

The Delray Democrat

Avoiding a Repeat of 2016¹

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Responding to the Undecided Voter's Reasons for Considering Trump

Donald Trump built a strong economy and he can do it again. *The short answer is “no, he didn't and no, he can't.”*

- Trump inherited a strong economy (unlike Obama, who inherited the Great Recession).
- The economy was stronger during Obama's final 36 months than during Trump's initial 36 months on such key economic indicators as growth in jobs and GDP, increase in wages, and decline in unemployment.
- Indeed, the economy has always performed better under Democratic administrations, something **Trump himself acknowledged in 2004:**

I've been around for a long time and it just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans.

- Trump is not responsible for the pandemic but is responsible for his grossly incompetent response, which not only resulted in widespread death but plunged the country into a Great Depression II.
- The economy will not recover until the virus has been controlled, and Trump has demonstrated he is no more able to control the virus than he is able to control himself.

They're not sure they'll be safe if Joe Biden is elected. *The short answer is that **no one** should feel safe if Donald Trump is reelected.*

- We lead the world in COVID-19 deaths, with the dead now numbering nearly 190,000. Despite warnings, Trump was unprepared for a pandemic and dismissed the threat from the start. Indeed it's not clear he takes it seriously even now. When pressed this week on the 1000 Americans dying daily, Trump responded “it is what it is.”
- The protests following police killings of unarmed black Americans have been largely nonviolent, confined to small areas, and entirely justifiable. Egged on by Trump, provocateurs are responsible for much of the violence.
- The overwhelming majority of Americans have nothing to fear from these protests. The people who are justifiably afraid are the innocent black Americans being killed.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, September, p. 4.

- On the other hand, all Americans have a great deal to fear from far-right terrorism. Emboldened by Trump, right-wing extremists have [perpetrated two thirds of the attacks and plots in the United States in 2019 and over 90 percent between January 1 and May 8, 2020.](#)

- American soldiers are less safe under Trump, which may be why his favorability rating among them is underwater by a 49.9% to 37.8% margin and why they favor Biden by [41.3% to 37.4%](#) in a recent poll. Trump ignored reports that Russia paid bounties to the Taliban for killing Americans and refused to confront Putin.

Joe Biden has Alzheimer's. *This is an easy one. The short answer is “Lysol.” Tee up Connie Francis and sing along: Who's Crazy Now?”*

- Asked about his second-term plans, Trump told Peter Baker of the New York Times:

[But so I think, I think it would be, I think it would be very, very, I think we'd have a very, very solid, we would continue what we're doing, we'd solidify what we've done, and we have other things on our plate that we want to get done”](#)

- Here's Trump's incoherent disquisition on wind:

[I never understood wind.](#) You know, I know windmills very much. I've studied it better than anybody I know. It's very expensive. They're made in China and Germany mostly, very few made here, almost none. But they're manufactured — tremendous, if you're into this, tremendous fumes, gases are spewing into the atmosphere. You know we have a world, right? So the world is tiny compared to the universe. So [a] tremendous, tremendous amount of fumes and everything — you talk about the “carbon footprint” — fumes are spewing into the air, right? Spewing. Whether it's in China, Germany, it's going into the air. It's our air, their air, everything, right?

Biden is a socialist. *The short answer is that Trump is a socialist too. . . only his socialism is for the rich.*

- Anyone receiving Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid is a socialist too. But Trump is taking aim at those benefits. He [referred](#) to cutting these life-saving programs as a “good second-term” project.”

- He has also targeted Social Security, suspending the payroll tax for the remainder of the year and [promising](#) to eliminate it entirely if reelected. He claims that “tremendous growth” in the economy will cover the shortfall. I hear he also has a bridge for sale in Brooklyn, “very cheap, good location.”

- But Trump does believe in socialism for the rich. For example, 80% of the benefits in his signature tax “cut” bill went to the top 1% (with 60% going to the top 0.1%). This handout to the superrich was projected to blow a \$1.9 trillion hole in the federal deficit.

- Trump's 2020 [budget](#) proposed to fill the hole by cutting Medicare and Medicaid by the same \$1.9 trillion. That is Trump's version of socialism, under which the government plunders the safety net in order to further fatten the obscenely wealthy.

Responding to Stay-at-Home and Protest Voters' Reasons for Refusing to Vote for Biden

The two short answers to any and all arguments for refusing to vote for Joe Biden are (1) Ruth Bader Ginsburg and (2) "There Is No Planet B."

- "Those who refuse to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."
- Forty years of non-votes and protest votes have done nothing but dump us in a hole, and when you're in a hole, you need to stop digging.
- They've allowed Republicans to lard the federal courts with extreme right-wing judges.
- They've allowed Trump to install Gorsuch instead of Clinton installing Garland. They've allowed Trump to replace Kennedy with a nasty piece of work who is 30 years younger.
- They allowed George W. Bush to appoint John Roberts and Sam Alito to the Court. These men are responsible for *Citizens United* and *Colby County*, grotesque acts of judicial activism that helped elect Trump in 2016 and Scott and DeSantis in 2018, and will in 2020 create voter intimidation on scale that would do Bull O'Connor proud.
- They allowed Trump to appoint 6 of the 12 judges sitting on the federal circuit hearing the Amendment 4 appeal. Republicans now have a 7-5 majority .
- They've allowed Republican administrations to increase inequality, restrict access to healthcare, create repeated economic crises, and push us to the point of no return on climate change.
- They've ensured that when a Democrat is finally elected, he wastes precious time cleaning up Republican messes instead of building on the progressive advances of prior Democrats.
- No one can seriously dispute the claim that Joe Biden will do more for ordinary Americans than Donald Trump.
- Trump lowered taxes on multimillionaires and multinationals; Biden would raise them.
- Trump failed to destroy the Affordable Care Act but severely crippled it. Eliminating the Individual Mandate caused millions to lose insurance and the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates another [27 million](#) Americans have lost coverage due to the pandemic.
- Trump has promised to try again to repeal the ACA. Biden will work to lower the age for Medicare and shore up the ACA.
- People died in the fight for the franchise. You dishonor their sacrifice if you stay home or vote for a candidate who has no chance of winning.
- And last, but surely not least, **there is no such thing as not voting:**

By all means stay home if you want, but don't bullshit yourself that you're not voting. In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote.

David Foster Wallace