

BUM RAP

By now, you've surely seen John Faso's rap-focused attack ad against Antonio Delgado that has been running everywhere. On August 31, the Washington Post ran this fact-checking article about that ad:



Delgado is a Rhodes scholar and Harvard Law School graduate who worked at one of the largest law firms in the country, Akin Gump, until January 2018. But this ad would lead viewers to believe that he's something much different: a foul-mouthed and "extreme" rapper angling for a congressional seat.

The ad features Delgado, who is African American, rapping some bleeped-out lyrics from when he was a hip-hop artist known as "AD the Voice" in the late 2000s, before he became a lawyer. The narrator warns that some of these lyrics ("dead presidents can't represent me," for instance) show Delgado "attacking our democracy" and "mocking our values."

That's a stretch. Rap is artistic expression and often a platform to raise awareness of social-justice issues. Exaggeration, disturbing or sexual imagery and fictional accounts are common in rap music, as courts have observed. ("Dead presidents," incidentally, is slang for money.)

Delgado's brand of rap was frankly pretty tame and even wonky. In a previous attack ad, the Congressional Leadership Fund flashed an image of the Twin Towers burning on 9/11 while playing one of Delgado's lyrics, "God bless Iraq." Here's a fuller look at the lyrics from which that line was plucked: "We must fight with love and goodness in our hearts and peace in our minds if democracy, equality and freedom are truly to prevail. God bless America, God bless Iraq, God bless us all." Another set of lyrics from that song: "More than 40 times the lives lost on 9/11 and 10 times just for the lives of Iraqi civilians; \$283 billion and counting is what we're spending, but terror alive and well, it seems further from ending."

"Issues like income inequality, issues like gender equality, issues like the pollution of our environment and climate change – these are all issues that I talked about back then as an artist that I'm now talking about," Delgado told the New York Times.



**VOTE FOR ANTONIO DELGAGO ON NOVEMBER 6
AND LET POLITICIANS KNOW THAT YOU ARE FED UP WITH FEAR TACTICS AND LIES.**

INDIVISIBLECHATHAMNY

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