Bring back the rule of law

For those concerned about President Donald Trump's disregard for the law and fundamental tenets of democracy, it's tempting to believe that last week's legal outcomes in the Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen cases are evidence that we've finally reached the turning point. While perhaps true, consider what appears to be the president's rhetorical strategy. For Trump and his team this never has been about what transpires in a court of law; it's about the court of public opinion.

Robert Mueller probably will not indict a sitting president. So the question remains: How will Republicans in Congress react to Mueller's report? Thus far, most Republicans have chosen to place party above country and ethical principles. And that's not likely to change no matter how many of Trump's hired hands are found guilty in a court.

The record is clear: Most Republicans care most about lowering taxes, reducing government regulations and getting a Supreme Court pick. Legal issues are nuanced and aren't as immediately relevant and threatening, for example, as the death of a woman at the hands of an illegal immigrant. The only thing that might change this is the Democrats flipping the Congress in November, bringing back accountability and the rule of law.

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