever the story is , , ,not what you can see or hear

T: reads bits about the situation – and how some kids were completely obliterated Other details included, discussed

CONFERENCE CALL

LINK #711 <https://fccdl.in/UyfbKUPIWg>

PLEASE LISTEN TO THIS CONFERENCE CALL.

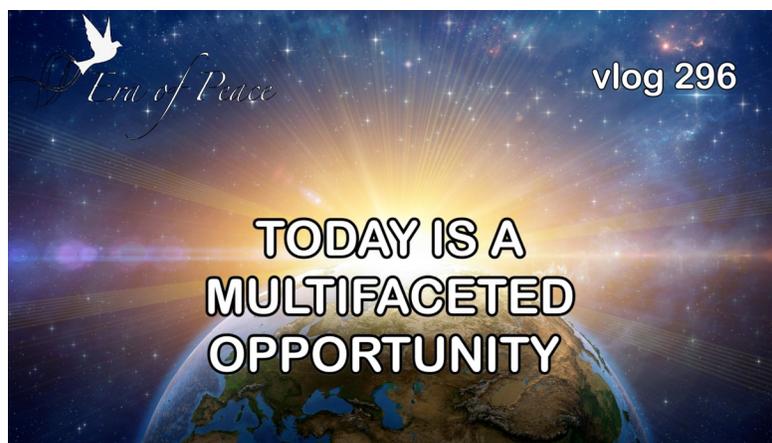
THERE ARE NO NOTES FROM THE CALL

B B S RADIO

Rama's Choices Ave Sache Snatnam Kuer

AUDIO: THE BIGGER PICTURE by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 296 TODAY IS A MULTIFACETED OPPORTUNITY



AUDIO: KRYON KRYON 2022 – The Journey's End

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQlw4Fzf7_Y

MOTHER / ALCYONE [M/A]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame!

Greetings, Children of Ra! [Alcyone was present too]

It is a most auspicious time to be here! Everything is unfolding as it should. Happy 11:11! Are those ones showing up for everyone? Every day, at some point, we see this 11:11.

What They can say is that the portals of Light open; Archangel Michael's Legions are here – this is a big deal: really big deal. It involves the Quantum physics that is unfolding: space/time, matter - all changing. Right now, as things interact with each other, as we talk to the particles inside ourselves - it's how we get healed – all the issues going on right now - the key is inside of us, not anywhere else!

This is why all the messages are saying we are the most important part of this story, to raise our consciousness enough to link us with the Quantum Field. It is happening in spite of the best efforts of her wayward children who are on their way home – whether they know it or not.

- Love is the answer and She means, they are on their way home as a result of their own actions

In this present moment, as the energies are getting higher – as if they are not high enough: it makes the head spin! And They can say 'very soon'; can say 'immediately' - but can't say the hour, the minute, the nano second – our sun Sol is going to shift into a higher octave.

- It will send out a solar flare, an energy pulse which can be seen across the galaxy. We will feel it - not a bad thing, not an earth extinction event as some have alluded to.

T: It could have been – right?

M/A: What's happening is a new age – most of us don't remember the last Sat Yuga; a few of us do. It was a most wonderful time to be here. And things are happening now that are making it so that with this Sat Yuga, once again, as we shift our thoughts - and thoughts are things; physical reality, space/time, living matter – we are all made of these things.

- And the gold dust, diamond monoatomic gold coming from the sun is shifting our DNA right now. It's a good thing. This is the key to our immortality.
- Other folks that know their time is nigh. Don't want us to wake up – it's already launched. Sending more love to the situations at hand is our best ticket to ascension. The divisiveness - and Patti had a few comments talking about the drama that went on on 11:8 of this midterm election

T: has been going on for weeks – won't be done for a long while!

M/A: Yes.

T: don't get us started!

M/A: The politics of Ascension are navigating through the multi verses. That's what being brought to our front and center. As we can stay neutral and focus on the love pouring in; not getting caught in the matrix drama of who is on top and who is on the bottom.

T: Uh huh!

M/A: We're all precious sons and daughters of the Most high, creator gods and goddesses, goddesses and gods. This is the key to the story here; as we said: at this particular moment in the story line of earth's ascension, we would wake up and help each other to wake up to complete the story.

This is what's taking place right now. As the sun moves up in octave, as we embrace the energies, not buy into the fear – that is what can create the problems that are going on right now as we see it, amongst the various cultures at this time; it's this Oneness we all share

- Earth is a most unique planet in this local universe of Nabadon, mostly made of water. That is a precious thing

In response to T's comment of 'Us too!', Mother hits Rama's body and says:

- Bags of water – that's what makes this story flow. And as we can get in touch with oceans upon oceans of bliss inside us, that's the key. All the other stuff is Maya and how we stay out of the Maya is 'chop wood, carry water'.
- And it might sound easy; it's a challenge in these times, simply because we're learning

a new way of Being. As the physical reality on this planet and the various realms within it, as things move up in octave, more and more folks are interacting with all the various realms that are alongside us. And there are more stories than are in heaven and earth, and more than She has time to tell on this night.

The key to this completion is right in our hands, as we want to embrace what His Holiness is teaching us in each message about compassion and forgiveness to get through the next energy period. And this is most imperative to listen to this messenger from Lord Buddha. After all Kuthumi if you meet Buddha on the path, you gotta kill him – that’s what they say

T: - the typical story . . .

M/A: Gotta kill the ego of false realities – that’s what’s happening in this moment: we are all getting a huge lesson in how to move up in octave: what Patti was just talking about with the eclipses.

- And this 11:11 portal - this is the time and the place where it shifts. Wish She could tell us the hour they get to show up. Let’s say we can taste it; touch it; feel it - it is here; it is now yet she cannot tell us the very nano second.

M/A: Yes we can feel it! Embrace that feeling! !! That is how we get through each and every nano second. We are constantly moving through myriads of time, space, and this is changing our DNA for the better. Right now, there are so many forms of life that are here that want to interact with us, and they come from realms upon realms of eternal Living love, Living Light. And this is what is keeping this story alive, this planet, us, the particles that make up every living being

- Her wayward children know that the time is now to give it up – it’s a little hard to give it up when you’ve been doing it for how many yugas?
- The completion is NOW. Many more places to go on this night.

T: this is true . . .

M/A: Yes. We must be on our way; she is being called

T: wants to know who Mother will be talking to . . .

M/A: Metatron – yes! Having a little chat with the commander there about issues at hand on the current state of affairs. This is about the incoming frequencies of ascension and the Light that never fails! And She’ll say it again: in order to get to space, gotta go in through the heart. It’s the only way – if you want to travel in space in those other craft that the billionaires have created – another story for another time! Send only love to all the situations

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! Kadoish, kadoish, Kadoish, Saboeth, Happy 11:11 and Happy Birthday to two others . . .

Rama Returns: seemed to be observing the sun; seemed like he was alongside the sun and watching the solar flares unfold – the sun’s a living being as we are, made of plasma - we’re plasma. All is unfolding as it should. All he heard was Om Mani Padme Hm.

AUDIO: Democracy Now!

2022-11-11 Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/headlines>

2022-11-11 Delia Ramirez: Illinois Elects First Latina Congressmember; Ran on Medicare for All, Immigration Reform

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/delia_ramirez_illinois_latinx_representative_election

2022-11-11 Ranked-Choice Voting Backed in Midterm Ballot Measures, May Help “Crash-Proofing Our Democracy”

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/ranked_choice_nevada_voting_midterm_elections

2022-11-11 “Carbon Billionaires”: Oxfam Calls for Taxing Rich Who Profit from Emissions Fueling Climate Crisis

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/carbon_emissions_billionaires_fossil_fuel_industry

AUDIO: 2022-10-07 The Pathway to a Negotiated Peace in the Ukraine with Jeffrey Sachs
44:39 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrFPocqaE78&ab_channel=BrooklynForPeace

[Brooklyn For Peace](#)

Brooklyn For Peace Fall Forum Series presents: **The Pathway to a Negotiated Peace in Ukraine: October 6, 2022**

Our speaker, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, addresses the war in Ukraine’s impact on climate change and global food security and will outline the pathway to a negotiated peace in Ukraine.

He is a world-renowned economics professor, bestselling author, innovative educator, and global leader in sustainable development. He is widely recognized for bold and effective strategies to address complex challenges including the escape from extreme poverty, the global battle against human-induced climate change, international debt and financial crises, national economic reforms, and the control of pandemic and epidemic diseases.

Sachs serves as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he holds the rank of University Professor. Sachs held the position of Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University from 2002 to 2016. He is President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Chair of the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, Co-Chair of the UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition, Commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Honorary Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development at Sunway University, academician of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican, and an SDG Advocate for UN Secretary-General António Guterres. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-7), Ban Ki-moon (2008-16), and António Guterres (2017-18).

Sachs has authored and edited numerous books, including three New York Times bestsellers: *The End of Poverty* (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). Sachs was the co-recipient of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize, the leading global prize for environmental leadership. Read his full bio. <https://www.jeffsachs.org/>

<https://brooklynpeace.org/>

- the end of the audio is a man from the Peace Movement **talking to Scott Ritter**

Closing: **Rainbird** – reports that Keshe said peace is coming in the next few weeks; just this week comments on Alcyone showing up on Twin Flames Day!

Music: a favourite song of Rama’s No more troubles

Good night to all!

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2022-11-11 Headlines

<https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/headlines>



Watch Headlines

Control of Senate Hangs in Balance as Vote Counting Continues in Arizona and Nevada

Nov 11, 2022

Three days after U.S. voters cast ballots in a critical midterm election, the balance of power in Congress rests on the outcomes of three yet-to-be-determined Senate contests and 30 congressional races. In Georgia, Democratic Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock kicked off a renewed reelection campaign on Thursday after he fell just shy of the 50% of votes needed to prevent a runoff on December 6 against his Republican opponent, the Trump-backed former football star Herschel Walker.

Sen. Raphael Warnock: "And so, I need you to fight like the future of Georgia and the future of America depends on it, because it does. Are you all ready to fight?"

Supporters: "Yeah!"

Sen. Raphael Warnock: "Are you ready to get this done?"

Supporters: "Yeah!"

In Nevada, Republican Adam Laxalt — a 2020 election denier — leads incumbent Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto by fewer than 9,000 votes with about 100,000 mail-in ballots still to be counted.

In Arizona, incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Kelly leads Trump-backed Republican Blake Masters by more than 110,000 votes, with about one in five ballots yet to be counted. Arizona's gubernatorial race is even closer, with Democrat Katie Hobbs leading Trump-backed Republican Kari Lake by just over one percentage point. Lake has repeatedly denied the outcome of the 2020 presidential election and has said she would only accept the election results if she wins.

Arizona Officials Condemn Death Threats Against Election Workers

Nov 11, 2022

Ahead of the midterms, election officials in Arizona's Maricopa County received more than 100 violent threats and intimidating communications. Bill Gates, the Republican chair of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, spoke to reporters on Thursday.

Bill Gates: "More people need to start speaking out and saying that that is absolutely unacceptable. No one should be the subject of death threats, but particularly not those who are simply trying to keep our democracy afloat and count the votes and make sure that every eligible voter's ballot is treated with respect."

Republicans Edge Closer to Claiming House Majority

Nov 11, 2022

Republicans have edged closer to a majority in the House of Representatives but need to win at least seven of the remaining contests. One closely watched race is in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, where the far-right, pro-gun, election-denying incumbent Republican Lauren Boebert leads Democrat Adam Frisch by about 1000 votes. That contest may be heading for a recount.

Democrats Tina Kotek and Maura Healey Become First Openly Lesbian Elected Governors

Nov 11, 2022

Democrat Tina Kotek has won a narrow victory in the Oregon governor's race. She joins Maura Healey of Massachusetts as the first openly lesbian elected governors in the United States.

Ukraine Says It Liberated Dozens of Towns and Villages in Russian-Occupied Kherson

Nov 11, 2022

Ukraine's military says it has reclaimed control over 100 square miles of territory in the Kherson region over the last 24 hours, including dozens of settlements. Ukraine's latest battlefield gains came as Russia's military claimed all its troops have retreated from Kherson city. Kherson is one of four Ukrainian territories Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed to have annexed in October. Elsewhere, officials in the city of Mykolaiv say Russian attacks on a residential building killed six people overnight.

WSJ: South Korea to Sell Artillery for Ukraine in Confidential Arms Deal with U.S.

Nov 11, 2022

This week, top U.S. General Mark Milley estimated more than 100,000 soldiers on each side of the conflict have been killed or wounded. His remarks came as The Wall Street Journal reported South Korea will for the first time sell artillery shells destined for Ukraine's military through a confidential arms deal between Seoul and Washington. The sale comes after North Korea's government denied reports it has sent artillery shells and ammunition to Russia for use in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Zelensky Says Russia's Invasion Has Worsened Climate Crisis

Nov 11, 2022

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned Russia's invasion has led to a dramatic rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

President Volodymyr Zelensky: "This Russian war has brought about an energy crisis that has forced dozens of countries to resume coal-fired power generation in order to lower energy prices for their people at least a little, to lower prices that are shockingly rising due to deliberate Russian actions. The Russian war brought an acute food crisis to the world, which hit worst those countries suffering from the existing manifestations of climate change — catastrophic drought, large-scale floods."

Zelensky's recorded remarks came in a video message played at the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Tuesday.

Egypt Cracks Down on Dissent as Family of Hunger-Striking Political Prisoner Appeals to Biden

Nov 11, 2022

Egyptian authorities have denied entry to the country to the Italian activist Giorgio Caracciolo from the anti-torture group Dignity, even though he was accredited to attend COP27. This comes amid mounting international pressure to release British-Egyptian political prisoner Alaa Abd El-Fattah, who was denied a visit from his lawyer yesterday, as his family grows increasingly concerned for his life after he entered a complete food and water strike Sunday. President Biden is meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi today in Sharm el-Sheikh. In a direct appeal to Biden, Alaa's sister Sanaa Seif said, "You can make the difference here. You can save Alaa, and you can show that there is some hope and potential for common sense, freedom, democracy. Don't fail us, please." Meanwhile, Egypt's Interior Ministry announced a state of high alert after calls for demonstrations today. Cairo and other major cities are in a state of lockdown with

security forces maintaining a heavy presence in the streets.

Biden to Meet with Xi Jinping Next Week on Sidelines of G20 Summit

Nov 11, 2022

The White House says President Biden will meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the G20 summit next week in Bali, Indonesia. It will be the pair's first in-person meeting since Biden took office. The White House says the talks will focus on "efforts to maintain and deepen lines of communication." Russian President Vladimir Putin will skip the G20 summit.

China Sticks with "Zero COVID" Policy as Daily Cases Pass 10,000

Nov 11, 2022

In China, authorities have ordered new lockdowns affecting millions of people after the number of daily COVID-19 cases topped 10,000 for the first time since April. About 5 million residents of Guangzhou's downtown district have been confined to their homes through Sunday. Meanwhile, officials tightened COVID restrictions across Beijing after reporting a record 118 new locally transmitted cases. Many residents say they've been unable to leave Beijing since the start of the pandemic.

Ling Zhu: "Even on October 1st of this year for the National Day holiday, I couldn't go anywhere. And many of my colleagues have not been back home for a few years, either. I'm thinking about going back home. But with the recent outbreaks, people can't leave, nor can they return to Beijing."

Israeli Forces Kill Two Palestinians in West Bank; Palestinian Rights Groups Testify to U.N. Panel

Nov 11, 2022

In the occupied West Bank, two more Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in separate incidents Wednesday. One of the victims was 15-year-old Mahdi Hashash from the Balata refugee camp in Nablus. In related news, earlier this week in Geneva, Switzerland, Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq told a U.N. human rights commission that Israel uses "mafia methods" of threats and intimidation to silence groups documenting Israeli violations against Palestinian rights.

U.S. State Department Blasts Israeli Politician Ben-Gvir for "Celebrating Terrorism"

Nov 11, 2022

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., the State Department called out far-right Israeli politician Itamar Ben-Gvir for attending the memorial for Meir Kahane, the ultranationalist founder of the racist Kach party, which later became Kahane Chai. This is State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

Ned Price: "Celebrating the legacy of a terrorist organization is abhorrent. There is no other word for it. It is abhorrent. And we remain concerned, as we said before, by the legacy of Kahane Chai and the continued use of rhetoric among violent right-wing extremists."

In May, the Biden administration removed Kahane Chai from its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" despite its connection to the murder of Palestinians and Arab Americans, including on U.S. soil. Itamar Ben-Gvir is expected to become a key member of Benjamin Netanyahu's new government.

Crew Finds Noose at Construction Site of Obama Presidential Library

Nov 11, 2022

In Chicago, construction of the Obama Presidential Library was halted on Thursday after work crews

discovered a noose at the site. In a statement, the Obama Foundation wrote, "This shameless act of cowardice and hate is designed to get attention and divide us."

Black Liberation Elder Mutulu Shakur to be Released from Prison with Just Months Left to Live

Nov 11, 2022

The U.S. Parole Commission has granted compassionate release to longtime political prisoner Mutulu Shakur after 36 years in prison. The 72-year-old Black liberation activist likely has less than six months to live, after he was diagnosed in prison with stage 3 bone marrow cancer. Shakur was part of the Black nationalist group Republic of New Afrika that worked with the Black Panther Party and others, and is the stepfather of the late rapper icon Tupac Shakur.

D.C. Sues NFL, Washington Commanders over Toxic Workplace Cover-Up

Nov 11, 2022

Washington, D.C.'s attorney general has filed a consumer protection lawsuit against the Washington Commanders and team owner Dan Snyder, along with the National Football League and its commissioner, Roger Goodell. The lawsuit laid out Thursday by Attorney General Karl Racine alleges that Snyder lied when he denied knowing about a hostile work environment and culture of sexual harassment at his franchise.

Attorney General Karl Racine: "In fact, the evidence shows Mr. Snyder was not only aware of the toxic culture within his organization, he encouraged it, and he participated in it. Mr. Snyder exerted a high level of personal control over everything the Commanders did. And his misconduct gave others permission to treat women in the same demeaning manner."

The lawsuit alleges Snyder was joined by the NFL and its commissioner, Roger Goodell, in a campaign to mislead the public about what was being done to address harassment allegations. Prosecutors are seeking millions of dollars in penalties. Last year, the NFL levied a \$10 million fine against the Washington Football Team after 15 women came forward with allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse.

U.S. Judge Blocks Biden Student Relief Plan

Nov 11, 2022

In Texas, a federal judge struck down the Biden administration's student loan relief program, calling it illegal. The ruling comes in response to a lawsuit by the conservative group the Job Creators Network Foundation. The program was already on hold due to a challenge from a group of Republican-led states. The White House is appealing the order by Trump-appointed Judge Mark Pittman. The Education Department has already approved 16 million borrowers for up to \$20,000 of relief, out of 26 million people who have applied for the program.

48,000 University of California Graduate Workers Poised to Strike Statewide

Nov 11, 2022

Forty-eight thousand University of California graduate student workers are preparing to strike across all 10 UC campuses starting Monday. The student workers have organized with United Auto Workers and are demanding the university system pay a living wage and engage in good-faith bargaining for a fair union contract. Student workers recently rallied on the UC Berkeley campus.

Student worker 1: "Can someone tell me why my peers have to skip meds in order to make ends meet? Can someone tell me why my peers are attending funerals on Zoom because they can't afford a plane ticket home?"

Student worker 2: "I'm not going to have money in my checking account by the end of this month. These demands that we're putting forward with this new contract are making sure that we're able to have our basic necessities covered."

Student worker 3: "Real equity, real access means paying living wages so that this university isn't just for those with generational wealth."

HarperCollins Workers Go on Strike to Demand Fair Pay and Benefits

Nov 11, 2022

Employees at HarperCollins Publishers launched an open-ended strike Thursday amid stalled contract negotiations. Workers are demanding HarperCollins increase pay and provide better paid leave benefits, as well as address its lack of diversity. HarperCollins is the publisher of Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States," as well as the books "A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy" and "Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America."

2022-11-11 Delia Ramirez: Illinois Elects First Latina Congressmember; Ran on Medicare for All, Immigration Reform

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/delia_ramirez_illinois_latinx_representative_election



Guests

- [Delia Ramierz](#)
congressmember-elect for Illinois's 3rd Congressional District, community organizer and former state representative in Illinois.



Links

- [Delia Ramierz on Twitter](#)

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We speak with Congressmember-elect Delia Ramirez, who won her election for Illinois's newly redrawn 3rd Congressional District Tuesday, making her the first Latina elected to Congress from Illinois. Ramirez is a progressive Democratic state representative who is the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants and the wife of a DACA recipient. She campaigned on expanding healthcare and housing access for working people, as well as passing the DREAM Act. "I represent an electorate that is growing — an electorate that expects us to deliver to all people and put the politics to the side and make working families a priority," says Ramirez. "We understand the importance of multicultural coalition building for all working people."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We begin today's show in Chicago, where one of the most exciting victories for progressives and the Latinx and immigrant communities in today's midterm elections took place, as Democratic state Representative Delia Ramirez won her Illinois election for the newly redrawn 3rd Congressional District, making her Illinois's first Latina elected to Congress.

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: We just made herstory tonight in the 3rd Congressional District!

AMY GOODMAN: Democrat Delia Ramirez is a progressive state representative who's the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants and the wife of a DACA recipient. She previously served in the Illinois state House after being elected in 2018, has for years been a community organizer. She formerly worked as the campaign manager of Common Cause Illinois and co-chaired the elected officials chapter of the state's Working Families Party affiliate. The Working Families Party played a key role in supporting her congressional race. Progressive members of Congress also supported her, including Senators Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. As *The Intercept* [reports](#), Ramirez is now said to be, quote, "poised to become a Squad-adjacent member of Congress." But she had to overcome opposition, funded in part by the AIPAC-allied super PAC, Democratic Majority for Israel, or DMFI.

The day after the election, Congressmember-elect Delia Ramirez spoke at a celebratory press conference held by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: The seeds — *ustedes han sembrado* — that you have planted are blooming today. You are sending yourselves to the General Assembly, to the state Senate, to the state House, to the county. You are working towards Lake County, Will County, Kane County, Suburban Cook, DuPage County, and you'll be building up in Cook County, as well. But you've got a bunch more counties to go, and you are just getting started.

AMY GOODMAN: For more, Congressmember-elect Delia Ramirez joins us from Chicago.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, and congratulations.

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: Thank you, Amy. Good morning. Honored to be here.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, you talk about people sending themselves at every level of elected office, and you, the first Latina to be elected to Congress. Talk about who you represent and what you feel are the key issues that you want to represent in Congress.

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: Look, when I announced on December 8th, a year ago, that we were running for Congress, I was really deliberate about making it "we," that while my name was on the ballot in November and in June, I was taking the voices, the souls, the minds of the people that asked me to run. These are people who are struggling in paying for their child care. These are people that I helped house 10 years ago when I used to run a homeless shelter. These are the same people that I have been working with and building with so that we have progressives representing them in city council, in the state House, in the state Senate. And these are people who have been fighting every single day to create affordable housing, so that people can have — families can have stable housing security. So, when I say "we," I wanted them to know that they may not be on the ballot, but they were going with me — they are going with me to Washington, D.C. And that was really important.

It meant that 800 volunteers worked very hard, endlessly, Amy, to make sure that I made it through a very, very challenging primary, a primary where my opponents — particularly one of them did everything in his power to try to destroy my character, from commercials to mailers to radio to digital ads. And unfortunate for him, it backfired, because the people on the doors knew that my track record was one of expanding healthcare coverage, of helping create democracy through an elected school board in Chicago, and I was someone that had secured more than \$1.5 billion in emergency housing relief to keep people in their homes during the pandemic. It was clear. People knew I had a track record. They knew I represented thousands of people in my journey in public service, and that I was going — I am going to Congress to build a network that we've done in Illinois.

And so, you asked me: What are the things I want to work on? You know, I kept saying, for me, this race is personal. I'm the daughter of immigrants. I have parents who can't afford their Medicare supplemental. My mother is on Medicaid, working a minimum wage job as a homecare worker. And as she cares for this 93-year-old senior, she worries about her diabetes medication and the fact that the agency that she works for pays so little that she can't afford the \$550-a-month healthcare insurance they offer, because those copays and the cost of her insulin is almost a third of her entire income. This is a reality for me.

I'm also the wife of a DACA recipient, someone that's been here since the age of 14. I am entering Congress as the only member of Congress in a mixed-status family. So, healthcare, Medicare for All, expanding healthcare access and quality is absolutely important to me. Finally delivering, after 30 years of a conversation, on immigration reform is not something I'm going to just co-sponsor, talk about, hashtag. I understand the urgency of the people that are sending me and the responsibility to be a leader on the issue. In short term, my hope, and what I call my future colleagues to do during lame duck, is to finally pass the DREAM Act and give DACA recipients that pathway to citizenship that they deserve, that my husband deserves, that every single one of the young people who are not that young anymore, who look like me, who are my age, have been waiting for as they've contributed and called this place home for so long.

And then, I say to you, lastly, is the economy. What I heard people continue to say and what resonated was, yes, we've made some progress. Yes, we helped you keep your housing during the pandemic. Yes, we're helping you, you know, through some child tax credits, through some support services. But the reality is it's still not enough. You are still struggling with two jobs and barely making it. We have a responsibility to hold corporations accountable, and all of those that have profited and created this inflation at the backs of everyday working people. So, immigration, healthcare, economy are front and center for me.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me ask you about your assessment of the Biden administration on immigration, continuing to support the Trump-era pandemic policies like Title 42, which has blocked at least 2 million migrants from applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. What is your assessment of President Biden on immigration?

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: I think President Biden has done some good work, and we have a lot more to do. The reality is that no one travels through Central America or through a jungle of Venezuela if it wasn't because they thought like it was life or death. The reality is that we also have to talk about what our relations with foreign policy is — right? — and foreign partners, or lack of.

So, there is a comprehensive immigration reform that we must take on and have to understand the root causes of migration. People don't come here because they woke up and said, "I think I'm bored here in Chiquimula, Guatemala, you know, and living nearly starving. I'm just going to figure out how to find \$10,000 to begin a journey of traveling that may mean I die, I get raped, I never make it to the other side." People are crossing the border because it's their only option to survival. In my opinion, these are refugees. These are people that are seeking asylum from countries that, unfortunately, are destroying the ability for their everyday people to have even the basic needs met.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me ask you, Congressmember-elect, about reproductive rights, something you have championed for a long time. Abortion was a referendum in five different states, and abortion rights activists won every one. Three of those states, like Vermont and Michigan, it enshrined abortion rights in the state constitution. And then there were two anti-abortion referenda, like one in Kentucky that was overwhelmingly defeated. Can you respond to this and how much further you want to go in Congress to protect reproductive rights?

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: In Illinois in 2019, as a freshman state representative, I stood with 42 Democrat women in the state House for six hours, demanding that our chamber codify *Roe v. Wade*, specifically preparing ourselves for this moment. It wasn't an easy fight. And I'll be honest with you: There were Democrats that didn't vote for it. And certainly not one Republican on the other side voted for it, although they knew clearly that they were voting against their best interest, their own interest, the women, Republican women, and others on the other side. To me, what I think about and what I saw here in Illinois

and what I've seen across the country is that people are saying, women are saying, people who were born with a female reproductive system, they are being clear to say, "You don't get to choose what I do over my body. My decision to have a family is a decision between my family and my doctor."

And the second piece of that, and I think particularly, let me say, Amy, in the Latino community, which I know people have said the red wave, the Republicans are investing so much in Latinos because Latinos don't support abortion. There was no red wave in the Latino community. Abortion — right? — and the fear that if more Democrats are in, that we would codify *Roe v. Wade*, that didn't work in the favor of Republicans. We understand that abortion is healthcare, and that if people care about fertility, people care about ectopic pregnancies and dying from them, and people care about people having a right over their bodies, that making sure that we protect our ability and our right to abortions is pivotal to our livelihood. That was clear. That was clear in the Latino community. That was clear across the country.

So, what I want to do is I want to make sure there's never a federal ban on abortion. What I want to do is to make sure that we're educating people on what abortion care and reproductive rights is and what it isn't, right? Because the amount of misinformation, and this idea that you go into communities of color and you just spread all this misinformation because they don't know better, I mean, that, to me, is the epitome of what white supremacy and racism is. The truth is that on election night, on November 8th, at 9, 10, 11 p.m., people across the country responded clearly and said, "We know better. We are educated. We know what we need. And we know what we need to protect."

AMY GOODMAN: And then, your thoughts, finally, on — on the one hand, you had a number of progressives who won, like Summer Lee in Pennsylvania. She'll be the first African American congressmember to represent Pennsylvania. And you've got Greg Casar in Austin, Texas, who was the youngest elected member of the Austin City Council. But you also have Greg Abbott who won his reelection, the Texas governor, and you've got, of course, Ron DeSantis in Florida, who easily won his reelection — two men who have sent asylum seekers to cities like New York and your city, Chicago, in a kind of defiant show of anti-immigrant zeal, with Ron DeSantis possibly being a presidential candidate in 2024. Your final comments about how you feel it's most important to represent immigrants in this country today?

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: Yeah. Look, the fearmongering and scapegoating of immigrants is not a new thing. They've done this to us, and you will see that every single election cycle. All of a sudden you hear about caravans. In this case, we are hearing about Venezuelans coming through the border. And you have seen people traffic immigrants across this country, put them on planes. This could not have been more painful to see. I met a 3-year-old, Camila, who already had learned at the age of 3 that she had to give me an alias, because she was so afraid that her family would get deported, in Texas, or she'd get deported if she got sent to Florida.

The reality is that if we say that we are a country of diversity, if we say we are a country that welcomes all people, that is a superpower, a beautiful nation — right? — that stands on justice and love, then we should be a country that's pro-immigrant. And the reality, that in this moment we are not.

But my hope comes from Maxwell Frost in Florida. My hope comes from Greg Casar in Texas. My hope comes from Michelle Vallejo, that may have not won the election in Texas 15, but she is moving the needle and moving the needle. And the reality is that in 10 months we'll be circulating petitions again. And I hope Michelle runs again, that some of the local work we do will be so critical as we actually move the needle in gubernatorial races.

Greg Abbott, Ron DeSantis and the extremist Republicans are scared. They are so scared of who we are and that this daughter of immigrants, whose mother crossed the border of Mexico and Guatemala to come here, pregnant of me, nearly drowning, is about to go to Congress. That is fear to them, because I represent an electorate that is growing, an electorate that expects us to deliver for all people and put the politics to the side and make working families a priority. That's going to impact their profits. That's going to impact the corporations that continue to profit at the expense of our people. But we're here. We're not leaving. We're representing. Six of us Latinos are going to Congress, and those numbers will continue to grow, because we

understand the importance of multicultural coalition building for all working people.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Congressmember-elect Delia Ramirez, thank you so much for being with us, the first Latina congresswoman to be elected to Congress not only to represent Illinois, but to represent the Midwest, previously served in the Illinois state House after being elected in 2018, a longtime community organizer, daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, wife of a DACA recipient. Thank you so much.

REP.-ELECT DELIA RAMIREZ: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: Next up, we look at ranked-choice voting. What is it? It was on the ballot Tuesday in Nevada and many cities, and shaped the outcome of the Senate race in Alaska. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: “Divino Maravilhoso” by the longtime Brazilian singer Gal Costa, who died Wednesday at the age of 77 after a career that spanned over five decades. Brazil’s recently elected President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva posted on Instagram that Costa was “one of the best singers in the world, one of our foremost artists who brought the name and sounds of Brazil to the entire planet.” He said, “The country ... lost one of its great voices today.”

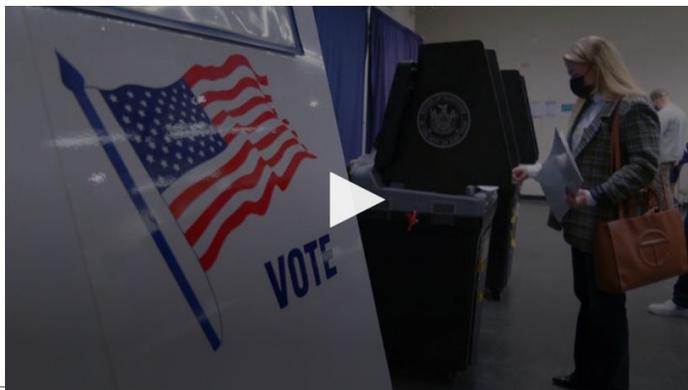
2022-11-11 Ranked-Choice Voting Backed in Midterm Ballot Measures, May Help “Crash-Proofing Our Democracy”

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/ranked_choice_nevada_voting_midterm_elections



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Voters in Nevada and a handful of cities across the United States appear poised to expand the use of ranked-choice voting in the aftermath of Tuesday’s midterm elections. The election method allows voters to select multiple candidates in descending order of preference. It is used in many other countries, and supporters say it can reduce polarization and give more voice to independent voters. “The forces for ranked-choice voting are people who really care about our democracy,” says George Cheung, director of More Equitable Democracy, who says ranked-choice voting “allows for truer representation of who we are as a community.”



Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I’m Amy Goodman.

We look now at how voters chose to expand the use of the election method known as ranked-choice voting during Tuesday’s midterm elections. Ranked-choice voting was on the ballot in the entire state of Nevada and many cities. It also shaped the outcome of races where it’s already in place. Supporters say it could reduce polarization in politics, give more voice to independent voters, among other things.

In Nevada, the “yes” vote leads for a ballot measure that would change the state’s elections to a system of a

nonpartisan primary that allows voters to choose candidates from any party. After the primary, ranked-choice general elections would let voters rank their top five candidates who advanced.

Meanwhile, in Maine's largest city of Portland, and in Evanston, Illinois, voters backed measures to use ranked-choice voting in city elections.

In Alaska, the state's ranked-choice voting system will decide which candidate will represent the state in Congress, after the Senate race remained undecided when none of the candidates received half the vote. Voters in Alaska approved the new system in 2020. The 2022 August special election was the first time they were used in the state. In that election, Democrat Mary Peltola beat former governor and 2008 Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin to fill an open U.S. congressional seat. Peltola campaigned on reproductive rights and made history as the first Alaska Native in Congress.

For more, we're joined by George Cheung, director of More Equitable Democracy, who's been following all of this very closely.

We welcome you to *Democracy Now!* George, you've said ranked-choice voting is a "necessary step in the unsexy but critical work of crash-proofing our democracy." Can you explain what you mean? Assume people haven't even heard of ranked-choice voting, though it's happening all over the country.

GEORGE CHEUNG: Yes. First, I want to say thank you, Amy, for having me. I'm really excited to be here.

Currently, we in the United States use a system for our elections called winner take all with a plurality rules, meaning that candidates, whoever has the most votes on Election Day wins that election, which means that a plurality could win, and a majority could, in fact, vote for a different candidate.

So, ranked-choice voting is a — both a ballot style and a tabulation method in which voters get to rank their choices, let's say, one through five, or potentially as many candidates as there are on the ballot. And then, once you start tallying them, you look at if someone receives a majority of votes, and if someone does, then the election is over. If there isn't, then usually the last-place candidate gets eliminated, and those votes get retabulated or reallocated to those voters' second choices. And that process continues to repeat itself.

And so, in terms of, like, the actual reform itself, the best version of ranked-choice voting is when you don't actually have a primary, when you have lots of choices in the general election for voters to choose on, with high turnout, and therefore, you get the most voice for those voters.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what happened in Alaska, so people can really understand how this played out.

GEORGE CHEUNG: So, in Alaska, which recently approved ranked-choice voting, it's a top four system. So, in the primary, you would choose a candidate, and then, based on the results of the primary, four candidates go to the general election. And so, you had three fairly high-profile candidates with lots of name recognition, and candidates — I'm sorry, voters would just rank their choices.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for Mary Peltola, a Native Alaskan, who ended up getting the most number of votes, but looks like she didn't get the majority. However, voters, because there is ranked-choice voting in Alaska, were allowed to rank their choices. And since it seems like it may play out very similarly to the special election, the bottom vote-getter will get eliminated, and those votes will get reallocated to other candidates. And because — I believe that Representative Peltola, since she is currently in office now, campaigned in a way that really engaged voters deeply, and said, you know, "If you don't want to vote for me for your first choice, vote for me for your second choice." So, that's also a big benefit of ranked-choice voting, because it forces candidates to really continue to engage all voters, as opposed to saying, "Well, if you're not going to vote for me, I'm just going to move on to the next voter."

AMY GOODMAN: Talk about Portland, Maine, and Evanston, Illinois.

GEORGE CHEUNG: So, one really important thing to know is that there are different versions of ranked-choice voting. And at the core, we really need to understand that we use a system called winner take all. This is a really old system that dates back into the 1400s. And so, beginning in about the 1800s, there were

movements towards big reforms as the franchise began to expand to people who didn't have wealth, to women, to people of color. And many countries and American cities ended up doing a lot of reforms in the late 1800s, early 1900s. And so, that really stopped by the time of World War II and the Red Scare, because a lot of people of color and progressives started to get elected.

What's really exciting in Portland, Oregon, is the story of communities of color, led by the Coalition of Communities of Color in Portland, Oregon. There was a lot of frustration about the city government, because it was elected all at-large, meaning that you had to run, essentially, a congressional race in order to win. And there was a really meaningful charter review process that was run by the city where communities of color had a leadership role in educating themselves about the implications of electoral change, really engaged deeply to deliberate about what reforms they wanted to see, and actually came out with a recommendation. Seventeen out of the 20 commissioners agreed to put a form of ranked-choice voting on the ballot, a form known as proportional representation. That went to the ballot.

And on election night, the results show that the charter reform was winning by about 10 points, 55 to 45. The form of the reform would essentially create four multimember districts with ranked-choice voting, meaning that each district, you only need 25% of the vote share to win one of those seats. This really will open doors for communities of color, for low-income people, for renters to be fully represented in that legislative body. And just in terms of historical context, this form of ranked-choice voting hasn't been enacted since New York City did in the mid-1930s.

AMY GOODMAN: And talk about what happened in Seattle, Washington.

GEORGE CHEUNG: Seattle, Washington had ranked-choice voting, as well as approval voting, on the ballot. This was being promoted by some —

AMY GOODMAN: And again, explain the difference between ranked-choice voting and approval voting.

GEORGE CHEUNG: Oh, right. Ranked-choice voting as I've already explained. Approval voting is a different system in which you essentially get to give like a Facebook like or a thumbs up to candidates, as many candidates as you want.

And so, there was an interesting head-to-head. Approval voting supporters gathered enough signatures to put it on the ballot. And the City Council, given that there wasn't a deep deliberative process, that they had, let's say, in Portland, decided that it was important for voters to have a choice, and put ranked-choice voting side by side with approval voting. So there were two questions: Shall there be change in terms of the system of elections? And if there is a change, which should it be? Approval or ranked-choice voting?

The first question, in terms of should there be a change, is still on the bubble. It's about 50-50. And we won't know for a couple of weeks in terms of the outcome of that election. But in terms of the choice between approval voting, which many, including myself, believe that it is potentially — could dilute the voting rights of communities of color, versus ranked-choice voting, which has shown to really allow for more voice for communities of color, voters supported ranked-choice voting by a margin of three to one. So, we're really excited that ranked-choice voting, particularly proportional ranked-choice voting, is really gaining steam in this country.

AMY GOODMAN: George Cheung, if you can talk about — well, you now have ranked-choice voting in two state elections — right? — in Alaska and Maine, and 10 cities. Who are the forces for ranked-choice voting, and who is fighting against it?

GEORGE CHEUNG: I would say the forces for ranked-choice voting are people who really care about democracy. We know that our democracy is really in danger. It's really fragile. And so, people from all walks of life are really coming out of the woodwork to really think deeply about what's at stake, and really starting to have conversations, beginning at the local level, about how we can really strengthen democracy so that we all have choices that really reflect who we are.

Who's really opposed to it are, frankly, the powers that be. The current system of winner take all, with

plurality elections, really favors particularly fringe elements on the right, in particular, who have been able to really dominate the redistricting process, to draw districts that really favor incumbents and their own party, and really are really nervous about any change.

I think what's really important to know is that ranked-choice voting and proportional representation doesn't favor any particular party, but essentially is a system that allows for a truer representation of who we are as a community.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you see any chance of a presidential election being ranked-choice voting?

GEORGE CHEUNG: Well, I would say that I think about winner-take-all elections as an old car that your grandma gave to you when you were in high school. Sure, you can change the ignition and rotate the tires, but in the end, it's an old car. And ultimately, you have to buy a new car or find another different way to work. We will continue —

AMY GOODMAN: So, you're comparing ranked-choice voting to an electric car?

GEORGE CHEUNG: I would say that, you know, we have been using a system that has been in place since the 1400s, with very, very little change. And so, as we have become more of a multiracial society, we need to have rules that reflect that. And frankly speaking, winner-take-all elections with plurality rules are just at odds with achieving a multiracial democracy.

AMY GOODMAN: George Cheung, I want to thank you for being with us, director of More Equitable Democracy.

Next up, "Carbon Billionaires." Stay with us.

2022-11-11 "Carbon Billionaires": Oxfam Calls for Taxing Rich Who Profit from Emissions Fueling Climate Crisis

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/11/11/carbon_emissions_billionaires_fossil_fuel_industry

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Guests

- [Ashfaq Khalfan](#)
climate justice director at Oxfam America.



Links

- ["Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people"](#)
- [Ashfaq Khalfan on Twitter](#)

A new Oxfam analysis finds the investments of the world's richest people are emitting 3 million tons a year — more than a million times the average person's output. The report, titled "Carbon Billionaires," suggests a wealth tax could help fund urgent climate action in developing countries. The analysis shows "how much power and control a few people have over our economic system and, beyond that, our way of life, our survival as humanity," says Ashfaq Khalfan, climate justice director at Oxfam America. Khalfan also responds to U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry's new carbon offset proposal, which he calls a "distraction" that will delay action on public financing of climate action.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

As President Biden arrives at the U.N. climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, then heads to the G20 meeting in Bali, Indonesia, a new Oxfam [analysis](#) looks at the investments of 125 of the world's richest billionaires and reveals that, on average, they're emitting 3 million tons a year of carbon — more than a million times the average person. The report is titled "Carbon Billionaires" and suggests a wealth tax could help curb the urgent climate finance needs of developing countries.

For more, we go to London, where we're joined by the report's co-author, Ashfaq Khalfan, climate justice director at Oxfam America.

We welcome you to *Democracy Now!* So, tell us who the climate billionaires are and just how much carbon dioxide they are emitting.

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: The carbon billionaires represent household names, billionaires who you can imagine who they are. So, we looked at the richest 220 people and assessed which of them there was data for the emissions from their investments. So these are not emissions from their personal lifestyles — the private jets, the large houses — but from where they decide to put their money. And, you know, we find that they tend to do it more in polluting industries rather than in clean industries, twice the average investor.

And so, the amounts are staggering. I mean, the amount emitted by one of these average billionaires is the same as, you know, the equivalent of 4 million people going vegan, and thus not — and reducing their emissions, or flying around the Earth 16 million times in a private jet. The amounts are just staggering. And we were surprised. And it just goes to show how much power and control a few people have over our economic system and, beyond that, our way of life, our survival as humanity.

AMY GOODMAN: So, as you say, the investments of 125 billionaires produce 393 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year, equivalent CO2 output to the entire country of France, makes the average billionaires' annual emissions a million times higher than a person in the poorest 90% of the world's population.

So, number one, how is this curbed? And number two, what is Oxfam right now — this report, released during the U.N. climate summit, which *Democracy Now!* will be broadcasting from live all next week in Sharm el-Sheikh — what are you demanding at this point? What do you think can change the course of who is destroying the planet and how to turn that around?

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: The answer really lies with governments. They have the power to regulate the billionaires in a couple of ways. One is through a wealth tax. That will actually raise money, reduce the extent of the control of the billionaires and raise a huge amount of money. It could raise something like \$1.4 trillion a year. That's a significant amount. And that could pay for the annual requirements to help poor countries adapt to climate change, protect their people from climate change, address the — repair the harms caused — you know, repairing the schools, helping people rebuild their lives — and contribute to the transition to clean energy, renewable energy across the world. That could be done just with a wealth tax.

We're not only recommending that. We're also recommending a tax on the profits from fossil fuels, from corporate taxes, as well as the earnings of billionaires — not a temporary tax, but one which is permanent and would create an incentive for these billionaires to shift their funds to cleaner sources of energy. In fact, they should actually be funding the renewable energy revolution, and they're not — they're just not doing that. So, governments have the power to leverage these changes. They can also require companies to reduce their emissions, to shift to science-based targets, even report their emissions.

By the way, I should say that the emissions that we've talked about, these are an underestimate. These are only their reported emissions. This is only what they admit to. And it's only their direct emissions. It doesn't

include the emissions from their products. So we've taken a very, very conservative approach, so that we can be absolutely sure about the numbers. But it's an underestimate. And it doesn't even include the emissions that come from the policies that billionaires are pushing, you know, in terms of their funding of politicians and what they ask politicians to do when they pick up the phone.

AMY GOODMAN: Ashfaq, you tweeted about what the U.S. Climate Ambassador John Kerry has just announced at the U.N. climate summit. The whole Biden team has just arrived in Sharm el-Sheikh. Wednesday was finance day at COP27. The U.S. Climate Ambassador Kerry took the opportunity to make a pitch to help developing economies transition from coal to clean energy. He proposed creating a new carbon market, a way for corporations to fund efforts to decommission coal plants and build wind and solar projects in exchange for carbon credits that can be used to bolster their green image. Now, there's also a lot of criticism of this.

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: That's right. I mean, first of all, you know, his intentions are — it's good he's trying to do that, but he's going about it the wrong way. Those carbon credits are illusory. It's very unlikely that it's going to generate anything like the amount of money that's required to fund that transition. Carbon credits, there's a long history of them being a mirage, used as false solutions, really, by a lot of the fossil fuel interests to avoid action, to delay action. And there's no reason to believe that this would be any different.

It's really a pity that they are distracting from what they really need to do, which is to raise the public finance, which is needed. If governments put on the table a significant amount of public finance, that will draw in the private investments that's needed. And that's, essentially, the way it needs to be done.

You know, during COP — and you'll probably see this next week, as well, when you're there — Secretary Kerry keeps talking about how difficult it is to get the money out of Congress. In fact, he said a couple of times that, "Oh, you know, if the Republicans win Congress, we won't be able to — that's the end of climate finance," which, you know, that's a pity that he's talking down what can be achieved. And he's proposing alternative solutions that could then be taken up by those who are opposed to international climate finance, but, unfortunately, will just not work.

The thing is, we don't have time to wait and see it not work. It's too urgent to provide the money really quickly, really soon. And so, we are saying that Secretary Kerry and President Biden have to make climate finance a nonnegotiable in Congress and make the hard case. You know, they can be strong when they want to. They've done it before, throughout their lives. And they need to do so now, because it may seem like something technical or something remote from the concerns of the average American, but I think average Americans know the climate crisis will affect them and everybody else. And climate finance is necessary. We won't be able to protect people across the world if developing countries don't have the resources they need to shift to renewable energy. So it's existential for everybody, and it's a worthwhile investment to be making.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to ask you about this new AP [report](#) that says, "The war-inspired natural gas boom is undermining already insufficient efforts to limit future warming to just a few more tenths of a degree. ... Planning and [build-up] of liquified and other natural gas — due to an energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine — would add 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ... a year to the air by 2030." This is according to a [report](#) that came out of Climate Action Tracker at the U.N. climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. Your response?

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: Well, they're absolutely right. And it's really great that you're talking about this. It is a real worry. There is a gas shortage in Europe, and that's genuine. There are energy needs every day, and people — those needs need to be met. But what's pretty despicable is seeing a lot of fossil fuel interests take advantage of that to promote growth, which is not — growth in fossil fuel infrastructure, which is not necessary to meet the urgent needs of — the energy needs of today. Things are shown to have come online in the next few years but will exist in a decade as carbon assets that will be used.

Governments really should instead be doubling down on energy efficiency, on the switch to renewables, doing things — you know, insulating homes, things that can be done really quickly within a six-month time

frame, reducing that energy demand and providing people, everybody, with the support, the information, the subsidies that are required to do that. That's the way. That's the solution to the natural gas crisis.

It is really disappointing that in the United States we see permitting reform being pushed as a solution, when it's a false solution and one which will really safeguard fossil fuel interests, including the carbon billionaires, many of whom are actually pushing these sorts of changes at the expense of communities whose rights — you know, Indigenous people — will be harmed.

AMY GOODMAN: Ashfaq, we only have 10 seconds.

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: Have any of the carbon billionaires responded to your report?

ASHFAQ KHALFAN: Not that I'm aware of. I'm sure they will.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we want to thank you so much for being with us. Ashfaq Khalfan is climate justice director at Oxfam America, co-author of the new [report](#), "Carbon Billionaires." We will link to that report. He was speaking to us from London.

Democracy Now! is headed to Sharm el-Sheikh, where all next week we will be covering the U.N. climate summit there in Egypt, bringing you reports from on the ground inside and outside the summit.

That does it for our show. *Democracy Now!* produced with Renée Feltz, Mike Burke, Deena Guzder, Messiah Rhodes, Nermeen Shaikh, María Taracena, Tami Woronoff, Charina Nadura, Sam Alcott, Tey-Marie Astudillo, John Hamilton, Robby Karran, Hany Massoud, Mary Conlon. Special thanks to our executive director, Julie Crosby.