

# The “Trump Effect” Is the Republicans’ Only Hope



By Cliff Kincaid

The Wall Street Journal [column](#), “Colorado’s Cory Gardner Struggles to Survive the Trump Effect,” tries to pin the blame on the president for the Republican Senator in Colorado consistently running behind his opponent in his race for reelection. The author, Jillian Kay Melchior, never once mentions that Gardner has been a booster of Colorado’s lethal dope industry and is losing conservative support because of it.

Recognizing that he is losing conservative votes, Gardner has now come out in favor of a quick vote on President Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court. “He Found His Spine,” [proclaimed](#) the conservative website Big League Politics.

Senator Lindsey Graham, often labeled a RINO (Republican in Name Only), is also in jeopardy. He is reportedly leading Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison in the South Carolina Senate race by only one point, 46-45 percent.

The explanation is Graham’s weak conservative credentials. Morning Consult [finds](#) that “While Trump has support from 93 percent of Republicans, Graham has support from 84 percent in the same poll – making him one of the worst-performing GOP incumbents up for re-election this cycle among voters from his own party.”

But the problem is not confined to Gardner and Graham. Other Republicans in Senate contests polling behind Trump are Joni

Ernst in Iowa, Steve Daines in Montana, Thom Tillis in North Carolina, and Martha McSally in Arizona.

Contrary to what the Journal's Melchior says, the "Trump Effect" helps candidates.

In her column on Gardner, published before Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away, the Journal's Melchior wrote that "Mr. Trump, who lost Colorado by five points, has alienated many suburban women and independents," but Gardner has alienated conservatives opposed to Colorado becoming the headquarters of national marijuana drug trafficking. Gardner has been in the back pocket of the dope business, earning him the label of "pot whore."

On Facebook, the Melchior column was [described](#) as documenting how "Trump's unpopularity is dragging down his [Gardner's] re-election effort..." This is nonsense. Gardner is losing not because of Trump but because he, too, is a Republican in Name Only (RINO) taking the "progressive" line on legalization of dope, making him indistinguishable from his Democratic Party opponent, former Governor John Hickenlooper.

Ignoring all of this, she claims that Gardner "is a good candidate and an incumbent with a solid track record" and that "His struggle shows the peril of being a swing-state Republican in the age of Trump." His problems are of his own making and have nothing to do with Trump. No Republican in good conscience could vote for him. Some might do so, only to say they voted against the Democrat, but Gardner is not a "common sense conservative," as he likes to describe himself. Common sense does not drive somebody to be a shill for what is now being called "Big Marijuana." It is Big Tobacco with the replacement of nicotine by THC's mind-altering qualities.

[Jillian Kay Melchior](#), an editorial page writer at The Wall Street Journal, was a graduate of Hillside College and worked for several conservative publications and organizations. But

she ignores the social issues that motivate many voters.

Dozens of new [anti-drug groups](#) have emerged in recent years. One of them, Smart Colorado, [reports](#), “Since Colorado voters legalized recreational marijuana with Amendment 64 in 2012, Colorado’s youth have served as guinea pigs in a risky experiment,” and that recent data show that “Colorado now ranks first in the nation for past month marijuana use by those 12-17 years old...”

The group warns, “We never foresaw how aggressive and powerful the financial interests behind this new billion-dollar industry would become.” Yet, Gardner is happy with this outcome.

Attorney David Evans, Senior Counsel to Cannabis Industry Victims Educating Litigators (CIVEL), has called Gardner “a pot whore.”

Democrats only need to win four seats to take back the majority in the Senate, and Gardner is a likely goner.

Tragically, Ms. Melchior isn’t alone in being a source of erroneous information.

In his Wall Street Journal [column](#), “GOP Senate Hopefuls Try to Outrun Trump,” GOP “strategist” Karl Rove calls Gardner one of several superior GOP candidates running “energetic, nearly textbook-perfect campaigns.” He, too, ignores Gardner’s debt to the dope lobby.

Gardner gave [an interview](#) to a stoner publication, Marijuana Moment, and called marijuana legalization a “significant success.”

Here’s what their “success” looks like, [according](#) to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) program:

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic

deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 109 percent while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 31 percent.

- The yearly number of emergency department visits related to marijuana increased 54 percent after the legalization of recreational marijuana (2013 compared to 2017).
- Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system has increased 1,042 percent from an average of 52 parcels (2009-2012) to an average of 594 parcels (2013-2017) during the time recreational marijuana has been legal.

The argument was that legal dope would replace black market activity. But [an investigation](#) by public broadcasting found strong evidence of Colorado marijuana products “being exported to other states,” with law enforcement trying “to keep up with the burgeoning black market.”

If Gardner and the RINOS win, it’s because Trump will pull them across the finish line after they decided to vote for Trump nominee Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. The “Trump Effect” is their only hope.

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