

Hate and Division in Trump's America

Toplines

Trump is fanning the flames of hate and division and trying to blame the chaos that ensues on his political opponents — despite the fact that, last we checked, he is currently the president.

Our nation is hurting. We need leadership that will heal our wounds, not continue to pour salt on them. Our nation will not heal through fear, division, and violence. We will heal through justice, unity, and action.

Trump is desperately trying to gaslight voters and distract them from his inability to lead a response to the many crises plaguing his presidency. Democrats want a safe America, safe from COVID, safe from crime, safe from racial violence, safe from bad cops. Safe from Trump.

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The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest. It should not drive people away from the just cause that protest is meant to advance.

Do's and Don'ts

DO frame the chaos and violence in the streets as an extension of Trump's vision of America ("American carnage"), his strategy of sowing chaos and division for political gain, and his failure to lead through crisis.

DO talk about how Democrats want peace, healing, justice, democracy, and freedom.

DO NOT equate protestors to looters -or- let Republicans equate protestors to looters. Protestors are protesting. Looters are looting. They are not the same.

DO NOT get into a debate about police funding. If Republicans try to bait you into a police funding argument, respond with the following:

DO talk about Joe Biden and Democrats have said:

- Protesting is right and necessary. It's an utterly American response. But burning down communities and needless destruction is not. Violence that endangers lives is not. Violence that guts and shutteres businesses that serve the community is not.

Supporting Messaging

Trump says "you won't be safe in Joe Biden's America," but look at Trump's America:

- Trump has no plan to contain COVID, which has infected more than 6 million Americans and kills thousands a week.
- Trump has demanded schools reopen unsafely, endangering kids, teachers, and their families.
- Trump wrecked the economy, with more than 1 in 10 workers unemployed and tens of millions going hungry.
- Trump is encouraging chaos, rather than calming tensions, with Kellyanne Conway even cheering on more violence and chaos because she thinks it'll help Trump politically.

Peaceful protest against police violence should not be met with more violence, yet that's exactly what the president has advocated for.

- The right to protest prejudice is an American principle. Attacking protestors is not.
- When Trump calls for violence against protestors, he's encouraging horrific attacks like the one in Kenosha that left two people dead and another seriously wounded.
- Protesting injustice is a fundamental right and American principle, but burning down communities is needless violence that endangers lives and guts community businesses.

We must dismantle systemic racism. It is the urgent task before us.

- Equal justice has not been real for Black Americans and so many others.
- We must fight to honor the ideals of the original American promise, which we are yet to attain: That all men and women are created equal, but more importantly that they must be treated equally.

Vice President Biden has repeatedly condemned the violence and called for an end to the chaos that Trump is fanning.

- As Biden said in May and reiterated last week, "Protesting [injustice] is right and necessary. It's an utterly American response. But burning down communities and needless destruction is not. Violence that endangers lives is not. Violence that guts and shuts businesses that serve the community is not."
- Peaceful protest against police violence should not be met with more violence, yet that's exactly what the president has advocated for.
- When Trump calls for violence against protestors, he's encouraging horrific attacks like the one in Kenosha that left two people dead and another seriously wounded.
- Protesting injustice is a fundamental right and American principle, but burning down communities is needless violence that endangers lives and guts community businesses.

Texas Democrats Bill of Rights

Two of our 2020 Texas Democrats Bill of Rights ballot propositions passed with resounding support from voters.

Right to Dignity & Respect

Proposition #5 passed with 97.11% voting "yes."

Should everyone in Texas have the right to a life of dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment anywhere, including businesses and public facilities, no matter how they identify, the color of their skin, whom they love, socioeconomic status, disability status, housing status, or from where they come?

Derecho a dignidad y respeto

Deberían todos los Tejanos tener el derecho a una vida con dignidad y respeto, libre de discriminación y acoso en todas partes, incluyendo negocios y lugares públicos, sin importar cómo se identifican, el color de su piel, quien amen, estado socioeconómico, estado de discapacidad, alojamiento, o de dónde vienen?

Right to Be Free from Violence

Proposition #6 passed with 97.28% voting "yes."

Should everyone in Texas have the right to live a life free from violence—gun violence, racial hatred, terrorism, domestic violence, bullying, harassment, or sexual assault—so Texans can grow in a safe environment?

Derecho de estar libre de violencia

Deberían todos los Tejanos tener el derecho a vivir una vida libre de violencia- violencia armada, odio racial, terrorismo, violencia doméstica, acoso o agresión sexual- para que así los Tejanos puedan crecer en un ambiente seguro?

"As I have prayed for my son's healing, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, I also have been praying, even before this, for the healing of our country. We are the United States. Have we been united? Do you understand what's going to happen when we fall? Because a house that is against each other cannot stand. To all of the police officers, I'm praying for you and your families. To all of the citizens, my Black and brown sisters and brothers, I'm praying for you. I believe that you are an intelligent being just like the rest of us. Everybody, let's use our hearts, our love, and our intelligence to work together to show the rest of the world how humans are supposed to treat each other. America is great when we behave greatly."

*Julia Jackson,
Jacob Blake's mother.*