

Crow Laws, and it also ended the literacy tests required by several southern states.

Voting in America has a long, messy history. It is an important part of our society, and it is a right that many of us did not truly have until recently. To put time in perspective, The Beatles toured their *Help* album in the U.S. the same year everyone was allowed to vote without charges or prerequisites.

So, why should we vote? With the Electoral College, our votes shouldn't matter, right? Wrong, so very very wrong! In the 2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush, the margin was so tiny, the vote came down to a recount of Florida. If a mere 600 more Floridians who supported Al Gore went to the polls that day, we would have had a different president. 600 may sound like a lot, but Florida had a population of 15.33 million people at the time. 600 people is nothing in retrospect.

A *National Geographic* article states, "Your vote may not directly elect the president, but if your vote joins enough others in your voting district or county, your vote undoubtedly matters." So, do not pass the buck and just hope somebody else votes for you. If you have any opinions about the election or politics at all, you need to vote.

You matter, plain and simple. Though you may feel like an insignificant, nine-digit number within the American system, you matter. Whether you are Christian, Wiccan, Caucasian, African American, liberal, or conservative, your thoughts and opinions matter.

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As a society, we have been brainwashed into believing that we are just people to be sold to, and that any political discussion is not appropriate "dinner conversation." If we as a whole continue to fear a new ideology or a difference in opinion, what hope are we to have for any future? So whether your vote is for Biden, Trump, or even Kanye West, I implore you, **vote**.

The Sword Candidate Endorsement

BY ANNA FRITZE AND HAMZA ISMAIL

WHILE IT WAS NO surprise that Joe Biden would be chosen as the Democratic Nominee, his selection came during a tumultuous year. With police brutality, Covid-19, and other issues on the forefront of the American society, Joe has stepped up to the plate. While his policies on race relations, climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic may entice few to follow him, Joe's real strength is his character and respect for the Oval Office that makes him a clear candidate to endorse.

With the murder of George Floyd, racial inequality has become a huge topic in the election. During the protests, Biden urged Americans, "The moment has come for our nation to deal with systemic racism. We've heard talk before. We've had protests before. Let us vow to make this, at last, an era of action to reverse systemic racism with long overdue and concrete changes." He has made history by choosing Kamala Harris, an African American woman, as his running mate. Contrary to popular belief, Biden urged rioters to stop looting stores, but he also called officers to stop using excessive force. Unlike Trump, who has made it clear that he only advocates for those who are of value to him, if elected, Biden plans to allocate money from police departments to community programs and social programs that help people with mental health and drug problems, again contrary to the belief that he wants to defund the police.

Biden plans to push a fairer tax code that taxes the nation's highest incomes to raise trillions of dollars to help the economy, specifically people and businesses who are suffering from the coronavirus. He vows to protect the Affordable Care Act, which the Trump Administration is currently trying to dismantle. If this were to happen, 23 million Americans could lose their health insurance. On climate change, Biden plans to rejoin the Paris Agreement and begin the mission of reaching a clean economy with zero emissions by 2050. The money provided for his plan would be provided by rolling back Trump's tax cuts for large corporations.

It is possible that we could reach 400,000 deaths from the coronavirus by the end of 2020. While some countries have gotten over their pandemic, the number of cases and deaths is still rising in America, and no new restrictions have been put in place. Biden has a plan to roll out a national facemask mandate along with funding testing and tracing so that the economy can reopen safely. He would also utilize federal agencies to help hospitals with the workload, which would include activating the Medical Reserve Corps which would house over 200,000 capable volunteers. He wants to provide aid and resources to help hospital and frontline workers.

Regarding both the issues of climate change and the coronavirus, Biden says he will trust the scientists, unlike Trump, who has mocked Biden for saying he will do so. America has become a joke to other countries as our leader continues to ignore the facts that would help end the virus sooner.

People may say that Trump is shown in an exaggerated negative light by the media. While the media has the power to exaggerate everything, horrible, un-presidential things that Trump has said need no exaggeration. On women in general, Trump has said "I've got to use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her. You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful women [...] Grab them by the p****. You can do anything." To a female reporter he said, "You wouldn't have your job if you weren't beautiful." On race, Trump has called Elizabeth Warren "Pocahontas" on more than one occasion, said that "many sides" and "both sides" were to blame after white supremacist protests in Virginia, along with there being "some very fine people" among the white supremacists, and most recently, he failed to denounce white supremacy in general after given multiple opportunities. He still supports Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, even with multiple sexual assault allegations against him. This comes as no surprise, as the president has had 26 sexual assault allegations against him since 1970. Yes, all of these specific aspects speak more to Trump's character than his political policies. However, America is supposed to stand for freedom. I wish that this was all politics, but it's now moral. How could anyone want a leader who does not believe that every single human being deserves to be equal to each other, especially when no one has the power to decide their race or sex at birth?

Biden has life experience that helps him sympathize with all American people, not just those of his status. He realizes that America's character needs to be restored. Trump continues to chant "keep America great," but what greatness would we be keeping? It is clear that these past four years, particularly 2020, have gone downhill. In order to save us from this turmoil, the majority of *The Sword* staff backs Joe Biden.