

About us: the Democrats sponsoring this site

We are life-long Democrats.

We have worked in a range of jobs that reflect our political interests:

- Labor organizer
- Union worksite representative
- Environmental protection:
 - Open space preservation
 - Wetlands restoration
 - Brownfields remediation and redevelopment
- Support of low-income families
 - New York City Department of Social Services – research director

We have actively campaigned for a range of Democratic candidates

We have voted for all recent Democratic nominees for president - from Mondale to Obama

We support:

- Expanded access to affordable healthcare for all residents of the US
- Environmental protection
- Immigration reform including the Dream Act
- Strong accountability for financial institutions
- More balanced distribution of income
- Greater opportunity for all socio-economic groups

We will vote for Romney.

We explain the reasons for our support of Romney in this website.



Common Sense for the Common Good

Our Country Needs a Leader

We Believe that Mitt Romney Offers the Greatest Potential to Lead the Entire Nation

Read This Brochure to Understand Why

Romney - Democrats.com

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Using Emotional Intelligence to Overcome Political Polarization

We firmly believe that the current political polarization in the US is driven by our emotions. We also believe that we can overcome this polarization if we want to. We certainly need to if we as a people are to find common ground

As in most areas of human interaction it requires emotional intelligence to overcome these emotional outbursts. When we feel that our emotional-based position is threatened or under attack our body is literally flooded with adrenalin and cortisol, and we move into a kind of fight or flight reaction. We stop listening and begin vigorously to defend our position. And this is not limited to face-to-face situations. We've all felt anger when listening to an opposing view on TV or reading what we deem to be an adversarial opinion piece or editorial. Typically the receiving part of our brains just shut down. Because we generally find these experiences unpleasant most of us tend to avoid them. Rather we seek our others including TV, print media, and websites that are in sync with our views. From one perspective this is good; we find it soothing to hear and read opinions that are aligned with our own. But this is "groupthink," which merely reinforces our gut feelings. Corporations and communities, universities and unions, faiths and nations have collapsed because groupthink shielded them from external threats.

We need a national leader to help Democrats and Republicans, Tea Partiers and Occupiers, liberals, conservatives, libertarians, and independents to step back from the confrontation, to breathe deeply to begin to lower our cortisol levels, and then to begin to think about our nation's challenges with a lot less emotional ideology and with a lot more focus on common sense solutions.

A Vision, A Mission, and Our Country's Condition

Our Declaration of Independence is our country's vision statement. It is inspiring, motivating, and memorable. In guiding day-to-day behavior, however, it helps to have a more succinct mission statement. We are borrowing one from a book by Walter Russell Meade - "to protect our own domestic security while building a peaceful world order of democratic states linked by common values and sharing a common prosperity."

A Country Divided

Why Can't We Agree on Our Common Values?

If we as a people have such divergent views on what constitutes moral behavior there is little chance that we can agree on common policies. We need to find a way to reach common ground.

The Erosion of Our Country's Moral Capital

Among other things [Haidt] argues that liberals, by ignoring the building blocks of loyalty, authority, and sanctity, are eroding the "moral capital" of the country. Why does this matter? Capital is an asset; something saved because it will provide value in the future. Capital begins to erode when our behavior is focused on immediate gratification. Once it is gone we have no alternative but to live from hand-to-mouth and day-to-day. The future has disappeared.

On Markets, Regulation, and the Private Sector

The business sector is not the enemy, but it could become the proverbial goose that used to lay golden eggs. We are concerned that increasing regulation will kill business just as the farmer killed his precious goose.

Who Caused the Housing Bubble - Plenty of Blame for All

Everyone knows who and what caused the housing bubble and the ensuing financial crisis; it's just that we don't agree. In our opinion there is more than enough blame to cover most of the players in the global financial markets.

The housing bubble was initiated by the federal government; it was facilitated by government-sponsored enterprises; it gained momentum when Wall Street jumped in; it expanded to global proportions with the tacit support of the global community of banking regulators. And we should not overlook the role of speculators who bought multiple properties using interest-only mortgages as well as some borrowers who knowingly falsified information on loan applications.

We view Dodd-Frank as a cover up for the active role of Congress in promoting sub prime lending and for the failures of financial regulators.

What Kind of Financial Regulation Will Work?

What Kind of Financial Regulation Will Work?

Dodd-Frank is massive, unwieldy, and likely to fail in its attempt to manage the risk of banks deemed too big to fail. If J.P. Morgan is not sufficiently well informed to avoid large, unexpected losses the federal government certainly is not well enough informed to try to regulate all the risks in all the financial institutions involved in global financial markets. Dodd-Frank is an attempt to do just that. Common sense suggests a better way. An alternative to detailed federal regulation is for the government in the future to nationalize a failing bank. The government can ultimately liquidate or recapitalize the institution through an IPO. In the interim the bank would continue to function as part of the global financial system.

While nationalization of a major bank was undoubtedly anathema to the Bush administration it ultimately would have been better for supporters of free markets.

Job Creation in the Private Sector

We need more jobs. Private employers are the source of most jobs in the US. Job growth is driven primarily by new businesses. (These firms typically start out small, thus creating the idea that small businesses are the source of job growth.) Business creation and growth lead to job creation. Increased regulation, higher taxes, and continued uncertainty over economic and budget policies will increase the drag on new business formation and expansion, both of which create jobs.

Looking for a Leader

We need a leader to help us overcome the view that life has become a zero-sum game; that the only way to win is to force the other side to lose.

We need a leader to help us move beyond the limitations of groupthink.

We need a leader to help us move beyond our gut feelings and achieve some emotional intelligence.

We need a leader who will help us as a nation to "seek first to understand, then to be understood."

We need a leader who will lead the entire nation. People generally indicate that they believe that our country is on the wrong track. Similarly the approval ratings of key political, social and economic institutions fall well below 50%.

How do we as a nation address what is largely a psychological phenomenon? In our opinion we need a president who can provide the leadership necessary to begin the difficult process of modifying our collective gut feeling. We need a national leader who can and will help the people of our nation see our strengths and who will lead us away from politicians of both parties who hammer us with speeches about inequities and our political and economic weaknesses at home and abroad.

Mitt Romney has proven leadership successes

Economic Issues and Policy Debates

Current political discussions of a range of economic issues appear to be designed to appeal to constituent emotions and to support groupthink. They add to the demoralizing political dialogue; indeed, it's not really dialogue; it's posturing.

Public policy pronouncements of the nation's economists undermine the credibility of the so-called "profession." Nobel laureates square off in public arenas - "more spending", "lower taxes." "Keynesian spending increases total spending threefold"; "no, it reduces GDP." No wonder the public doesn't know who or what to believe; it is demoralizing.

Keynesian Stimulus Spending

Common sense suggests that if during a major recession the federal government borrowed and spent \$800 billion it should have a positive effect on economic activity in at least the near-term.

Common sense, however, suggests that how the stimulus money is used also matters. Stimulus spending on infrastructure can promote recovery and help pay for itself; political-based stimulus spending is simply political.

Healthcare

The Reality of the Healthcare Challenge

As Democrats, we believe that all US residents should have access to affordable health care. Some of us believe that this is directly related to the right to the "pursuit of happiness" identified in the Declaration of Independence. However, the individual mandate appears to be an attempt to compel individuals to pursue this element of happiness. In doing so it abrogates another of our inalienable rights - that of liberty. Common sense suggests that we need a system that is both affordable and voluntary.

Note that the "affordable" in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) really reflects the substantial subsidies that will be provided to cover the costs of insurance purchased by individuals and small businesses on the mandated exchanges. There is little in the ACA about controlling the actual costs of healthcare delivery. Based on the experience of Medicare (elderly) and Medicaid (the poor) one should not expect much improvement from a federal program for the middle class.

Healthcare is a "superior" good. That means that as people get wealthier they prefer to spend an increasing share of their income on improving their health. Thus as we share a growing prosperity we should anticipate that a growing share of our individual and collective income will be spent on healthcare.

Common sense suggests that while we may find ways to ease the growth in healthcare spending it will continue to claim an increasing share of national income. To a large extent that is because people want what they deem to be the best healthcare available.

The Environment

Common Sense and the Environment

Issues linked to the environment are both domestic and global.

Climate change is a global issue that has been linked at least rhetorically to human-generated greenhouse gases. Common sense suggests that this is a problem that the US cannot solve on our own. Indeed, rapidly developing countries such as China, India, and Brazil are also rapidly becoming the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Not surprisingly they are unwilling to rein in their economic growth and falling poverty levels in order to "save the planet." We are deluding ourselves if we believe that US residents are prepared to cut back on our own standard of living in order to compensate for the lack of effort by other countries.

Reliance on renewable energy is unlikely to be an environmentally friendly alternative. Wind and solar farms may not generate carbon emissions, but they are not environmentally benign. Ethanol does little to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, but the introduction of marginal land - including environmentally critical wetlands - into agricultural use has an environmental downside.

As the man said, "there's no such thing as a free lunch."

A Country Divided

Losing Our Country's Social Capital

The key observation [of Murray]: the social behavior of the elite professional class is largely unchanged over the past 50 years. The behavior of poorly educated, working class folks has changed markedly and for the worse. Interestingly, Murray focuses his attention not on the behavior of the blue-collar class; rather he singles out the most elite (and the most liberal) for criticism.

Income Inequality and Our Country's Human Capital

We agree that the ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor is a cause for concern. Americans are no longer "sharing a common prosperity." The growing inequality of income over the past 50 years undoubtedly is linked to the decline in the share of middle-income jobs throughout the US economy. Tax increases on the wealthy will not lead to a return of middle-skilled and middle-paying jobs. Rebuilding the US base of human capital will be a key step to ease the inequality of income.

Economic Policy Debates

Monetary Policy Is Strongly Influenced by the State of the Housing Market

Maintaining low interest rates is a standard tool in combating recessions. But a major focus of current policy appears to be efforts to keep home prices from falling. Monetary policy in support of housing is merely causing the housing recovery to be slow and painful rather than swift and painful. The housing market will not clear and reach an equilibrium as long as the Federal Reserve holds long-term mortgage rates below equilibrium levels. In our opinion these initiatives also have some unfavorable unintended consequences. We now have negative real interest rates; underwater mortgages will constrain consumer spending for many households; negative real interest rates and declining real wealth will constrain the spending of other consumers. As a consequence economic recovery is being constrained.

Economic Recovery Won't Be Quick

Recent analysis from Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff suggest that GDP growth in the US might be stuck near 2 1/2% and the unemployment rate will hang near 8 to 8 1/2% for the next three to five years if not longer. In our opinion the key factor is debt. Most sectors of the US economy need to "delever;" that is, lower their debt. There is no quick fix. Economic policy needs to be thoughtful, focused, and patient. The next president needs to convey this message and then lead our country out of the current mess.

Economic Policy Debates

Long Term Global Economic Stability Requires Balance in Foreign Trade

We support free and open foreign trade. That said, common sense clearly indicates that the US cannot continue to be the world's primary net importer. If this ongoing imbalance continues there will be a crisis in global financial markets and foreign trade will collapse. This will not benefit anyone, at least anyone that we should care about. The new president must play a leadership role in helping our leading trading partners develop policies and programs that will encourage and enable their citizens to enjoy a greater share of their country's growing prosperity.

China Needs Us More than We Need China

More than once we have heard people express fears that China will hold the US hostage by threatening to dump our securities on the world markets. The consequences of such an action would likely be more painful for China than the US. Not only does China need to hold on to most of those securities, it actually needs us as a buyer of their goods more than we need them as a supplier. It is a symbiotic economic and financial relationship in which the US actually is the stronger partner.

Other Key Policy Issues

There are several highly partisan issues that also will require strong leadership if they are to be resolved in a rational manner. People are passionate about healthcare, immigration, the environment, and foreign policy. The political rhetoric ignores the common sense reality of these highly charged issues.

The Reality of the Immigration Debate

Immigration has been a powerful, positive force in the development of the US. We need a rational discussion of our current opportunities and challenges.

First a common sense observation. There is no practical or politically acceptable way to deport all of the estimated 10 to 15 million illegal residents in the US. The relevant discussion therefore should address who should be deported and who would be given the option of remaining in the US. These issues must be addressed in a thoughtful process to minimize the potential for dividing the country.

We need a leader to help advocates and opponents of immigration find ways to master their emotions, overcome groupthink, and develop realistic approaches to addressing the challenges.

Economic Policy Debates

The Debate Over Tax Policy

The current US income tax system is largely a political creation and remains a political tool. The current rhetoric is misleading and disingenuous. The popular arguments on fairness that focus on who-is-paying-what miss the more important challenges in the current tax system. Common sense suggests that it will be far easier to create and maintain an equitable tax system if the special and often distorting tax breaks were eliminated. At a minimum the Simpson Bowles proposals provide an excellent starting point; they may well be close to an acceptable and balanced final plan.

The Generation Gap in the Federal Budget Deficit

As we see it there are two fundamental issues embedded in the current controversy over the federal deficit. The most visible is linked to how best to bring the burgeoning deficit under control. This is best characterized as the battle between more taxes or less spending. The heart of the problem, however, is Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, if there are no changes in Medicare and Social Security, class warfare in the future will have heavily taxed younger workers resenting the relatively comfortable lifestyles of retirees. There will be no sharing of a common prosperity under these circumstances. Common sense indicates that there must be changes that will reduce the growth of Medicare and Social Security.