

NOTE: The names of the moderator and participants have all been changed to protect their privacy. The opening discussion where participants introduce themselves has been removed.

All right, so let me ask you about some issues are really important to you right now? What are the main ones? What are the ones you paying attention to? What issues are kind of top of mind for you?

Immigration for me.

Immigration.

I'm at TSA. Just the rules and we're getting people sent down there a lot. Taking us away from our families and our airports to go down there to work.

I didn't know that was happening. Immigration, OK, what else?

Obviously, all that stuff about Trump on the news and how all our elected officials are so concerned with everything but doing their job. That's a big concern for me.

What else? Beth, what are you –

The only things that I actually read are things that pertain to me. For me, it's school meals and how it affects the kids. That's what I do, so that's me.

More local things?

Sometimes it's local and sometimes it's things that happen in other states that could have a ripple effect on other things.

Give me an example. What kind?

Well right now, there are some issues of schools not providing meals for kids because their parents aren't paying their school fees or they racked up too many, too much money basically in their accounts and their not paying them, so they don't feed the kids or they'll give them a basic just sandwich and milk or something like that. For me, I see both sides because I have kids in the district and I see kids that can either A, take advantage of that situation or B, they actually do need a meal and their food balances. Our district is nice enough where they will always get a meal and they don't have to just choose from one. They can choose and make a meal out of it, but not all districts do that.

Franklin does not [crosstalk 00:09:31].

No I'm in Oak Creek.

My kids are in Oak Creek as well. Whenever we've been negative in our balance, they've never been denied ever, ever which is great.

I mean, you forget.

We're not taking advantage, but it just helps. My husband's like, "Oh, got to put money in" because –

What other issues are we thinking about? Erica, what are you?

Mine is Amazon turning the streets turning into seven lanes over here because I live right over here. It affects us. I'm constantly reading about that and yes.

Hannah, how about you?

I've been reading and hearing some things about bullying in the schools and things like that. That's just not right with me. It shouldn't happen.

Is it happening more than it used to?

I think so, yes. I think with the internet. It kind of makes it worse now.

Cathy, what about you?

You're afraid to step in. Even teachers might be afraid to step in and try and take charge because –

Cathy, what kind of issues are you thinking about?

All these officer-involved shootings. Crime everywhere. You turn on the news and that's all you hear is another shooting.

Alice. What are your other issues? What does it really matter to you or you're paying attention to?

Everyone's wack-a-doodles and shooting up everything.

Glenna.

My platform that I usually look at is Facebook, and I've seen a lot of – I follow a lot of nursing students since I'm a nursing student and I see a lot about the abortion laws going on in different states, so I guess I've been paying more attention to that. That's been drawing my attention.

Any other big issues that you're thinking about, you've been paying more attention to or seeing more on the news or catching your eye?

Crash and robberies in Oak Creek. Cars, did anybody hear about that? Ours got hit, so that was – I thought of that too when somebody else was talking.

Right, so more crime, OK.

I want to do a fill-in-the-blank sentence. Just get a word or a phrase in your mind that fills in the blank for you. Here it is. I feel blank about the way things are going in the country these days. I feel – what's your word or phrase? Erica.

Scared.

Scared. What else?

That's a good one.

Scared also.

Sad.

Worried.

Irritated.

Disappointed.

Sad. Worried.

Irritated.

Disappointed. Irritated.

Annoyed.

Hannah, did I –

Worried.

Did everyone give me a word? Worried, sad, scared, disappointed, annoyed, irritated. How come? What's the main thing that made you choose those kinds of words? Irritated?

Well, things are just getting so out of hand. I mean, it's –

What do you mean when you say that?

Well I refer to politicians and stuff. These people make so much money. They have lifetime benefits once they're out of there and they can't just do their job. If any one of us didn't do our job, we'd be gone, given our walking papers. These people just – it's frustrating.

Why scared?

Well, I've lived in the same house for 13 years now. When we first moved in, we left our cars unlocked, everything. I'm scared at night. If my dogs start barking, I have a panic attack. I'm scared to what's out there. Is someone out there?

Why are they barking?

Exactly, and my husband works third shifts so I'm home alone a lot with the kids by myself, and it is. It's scary. When I go to stores, I stay around. I don't go far. I stay home close. I stay where I need to feel safe, but most places I don't feel safe anymore either.

When you say scared, you mean literally scared?

Yes, literally scared. I have trouble falling asleep at night. I don't feel safe in my home even though I have two dogs that would protect us. All our windows are locked all night long, doors, everything, but still, you don't know. Especially with the Oak Creek with cars being broken into now. Granted no one's coming up because my neighbors have lights on.

That's what cameras are for.

What else? Alice, your word was sad. Is that right?

Yes.

Why sad? What's going on with that?

Because I don't know. The world is just kind of declining. We're losing our values of who we were and one of those, if you're Republican, you refused to do what a Democrat wants and if a Democrat, you refuse to do what a Republican – to me, it shouldn't be about a party line. It should be about –

Taking care of people.

What's best for us.

You agree or you don't agree. The whole issue is it should be what the people want, not what you want.

What else? Disappointed. Go ahead.

It's kind of in the same realm of that. Everyone's fighting. I was a part of the government shut down where I didn't get paid. People are doing their thing. They're getting lots of money for doing it and they're taking [inaudible 00:15:00].

Taking it out on us, yes.

Did you still have to show up to work?

I did, yes, for over a month and a half.

Thank you for doing that.

For about two months, my family didn't get paid because of that.

Is anything going well? Can you point to anything that you feel is on the right track, going well?

I think the economy's better.

What tells you that?

Well, low job unemployment from everything we've read and what I've researched myself. I just don't believe a website if I'm on it because there's so many incorrect things. You mention Facebook. I don't get my news from Facebook because it's not true, but job numbers are low for all different marks of life, all different ethnicities. It's a great thing that way.

Economy's good, low unemployment, all right. Beth, what do you think? Anything going well? Anything you'd point to that's good?

I'm pretty neutral, I think. Everything's just more out there than it used to be. I think people are still the same, but everything just seems to be more in-your-face now. Everybody can see what John Smith is doing in California because it's online and you still have good people, bad people, but it's more I guess out there with the negative and sometimes the good doesn't always outweigh the negative that's out there. I think people are still the same.

Hannah, any good that you can point to? Anything going well?

I kind of agree with the economy getting better and people having jobs. You can tell people are spending again because there's always people in the stores shopping for something.

You can tell because you can see people buying things. When you think about your kids or the next generation, do you feel mainly hopeful or more doubtful about the way things are going? Are you kind of looking at the future, the next generation? What do you think?

My kids won't see social security. I mean, and they're 27 and 30, but, I mean, seriously, think about it. By the time they can retire, even my 30-year-old, he'll work until he's 70 if he's – like he said, "I'll probably die before my student loans are paid off." Seriously. Student loan debt is another huge, huge factor in these kids' lives.

I forgot about that. I already have so much debt.

It is. He went four years to a private college out of state. He went two and a half years to UWM. Then he went two and a half years down at Illinois State for his masters. Although his masters was 90 percent paid for because he got grants and scholarships, it paid the tuition. It didn't pay your book fees and your this fee and that fee and housing because there's not a whole lot of on-campus housing when you're studying for your masters.

Student debt, social security, thinking about the future, next generation. How do you feel, Erica?

[crosstalk 00:18:35] well I have three different variations. I got in the 20s, three 16-year-olds, and my kids are five, three, and one and a half. 20-year-olds are still living with us because they can't make a living. They don't have a college degree. They have a high school diploma and they work at fast food. 16-year-olds, I'm praying that some of them will go to college. And my kids, I mean, I'm scared. I was scared

to have kids already with the way the economy is starting to – as you see, there’s shootings, drugs are getting bad, all that.

Next generation, Alice, what do you think?

Well, I work in the high school.

Oh boy.

We’re all in trouble. No, for clarification, if they’re not happy, then I’m just not going to do it. I don’t see any work ethic values.

Like I have to work hard to get where I want to be. It should just be handed to them.

I mean, to me, there is no job better than another. You need doctors and you need garbage men. I mean, even my own child who’s 20, was always like, “I will never work fast food.” You’re above it? I just think –

I also believe what I see they get handed, you have to hand it to them. That irritates me. Especially my 16-year-olds. They want to go on this or do that, but money, money, money. It’s like, OK.

Can you help around the house?

One won’t even clean for me. The other will clean all the time and one’s in-between, but that’s just it. That’s like the 20-year-olds. They think that should live rent-free and not have to do anything. I still pay for food and water and electricity.

They all need a trophy.

They do.

Cathy, next generation, what do you think?

I’m kind of lumping it all in with the drugs and all that. They’re just going to be so readily available.

More doubtful about the next generation?

Try to hopeful but I think it’s more doubtful.

I think the bullying is going to get worse too.

What’s going to get worse?

Bullying.

I thought you said bowling [crosstalk 00:20:50].

At the school district, there was someone who took her daughter out because her child was being bullied and they weren't doing anything about that.

I've heard that.

And parents aren't doing something. I'm sorry, if my child's bullying, I want someone to call and tell me that so I can deal with my child because to me, that's not right. And some parents don't even care. It's like whatever because they're that way to their own child too, but there should be consequences for that.

I think parents are scared nowadays to do things. Back in the day, I went to a catholic school and I got my butt whooped by the nuns when I wasn't in line with everybody else. It's like you spank your kid, you're going to get in trouble. You do this do your kid, you discipline your kid – I think that's making people scared.

Yes, totally [crosstalk 00:21:34].

They throw a tantrum, they're like, "Do I swat them on the butt or not?" [inaudible 00:21:39] online, they might call 9-1-1 and say, "Hey, this lady's beating her kid."

Over anxious, I get that. I was at Walmart once. My child ran away from me, and another gentleman who was older said, "You should spank your child." I said, "If I do that, I'm going to get in trouble." I said, "I would love to do that" because I do believe that a swat on the butt or a smack on the hand if you're going to touch something or you're going to swear or a tap on the mouth. I believe in those things, but you're going to get in trouble. You go to school. They say one little word.

You've got someone asking questions now.

Exactly.

No matter what you tell them. They take you away, then you're living with somebody else too. My kids tried to do the same thing and we use physical punishment very sparingly because if you do it all the time, it's meaningless. That's like the big guns. Really, all you have to do is just – it's mostly my daughter is just even grab her arm. My husband's the heavy, you know? He's just got to grab her and say he's going to spank her and ah, that's all it takes. It's very rare but they also have got to understand, hey.

There's consequences.

You're not running the show here. We are. Our outlook is kind of scary with social media, like you said the bullying. Is this at East?

I think so.

My daughter goes there too, and she says there's bullying going on. They do nothing. Somebody started a fire in the garbage can. They did nothing. She just told me yesterday some transgender student got beat up by several people. I'm like, "Where's the expelling of these people?" "Oh, this one's got, they're on an IEP and they have –"

Is that what they said?

Then there's all – “this one's got problems” and whatever. It's OK to excuse that. I mean the political correctness is sickening. It really –

Let me just switch gears a little bit and go back to some issues that go back to the news. A word association sort of thing. Really tell me what comes to mind when you hear the word or phrase and some of them we'll discuss a little bit more. The first one is the economy, which you guys touched on already. When you hear the economy, what's the first thing that comes to mind? What do you think of?

Improving.

Going up. Or at least steady.

Money.

Spending.

I agree with money.

Money.

Yes.

We'll get back to it in a little bit or maybe we'll just go ahead and do it. How about for you personally? How's the economy doing? Would you say it's getting better for you, like your personal?

I would say yes. I work for a manufacturing company, so when we've got probably 20 different customers in our one plant. Everybody in the whole entire company just got a raise because all of our customers are doing good.

It has hit you personally. Anybody else feel like you personally are doing better in this economy?

Yes, we just got word that we're getting a raise and we didn't have one for probably two years because we're a nonprofit so it's obvious. You can't give money when there's none. Then we're also getting a bonus check, which is nice.

Raises, bonuses. Anybody else feeling it or anybody not feeling it?

No.

Not feeling it?

No, my husband is a federal employee, works in the prison system and that whole time, we didn't get paid. Bills didn't get paid. We Energies was up our butt. Mortgage company, and they wouldn't do anything but extend our mortgage maybe another month or whatever, but they wouldn't work with us.

And it's the same government system. He's not only a federal employee, he's a veteran. Our income was based on that. He drives to Chicago every day just to have a job to provide for us and we had to pay for his gas. We paid for the iPass. We're paying for the insurance, and we had no income coming in.

That's hard.

There's no bright side necessarily.

Do you feel like you've been able to dig out from that now or is it still affecting you?

We've gotten back to even, but now we're not going to save because I'm only a seasonal employee so I work in the schools. I don't work during the summer and I signed a contract with the district. I can't collect unemployment, so basically, you're frugal. You don't spend much. We don't do vacations unless it's a family home or something like that of somebody else. We're very tight-fisted with a lot of things.

Who are the winners and losers or people losing out in this economy? Who are the ones that are doing well and the ones that are not doing well? Can you point to groups of people or types of people?

CEOs are doing well.

I was going to say the rich keep getting richer.

Rich keep getting richer. Alice, what do you think? Who's winning here in this economy?

I don't have an opinion on that one.

Do you see people who are losing out, who are falling behind? Cathy, what do you think?

People who are making minimum wage. It's hard to live on that.

And rents aren't cheap. I mean, if you're renting, rents are atrocious. Especially here.

If you went somewhere – even that, it all depends on where you want to live. If you don't want to be where the crime is. What are you supposed to do? My son's minimum wage. My stepson works at Wendy's and what's he supposed to do? He lives with us and pays a little bit at a time. He can't get places on his own or with someone.

Glenna, how about you? Who do you see as doing well in this economy and maybe losing out or falling behind?

From what I've heard, it's all government workers. Just from you two saying about the government workers. Then the people who are doing well, obviously the bigger corporation, like CEOs, and presidents of hospitals and that kind of stuff.

Anyone else anyone wants to put on either one of those lists? Winners? Losers? All right, let's get back to our word association. When you hear this, tell me what comes to mind. Wages keeping up with costs. Wages keeping up with costs.

People's wages staying the same and costs still going up for food, gas, for car parts.

You don't see that happening? You don't see the wages –

No, it's not. I mean, yes, my husband gets raises twice a year, but I mean, still to feed a family. There's 10 of us. It's costly.

I'm sure, I'm sure. Cathy, what do you think? Wages keeping up with costs.

Keep up with the cost. With minimum wage or not even minimum wage, but it's like I work with people who make more than that but all I hear about and complain is that they can't afford their bills and they can't –

Everything keeps going up, and what you might get in a raise doesn't even come close to meeting your car insurance going up or your home owner's or renter's insurance going up.

Even if we feel that wages are coming up a little, it's still not meeting –

Medical bills.

[inaudible 00:29:26] negate that. I mean for us – TSA pays really well. They do pay their employees really well and I'm shocked and I'm crossing my fingers I don't jinx myself, but usually when we get a raise, all of a sudden, here comes along, your insurance premium is going up two or three percent. Then that literally, that's negative. Or you've got to contribute to this more or something. It really – you feel like, "Yay" for about two seconds and then it's now I'm worse off.

How about this? Top one percent. What do you think of when you hear top one percent? What's that mean to you?

Never me.

Yes, right. I'm not one of them.

Oprah.

CEO.

That's why I said the bigwigs.

Bigwigs.

Rich people.

Healthcare costs.

Ridiculous. Unreal. Absolutely ridiculous.

It's too expensive.

It is, especially for someone who has an illness they cannot control. I have Crohn's Disease. I can't control that. I have to see a doctor every three months. I have to have a procedure done. I have to have a medication that out-of-pocket with insurance costs 90 dollars every month and I can't. Without, it costs 18,000, so if I can't afford it –

I have a friend who has Crohn's. It's ridiculous.

Right.

A lot of people skip their medications.

We're hearing about people dying because these illnesses are preventable but the medication that you can't afford can't prevent what you need to prevent.

How about unions? Unions.

Helpful to a point.

Yes.

Helpful to a point.

My husband is in one.

Cathy.

I don't know what the point is.

Tell me. What's the ambivalence there?

I don't know. My parents and neighbor, he works in a union and he wasn't union and now he is. It's just like they were talking about how great his job is, how great it was going to be and it's really not.

You really have to – they don't help? They don't –

Not really.

They used to.

They used to .

It's a thing of the past.

I was going to say my parents were factory workers, and my grandpa was a truck driver so I grew up in a very strong union family and being part of the school district, I'm part of the union, but, yes. I mean, it doesn't really – it's kind of just a title now. I pay my dues, but that's it.

Especially because at 10, ATC is union as well for the teachers and actually more recently, I'm not in the union anymore because I had a raise and clearly, I didn't pick the raise or whatever, but anyway, it has a place for things. I think in one way, it's good because it does protect workers against safety issues so they don't get taken advantage of by management. But on the other hand, you've got the lazy people that are –

Protected by it.

Protected by it, exactly. I can speak to that with our instructors because it's not a union per se, but you would think that it never happened, F10 never happened with our local 212 instructors. The stuff they get away with is beyond believable so it's a 50-50 with me. I think –

Where are you on unions, Hannah?

I don't know.

Just kind of –

Yes.

How about immigration? Let's touch on that for a minute. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of immigration? Erica.

Out of control sometimes.

Glenna.

Touchy. I don't want to touch it.

Beth, what do you think? Immigration.

I don't think enough people see both sides. I think more people are seeing a lot of negative. Some of the people in poverty or that are affected by it are seeing the negative side of it where if everybody could see kind of both sides and how it can be good for some families, but then maybe the families that are losing the loved ones are the loved ones causing the problems. "I just want to marry the person I love, but they're from another country and now these people can't come in." They have a job, but they can't come here because of that.

Cathy, how about you? Immigration.

I agree with that.

Kind of both sides or there's more than one side to it. Fiona, immigration for you.

It's a hard subject for me I think because I understand the need for it, but then you hear stories of them coming in and getting benefits and getting that, and you're like, "Well, what about the people in our country?"

Next one. Climate change. Climate change.

I believe in it.

Not that pollution's not – I can't believe it's not causing harm, but I think it's a lot of politicians. Again, we're back to that again, screaming whatever because I think that they have their people that they're getting money from and the back door stuff and I don't know.

Some doubts about climate change?

Absolutely, absolutely.

Alice, what about you? Climate change?

Unfortunately, it's a political thing. Do I think we're destroying our earth? Yes, but as I drink my bottled water, you know.

Is there anything out there that tells you maybe climate change is real or is something we should be concerned about?

Not in Wisconsin. Our weather isn't any different.

Crazy weather.

Not crazy like that, but until Wisconsin is Jamaica and Florida is Alaska, that to me is just life.

It's just Mother Nature.

It's Mother Nature.

They talk about, "Oh, you know, back in the early 1900s and past, earlier than that these kind of weather things happened then too."

Hannah, climate change, what do you think?

I don't know.

Doubts or do you think it's –

I doubt.

Here's the next one. The Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of – Cathy, what do you think?

I mean I think it was helpful for people who couldn't afford health insurance.

I mean, it wasn't me, but it was a personal experience. I slipped over New Year's Eve and broke my arm. If I didn't have health insurance, I would be paying for these medical bills for the rest of my life. You know what I mean? It was nice for people who couldn't afford that.

Obamacare, Beth.

I'm OK that it went through. I think everybody has the right to healthcare and quality healthcare, but unfortunately, it kind of depends on where you live and the quality of healthcare you're getting and what you can afford to pay for those services.

And what places will accept Obamacare. Not every clinic or doctor will accept.

Fiona, what do you think? Obamacare.

I want to say, I don't know if this is the right word, but I want to say that I think it was premature. It wasn't thought out enough. People were still confused when it came out. The website wasn't working. Just the overall, people were just so confused about what the heck this new product was and I think they should have just worked for a little bit.

Glenna, how about you and then I'm going to move on?

I guess I don't really know much about it. I mean, I'm insured. I've been insured under my parents so I don't really – I guess it's really not my – that's sounds really bad. I guess it's not my problem. I don't really know about it, I guess. I guess if it were more my problem, I would read up on it but it's not really in my vision.

The next one, Medicaid. What do you think of? What do you know? What comes to mind? Alice.

It has its place, but it gets abused. I mean, I think of – I had my daughter when I was younger so I was on state insurance because I didn't have insurance through my job. And I always remember going for help, and they were like, "You qualify for food stamps. You qualify for this. You qualify for that." I was like, "I live at home with my parents. I don't need any of that. I just need medical insurance so I can give birth," but they just kept wanting to give you stuff. I see how easy it is for people to take advantage of it and I don't think they clean up the system to get people who are abusing it.

A lot of heads nodding yes on that one. Anything else about Medicaid?

I think it could be better for our seniors. When I think of Medicaid, I think of my mother-in-law and my mom and how they all have to get supplemental insurance.

Are you thinking Medicare then or are you –

Yes, maybe I'm confusing them, so yes. A lot with what Alice said too. I agree. I think it can be abused.

Anything else? The next one is the tax cuts that passed last year. The tax cuts that passed last year.

I don't know enough about it.

Yes.

Don't know enough about it.

While I know in this state, they're getting more in their check than I am and I think it was necessary, but I was super mad when my taxes were two to three grand less this year, and I paid – I had two years of property taxes which I never did in 18 years of living there, and it made nothing. No, it didn't matter at all.

You feel like it came out as a wash in the end?

No, I feel like I was shorted by two to three grand. If it would have been the year before, I probably would have had three or four grand more than what, on top of the two to three grand that I was missing because I was doing two years of property taxes in the same year.

The tax cuts, a lot of people said, "Oh, I don't really know that much." What do you know or did you feel any – were your taxes cut?

I never paid attention.

I just take my taxes in.

Don't really know or didn't really feel it.

It was like, oh, whatever [crosstalk 00:40:27].

And I did get some.

Erica.

My husband deals with the taxes since he's the employed on. It seems like we're a little over than the year before.

Big corporations. What do you think of?

Money.

Money.

Money.

Big corporations.

I think there's a big gap between what management and CEOs make compared to the people who actually do the work and actually do the work.

Run the place.

Right, and know about things. Management spends a lot of time in meetings and they don't actually do. I mean, so –

OK, anything else about big corporations?

A necessary evil.

Any particular ones come to mind?

Apple.

Big pharma.

Lots of big pharma, OK. Apple you said?

Amazon.

Amazon's a big one, yes.

Pharmaceutical companies is next on my list. What do you think of when you hear pharmaceutical companies?

Rip off.

Highway robbery.

Yes.

Highway robbery, yes.

How about outsourcing? Outsourcing. What do you think of? What comes to mind when you hear that word?

Don't know.

Outsourcing, Hannah.

Like how are you referring to that? Outsourcing like at your job or outsourcing.

What comes to mind when you hear it? What's the first thing you think of?

I don't know. I guess some companies are trying to outsource instead of hire full-time employees and giving them paid benefits. They try and outsource that work.

Alice, any thoughts about outsourcing?

Like I said, my parents were factory so automotive and engines. Everything went over to China, so I just picture that. And also just working in the school system, there's no full-time jobs. I mean, there are some but, so many jobs are part-time and they just hire two part-time instead of –

Then no benefits have to be paid.

We touched on this earlier, but student loan debt. Student loan debt.

Ridiculous.

Absolutely ridiculous.

Disgusting. Ridiculous.

If I didn't live with my parents and my dad and mom didn't help me, they pulled out a separate parent loan and I pulled out my own student loan, there's no way I could have done it by myself. People without a support system, I don't think it's really possible.

It's just sad, and I think that's why so many kids don't go to college because they can't afford it.

And you can't even claim bankruptcy on it anymore because what was it? President Obama moved it over to the government, so now you can't even claim bankruptcy so now you're stuck. I'm tens of thousands of dollars in debt from an associate's degree, and just the interest alone is ridiculous, and it's only six point whatever, but that's times whatever. I'm literally taking classes just to keep from paying it because I don't have the extra 300, 400 dollars to start making payments on it. It's sickening when I think about it.

Retirement.

It's not great.

Is that a thing?

Is that a thing?

Well, my dad's in his 60s and he's still working and the way he looks at it is in another five years for social security, he will get more if he waits it out five years, but it's like are you actually going to be able to make it that five years? I mean, might as well just – I don't know. I just don't think it's there.

Not there.

Not anymore. I think it's a thing of the past too. I have coworkers that are, I hate to say it, 70s, some early 80s because they can't afford health insurance or prescriptions for their significant others so they have to stay and work.

Just a couple more that are also on this list. Tariffs. Tariffs. What do you think of? What comes to mind?

More recent, possible Mexico and China and I believe that it's long overdue.

Long overdue.

Absolutely. We've been taken advantage of for way too long.

Alice, what do you think? Tariffs.

I can't say I'm really up on that.

Not up on it, no problem. Cathy, how about you?

Not really.

Not really paying attention to this one.

I just worry that it's going to affect relations with a lot of other countries. It'll be interesting to watch to see what happens, especially with China.

Hannah, tariffs.

I'm not up on it, so I –

Erica.

I just think of Mexico. That's because my husband and I were talking about it earlier today so that was –

Glenna, how about for you? Tariffs. Any thoughts?

Not really.

Along those lines, trade agreements with other countries. Trade agreements with other countries. What do you think of?

I think that was illegal. I don't know. Just from what you hear. It's just like – how do you even – I can't even watch the news. My dad watches it so he kind of updates me. I just can't. I can't watch any of that stuff.

Trade agreements, anybody keeping up on that or paying attention?

Sorry, I watch a lot of news about all this. Yes, I think it's necessary because again, I think that the agreements we've had in the past like NAFTA and stuff like that, they weren't benefitting us as Americans. We were giving away the cow and then some. I think it's good that those things are getting revised and looked at to benefit us a little bit better.

What about NAFTA tells you that it wasn't benefiting us? It wasn't benefiting the United States.

Boy, I'm trying to think exactly. I'm trying to think of articles that I read regarding that, how we were, how it wasn't benefiting us. I think it was just what we were doling out money-wise for different things and then the support that we would give. Then the other members of NAFTA weren't giving as much as us, if I'm remembering correctly. We obviously have a lot of money. We're a big first world country. We have a lot more people. A lot more money. We weren't – everybody wasn't paying their fair share is basically what it came down to if I'm not mistaken.

Anyone else? Thoughts on trade agreements?

Agreed.

I think that's what it was about. I'm trying to reach back in my memory banks here.

Are trade agreements necessary? Are they a good thing in general or not?

Yes.

I think so.

Necessary.

Necessary. Alice, what do you think?

I guess I'm really not opinionated.

Hannah, do you have any thoughts? Trade agreements, necessary? Don't know enough?

I don't know enough about it.

No problem. Last one on here, China. China. What do you think of? What's the first thing that comes to mind? Beth, what comes to mind when you think of China?

Products that aren't regulated.

What? Products that aren't regulated?

Crappy products that aren't regulated.

Anything else? Erica, China, what do you think of?

Jobs that we could have here that get sent over there because it's cheaper for them to [inaudible 00:48:18] than to –

Glenna, what do you think of? China.

I just think of clothes.

Clothes.

You think something's real and then you order it and it's from China. You know when you order off Amazon and you just don't know if it's going to be good or not, but it always ends up being from China. It takes two weeks.

Or way too small because you think it's normal sized and then you get it, and you're like, "Oh, are you kidding me?"

All right, so what I want to do now is I'm going to pass out some papers. I meant to tell you about this earlier but it's not school. I don't care about spelling or even penmanship, as long as I can read it. I'm going to have you sort of stay with me. Don't flip ahead. I'll pass them out. We're going to do the front page. I don't want you to flip ahead until we're ready, but you do not have to write full sentences on this. Words, phrases, bullet points, that kind of thing, you don't have to do real beautiful prose or anything like that. It's really just to get ideas down. There's eight of us, right? If you would take one and pass it. Take one and pass it. Put your first name, last initial up at the top. First name, last initial up at the top. We're just going to do this page. Don't flip ahead. Again, it doesn't have to be full sentences. In the first set of lines, I want you to write any good things that come to mind when you think about Donald Trump. In the second set of lines, any doubts you have about Donald Trump, and words or phrases are fine. Bullet points. Just write down anything that comes to mind. Good things on the first half, and doubts in the second half [task]. All right, keep writing. If you have more, just keep on going and if you're done, we're just going to discuss what we came up with. Let's start with the good things. Good things about Donald Trump. What did you come up with?

Cares about America.

What tells you that, Irene?

Because all the things that he's had to put up with in the last two and a half years has been ridiculous and the things that he's accomplished, despite all of that, tells me that. Also, the man was a billionaire. Why did he need to become – if I was a billionaire, would I be trying to be president and get mud slung at me every single second of every day? He takes it and just whatever. He doesn't care.

Erica, what did you write?

Good economy.

Economy's good.

That's what I wrote too. Economy.

Alice.

Willing to push for what he feels is right and definitely does not play the politically correct game.

Beth, what did you write?

He's taking action.

Taking action. Anything specifically you see him taking action on?

Not necessarily, and I don't follow him to a tee. I hear things, but I'm not on his Twitter feed.

What tells you that he's taking action? What gives you that sense?

I feel like he's getting things done in spite of people attacking him. Whether they attack him for the negative things or people praising him for the things that he's finally doing to X, Y, or Z. But he's getting things done.

Hannah. Good things.

I kind of agree with what everybody has said.

What did you write? What are the words that you put down?

Honestly, I just put not sure because I didn't vote for him. I wasn't sure how it would turn out, but he has gotten things done.

Glenna, good things.

I just wrote more job opportunities. That's really the only thing I've heard. I don't really –

More job opportunities. Fiona.

I said he has a good business mind at least. I don't want to say he runs the country like a business, but he knows what needs to be done economy-wise.

Cathy, did I hear yours?

Yes, I also put economy.

Anything I didn't hear in terms of good things or anything you just now thought of that you hadn't already written down? Good things.

I put patriotic and to – I think Fiona said, I don't know if it was you, but I like that he tells it like it is.

He tells it like it is.

I mean, I'd rather hear him vulgar and all tell it like it is than lie and be sweet in my face.

And what tells you that he's patriotic? What do you –

Because he cares about our veterans. He fights for him, and I think, again when he tells it like it is and isn't politically correct, when he gets mad about people kneeling at football games or respecting our flag, that says a lot.

Let's go to doubts now. What doubts do you have about Donald Trump? Or concerns, doubts, concerns? Cathy, anything.

I know I wasn't super sure but more about immigration.

What are your doubts? What's your sense or feeling?

I'm kind of – I don't know. That's why I put it as doubts.

The wall.

I put the wall too. He wants to build this wall and keep immigration out, but how much is that really going to do and what is that going to affect and is it just going to turn them into a different way? Instead are they going to go under the wall. What are they going to do?

You have doubts about the effectiveness of the wall?

Will it create some kind of a war too? I do believe, I do think he does help our country, but then sometimes I feel like is he going to create something because he is kind of out there?

You feel like there will be tensions with other countries. Glenna, doubts or concerns.

I mean I also put the wall under. There's two sides to immigration. It's hard when you don't have relations with people that are different culture. I mean I know my boyfriend is Hispanic, so I see his side. I try to see my dad's side too because he's pretty Republican. I kind of just try to put my point-of-view. Is this wall going to really do anything? I mean, people can dig under the wall and all of a sudden, they're going to put people on the wall. I don't know if it's really going to do anything.

What about the cost of the wall? Does that concern you?

That too. All of a sudden, it's a lot of unnecessary money that could be spent towards something else here.

What else? Doubts, concerns?

With all this, he's so stubborn. When he gets into his mind that that's what it is, then that's what it is. I voted for him too, but now as I'm seeing things. I don't think he's got reality of the common folk. "They could all just get other jobs for now. They could all just do this." He always says what we think and it's not really what we think. "We could put all those people in down customs and border protections under

the order. We could just put this wall on and it'll be fine." Those people don't want a wall down there. He has an intent with something, but it's not reality. That's what I think.

He's not in touch with us.

Not in touch. Over immigration specifically or are there –

A lot of other things. When he put us in a government shutdown, he was like, "Oh, they can just go babysit other people's kids. They can go work for Uber or Lyft." "No, we have to go to work. We don't have the opportunity to go for another job." I think he just – he doesn't think things through properly. He just follows his heart sometimes instead of what it should be.

Thinking about how it's affecting other people. Yes, just go get a second job. Well after you've worked all day at the job you're not getting paid at, you're supposed to go to another job at Wendy's or McDonald's and Pick 'n' Save or whatever to try and pay your bills.

I just don't think – he doesn't worry about money honestly, so us that have to, he's not –

It's sort of not understanding our financial situation?

Right.

Yes.

I worked with people who are in the government shutdown and there are a lot of us who pitched together and gave them Kohl's gift cards. Pick 'n' Save gift cards. Meijer gift cards.

People looked out for us. We do appreciate it now.

It's hard, you know? When someone's not seeing your side of – oh, let's shutdown until September. No. I have no rent money, no car money, no gas money. Now I can't even get to work because I don't have gas. It just – it's a hard one for me.

Doubts, concerns about Donald Trump? Alice.

I mean I voted for him. After the fact, he's kind of a narcissistic asshole, but I wanted the wall. And I don't have a wall and he promised me a wall.

You're kind of like, "Where's my wall?"

Where's my wall?

Beth, how about you? Doubts, concerns?

I feel like he's impulsive.

Impulsive.

I basically think he doesn't think before he speaks or maybe his handlers are not handling.

They're clearly not.

Is it a problem that he thinks before he speaks?

I don't think it's showing him in a positive light and maybe it's showing him to be childish and when you're in that position of power, I don't think you want to be shown in that light. You should have your shit together basically, and now showing up looking like a hot mess. Whether it be figuratively or actual.

Other doubts or concerns? Hannah, did I hear yours?

No, I mean just what I had said earlier about agreeing with Fiona. I don't think he thinks about the little people.

And what tells you that? What do you see that tells you he's not thinking about the little people?

Just like what she was saying, the government shutdown. "Just go and get another job." Well, you can't just go and get another job. You can't just go and get another job because you work full-time at the job you should be getting paid at and aren't. You have a family that you should be going home to. If you work all day and your kids are in daycare, what are you supposed to do with your kids that night when you're out working a part-time job?

Erica, any doubts or concerns with Donald Trump?

No, just the wall.

The wall. Anything I haven't heard or anything you thought of just now in terms of doubts or concerns?

I would say the only thing I can think of – I don't know if it is but it appears that he's dividing the country as opposed to pulling it together. I just hope that it doesn't continue on that path. I don't know if it's true though. You just see what you see on the news.

Yes, well the news is half the battle too.

Yes, who knows?

I don't feel he's dividing the country. I feel like that people on the other side of the aisle, they're just pegging him every step of the way.

What would you say is his greatest accomplishment so far? What's his biggest or do you feel is his greatest accomplishment? Regardless of how you feel about him, what's the –

I wouldn't necessarily say it's an accomplishment because we haven't need to, but I feel safer with him because if someone did do something to America, not necessarily would it be a good thing or not being good thing, but he probably would react to it.

I agree with Alice.

He would react. If someone did anything to America, he would –

He would react. I also voted for Obama, but he was more like, “Well, let’s wait and see.”

You feel safer. Greatest accomplishment, Donald Trump. Glenna, what would you say?

I don’t really know.

Cathy.

I agree. I agree with what Alice said. Feeling safer. Feeling –

Erica.

I agree with Alice. I do feel safer.

Hannah, greatest accomplishment.

I don’t have an opinion either way.

Beth.

I don’t follow too much of his work. I only see what’s at my level and I don’t see too much positives.

Fiona, how about you?

I would say the economy.

The economy.

Yes, I would say that –

Irene, how about you? Greatest accomplishment.

Yes, probably the economy and the trade deals that he’s trying to work on. I think that’s going to improve. I think everybody – maybe not immediately, but over time, it will get better.

How about the flip side? Greatest disappointment so far in his presidency. What would you say is his greatest disappointment?

I’m going to say the wall and only because he’s getting fought on it tooth and nail. I don’t – except for you said that it’s normal thinking, it’s – he hasn’t been able to do it, but everything that’s happened, like the shutdown, that’s not all his fault as well. It’s both sides that are just –

Is it disappointment that the wall isn’t there?

Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. The way I look at it is, yes, we may pay however much money for this wall and I'm totally OK with it. I don't care if Mexico pays for it. Somebody's got to pay for it because ultimately, any benefits, anything that we give to all the people who are immigrating to this country illegally, it far exceeds what we would pay for the wall, so what I've read, what I believe.

Let me hear from some other people. Greatest disappointment. What would you say, Erica?

I wouldn't know.

Don't know.

I would say the divide between the political parties. I don't think it's just his fault. I think it's both sides. Nothing seems to get done with the two parties.

Is there anything you were sort of hoping when he came into office that hasn't happened or that he didn't do well, disappointment? Alice.

My wall. Not that I'm against anyone emigrating here. I completely have no problem with it.

But legally.

Exactly, do it legally. I can't go on living when I visited there, but I mean, I can't just stay there.

Beth, any disappointment that you can –

I kind of feel that there was a starting position whether it was positive or negative with Obamacare that everybody has that, right? Where he could have or could improve on it and do things to better people who are affected by it because everybody's affected by it. I think he has a position of power which he can use to make things better for others.

When he was running or soon after he became president, he said he would be a voice for forgotten Americans. How's he doing on that? A voice for forgotten Americans.

I think he's doing well because I think that's referring to our veterans. I mean, he's all about veterans.

Hannah, what do you think? A voice for forgotten Americans. Do you feel like he's been that voice?

I don't know. I kind of think along the lines of Fiona. He doesn't think of the little people. Just like in big corporations, the CEOs don't think of the little people who run the company.

How about this? He also talked a lot about how he would drain the swamp. Do you remember that?

Yes.

About draining the swamp?

No.

Don't remember that?

It was one of those kinds of phrases.

I do.

How many people remember that? Alice, you do. Irene. Anybody else? Alice, what do you think? What was he referring to and has he done it?

I don't think so. I think when I picture that it's cleaning up America, trying to have more legalized citizenship, have not so much drug issues. I don't see that improving.

Irene, you heard him say that. How is he doing on that and what does it mean to you?

Politically, that's what he means. He means all the people who are taking kickbacks from companies to do deals. "Oh, hey, you get this government contract and all that kind of stuff.

How's he doing on that?

Well, he's – the FBI people that have been let go, Strzok and Page and Comey and all of them, that's a start with getting rid of them and stuff with the impeachment and everything. We've got to wait and see because the AG's report is coming out.

One more and then I'm going to move on When he was running, he said he would put America first. How's he doing on that one? Put America first.

I think he's doing that, but he's almost pushing it too hard I think. Like he's freaking out other countries. I'm afraid it's going to be world war three honestly because there's just so much tension now. He's putting a lot of stuff out there.

But it's on Twitter. Is it really necessary to be tweeting your exact thoughts, what comes out of your mouth? I think you should probably revise what comes out of your mouth before you put it on social media.

He has a lot of great ideas. He just needs to go about it in a –

Differently.

In a different way.

Erica, put America first. Do you feel like he's –

To a point. I mean, our economy's doing better. That's what we needed, but he does. He needs a filter.

He needs a filter.

Cathy.

I agree.

What we're going to do now is look at a few videos. We're going to look at those tweets. I just want you to – most of them are about a minute, a minute and a half long, so just watch and listen. I'll stop it and then we'll talk about it. Then we'll move on. Let's do this one first.

A president shouldn't have Twitter.

They tried to take it away but –

He doesn't need – there's so few news outlets that [crosstalk 01:10:18].

You guys ready to watch?

Sorry. We're talking here.

Got to get his news [presentation plays].

What did you think? What stood out?

We are a piggy bank.

We're a piggy bank?

Yes, I do agree on that. Everybody turns to the USA when they need something.

Anything else stand out about what he said?

The amount of money that we've lost out on because of bad deals from past administrations.

If those are the numbers that are correct, that's a lot. Trillions and trillions, I don't know if it would be that high, but that's a lot of money for sure. For sure.

What about you, Glenna?

I think it's just about money. I mean, my thought was I don't know. The numbers, are they actual - where is he getting this information from?

You had some doubts about -

I hate facts. That's just me, I guess. I don't know.

Any feelings about him listening to him?

I feel like he's yelling to make a point instead of having conversations. Wow.

All right, Alice anything at all that stuck out for you?

He always repeats himself.

He does. He does, yes.

And it's hard because he does have the narcissistic behaviors that – is he just trying to boost himself or are they true? I mean, if it's true, great. It not -

Flip the page in your handout and you should find one of his tweets there. Give that a read. Is it there? I'm just going to set up the next one. Give that a read and I'm going to talk about that tweet [task]. You can mark on it if you want. Write on it or underline anything [task]. Reactions here? What do you think? Our great patriot farmers will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of what is happening now. What do you think about this tweet?

I think it sounds more like a threat to me. It's not really news he's putting out there. It's more like, "Hey, Asia, China. You've got to keep up with us. Otherwise, something's going to happen."

I feel it's sarcastic, almost like he knows what he's trying to say, but he's not coming out and saying it.

What is he trying to say or what message are you getting from it?

I'm getting "we're better than you. Nah-nah-na-na-poo-poo [ph]."

What'd you say?

"We're better than you. Nah-nah-na-na-poo-poo [ph]."

Alice, what do you think about what he said about farmers?

I mean, when he was running, it was all about the little people, the farmers, the veterans. Whether or not – I don't know if he is or is not really doing much for them. They just kind of chuckle every once in - "China's going to pay. Mexico's going to pay."

Everyone else is paying.

Erica, what do you think? Do you think he is doing things for the farmers? How are farmers faring? Any sense of –

I don't really follow them.

Any thoughts about the tweet?

I agree with Glenna that it's like – I don't know.

Hannah, how about you? Thoughts?

I don't know about the farmers. I have good friends whose family has a farm on the west side of the state and they ended up selling almost – they're a milking farm. They couldn't keep it going because of -

they weren't getting enough for the milk. Milk prices were so high, so I don't know if he's really helping the farmers out. From things I've heard that way.

I feel like a lot of farmers are struggling.

Yes.

What gives you that sense?

My cousin is a farmer and they basically – she's always complaining that they're not making enough for what they're doing.

Does it have to do since Trump was president? What's the connection there? Is he helping or not helping farmers? Do you have any sense?

I mean, you look now. I just came from a trip out west but you look at all the farm fields and obviously, this doesn't have to do with him being president, but with the weather, so many of the farm fields are underwater. How are those farmers supposed to survive? I mean, they can't even -

Mother Nature.

Put their, get their plants into have their families survive. Is there going to be help for them?

Let's watch another video here [presentation plays]. What do you think? Reactions? Anything stood out? Sorry about the video freezing there, but it was just –

I think he kind of sounded hopeful after saying how many job, the numbers, and you realize it's going to continue to get better.

Hopeful. How'd it make you feel? Did it make you feel hopeful?

Yes, hearing how many jobs and the wage increasing.

I think it's great about the manufacturing jobs because we've been losing them at a fast pace throughout the country, so the fact that they're coming back instead of being outsourced. What we spoke about before. I think that's great news.

Beth.

To be honest, a lot of [inaudible 01:19:31]. I turned it down a little bit.

Alice, what stood out for you in hearing him talk about?

Again, it's hard. Is he boasting himself? Are people's wages really going up like he said because I don't know. I haven't seen mine go up a whole lot. Is he boasting himself?

I'm not sure about the wages, but I do see we are getting more jobs and I hope it keeps going that way.

Let's flip the page and look at another tweet. Republicans have created the best economy in the history of our country and the hottest jobs market on planet earth. The Democrat agenda is a socialist nightmare. The Republican agenda is the American dream. Vote GOP. What do you think about this?

Nobody's in there.

There's people in our government that are supposed to be working together.

Right, if everybody could just work together, it would be -

It would be great if our country if everyone worked together. I know it will never work like that.

It's like he's saying Republicans are better than Democrats. It's the Democrats' fault why we're having the problems we're having.

In my opinion, in an ideal world, we would get rid of Republican. We would get rid of Democrat and just vote on the issues. There's no political parties. I mean, what's the point of having Democratic party and a Republican party? Shouldn't it just be people in there?

That's why Independent would probably be the best way to go because they don't have a party.

The hottest jobs market on planet earth. Do you feel that's accurate?

Right now, I guess. The jobs look pretty hot. I mean, it's scattered obviously in different types of work and things of that nature, but I think the economy's – the job market is a lot better.

Cathy, you think so?

Yes.

Fiona.

For sure, I don't know if it's all a politician thing or a political thing, but there's different things out there. The internet, the text stuff. There's just so much other stuff to be wary of.

Hottest jobs market on planet earth, it seems pretty accurate. Do you feel like he gets credit for that?

No.

Is that Trump or is that something else? Is the economy different? Cathy, what do you think?

I think it's just more a statement. Like, I'm from America. Say this person was from a different country. I could talk to them. "Oh there are these kind of jobs here." I don't live in other countries, so I don't know what kind of hot jobs are over there. Does that make sense? I guess I would say that we have hot jobs, but I guess I don't know what kind of hot jobs are in other countries.

Erica, what do you think? Does President Trump get credit for the hottest jobs in our town on planet earth?

No, I mean it's not – yes, we have jobs. Did he help on it? Yes. Is it all him? No. There's many people that take part of it.

Beth, what do you think?

I don't think your average American citizen is going to know what's happening in another place in the world, so what gives him the right to stand on the soapbox and say, "We're the best" when most of the people aren't researching jobs in Europe or Asia or wherever.

What about this the Democrat agenda is a socialist nightmare? What do you think about that phrase?

We just talk smack about it. "Hopefully, you guys will agree with me because I'm the president and what I say should be it."

Alice, what do you think? Socialist nightmare, how do you feel about that?

I think it's just, again, you're getting more people mad. I mean you're not going to get the Democrats to work with you because you just threw them under the bus, and you're not going to work with the Democrats because you're Republican. It's just the political party difference.

All right, next video. This one's really short so just pay attention. You know what? I should really open them all up ahead of time. All right [presentation plays]. What do you think about that? Any reactions to what he said or any feelings?

I think it reiterated a lot about what we were talking about with jobs and for different, the Asians, African Americans and it has increased. I think his logo is great. Either way, we all live here and we want it to be great. All of us.

Hannah, any reactions?

No.

Beth.

The same. That's all.

Alice.

I hate to talk about this, but he talks loud like he's trying to make everybody agree with him.

Alice, any -

I think he's talking about jobs and I don't know what – I guess because I'm technically the white, privileged. I haven't had to deal with, but to me, it shouldn't matter whether you're Hispanic to get a

job, black to get a job. To me, that shouldn't be – a race shouldn't make the difference. If you want a job, you should go get a job.

Fiona.

I have to agree with that.

Any thoughts about –

Especially the [inaudible 01:26:34]. I mean, there has to be a certain member of the other and it makes it hard for people to move on.

All right, let's read another tweet. Handout four. Thanks to Republican leadership, America is winning again and America is being respected again all over the world because we are finally putting America first. What do you think about that? Erica.

Personally, I'd put in Republican.

I grew up Democrat. My husband was a Republican, so I see both sides, but why can't we just make America first. It doesn't matter if you're Democrat or Republican, let's just do it, us.

Let's just work together.

Exactly.

I don't understand. Then you wonder why we're having all the issues we're having in this country because we don't want to work together. We want to fight.

Glenna, what's your response to this tweet? How do you feel about it?

I mean, scrolling through my Twitter, I would be like is it really necessary to A, all capital Republican leadership, winning again. Respect it. This is just an unnecessary tweet. "Oh, and I'm Republican. We're better than everybody else."

Do you think America is receptive to this?

No.

I don't.

Tell me.

I don't know. From what you see, people think that he's a joke. Why is this guy yelling at us first of all? Why is he making up all these rules? Why is he – I don't know. Then you see the way he shakes hands. They always make fun of the way he's greeting other leaders. He demands that he's -

Number one.

I think they make fun of other leaders, but he just –

There's no respect. The back and forth respect. We'll definitely – I don't know if they're scared of him or I don't know what it is, but I don't think that that mutual respect is there.

Cathy.

He's fighting with them. Best example, that is what I going to say.

Do you feel his policies are putting America first?

I do.

Yes, I think that's what he's trying to do.

As much as everybody says, "Oh, he tweets this and Republican," I sit and wonder how he would be, had he been given the respect from the Democratic party right from the get-go and didn't fight him tooth and nail from the get-go. There was just an instance where they were talking about infrastructure, and Nancy Pelosi comes on the TV and she starts talking about impeachment and blah, blah, blah, blah, and he didn't want to work with them after that. He's like, "You know what? This isn't what this is about." They make it about themselves all the time. Clearly, I'm a Trump fan. I like him. I was a Democrat previously. I voted Democrat mostly all the way, until more recently and I've seen the horrific things that they do, and they try to keep people down.

Let me [crosstalk 01:29:55]. Policies that put America first. What would you point to of his policies that put America first?

Immigration.

What else?

The trade agreements.

Trade agreements.

Putting tariffs on.

Tariffs.

Different goods.

Alice, how about you? Anything of his policies that you would say put America first?

That he's trying to keep America America. Worrying about the people that live in the United States versus over in other countries.

We're going to watch one more video and one more tweet [presentation plays]. Reactions, thoughts, feelings about that? Cathy, let me start with you.

I feel like our country's – I don't feel like it's full. If they were going it the right way, I don't see why they couldn't come here.

Glenna.

I guess I get his point. I feel like he has kind of singled out Mexico as those individuals are just coming in, but I feel like what he's talking about is the illegal people who coming in which I don't agree you can just come here and you're illegal and you're taking our tax dollars and our money and people that actually pay for that stuff shouldn't have to live with those consequences of illegal people coming in.

Erica.

If you're legal, why can't you come?

What?

I said if you're legal, if you do it the right way, why can't you come? I mean it's the people that are going to the border, they're sneaking in and then they're taking all the benefits. If you do it the right way, why not?

Alice.

I think he needs someone to write his speeches for him. I think he has the idea but it comes across as very racist. We're full. You are not welcome. And it's not that you're not welcome, just come legally in my opinion.

Cathy, what do you think?

The part that drew my attention is that our detention centers are full. Why are they full? Do something about certain situations about why they're full. Death penalty, all different options. We're paying for them not to be rehabilitated because they are chronically in the system or they use the system as a crutch and then they don't know how have jobs. If you're going to use that, fix that too. Don't kick people out that are willing to do it the right way.

Let's read one more tweet. We have a state of emergency at our southern border. Border patrol, our military, and local law enforcement are doing a great job, but without the wall which is now under major construction, you cannot have border security. Drugs, gangs, and human trafficking must be stopped. What do you think about that?

I think the border patrol is kind of a joke. My husband did border patrol and they're restricted just as much as people on the other side know how to play the game and they can't do anything, but watch them come in.

Hannah, what do you think about this tweet?

I think the last statement that drugs, gangs, and human trafficking have to be stopped, but if we can't stop them from coming in, what do we have to do to stop that from happening and is he trying to figure that out, how to do that?

He calls it a state of emergency at the southern border. What do you think about that, that phrase?

No.

No, you don't think it is?

There's probably something that's even more of an emergency that can be done than making sure that the wall gets put up.

Alice, what do you think? State of emergency?

If I lived down there, probably, yes. I mean, just like I wouldn't want to live in the core of Milwaukee.

Fiona.

Well I work for the Department of Homeland Security, so I do see that it is a state of emergency. I don't think a wall is going to fix it. They build tunnels. They use drones. They use submarines to bring stuff through. It needs to be some kind of, more of a complete –

Action plan.

Yes, some kind of action plan, and I know they've talked about some kind of electronic monitoring. A wall, as great as it sounds, what he wants to do with it, there's way more stuff happening that needs to be addressed.

We talked a little bit about the wall and stuff that's happening with that. He says here it's now under major construction. Have you seen it? Is this – you don't think it is?

I don't think it is.

I've seen stuff on it. It's actually a private company, GoFundMe, just in the last week or so that private funding that when Congress wasn't going to let, or the House Committee members and stuff, when they wouldn't let it do it. Then that GoFundMe came and it was however many hundreds of millions so now that's actually being built now too.

I am going to do some more words and phrases like throw them out and tell me whatever you think of. Some of them are – actually, a lot of these, most of these are names. The first one is the House of Representatives with over 100 newly elected women which is now controlled by Democrats. The House of Representatives with over 100 newly elected women which is now controlled by Democrats. Thoughts. House of Representatives. Newly elected women. Controlled by Democrats. Cathy, what do you think of?

I don't know.

What picture comes in your mind?

All these women.

Hundreds or whatever.

Beth, what do you think of?

I couldn't tell you even one. There's so many of them, but I couldn't tell you.

Couldn't tell you any names. Hannah, what do you think of?

I agree. I couldn't tell you who. Good for girl power but I don't care if you're Republican or Democrat. Just somebody who does what they're supposed to do.

No other thoughts [crosstalk 01:38:28]?

First thing I thought was yay, girls, but other than that, I don't really care if you're Republican or Democrat. Yay, girls. I don't know.

Or a man or a woman. As long as you're doing your job is what's important.

How about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi? What do you think of?

I can't roll my eyes back in my head any further.

Cathy.

The same.

I think she's vindictive. She doesn't get what she wants. He doesn't get what he wants. They're fighting all the time. She's the leader. She should be –

Vindictive.

She shouldn't be –

What other words would you use to describe her? Beth.

I'm trying to picture who the hell she is.

Alice.

I don't know enough.

Hannah, any words, phrases?

I mean, they're battling against each other.

Erica.

I don't even.

Don't know. No problem. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Thoughts, words, phrases, pictures, what do you think of?

Don't know his name.

I'm a picture person. If you were to show me a picture of what he looks like.

I know his name, but I just don't know.

I could tell you maybe more, but –

That's a good idea. Glenna, thoughts? Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

For some reason, I want to say he's Republican but I don't know. That's about it.

Any feelings about him?

I just think he's super controlling. He doesn't – if he – what's the word I'm looking for? He will present anything to anyone under him if he doesn't feel it's going to pass. He's the kind of guy who's a blocker. He won't take a chance or risks.

He doesn't want to hear it. If it's not going to benefit him or his people, he says, "Screw it."

A blocker.

Yes, a blocker.

Any other words that you'd use to describe him?

I think he's OK. Anyone of them, term limits come to mind.

That's a good one.

Another name. Joe Biden.

Joe Biden, groper.

Yes, I was going to say touchy-feely.

I honestly think he's old school. I don't have any hard feelings against Joe Biden. I think he's old school and he doesn't realize what he's doing half the time [inaudible 01:40:56].

Cathy.

I agree with that one.

What? Tell me what words would you use to describe him.

He doesn't – old school. He kind of just seems like he's in his own little –

Alice.

Not good, not bad.

Beth.

He comes across as a good person but I don't know if he's still relevant.

Good person, but maybe not relevant. Irene.

I think as vice president under Obama, I think he didn't do a lot. He doesn't stand out as he implemented this. I mean, the Presidents obviously get the spotlight.

Do vice presidents actually ever do anything?

They don't, but –

They might but [crosstalk 01:41:51].

Hannah, Joe Biden. Words, phrases, any thoughts, descriptions.

Not sure. I kind of agree. We don't know what he did as vice president because he doesn't –

Erica.

Old school.

Old school. Glenna.

Irrelevant.

Relevant?

Irrelevant.

Irrelevant. Next name. Bernie Sanders.

Old man.

Crazy Bernie.

Crazy Bernie.

Crazy.

Crazy.

Actually, I liked him when he was first running for the 2016, but then he kind of started going off the deep end a little bit.

Beth, what word did you use to describe him?

Honestly, I don't think that either is relevant. I think he is from that old group and you need somebody maybe younger that has more of an interest in the upcoming society, not the older thinkers.

Older society, there are all these old people.

All right, how about Elizabeth Warren?

Don't know who that is.

Don't know who that is.

I don't know who she is, but I don't know –

She's the one who lied about being Native American to get schooling and such. I think she's –

Didn't know anything. That kind of brought back –

Scammer, I think. She took away from other people who could have benefitted.

Erica.

I don't know.

Alice, anything.

Don't know the name.

Pete Buttigieg.

Don't know.

Don't know. Never heard of him.

27 candidates running for Democrats. One of them.

Has anybody heard of him?

I have.

Irene has. She's the only one though. The rest of you, OK. Senator Tammy Baldwin.

You're damn right.

What Fiona?

She's has a version of you're damn right.

You're damn right.

I heard negative things about her from people I work with and seen on TV, so I don't have an opinion on it really so much.

Any feelings about her?

I've met her once at the airport. I didn't really have too much.

Cathy, any thoughts.

Not really.

How would you describe her? Words, phrases.

Don't know enough about her.

Don't know enough about her.

I know that she's local, but I couldn't tell you.

Alice, anything.

Just being in the union, that's the name they give you all the time.

All right, here's another one. Senator Ron Johnson. Anything, Glenna.

Wisconsin.

I just know that he's pro-gun law or pro-gun ownership. He has a lot of people to vote for him in this state because of that.

Pro guns. What else?

I don't know anything.

Don't know. Anything on Ron Johnson.

Nothing in particular other than he's a Republican.

Anything else? All right, Governor Tony Evers. Thoughts, feelings, descriptions.

Old man.

I'm not a fan.

Not a fan.

Didn't do well for MPS, I don't think.

Why aren't you a fan of him?

I actually like the previous governor.

Erica, any thoughts on Tony Evers.

I don't know. He just doesn't rub me the right way. I don't know how to explain. There's something about him. I'm like eh.

I think he came in. He told people he was going to raise taxes and people were just like, "We don't want Scott Walker to win so we're just going to vote for this guy" and they don't realize. Our gas taxes are going up. Property taxes.

Yes, he wants to raise taxes right away.

Because they didn't want the opposite.

You know what? The other thing too is the referendum for marijuana. That's why he got in. That's my belief.

Hannah, any thoughts on Evers?

Old man, like Alice says. I think we need some younger people in there to boost our economy to help our –

Are you paying any attention to the Democratic presidential race? Do you find it interesting at all? Anything stand out or any candidates come to mind?

There's just so many of them.

Yes, it's even worse than 2016 with the Republicans.

Beth, anything. Any names stand out?

Show me pictures, maybe. I'm more visual than what you told me.

Any thoughts, Alice.

No, not really on any of the – until they narrow it down.

Any idea who might?

I think Joe Biden has a following so if he does.

Yes, he's the one.

He definitely has a following.

He's definitely the frontrunner.

Any other ones that you have heard of?

I only remember her name, Kamala.

Yes, Kamala Harris.

Has she decided what state to –

They're all kind of –

What about priorities? When you think about the Democratic candidates, what are their priorities? What are they talking about or focusing on? What are they –

New Green Deal.

Reparations for slaves.

Gun laws.

Yes, gun laws. Huge. Down on guns.

What else?

Guns are shooting people.

I think a lot of them just feel that they need to get rid of what's in office now. I don't know what you call it. They just feel there's a better way of doing it.

Anything else? Glenna, what have you heard from the candidates? What are their priorities do you think?

I don't think a lot but the Democrat Convention 2020.

Yes, that'll be here.

That's all I've heard. Again, I live with [inaudible 01:47:36] so it's usually all about –

Erica, anything.

Like Fiona was saying. They just want to get Republicans out. Yes, I live in a household, but my family and my husband's family, they're all Democrats. I start screaming most of the time when politics come up in our house.

What about differences? Do you see any differences among the Democrats or are they all kind of the same and talking about the same things and wanting the same things? Are there any differences?

Not much, I don't think. They're all kind of on the same page, maybe slightly different.

I'm sure there's some differences.

But there's so many. Right now, it's hard to judge. Until it narrows down, like you said, it's hard to really differentiate anybody from the other ones at this point.

I would think no one listens anyways. You either vote Republican or you vote Democrat. I don't think anyone really listens to what they have to say.

Do you see any differences among them, Cathy?

I think like everybody's saying, there's probably something but you don't really see it too much.

On a scale from one to 10, how much are you paying attention to this right now? One being not at all, 10 being very –

The Democrats you mean?

Yes. All the candidates. All the Democratic candidates.

Zero.

Zero.

Zero.

You're really just not paying attention right now? Flip the page to handout number six. These are reasons why some people are concerned about Donald Trump. I want you to read through the short paragraphs and star two of them that you find most concerning. Two that for you if you had to pick two that concerned you the most. Circle two of these or star two of these. I'm sorry.

Can I use the bathroom?

Sure, it's right around the corner [task]. Has everybody picked two? I know Erica hasn't had a chance to read them yet. Everybody picked two or do you need more time? Most of you are finished. I'm just going to go around. I want you to tell me by the letter. I'll do a little tally. If you haven't finished, I'll skip you. We can come back. Fiona, which two did you pick?

B and F.

B and F. Cathy.

I actually only got F.

You only got F? Are you going to do another one? Do you want me to come back?

Sure.

Alice.

A and F.

A and F.

D and F.

D and F. Irene's still working. Hannah, which two did you get?

I'll say A and F as well.

A and F.

A and F.

A and F also.

A and F.

C and F.

C and F. And Cathy.

I'll go back to A also.

A and F. Those are clearly the two that kind of stood out for us. Six on A. No one picked B. One on C. One on D. No one picked E, and all of you picked F. A is – let's start with F. F is he promised better and cheaper healthcare for everyone, but insurance rates have increased for everyone including a 50

percent increase in premiums in the individual market. His plan would make older workers pay five times more than younger. Why did that one stick out as one that concerns you?

It's healthcare.

Healthcare just keeps going up and up and up.

You don't see the difference.

Whether you get insurance through your employer or not, your premiums keep going up. Your deductibles still keep going up. I was in the hospital last year for five days and I'm still paying my portion of that bill and still have another 10 months to pay on it. People shouldn't have to worry about that when you're sick.

Exactly. I get that though. I have two colonoscopies a year I have to pay for plus scans and other blood work every couple of months.

It's expensive.

It is.

And insurance doesn't cover that because it's not preventative.

This was a disease that I didn't choose to have so why should I be having to pay? Where in debt hundreds of thousands of dollars for my Crohn's.

Let's talk about A. He campaigned as a populist and promised to be a voice for the forgotten, but his tax cuts went almost totally to corporations and the top one percent were paid in stock bonuses and not higher wages. Six of you chose that one. Why did that one stand out in this list?

It affects my life.

Yes.

Cathy.

Low money.

Beth, did you pick A?

No.

Alice.

Back to the rich always get richer and the poor always stay poor.

All right, so one more thing we're going to do here. Well two more things, but one's pretty quick. This next one, handout seven. There's a lot here. Don't get overwhelmed. As you're reading these, these are some statements from two of the Democratic candidates that are running for president. I want you to underline anything that stands out to you. Words, phrases that stand out to you as you're reading it. Then circle one of these two paragraphs that comes closest to your view, that is more appealing to you. One of those two, you're going to underline anything in either one of them and circle either Candidate One or Candidate Two that comes closest to your view. Take your time [task]. Keep reading if you need more time, but everyone else should have circled one or two. Do the same thing with the tally. If you haven't finished, keep reading. Glenna, which one did you circle?

Two.

Number two. Erica.

Two.

Two. Hannah.

One.

One. Irene.

I can't circle either one to be honest because there's some portions that I like.

Don't tell me yet. If you had to choose one, which one comes closer, are you leaning towards?

Boy, two.

Two. Beth.

One.

Two.

One.

Two.

Two.

One.

Totally tied, how interesting. That's so interesting. Real quickly, on Candidate one, what stood out? For those of you and there were four of you that chose one, what was it that you liked about Candidate One more than Candidate Two?

The country wasn't built by Wall Street. Bankers and CEOs. It was built by middle class people and we do better if we act as one America and not fighting next to each other.

Alice.

Well it was pretty much middle class, built by you. The middle class is hurting. Our political system is broken. Not necessarily Donald Trump needs to but we're not represented as a whole country. We're suffering.

I've got two other people.

It was describing me. It reached to my heart instead of giving me all the numbers instead of [inaudible 01:59:53] to say, "Hey, that's you."

And one more. Irene, was it? Beth.

I thought it was built my middle class workers and not bankers.

Candidate Two, what stood out for Candidate Two? Cathy, what stood out for you there?

The economy will work for everybody not just for those at the top.

Glenna.

What we've been talking about. [inaudible 02:00:24] focusing on what we need which side cares about what.

Irene, what stood out for – what made you lean that way? I know you were having trouble.

I like the part about we can stop the lobbying and shut the revolving door between Wall Street and Washington. Also the student loan debt relief jumped out at me.

I circled that.

Did you? And Erica.

Part of it was excited to build America that works for everyone, not just for the wealthy and the connected. Then at the end, when it says we can raise our voices and fight as one, fight two as one. We just need to be.

Together, unified. The last thing we're going to do is if you turn to the last page, handout eight. You do not have to write full sentences. Let me remind you. You can write words, phrases, however you want. This is a short note to President Trump about what he is doing with the economy and anything else you want him to know. It could be economy or anything. Write a note to President Trump about what he's doing with the economy and anything you want him to know [task]. You don't have to read it work-for-word, but just give me a sense of what you wrote. Irene, what'd you write?

I said don't give up the fight for the wall. Can't afford to have too many people butting into our country unchecked. We have enough people of our own to take care of first.

Hannah, what'd you write?

We should work together as one and not against each other.

Beth.

I basically said I would not take the time to write a letter because I don't think he feels my voice matters or that if I did take the time, I could be doing something else, what reassurance would I get on my return that you would listen?

What tells you that you don't think your voice matters to him?

I basically feel that he doesn't seem genuine when he does do things with little people. He doesn't show people respect.

Alice.

Number one was stop Twitter. Then I said fight for all the people in the United States, to please keep us safe, you need to learn to give to receive, and keep jobs in the USA.

Cathy.

I also said working together as one, but I think it's great what's being done for the economy and creating more jobs and creating more manufacturing jobs.

Erica.

He's raised the economy and helped the veterans, but I feel like not one person's better than the other. We're all in this as a team, and he needs to stop digging a wall. Republicans this and Democrats, they're evil. If you focused on us and stopped talking about how evil the Democrats are, it'd probably be so much better. Even then, Democrats would shut their mouth because he's not picking at them. He isn't giving a care and focusing.

Glenna, what'd you write?

Keeping and increasing the jobs. I like that. Then work together as one and maybe America can be great again.

Fiona.

A lot of the same stuff, but the economy's moving in the right direction. Please keep working on it. They should always listen to those that voted for you, and not just the wealthy. Don't forget us. I said stay off Twitter too. Stop with the Twitter.

Well thank you all so much. If you would pass those papers into me. I'm going to take it.

I don't know if there's a special –

You're right. The date is wrong, isn't it [crosstalk 02:06:24]?

Look it up or something.

Thank you. I did not even notice that. Thank you very much. Two things, you're going to stop and get a token of my appreciation on the way out. Don't leave without your money. There may be some people waiting to come in for my second group. If you wouldn't mind, wait until you're out of earshot if you want to keep discussing anything just so they come in fresh. Thank you so much. It was wonderful meeting you. Enjoy the weather.