

THANK YOU FOR
WANTING TO GET
INFORMED!
WHO YOU VOTE FOR
IS SECRET,
BUT WHETHER YOU
VOTE IS PUBLIC
INFORMATION.

Federal Subsidies

- a form of financial aid provided by the government in an effort to support social and economic policies
- Subsidies are awarded to multiple sectors, including but not limited to agriculture, social welfare, and corporations.
- The United States spent \$100 billion in corporate subsidies in 2017.

TOP 8 COMPANIES AWARDED SUBSIDIES

- Nike \$2.03 Billion
- Royal Dutch Shell \$2.06 Billion
- Fiat Chrysler Auto 2.06 Billion
- Ford \$2.52 Billion
- General Motors \$3.58 Billion
- Intel \$3.87 Billion
- Alcoa \$5.64 Billion
- Boeing \$13.18 Billion

Where does the money come from?
Tax payers.

Tax Breaks

- a tax advantage or concession allowed by the government
- 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act significantly changed individual income tax. Almost doubled standard deductions and reduced income tax rates
- Between 2017 and 2018 corporations paid 22.4% less in income tax
- Low income families saw the least savings from this act, with the middle class seeing a mix of results, and high income families with the most savings

LET'S GET INFORMED!

Age: 74

Years in Elected Office: 4

Education: New York
Military Academy,
B.A. Economics (Two
years Fordham
University transferred to
University of Pennsylvania)

1967; Follows father into Real estate,
establishing Trump Organization and Tower
1973: Federal Government complaint Trump in
violation of Fair Housing Act under the
Civil Rights Act
1985-1994: Trump Organization loses
\$1.7 billion
1987: Co-Authors "The Art of the Deal" with
Tony Schwartz
1990-2009: Trump Hotels and Casinos file
bankruptcy 6 times
2000: First Presidential Campaign, lost
2005: Founded Trump University (for profit
education institution)
2016: Elected President
2018: Settlement of \$25 million paid to
thousands of students in case over fraud by
Trump University

Political Affiliations:

1987 Registered Republican, 1989 Independent,
2000 Reform, 2001 Democrat, 2009 Republican,
2011 Independent, 2012 Republican

HOW DID
DONALD TRUMP
GET HERE?

HOW DID JOE BIDEN GET HERE?

Age: 77
Years in Elected Office: 49

Education: B.A. Double
Major History and Political
Science, Minor in English
from University of Delaware
Law Degree from Syracuse
University

1971: Member of New Castle City Council as well as practicing lawyer at his own firm
1972: Senator Elect in Delaware, 5th youngest Senator at the time
1973 - 2009: Served as Delaware Senator as well as Chairman of Foreign Relations and Chairman of Judiciary Committee
Noteworthy Contributions: Negotiated arms limitations with Soviets, expanded NATO, supported Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
1987: First Presidential Campaign, lost
2007: Second Presidential Campaign, lost
2008 - 2016: Vice President to President Barack Obama
Noteworthy Contributions: Role in federal policing in Iraq and Afghanistan during war, push for New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, bipartisan agreement on tax increase and spending cut, head of Gun Control Task Force
2020: Democratic Presidential Nominee

2

Political Affiliations:
1970: Registered Democrat

HOW DID KAMALA HARRIS GET HERE?

Age: 55
Years in Elected Office: 17
Education: B.A. in Political
Science and Economics from
Howard University Law
Degree (J.D.) from University
of California, Hastings

1990: Passed California State Bar, became Deputy District Attorney of Alameda County
1998: Managing Attorney Career Criminal Unit in San Francisco's DA's office
2000: Chief of Community and Neighborhood Division - established first California Bureau of Children's Justice
2003: Elected San Francisco District Attorney - launches program to help reduce re-conviction of felons through job training
2008: Refuses to defend Proposition 8
2010: Elected California Attorney General - first and person of color to hold this position - successfully negotiates \$20 million in payouts from financial institutions for improper mortgage practices
2013: officiates first same sex marriage since the inacting of Proposition 8
2016: Elected to California Senate - First South Asian woman in state history - Served on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Select Committee on Intelligence, Committee on Judiciary, and Committee on the Budget
2019: Begins Democratic Presidential campaign, leaves race
2020: Democratic Vice President Nominee

4

Political Affiliations: 1982 Democratic Party

Stimulus/Bailouts

- In 2008, the federal government allocated \$700 billion in stimulus for large corporations and Wall Street through the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act
- In 2020, the US Government put together a \$2 trillion package to aid individuals, small businesses, large corporations, and local governments in response to the Coronavirus pandemic through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Where does the money come from?
Federal taxes.

Federal taxes are paid by the people, the people make up the community, the funding from the community pays for these programs. By this logic, the community as a whole is the driving force behind government programs that benefit members of the community. This is a form of socialism.

Take away points:

- Subsidies are socialism
- Tax breaks are socialism
- Social Security is socialism
- Medicare is socialism
- Stimulus is socialism

There is no guarantee in capitalist theory for disaster relief. Government bailout of corporations or individuals, federal funding, and tax deductions are all examples of social organizations guiding the markets and regulating the means of production, distribution, and exchange.

23

Medicare

- federal single payer health insurance program for those over 65 years of age

(single payer health care refers to health insurance provided by a single payer, in this case the United States Federal Government. Single payer still allows for the individual receiving benefits to purchase privatized supplemental insurance)

- certain individuals with disabilities under 65 may qualify or those with end stage renal disease
- Medicare covers Hospital Insurance, Medical Insurance, and prescription drug costs
- This can be compared to the United Kingdoms Government regulated healthcare system, the National Health Service. Both Medicare and the NHS are single payer, allow for supplemental insurance to be purchased, cover hospital, medical, and prescription drug costs. However, the NHS does not discriminate based on age, gender, or race. Medicare, by the definition of discrimination, discriminates based on age.

Where does the money come from?

Just like Social Security benefits, pay roll withholding is put into a third trust fund for those 65 or older to pay for Medicare. You may for the health insurance of those who are retired and one day someone else will pay for your health insurance.

21

WHAT TYPE OF SOCIALISM ARE WE OKAY WITH?

Socialism is the political and economic theory of social organization and advocates for the means of production, distribution, and exchange to be regulated by the community as a whole

Existing socialist programs in the United States

Social Security:

aka the Old-age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Program

- The Social Security act was established by FDR and passed in 1935 as part of the New Deal
- The act created the Social Security Administration
- Social Security benefits are paid to retired individuals over 62 who have paid into the system through payroll withholdings for at least 10 years
- Benefits are also awarded on a case by case basis to widows, widowers, or dependents over the age of 60 or over the age of 50 if disabled
- Disability benefits are given to those who are mentally or physically unable to work for at least a year

Where's the money coming from?

Social Security taxes taken from your paycheck are divided between two funds: the OASI (Old-age and Survivors Insurance) Fund and the DI (Disability Insurance) Trust Fund and is then paid out to those who qualify.

You are paying someone else's Social Security. And when you turn 62, someone else will be paying your Social Security Benefits.

LET'S TALK ABOUT REFORM

(CONTINUED)

- Shift focus of Police procedure from force to de-escalation
- Provide less-lethal weapons for officers
- Enhance protections for those who intervene in situations of police brutality and create structures that hold officers accountable
- Immediately treat those who are injured in police custody
- Prohibit officers from shooting at moving vehicles and end high speed chases when violent crime is not a threat

4. Independent Investigations:

- Similar to #2: Community Oversight
- Allow federal involvement and funding in state and local police misconduct investigations
- Establish a special prosecutor's office in each state
- Require independent investigations in all cases of police violence and brutality

5. Community Representation

- Diversifying police departments so that they accurately represent the area they are policing; ex. 1/3 of the US population is made up of white men, but they represent 2/3 of law enforcement
- Increase community involvement through direct civilian input and/or public surveys

Age: 61

Years in Elected Office: 20

Education: B.A. in History from Hanover College, Law degree (J.D.) from Indiana University Mckinnely School of Law

HOW DID MIKE PENCE GET HERE?

1986: became precinct

committeeman for Marion County Republican party 1988 and 1990: Ran for Indiana Congress, loses both times

1991 - 1993: Served as president of the Indiana Policy Review board

1994 - 1999: Conservative Radio Talkshow Host "The Mike Pence Show" - self described as "Rush Limbaugh on decaf"

2000 : Elected Congressman of Indiana - reelected 5 times

2005: Republican Study Committee head

2008: Republican Conference Chairman

Noteworthy Congressional Contributions: Opposed No Child Left Behind, opposed Medicare prescription drug expansion, insisted on cuts to Federal Budget before supporting Katrina Relief, opposed federal bailout of 2008, supported government shutdown over fight to defund planned parenthood

2012: Elected Governor of Indiana

2013: secured \$1.1 billion tax give back for state

2016: On ticket and elected Vice President of the United States

Political Affiliations: 1986 Republican Party

Biden

Expand Affordable Care Act, supports an affordable Medicare-like option for all, tax credit to lower premium, limit prescription pricing ensure the right to chose for all women, expand an existing strategy to lower maternal mortality rate in Women of Color

Trump

Lower drug costs by incentivising imported medications, donated \$1.8 billion to solve the opioid crisis, continue efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act

H
E
C
A
A
L
R
T
E
H

Biden

Ensure the US reaches 100% clean energy by 2050, rebuild infrastructure to withstand impacts of Global Warming, join forces with other countries, take action against Fossil Fuel Companies and other major polluters especially those who are impacting BIPOC communities, provide jobs in clean energy to those left unemployed by regulations

Trump

Fulfilled campaign promise to rollback carbon limit for power plants, withdrew from the Paris Climate Accords claiming other countries benefitted more than ours, approved oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

C
L
I
M
A
T
E

Biden

Hold gun manufacturers accountable for violence, ban assault weapons, regulate possession of existing assault weapons, initiate a national buy back program of assault weapons, expand and enforce background checks

Trump

Rolled back legislation limiting gun ownership of those deemed mentally unfit in 2017, threatened to veto universal background checks, quoted saying, "Gun and magazine bans are a total failure, calls for red flag laws, banned bump stocks, unclear on his position on arming teachers

Biden

Raise wages and strengthen benefits through relief legislation, revive American manufacturing invest \$400 billion in US manufacturing, incentivise expansion of Women and BIPOC owned manufacturing, \$300 billion investment in research and development, invest in urban and rural communities, bring supply chains back

Trump

Ending reliance on foreign manufacturing by severing ties (such as NAFTA and the Trans Pacific Partnership), fix U.S. trade deficit gap, tax credits to move factories back to the U.S., introduced tariffs on goods from Europe, Brazil, China, Argentina, and Canada

6

Biden

Plans to host global summit for democracy to fight corruption, authoritarianism, election security, advancing human rights, elevate diplomacy of US State Department, Reimagine and Renore partnerships, renew commitment to arms control by expanding New START Treaty with Russia to include Iran and North Korea

Trump

'America First', stepping away from multilateral agreements and organizations (WHO and Paris Climate Accord), changing alliances like NATO, decrease US troop presence, strengthen alliances with Russia and North Korea, brokered peace deal with Israel and U.A.E.

Biden

Modernize Immigration system, welcome immigrants into communities, re-commitment to Asylum Seekers and Refugees, tackle root cause of irregular migration, improve border screening

Trump

Build a border wall, secured funding for 445 of 722 miles of the wall so far, end visa lottery and chain migration in favor of a merit based Immigration system

8

6. Documentation:

- Ban police from taking or destroying phones or other recording devices from citizens and ensure the right to sue officers for doing so

7. Training:

- Deemphasize the use of firearms and force in trainings
- Increase cultural awareness and sensitivity training
- Screen potential officers for racial, gender, or cultural bias

8. End for Profit Policing

- End ticket and arrest quotas
- Limit allowable revenue generation from citations
- Allow payment plans and fee reduction for lower income families
- Prohibit confiscation of private property
- Require departments to assume cost of misconduct

9. Demilitarization:

- Stop providing military weapons to local and state police and restrict spending on weapons
- Restrict use of SWAT and no-knock warrants
- Increase restrictions on departments that show patterns of discrimination

10. Fair Police Contracts:

- Make the disciplinary history of officers public
- Remove provisions from the Law Enforcement Bill of Rights and employment contracts that limit the scope of misconduct investigations

LET'S TALK ABOUT REFORM

Here are 10 reform strategies. Just like in the chapter on Supreme Court reform, these are just ideas. Some ideas have been implemented on a small scale in cities, counties, or other countries.

Take what you like, leave what you don't, consider everything

1. End Broken Window Policing:

- Broken window policing is the over policing of minor crimes; such as minor drug offenses, loitering, or petty crime
- In 2018, only 5% of arrests involved violent crime

2. Community Oversight:

- altering the oversight structure for police; creating a coalition of civilians to investigate police misconduct rather than allowing policemen to carry out investigations

3. Limit the Use of Force:

- Establish clear guidelines on the use of deadly force: require the presence of an imminent threat before engaging in deadly force, require verbal warnings, and mandate that all actions leading up to and following use of deadly force be documented for use in investigations and/or reporting
- Ban chokeholds, strangleholds, hog tying, and the transportation of citizens facedown

17

LETS TALK ABOUT COPS

Why is everyone talking about police reform, anyway?

- 861 people have been killed by police officers in 2020
 - Black people make up 28% of deaths, but only 13% of the population
- This year is not unlike others, in fact it's almost identical to every year since 2013
- Black people are 3x more likely to be victims of Police brutality and 1.3 x more likely than White people to be unarmed
- Police violence has spread from urban areas into suburbs and rural areas
- There is no direct correlation between the rate of violent crime in an area and the rate of Police violence
- 98.3% of killings between 2013 and 2019 did not result in criminal charges for the officers involved

Why mention racial disparities if the topic is police reform and not race?

- The statistics mentioned above show an active, possibly unconscious bias among police. This bias calls for reform. No matter the cause of bias or inefficacy of any institution, the presence of an issue calls for reform.

16

Q What is "the Storm"?
 - the storm refers to a Q-Anon based prophecy that Trump will one day arrest all Cabal members
 - This event was originally scheduled for 2018, then 2019, then Good Friday of 2020, and is expected any day now
 Is Q-Anon just another word for Pizzagate?

- No and yes. Q-Anon expands on Pizzagate, turning a theory about a child sex ring in the basement of a pizza parlor into a larger, alternate reality that extends past Hillary Clinton into all of the US Government and the media
- Q-Anon has also gone on to include theories on JFK's assassination, conspiracy behind 9/11 and the "truther" movement, and has coopted genuine efforts to end child trafficking
- How large is this movement?
- The exact size of Q-Anon followers/believers is unknown
- However, the members of this movement include full believers and "Q-Anon Lite" members, who do not believe in a kidnapping, cannibalistic satanic cult but do agree that there is a "deep state" conspiracy against Trump
- The movement has been spread via social media, who's titans (Twitter and Facebook) are now taking action to remove accounts due to the spread of misinformation and harrasment
- Some members of the movement have committed and been convicted of violent crimes, others are currently running for congress

14

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT KAMALA'S PROSECUTION RECORD?

MAIN CRITIQUE: WHILE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA KAMALA LEANED IN FAVOR OF THE POLICE AND WAS NOT QUICK ENOUGH TO DEFEND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Backstory: Kamala was District Attorney of San Francisco from 2004 to 2011. During her campaign in 2004, she ran on a platform against the death penalty. That same year a gang member was on trial for the killing of an SFPD officer. Kamala sparked a rift between herself and the SFPD by not supporting enforcing the death penalty. Diane Feinstein takes sides with the Police, applying pressure on Kamala, who does not change her view. After this, there was tension between her office and the Police Department, and increased scrutiny of Kamala in any instance where she might 'target the police'.

First Offense: While DA, she began prosecuting parents of truant students. In 2010 she made legal to charge parents of children who missed 10% of their school year without an excuse with a misdemeanor, this included a fine of \$2,000 and possible jail time. This disproportionately affected low-income families and families of color.

From 2011 until 2017 she served as California's Attorney General.

Second Offense: Mishandeling of wrongful convictions by not allowing new evidence to be presented in appeals

Third Offense: 2014, she does not involve State in investigation of San Francisco Police Department shooting of a civilian. Saying that it is the responsibility of the SF District Attorney to take action.

Fourth Offense: 2015, she requires body cameras for all police officers in California but does not support legislation mandating them

Fifth Offense: While California AG, 1,560 people were jailed on marijuana related charges

The shift: Beginning in 2016, Kamala proposes modest expansion of Attorney General's powers to investigate police misconduct, she reviewed two major police departments, asks staff to not prosecute cases based on racial profiling, and backed an ongoing investigation in SF into police misconduct.

9

FACTS OF THE CASE

Justice Antonin Scalia, conservative Supreme Court member, passes away in February of 2016.

Barack Obama, sitting president, nominates District Court Justice Merrick Garland to fill Scalia's seat.

February, 9 months before 2016 election, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says, "the American people should have a say in the court's direction. It is a president's Constitutional right to nominate a Supreme Court justice, and it is the Senates constitutional

right to act as a check on the president and withhold its consent." declaring any nominee by Obama null and void due to an upcoming election and potential shift in power.

The vacancy was then used by conservatives as a tool to increase voter turn out and ensure a republican victory in the Senate and Presidential races

Editor's note: This statement and denial of a fair hearing for Merrick Garland happened 9 months prior to an election. It was denied because of the proximity to the 2016 election. We are only 1 month away and Republicans are insisting that a nominee be rushed to confirmation.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF MERRICK GARLAND

- 48 year old mother of 7
- Devout member of the Catholic Church
- Graduated first in her class from the University of Notre Dame Law School
- Former clerk for Antonin Scalia
- Considers herself an Originalist or Textualist; these terms refer to someone who believes that the constitution should be interpreted literally, it should not be recontextualized or thought to have any implications that are not clearly stated
- Picked by Trump in 2017 to serve on the 7th Circuit Federal Appeals Court
- Strong ties with People of Praise, a conservative christian faith group who have publicly denounced any sexual relations not within a heterosexual marriage
- Praised by the president of the Susan B. Anthony List, an anti abortion political group, as "the perfect combination of brilliant jurist and woman"
- 2017 expresses disapproval of Supreme Court decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act (the court will hear this case again in the coming months)
- As a textualist/originalist she believes that any right not explicitly outlined in the constitution is not guaranteed to any person
- intends to uphold Roe v Wade, however cites that the decision does not deny State's rights to regulate access to abortion
- Member of the Federalist Society and has ties with the Alliance Defending Freedom

10

SUPREME COURT REFORM!

The Supreme Court's reason for being: to be a non partisan actor, to justly interpret the law, and serve in the best interest of the people

TYPES OF REFORM

Type 1: Altering the makeup of the Court

- > Adding Judges aka "packing the court"
- > Enforcing an A- Political court aka 5 republican justices and 5 democratic justices
- > Term limits instead of lifetime appointments

Type 2: Limiting or changing the powers of the courts

- > Removing cases from the Supreme Court's jurisdiction
- > Requiring a greater majority in decisions aka a majority vote of 6 or 7 rather than 5
- > Allowing congress and/or the executive branch to step in if the court makes a mistake or cannot come to a decision

Discussion questions:

1. is it who serves on the court or the power accessible to it that either does or does not need to be reformed?
2. is a partisan court able to rule justly?

12

BENGHAZI BONUS ROUND

"Benghazi", in conversation about American politics, refers to the events of and surrounding the 2 day attack on a US diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya beginning on September 11, 2012

4 Americans were killed and diplomats, as well as other American Intelligence officers were forced to evacuate

Initially (2012) the Obama administration called the event a "terrorist attack" executed by "extremists" in response to a Youtube video critiquing Islam

In 2014, a former CIA Official told the House Intelligence committee that the terrorists behind the attack had connections with Al Qaeda, which was discovered in 2012, He also remarked that the attack was likely not pre-planned

On September 9, 2012, Libyan Militia officials warned US Officials of rising security threats to Americans, however due to mutual interest in American business investment in Libya the US did not evacuate

Multiple hearings were held in the years following this incident. Republicans claimed that the administration's decision to omit certain information about the attack in 2012 was in relation to Obama's re-election that same year.

15

Q

What is Q-Anon?

- An overarching term for a set of internet based conspiracy theories that claim the world is run by a Cabal of Satan worshipping pedophiles who, while running a worldwide child sex trafficking ring, are plotting against Donald Trump.

- Noteworthy members of the Calabl include but are not limited to: Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, the Dalai Lama, Tom Hanks, Ellen Degeneres, and Oprah Winfrey
- Not only do members of the Cabal molest children, they kill and eat them in order to extract a life-extending chemical only found in childrens blood.

How is Trump involved in the theory?

- It is claimed that in 2016 Trump was recruited by high ranking military personnel to run for president and defeat the Cabal from inside, ending their control of American politics and media

How did this theory come into existance?

- In October of 2017, an anonymous post on 4chan by an individual calling themselves "Q Clearance Anonymous" claimed to be a high ranking intelligence officer with classified information on the secret war against the Cabal
- The identity of this individual, referred to as "Q", is still unknown. It may be one individual making these posts or many, regardless of who is behind this over 5,000 coded postings have been released

13