

**Dear Fellow Americans,**

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I value my neighbors and web contacts greatly, knowing some well and others almost not at all. We do life together in America that shields us from some of the realities of inequity and suffering that happen in our country and the world. Below is my analysis of the presidential election.

**Handouts:** I think Harris and Biden are doing too many giveaways, such as eliminating student debt. Many students worked their way through college and others had parents who sacrificed so that there would be no student debt for them. I do not like the \$25k for first-time home buyers, but I somewhat like the idea of support for first-time small businesses.

**Immigration:** Harris could have handled the immigration problem more forcefully, although it was destined to fail because the countries of origin changed after she tried to help the original countries send fewer refugees. Perhaps Biden could have done more during his term. I assume you know that the bipartisan bill to address the array of immigration issues was in Congress in February this year, but Trump stopped it by threatening any republican who supported it. It immediately died.<sup>1</sup>

**Abortion:** Both sides are wrong. The ethicists claim that a ‘thing’ becomes a person when it becomes sentient. Sentient means that it can sense pain and distress. For humans, that is probably no earlier than 18 weeks of gestation.<sup>2</sup> Many civilized countries have recognized this reality and allow abortions up to 15-18 weeks. That makes sense because it gives the pregnant woman time to decide if she wants to be a mom and it allows for most genetic testing to determine if there are severe gene problems.<sup>3</sup> The law should state that there should be no abortion after 15-18 weeks. Roe v Wade was wrong to allow abortion until the fetus becomes viable outside the womb.

**Inflation and Our Economy:** The high inflation rate during the early part of Biden’s presidency was unavoidable as the country emerged from the pandemic. An imbalance between supply and demand pushed prices higher as it always does. Other developed countries experienced similar inflation.<sup>4</sup> The U.S Federal Reserve controls our inflation by increasing interest rates or by lowering them to prevent a recession.<sup>5</sup> Given our current situation of a robust economy, it has done a fine job since the pandemic. Many ‘experts’ expected a recession, and it did not happen. Note that the president has no control over what the Federal Reserve does, although Mr. Trump wants to change that if he is elected. Leading economists say Trump’s plan would be a disaster for inflation.<sup>6</sup>

**Healthcare:** I tenaciously follow healthcare issues in the U.S. No one doubts that our healthcare non-system is too expensive and requires serious reform. The plans of each presidential candidate are thoroughly described by Kaiser Family Foundation, a highly trusted source of healthcare data.<sup>7</sup> You may read it for yourself, but it will take you a full day to digest the detailed material. For purposes here, I will summarize the conclusions of *Scientific American*. This journal has been published since 1845 and is the most reliable source for non-scientists who find science interesting. That magazine endorsed Harris, noting the following that pertain to healthcare: *Harris*

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<sup>1</sup> [Border Bill: What To Know About Immigration Bill As Harris Slams Trump At Debate For Killing It \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.3109/14767059209161911>

<sup>3</sup> [Types of Genetic Tests Performed During Pregnancy \(webmd.com\)](https://www.webmd.com)

<sup>4</sup> [Inflation around the world, over the past two years | Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org)

<sup>5</sup> [How the Federal Reserve Controls Inflation \(thebalancemoney.com\)](https://www.thebalancemoney.com)

<sup>6</sup> [16 Nobel Prize-winning economists say Trump policies will fuel inflation | Reuters](https://www.reuters.com)

<sup>7</sup> [Compare Trump and Harris Health Care Records and Positions | KFF](https://www.kff.org)

*endorses clean energy (less air pollution), public health and reproductive rights, and treats the climate crisis as the emergency it is.’ Trump thinks climate change is a hoax. Trump has a disastrous record from his term in office; however, it gives Trump credit for his Operation Warp that led to speedy vaccine development against COVID 19. Looking ahead, Harris would expand the Affordable Care Act by higher taxes on the wealthy, whereas Trump proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid during his term. The editors are not happy with Trump’s plans to cut funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. This is only the second time the magazine editors have endorsed a presidential candidate.<sup>8</sup>*

**Commander-in Chief:** Harris does not strike one as ‘Commander in Chief’ material at first glance. I think the key question is whether she has demonstrated the ability to get pertinent information to make informed decisions. I suppose she had to do that as California’s Attorney General. A key duty of the president is to lead our military personnel, and Trump filled that role during his presidency. Retired General Mike Miley, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during Trump’s presidency has remarked that Trump ‘is the most dangerous person to this country.’<sup>9</sup> If he becomes commander in chief again our country will have someone who disparages the military (e.g. John McCain), is a draft dodger thanks to his father, is a convicted felon (one cannot be in the military as a felon), misuses highly classified documents, and has plans to use military force to deal with what he calls ‘radical left lunatics.’<sup>10</sup> Harris is an unknown. I fear what Trump would do.

**Truth and Ethical Behavior:** Our culture has developed a dangerous tolerance for political lies. Apparently, the law requires broadcast media to broadcast any political ad regardless of how false and misleading it may be. This strikes me as plain stupid. Let me begin by having Harris’s interview on Fox News fact checked. The bottom line is that she has shifted positions on some issues and tried to dodge a few others, but there were no out-right lies.<sup>11</sup> As for Trump, he seems to me to insist on being a liar. He still denies that he lost the 2020 election (as does Vance) with no credible evidence to support that claim. He now calls the January 6 insurrection in Washington ‘a day of love.’<sup>12</sup> Trump continues his lies about Haitian immigrants in Springfield Ohio eating pets.<sup>13</sup> Trump continues his long history of degrading women.<sup>14</sup> His labels include Marxist, bum, nasty, crazy, horse face, low life & dog, and Bimbo. Many of his disparaging remarks refer to the body parts of women including where to grab them.<sup>15</sup> Former Vice President Mike Pence on Trump, “President Trump also demanded that I choose between him and the constitution.”<sup>16</sup> Former Republican Vice President Dick Cheney on Trump, “In our nation’s 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump.”<sup>17</sup> Please think!

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<sup>8</sup> [Scientific American makes second-ever endorsement, backs Kamala Harris \(axios.com\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Retired Gen. Mark Milley Calls Trump ‘A Total Fascist’ | HuffPost Latest News](#)

<sup>10</sup> [How Trump could use the military against the 'radical left' - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> [PolitiFact | Fact-checking Kamala Harris’ interview with Fox News’ Bret Baier](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Trump calls 6 January ‘day of love’ when asked about US Capitol riot \(bbc.com\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Trump Doubles Down On False Pet-Eating Claims: Suggests Haitian Migrants Eat ‘Other Things Too’ \(msn.com\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Things Trump has said about women | The Week](#)

<sup>15</sup> [PolitiFact | In context: Donald Trump’s lewd remarks from 2005](#)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65839793>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2024/09/07/nx-s1-5104718/dick-cheney-voting-kamala-harris-trump-election>