

## Political Climate

Nov. 8th, 2020 (posted on Facebook)

If anyone has ever wondered what goes on in the mind of the people who didn't cast a vote or can't get fully invested in politics, it really shouldn't be that big of a mystery. Any time I try to look through the glass into the world of politics, I always feel like everybody else sees something that I can't. Leading up to this election and currently, I'm amazed at how a terrible cycle just keeps repeating itself every four years. Most people don't bat an eye, but instead, just focus on achieving a specific result. To a degree, I can understand this.

I didn't vote for Trump or Biden, just like in 2016, I didn't vote for Trump or Clinton. So really, I didn't have a horse in the race. One of the benefits is being able to observe from the sidelines and see how people behave on both sides. What I'm about to say is not me thinking I'm above people that get heavily into politics, or smarter than any of you guys. I'm not the smartest person in the room. I might be the most confused though.

If someone votes in elections, that is perfectly fine with me. I really don't care if someone identifies as a Republican or a Democrat. However, from my point of view, I can make some observations as to what I see happening each day. Politics takes level-headed people that can disagree with and still respect each other, and turns them into close-minded people who instead of talking with "the opposition," take the tried and true approach of coming into discussions with rage and blind emotion.

With the importance of politics, it should be where cooler heads and patience are the order of the day. If you can't agree with someone, you could realize and respect that each individual has their own unique values or experiences that lead them to their opinion. It needs to be approached with maturity. Instead of this, what I'm seeing in abundance is:

"If you voted for \_\_\_\_\_, remove yourself from my friend's list"

"If you believe \_\_\_\_\_, then you are \_\_\_\_\_"

We're all being overly judgmental and making all kinds of assumptions based on who someone votes for in a Presidential election. It's like we opened up the

windows and threw our rationale and logical reasoning outside, closed them up and returned to social media with nothing but venom. In a broad sense, every four years, we all become mathematicians, psychologists, experts on all of the governmental systems, and become REALLY interested in the goings on in other states.

During this election season, Facebook has pretty much become a bit of a toilet. BOTH sides have been so nasty towards the other. It would honestly make me laugh if it wasn't so disturbing in many ways. There are numerous people on both sides that years down the road, they might be pretty embarrassed at some of the stuff they shared, liked, or so on.

In recent months, the hypocrisy of politics has shown its face in a larger way than I can ever remember in my lifetime. People might get so wrapped up in it, that they don't even see how it can come across. Let me provide a few examples. Right now, there are a lot of Republicans that are screaming from the mountaintops that voter fraud is occurring, that many states' votes need to be recounted without haste. Well, not surprisingly, in 2016 Democrats cried foul and wanted recounts after Clinton lost to Trump. I remember seeing many liberals outraged with how quickly the conservatives wanted to fill the Supreme Court seat after Ginsburg's passing. Once again, looking back at 2016, it was reversed. When Scalia died, Obama tried immediately to fill that seat. This time, the conservatives were outraged about the seat being filled so quickly.

One final example only requires you to look back twenty-four hours. I saw many snippets of footage yesterday of people (liberals) dancing and celebrating in the streets after the news broke. These were not small gatherings either. Well, months ago, the famous biker rally in Sturgis still took place despite the pandemic. It was well known that this was mostly made up of Trump fans and voters. The Sturgis rally is typically a huge gathering. Well, in the midst of a pandemic, this was objectively stupid and reckless to have such a massive gathering given the circumstances. Those involved were heavily criticized by liberals, and for good reason. A lot of people have been alarmed by Trump's (weird at times) downplaying of the seriousness of the corona virus. Biden's stance has been drastically different. So yesterday, I'm shaking my head watching huge crowds of liberals celebrating Biden's win. These are the people that are supposedly taking (in line with Biden's stance) a much more cautious approach by wearing masks and adhering more strictly to the guidelines.

However, like the conservatives in Sturgis months ago, here they are being stupid and reckless.

I don't know if liberals and conservatives sometimes don't even realize that they routinely condone their party doing the exact same things they detest when the other party does them. A lot of people could use more self-awareness. This has been a constant theme on social media for months, along with disturbing justifications of violence and other terrible behavior.

So yes, it's now November 8th and we have a new President-elect. A lot of people are excited about this, and that is their right. However, having a different President is not a magical band-aid that will fix what is a really screwed up country right now.

We still have racism/civil unrest, sexism, homophobia, a problematic judicial system, tons of unemployment, an incredible amount of small businesses dying or already shut down permanently, not to mention a little global pandemic that is only getting worse here in the US. Because, for some reason, we're the only country that just decided we're done living with a pandemic and it's over. So we're having large gatherings again and being stupid, for reasons that I can't make sense of.

So with all of that being said, this whole awful process of investment in politics and what it turns people into, the hatred we show towards each other. . . this is the process I'm supposed to be a part of and dive fully into?

Give me a fucking break.