

Lecture Summary:

“Meeting Trump in the Middle: Restoring Elections” – Professor David Clements

Recorded in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, April 18th, 2026

Overview

David Clements delivered a wide-ranging lecture at a Citizen Defenders of America event covering election fraud evidence, the legal framework for presidential war powers, his theory of a continuity-of-government framework operating since 2020, and his cautious optimism about the current political moment under President Trump. The talk blended data-driven election integrity arguments, constitutional law analysis, and speculative political theory to present a case that the United States is in the midst of an extraordinary, largely invisible constitutional crisis being addressed through military and executive means.

1. Speaker Background

Clements opened by recounting his credentials and the cost of his activism. He was New Mexico’s 2016 Prosecutor of the Year, a two-time winner of the Patricia Chris Moore Kingston Excellence Award, and a law professor until he was suspended and ultimately terminated for refusing to enforce a COVID vaccine mandate on students. His public stand — a YouTube video that went viral, followed by a Tucker Carlson appearance — effectively cost him his career. He notes that a Google search of his name now returns hostile coverage, yet he describes himself as more optimistic than ever.

2. Cast Vote Records and the Law of Large Numbers

The first major evidence-based section of the lecture focused on Cast Vote Records (CVRs), which Clements describes as the best available audit trail for tabulator output. He used the law of large numbers to explain what honest election data should look like: as the cumulative count of randomly-received mail-in ballots grows, the ratio between candidates should flatten into a stable line (similar to a large scientific poll converging on a result).

He presented graphs from actual New Mexico county data showing instead a characteristic “glide slope” — a perfectly linear, predetermined trajectory toward a fixed outcome. He argues this pattern is mathematically impossible to produce from randomly-received, randomly-ordered ballots, and constitutes strong evidence of algorithmic manipulation inside the tabulators. Clements states his team has examined approximately 1,000 counties (roughly one-third of all U.S. counties) and found this pattern in urban areas across all 50 states where records could be obtained. He also showed the same pattern appearing in Senate races, not just presidential contests, and in Arizona across 16 of 17 counties.

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Key points on CVRs:

- Idaho and Washington have resisted producing CVRs, often falsely claiming their machines don’t generate them.
- Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the Supremacy Clause, states accepting federal election funding are legally required to maintain auditable trails, which includes CVRs.
- The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has published public documents on CVRs, yet states withhold them through state attorney general opinions that Clements argues violate federal law.
- All major voting machine vendors (ES&S, Dominion, Hart, etc.) share the same functional architecture and are equally capable of the fraud he describes.
- ES&S machines were found in 2014 to have cellular modem chips installed on approximately 14,000–30,000 units, undermining claims of air-gapped, closed systems.

3. Election Night Reporting and PID Controllers

Clements extended his fraud analysis beyond tabulators to election night reporting data (aggregated by Edison Research for TV and Scytll/DDHQ for web portals). He argues this data stream also shows hallmarks of algorithmic control, specifically what engineers call a PID controller (Proportional-Integrative-Derivative), the same feedback mechanism used in cruise control or a thermostat.

Using Georgia 2020 as an example, he describes observing 55 consecutive batch updates showing an exact 50/50 split between Trump and Biden, followed by 96 consecutive batches giving Biden a consistent fractional advantage (e.g., 50.1% vs. 49.9%), producing a smooth cumulative curve toward a predetermined set point. He argues this is statistically impossible from authentic vote uploads and indicates live algorithmic intervention in the data visible to TV viewers and websites.

He counters the projection/modeling defense by noting that authentic upload data from a closed tabulator system should only ever accumulate (add), never fluctuate or oscillate. He further challenges the exit-poll explanation by noting that no audience member he has ever polled had personally participated in an exit poll, and that a 200-person polling company could not possibly generate precinct-level data for 3,000+ U.S. counties.

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4. How Trump Won in 2024

Clements addresses the apparent paradox of Trump winning in 2024 despite systemic fraud still being present. He proposes two forms of interdiction that were absent in 2020:

- Digital interdiction: Elon Musk reportedly told Joe Rogan, before polls closed on election night 2024, that Trump had won — based on data visible on his phone. Clements speculates this reflects Space Force satellite-based surveillance capability that allowed Trump’s team to detect and neutralize the algorithmic manipulation of election night reporting in swing states. He connects this to Musk’s SpaceX work deploying thousands of satellites during Trump’s first term and the national security clearances required for that work.
- Physical interdiction: Reports of white vans delivering ballots post-election (seen in Detroit and Fulton County in 2020) did not materialize in swing states in 2024. Clements cites a congressional delegation visit the day after the election during which video evidence was reportedly captured showing industrial-scale ballot printing machines still running after Election Day, with ballots being loaded onto pallets by non-English speakers, with the CEO of a ballot printing company trying to confiscate cameras.

He notes that fraud was not eliminated everywhere: he cites at least eight U.S. Senate races and twenty California House races that appeared to flip toward Democrats as mail-in ballots continued to be counted for weeks after Election Day. Trump, he argues, only prevented the cheat in races directly relevant to his own candidacy.

5. Meeting Trump: A Pivotal Conversation

Clements recounts a 2021 dinner at Trump’s Bedminster estate, to which he was invited after the Cyber Symposium and flew on Mike Lindell’s plane. He describes Trump asking him directly, “Okay, so what do we do now?” Clements’ response was candid: he told Trump that the problem was not a lack of legal arguments but that the entire judiciary had become corrupted to the point that even meritorious cases would be dismissed. He predicted near-total failure in the courts — a prediction he says has been vindicated, with 99% of election cases dismissed for standing or ripeness.

Trump pushed back, asking Clements if he was sure about all the courts, implying there was a court system Clements was not considering. Clements interprets this as a reference to military commissions and Article II authority, which he develops at length later in the lecture.

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6. Constitutional and Legal Framework: War Powers and Article II

The Youngstown Steel Decision

Clements walks through Justice Robert Jackson’s concurrence in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952) as the governing framework for presidential war powers. Jackson’s three-zone model holds that presidential power is at its apex when acting with congressional authorization, in a twilight zone when Congress is silent, and at its lowest ebb when defying Congress. Clements argues Trump is strategically operating in Zone 1 — working with existing statutory authority (HAVA, the National Voter Registration Act, the Insurrection Act, executive orders) rather than inventing new authority.

Trump’s Election Integrity Executive Order

He analyzes Trump’s election integrity executive order as deliberately calibrated to operate within existing federal law rather than relying on Article II plenary authority alone. Key mechanisms he identifies:

- Commandeering USPS: States that do not use a DHS-screened and Social Security Administration-verified voter list cannot use the U.S. Postal Service to mail ballots, and cannot receive federal HAVA funding.
- The carrot-and-stick of federal money: Every state accepted HAVA funds and thereby accepted the conditions attached to them, including federal voter roll standards.
- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent as enforcement mechanism: If states refuse compliance but still want federal money, the President can direct the Treasury to pause disbursements — a power Trump has already demonstrated on other matters.

Lincoln Precedent: Suspending Habeas Corpus

Clements draws an extended analogy to Abraham Lincoln, who suspended the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War despite the Constitution reserving that power to Congress (Article I). Lincoln’s position — that he could not observe laws while surrounded by lawlessness and rebellion — was ultimately ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, yet Lincoln defied the ruling, and Congress later ratified his actions. Clements argues this precedent is directly applicable today, where a foreign-aided invasion (illegal immigration) and a biological weapon (COVID-19) provide legal predicates for invoking continuity-of-government authority.

Article II and Commander-in-Chief Authority

He plays a clip of Trump stating explicitly, on multiple occasions, that Article II gives him the authority to do “whatever he wants as president.” Clements interprets this not as boasting but as a deliberate signal of the framework Trump intends to invoke: plenary Article II Commander-in-Chief authority that cannot be constrained by Congress or the Supreme Court in the context of active rebellion and invasion. He uses a hypothetical — Congress passing a bipartisan bill directing troop movements in Ukraine against

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Trump’s wishes — to argue that even a unanimous Supreme Court ruling against Trump would not bind him under this framework.

7. Continuity of Government Theory

The most speculative section of the lecture presents Clements’ theory that Trump triggered a Continuity of Government (COG) framework, specifically Presidential Directive 40 (a Cold War-era protocol for maintaining executive authority after a catastrophic attack), sometime around April 2020. The legal predicates he identifies are:

- COVID-19 as a bioweapon with U.S. government involvement (citing Peter Daszak and gain-of-function research), killing what Clements estimates as 17 million people — three times the Holocaust.
- The physical and digital invasion represented by 10–40 million illegal border crossings, with invaders automatically added to voter rolls via the Motor Voter Act at DMVs.
- The failure of state governments to comply with Trump’s order to reopen the country by Easter 2020, which he frames as defiance of a wartime president.

Under this framework, Clements argues Trump never truly left office in January 2021. He supports this with two data points he says Trump has communicated in plain sight:

- At a speech to military generals at Quantico, Trump stated he was “the 45th, 46th, and 47th president.”
- A chart displayed at every Trump rally (including after the Butler assassination attempt, on 12 large screens at the RNC) shows an arrow labeled “Trump leaves office” pointing to April 1, 2020 — not January 2021. Clements states this was not a typo and was never corrected across dozens of rallies.

He further argues that Biden’s inability to deploy the military in any meaningful way during his four years (citing Afghanistan as evidence of hollowed-out control) is consistent with a COG scenario in which operational control of the military remained with Trump as Commander-in-Chief. Biden’s power, Clements contends, was exercised entirely through financial channels — specifically money laundering through Ukraine.

8. Military Tribunals as the Path to Justice

Clements argues that ordinary civilian courts — including RICO proceedings — are structurally incapable of prosecuting captured intelligence agencies and deep-state actors, because the suspects control the investigative and prosecutorial infrastructure. He identifies military commissions as the only viable venue, citing:

- Lincoln’s Dakota War tribunals: A single commission tried 397 individuals in 37 days, achieving 396 convictions. Clements argues this model is easily scalable to thousands of defendants.

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- In military commissions, classified evidence is not discoverable, no unanimous verdict is required (only a majority of a panel), and six defendants can be tried simultaneously.
- 600 JAG officers were sworn in nationwide, ostensibly for immigration law work — a job Clements says is far beneath JAG-level legal training. He interprets this as pre-positioning military lawyers for a much larger legal operation.
- 20 JAG officers were deployed to Washington D.C. for misdemeanor vagrancy and trespass cases — another deployment he sees as implausibly over-qualified for the stated purpose.
- Article II plenary authority, not Pam Bondi’s DOJ or Todd Blanche’s civilian legal team, is the intended instrument.

9. Foreign Election Interference and Funding

Responding to audience questions, Clements discussed the global financial architecture he believes underpins domestic election fraud. He identifies Iran as a key conduit, arguing Iran itself is a proxy for the “banking elite” (referencing the City of London and the Rothschilds). The mechanism he describes: lifting insurance coverage on ships in the Strait of Hormuz to spike commodity prices, creating economic pressure on nationalist leaders worldwide.

He argues Trump has broken this mechanism by using the U.S. Navy to provide shipping insurance directly, and that Treasury Secretary Bessent is preparing (or has already executed) executive orders to freeze foreign accounts — including those linked to Act Blue — under Executive Order 13848 (signed December 20, 2017, and renewed through subsequent administrations), which authorizes asset seizure related to foreign interference in U.S. elections.

10. Q&A Highlights

Corrupt judges: Trump has posted that those who interfere in elections — including lawyers and judges — will be prosecuted. Clements expressed confidence this will happen.

Cast Vote Records in Idaho: Clements acknowledged he has not seen CVRs from Idaho or Washington and cannot confirm the same fraud pattern exists there, but argues the refusal to produce them is itself suspicious. He described a successful model from New Mexico where redacting small-precinct data neutralized the privacy objection.

J6 detainees: The vast majority were released on Trump’s first day back in office. A small number with underlying state charges remain incarcerated, but the DOJ recently filed a motion to vacate and dismiss the commuted sentences entirely — a significant development Clements described as a “surprise victory.”

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Tina Peters: Her Court of Appeals vacated the sentencing but not the charges, sending her back to the same judge who sentenced her to nine years. Clements expressed pessimism about a fair resentencing and called for expedited proceedings. He framed her situation theologically, comparing her to Joseph in the Bible, and noted her attorneys are pursuing a federal whistleblower status that could allow house arrest.

Arizona Cyber Ninjas audit: Clements was critical. He said the original draft of Doug Logan’s report called for decertification and used the word “fraud,” but that language was scrubbed. He described the audit as infiltrated and compromised, contrasting it with his own New Mexico audit which cost only the venue’s air conditioning bill for one day and resulted in votes to remove machines, remove drop boxes, and sue the Secretary of State.

Trump endorsing bad candidates: Clements suggested this may be intentional — if tribunals and emergency vacancies are coming, Trump may prefer that replaceable incumbents (rather than good candidates) hold seats that will soon be vacated through scandal and special elections.

Civil war risk: Clements believes a kinetic conflict is likely but will be short. He argues Trump spent four years making himself sympathetic across demographics (hip-hop communities, Hispanics, youth) precisely to minimize the civilian support base for armed resistance. He also cited the Delta Force extraction of Maduro’s security detail in Venezuela — which used sonic weapons — as a deliberate public signal to domestic enemies about the futility of armed resistance against the U.S. military.

11. Closing: Spiritual Framework and Call to Action

Clements closed with what he described as the foundational reason for his optimism: not political strategy, but divine plan. He cited 2 Chronicles 7:14 and drew a parallel to May 17, 1776, when Revolutionary leaders held a national day of prayer and confession before the nation’s founding. He argued that a similar national repentance is the necessary precondition for political restoration, and that the coming declassification of information (including the Epstein files, under what he called “Operation Hypersonic Clarity”) will give the public the knowledge of what to confess. He expressed hope for a national rededication ceremony at the National Mall.

He acknowledged that accountability has not yet arrived — no arrests of major figures, no public trials, no confirmed election machine seizures — and was honest that he would not feel fully vindicated until those things happen. But he argued the groundwork is laid, the public is sufficiently awake, and the constitutional and military mechanisms are in place.

Note: *This summary is a faithful representation of the arguments and claims made by Professor David Clements in his lecture. Inclusion of any claim in this summary does not constitute endorsement or verification of its accuracy.*