

Viewpoint: How Republicans have come to replace Democrats as the face of the anti-vaccine movement

There was a time not so long ago (perhaps a decade, but certainly no longer than 20 years ago), when there was a widely held stereotype that antivaxxers were generally hippy-dippy, granola-crunching lefties. Indeed, given the association between conservatives and right wing populists and antivaccine activism today, it's definitely a stereotype that has [persisted long past any resemblance](#) to reality.

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Indeed, there has always been a libertarian and right wing component to the antivaccine movement, with a very strong strain of antivaccine views on the right as well. Examples included General Bert Stubblebine III's [Natural Solutions Foundation](#), far right libertarians, and others who distrust the government, including government-recommended vaccine schedules.

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Why do Republican governors (and, in fact, Republicans at all levels of government) feel the need to attack President Biden for his decision [to impose federal employee vaccination mandates], regardless of their state's own vaccination policies? The reason is simple. The COVID-19 pandemic has completed the turn of the Republican Party to the dark side, which began at least a decade ago. The Republican Party is now fully the antivaccine party, and it doesn't even really pretend any more.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)