

Senator Cruz, it's time to go.

Our letter to Sen. Ted Cruz, whose actions on the floor of the Senate have violated a fundamental tenet of democracy: every vote matters.

In 2018, after you won your race to serve a second term in the Senate, you said your “responsibility is to fight for every Texan” — the 4.2 million who voted for you and the 4.1 million who didn’t. You vowed to fight for our “constitutional rights.” And you said that “Texas can be a model for how we can come together [by] respecting each other’s decency.”

It’s a shame you didn’t take those words to heart.

On Jan. 6, you rose to object to the certification of the electoral vote in Arizona, citing allegations of voter fraud that have been disproven by every court in the country. That objection, and the ones that followed it, marked the climax of a disinformation campaign designed to convince millions of Americans that the results of the 2020 election were false.

As it turned out, that campaign worked. Hundreds of rioters stormed the Capitol, beating police and destroying property in an effort to “Stop the Steal.” They may have been flying flags with Trump’s name on them, but the endorsement of elected officials like you lent legitimacy to the President’s claims. Senator, you went to one of the top law schools in the country and have argued nine times before the Supreme Court — you should’ve known better.

Instead, you placed political expediency over integrity, accelerating the country’s divisions for your personal gain. And while doing so is unethical for a talking head on cable news, or for an elected official lashing out on Twitter, for a sitting United States Senator to use the same chamber where Daniel Webster fought for “Liberty and Union” and where Lyndon Johnson presided over the passing of the Civil Rights Act to call into question the legitimate votes of millions of Americans is dangerous, not to mention dishonorable.

Your actions bring to mind a darker chapter in the history of the Senate, one where the fight to preserve segregation was couched in the very same language of “rules and procedure.” Because behind those words was a deep well of hate for the institutions of our democracy and the shared values of our country. So perhaps it’s not surprising that the rioters, as they rifled through desks in the Senate chamber, said “I think Cruz would’ve wanted us to do this,” despite your late call for them to stand down.

When you took office, you swore an oath to protect the United States “against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” After the events of Jan. 6, that line has taken on special resonance, because on that day you chose to promote claims you knew were false, inciting protestors around the Capitol to commit acts of terrorism. If you did so knowingly, that was an act of sedition. It was a betrayal of your oath, a betrayal of every voter you swore to represent. Your conduct was unfit for public office — because of it, you should resign.

Just think of all the voters who cast their ballots for the first time this past November. Some were high school students like us. Others registered for the first time — maybe after years or decades of believing the system didn’t work, they decided to give it a chance. Last year Texas had a voter participation rate of 66 percent — its highest since 1992. That’s what we want in our democratic process because it signifies that people believe their votes matter and that they can create change.

So when you speak out against that process, when you give credence to false allegations of fraud, you undermine the belief of all those people who filled out the endless forms, who took time off work, who, in the middle of a pandemic, sought out an early voting site or showed up to the ballot box on Election Day. The doubt and the fear you helped create don’t just hurt one party — they corrupt our entire system of governance. That makes your actions unforgivable.

GRAPHIC Jonathan Yin

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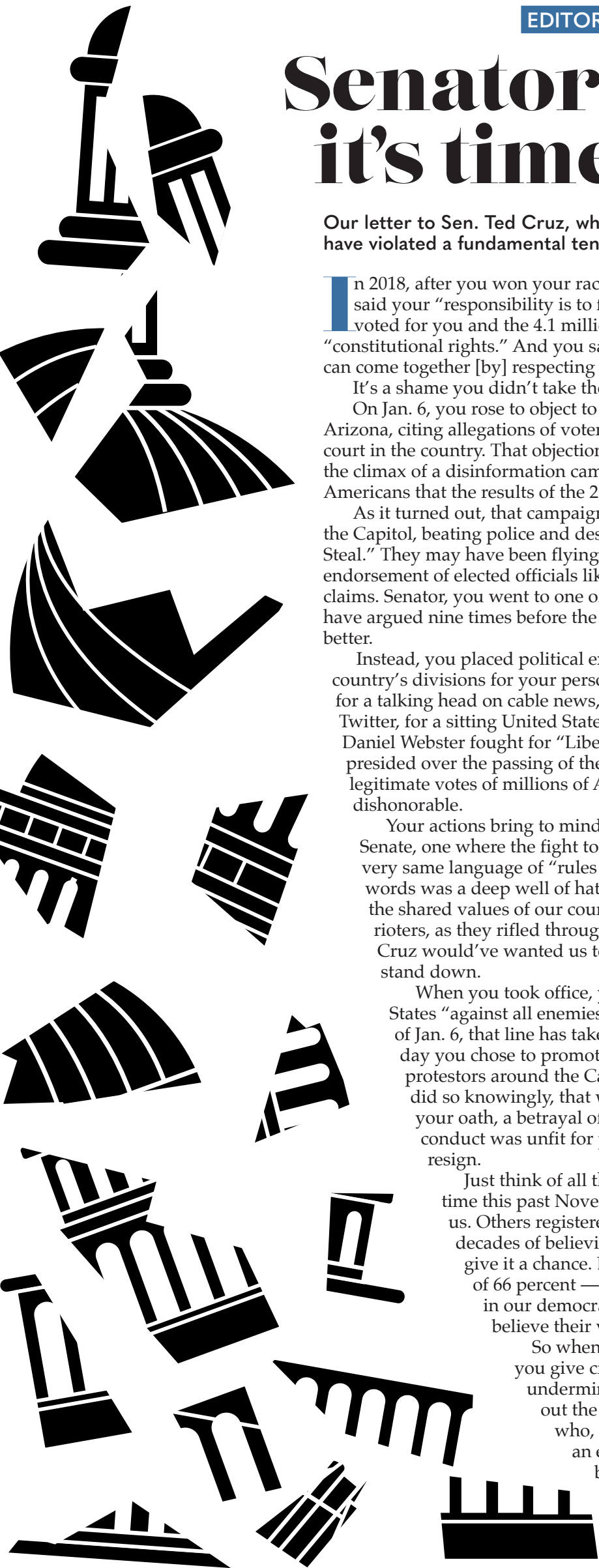
short & SWEET

Our takes on the month’s less consequential issues — in 280 characters or less.

As temperatures drop outside, finding spaces to work — both alone and collaboratively — has become much more difficult. We’d like a system that opens up more classrooms and common areas so that students have more options to work indoors.

Adding better data on COVID to the website, such as long-term trend lines and weekly summaries of new cases, would give context to the decisions to move to virtual school and would provide yet another reason for students to be careful.

We’re excited by the announcement of the Diversity Committee and the new additions to the website, but we’re hoping to see more concrete progress in the next few months that will lead to real change in curricula and attitudes on campus.



More direct and thorough communication is a welcome improvement

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have felt there’s been a disconnect in communication between administrators and the student body.

Specifically, while parents were receiving emails regarding COVID-19 cases, available testing and return-to-campus plans, students were left out of the loop. Students often found themselves having to seek out important updates on the school website rather than receiving the same information via email.

We ran an editorial expressing these sentiments in the October edition of *The ReMarker*, and we commend administrators, especially Headmaster David Dini and Nurse Julie Doerge, for

attentively listening to our feedback and then making significant changes to improve the consistency in communication with students.

Effective as of Jan. 22, the school has initiated a change to improve its communication with students through email: the student body is now included in the daily “COVID-19 Cases Community Update” as well as the “Update from the Headmaster.”

We appreciate that on Jan. 22, students were the first to know about the transition to remote learning the following week. Head of Upper School Colin Igoe sent an email to Upper School students that morning, detailing the switch to remote

learning owing to a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases in our community.

We believe this increase in communication regarding COVID-19 will not only help students understand the school’s response to the pandemic better but also give students a vested interest in the entire community’s ability to adhere to proper social-distancing and masking protocols.

Ultimately, we’re all stakeholders in the health and wellness of everyone on campus. Transparent communication is the best way to ensure support for any policy — and that’s especially true in the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. We appreciate administrators’ actions.