

WHAT WE CAN/MUST DO

(Adapted from a New York Times Op-ed Column 2/16/17 by Evan McMullin, a former C.I.A. officer and chief policy director of the *House Republican Conference* from January 2015 until August 2016, when he left to run as an independent candidate in the presidential election. Based on his years in the CIA tracking autocrats around the world, he outlined what citizens should do to preserve our democracy when it is threatened).

1. Read and learn the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Know that our basic rights are inalienable.
2. Identify and follow many credible sources of news. Be very well informed and learn to discern truth from untruth. e.g. Guardian, BrightLine Watch
3. Watch every word, decision and action by our leaders extremely closely.
4. Be very vocal in every forum available to us when we observe violations of our rights and our democracy. Write! Speak! Act!
5. Support with words and money: journalists, artists, academics, clergy and others who speak truth and who inform, inspire and unite us. (Pen America loudertogether@pen.org)
6. Build bridges with Americans from the other side of the traditional political spectrum and with members of diverse American communities. (e.g. Deborah Plummer: *Some of My Friends Are...*)
7. Defend others who may be threatened by a leader, even if they don't look, think or believe like us. An attack on one is an attack on all.
8. Support organizations who are working to sustain our democracy. (Americans United for Separation of Church and State), Move to Amend, ACLU, SPLC)
9. Hold members of Congress accountable for protecting our rights and democracy through elections and by making public demands of them. (Sign up for countable.us to vote on issues and have comments sent to Congressional representatives).
10. Keep your vision of democracy alive in your heart, mind and conversations.

Balance your activism with activities and relationships that nurture you.