



Editorial / Opinion

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Election 2012:

President Obama or Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney? Will your vote be the difference?

by **Jae Mckrae - Editor** * www.fayettevillepress.com

It's time again for Americans to take the country's fate into their own hands. It's time to VOTE! We all have a decision to make. For some, it might even be a 'mind-blowing' decision. While on the other hand, for others, it's really not difficult at all. There are 2 choices. They both have different directions for the country to get us to same destination. For example, they both want to lower unemployment, as well as the country's deficit.

Why is voting a big deal?

History tells us in 1865 when the American Civil War ended, it was also supposed to end slavery. This 'Government Reconstruction' offered equality, and provided former slaves access to education; many were allowed to vote and hold office. Black politicians were put in office throughout the south. This infuriated many elite whites, and violence erupted and blood was shed. The southern whites called it redemption. They were not happy with where the country was going and wanted to "take their country back." Today, they don't want to keep their country "Black!" Sound familiar?

By the summer of 1866, six young ex-Confederate officers organized what was portrayed as a "social club." Their nightly rides with members disguising themselves in masks and flowing robes, soon became a political successor to the slave patrols in controlling newly freed blacks. These Klansmen assaulted and murdered thousands. During this "redemption," many black businesses as well as schools were burned. Black people were —'put in their places'—intimidated, run off and even killed. Armed mobs of angry whites blocked black voters at polling places. Voting gave those 'colored people' too much power!

In 1860s, tricks and viciousness prevailed. Ballot boxes were stolen and destroyed. Black 'elected' officials in the Carolinas, and other southern states were forced from office by armed whites. Mobs routinely murdered with no repercussions. The federal courts at that time couldn't or wouldn't enforce any rights to take part in federal elections; they said voting in local elections wasn't a right guaranteed by the federal government, so it was out of their hands. This gave freedom to those southern states to wreak havoc against black voters.

Tricks

National trickery is a great concern across the country. Fake phone calls went out in some states telling voters they could vote over the phone. In Pennsylvania, billboards are up requiring voters to bring their IDs, although they don't have to. Without question, there is a lot of confusion surrounding this year's election. Why would any state want to be a part of the confusion that could taint an election and deprive the people of their right to vote?

Election 2012

To start with, you cannot deny, the country's hole was deep when President Obama was elected to fill it. Don't be thrown off or confused by pundits who bark at the increased deficit. Can anyone effectively save a mansion from deteriorating without spending a lot of money just to get it back to what is perceived as livable? You can understand why President Obama needed a tremendous amount of dirt (dollars) to fill the hole just to get it back to ground level (back to a workable condition with room for growth). It's a fact, President Obama has spent more than other Presidents; he also inherited more debt than any other President. A lot of the spending has been the President riding out someone else's policies - Iraq war - Afghanistan - Bush Tax Cuts - and those things have been proven to be difficult to stop. Is it fair to link all the spending to Obama's policy if some of the spending was passed under another President?

This year's election is going to be far more revealing about who we are as a country. According to some white voters, in 2008, it was a warm and fuzzy time for change. For some, the novelty of electing a President of color, okay, okay... a 'Black' President was appealing. Now, since the majority Republican Congress was elected, a few issues on the President's table are clashes with the new majority in Congress, unemployment, and the increased deficit.

Some want to oust the President for not lowering the unemployment rate he set when he took office. Actually, the rate has fallen, but nowhere near the goal, he set for himself. What is so ironic regarding unemployment, the critics shouting the loudest are gainfully employed? In a nutshell, some feel President Obama's newness has worn.

Honestly, it is more astonishing that President Obama has accomplished as much as he has. So much time was spent defending his position on issues that were once supported by the Republicans, but are now opposed by them. When a party makes public it's number one goal is to make sure the President is a one term President, the picture becomes clearer. So, the President's efforts have not fallen on blind eyes or deaf ears. President Obama must always make decisions that he deems necessary to improve the country.

What's the problem?

(There has been a national effort to deter or even prevent a certain sect of people who have historically been left out of the voting process. States wanted to institute new laws, it was obvious why. Some Republicans admitted that states where these laws pass, Mitt Romney was guaranteed a win. So, there is no secret why non-supporters of the President wanted these new laws and rules to be implemented. If you look closely, you can see through the clouds of confusion leading up to this year's presidential election. Talk to your family and friends; don't let them be victimized. If so, the intimidators win!

Get out and vote

When your candidate wins, there is no doubt you feel like your vote made the difference. Even candidates, who lost could have won, had some of those non-voters realized the power in their vote. As the saying goes, when 'good men do nothing,' they get 'nothing good' done! Voting is one of the few examples where regardless of your status in the community, your vote and the vote of CEOs, Billionaires/millionaires who live in a 25, 000 sq. ft. home surrounding by a 30 ft. electric fence, have the same value.

Your vote is your voice. I encourage you to say something. You have until November 3 to vote early. Then, get to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, by any means necessary: bicycle, tricycle, helicopter, police escort, skateboard, or roller blades. Just get there!

To review the President's long list of accomplishments, visit this site: <http://3chicspolitico.com/President-obamas-accomplishments/>

Let's Win This, Before Election Day

by **First Lady Michelle Obama**

Yesterday, I cast my ballot for Barack Obama for President. That's right, yesterday — I voted early by mail in my home state of Illinois. And next week, Barack is going to vote early in person back home in Chicago.

We're voting early because we're ready to keep building on the progress we've made together for another four years — and with opportunities to vote early in so many states, there's no reason to wait.

Voting early is quick and convenient. It means you don't have to worry about your schedule filling up, or getting sick, or having to work late on Election Day. And more than anything, it means you can act — right now — to move our country forward. That's why I voted early by mail. I know how important this election is. And the truth is, even if Barack weren't my husband, I'd be supporting him because of who he is and where he's going to take this country.

As First Lady, I have seen firsthand what being President really looks like. I've seen how the issues that come across a President's desk are always the hard ones — decisions that aren't just about the bottom line, but about laying a foundation for the next generation. I've seen how important it is to have a President who doesn't just tell us what we want to hear, but who tells us the truth, even when it's hard — especially when it's hard. And I've seen that when it comes time to make those tough calls, and everyone's urging you to do what's easy, or what polls best, or what gets good headlines, as President, you need to be driven by the struggles, hopes, and dreams of all the people you serve. You need to be committed to lifting up every single American.

And since the day he took office, on issue after issue, crisis after crisis, that's what we've seen in my husband. We've got to remember how, when Barack first took office, the economy was collapsing and a lot of folks wondered whether we were headed for a second Great Depression.

But Barack acted swiftly, cutting taxes for small businesses and working families. Instead of listening to those who said we should let the American auto industry go bankrupt, Barack had the backs of American workers — and today, the auto industry is back on its feet.

So while we still have a long way to go to completely rebuild our economy, there are more and more signs that we are headed in the right direction. The stock market has doubled. Exports have grown by 45 percent. Manufacturers have added half a million jobs. And we've had 31 straight months of private sector job growth, totaling 5.2 million new jobs right here in America.

Meanwhile, as he was working to rescue our economy, Barack was also working to reform our health care system. Because of that reform, seniors are saving hundreds of dollars on their prescriptions, young people can stay on their parents' insurance until they're 26 years old, and insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against you because of a pre-existing condition like asthma or diabetes.

Barack has moved us forward in so many other ways as well. He made college more affordable by doubling funding for Pell Grants and keeping student loan interest rates down. He ended the Iraq War, did away with Don't Ask Don't Tell, and he made the decision to take out Osama bin Laden. Because of Barack, young immigrants who came to this country through no fault of their own no longer have to live in fear of being deported from the only country they've ever called home.

And again and again, Barack has stood up for women. The first bill he signed helps women get equal pay for equal work. And he has made it clear that he will always fight to ensure that we can make our own decisions about our bodies and our health care.

So the choice we face in this election is clear: We can go back to the same, failed policies of the past — or we can continue the progress we've made and keep our country moving forward.

I know where I stand, and yesterday, I made my voice heard. So I want to ask you to vote — and vote early — for Barack, so that together, we can keep growing this economy out from the middle class, so that everyone's got a fair shot, no matter who they are, what they look like, or who they love.

If you've got any questions about where or when you can vote in your neighborhood, go to Vote.BarackObama.Com to find out everything you need to know to cast your ballot.

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