

Remarks at a Campaign Rally for Democratic Presidential Nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton in Charlotte, North Carolina November 4, 2016

The President. Hello, Charlotte! Are you fired up? Fired up!

Audience members. Ready to go!

The President. Fired up!

Audience members. Ready to go!

The President. Oh, let me tell you something, Dennis got me fired up! Can everybody please give him a big round of applause? I feel a little bit like the guest pastor coming into church. [Laughter] He got me fired up backstage.

There's some people I want to thank. First of all, outstanding Congresswoman Alma Adams is here. Your next State treasurer, Dan Blue III is here. Your next Governor, Roy Cooper, is in the house. Your outstanding mayor of Charlotte, Jennifer Roberts, is here. And all of you are here.

This is a pretty good crowd right here. So I just want to say to you: 4 days.

Audience members. Four days!

The President. Four days, North Carolina.

Audience members. Four days!

The President. Four days to decide the future of this country that we love. Now, the good news is you don't have to wait 4 days, because here in North Carolina, you can vote early. If you are not registered to vote, you have until tomorrow to register and vote at any of the one-stop locations in your county. There are two within a few miles from here: UNC-Charlotte, at the Cone Center—these guys right here, they'll show you where to go if you need to—or University City Regional Library.

And if those don't work for you, then you can go to iwillvote.com, and they'll show you where to vote. But when I see something that says "Carolina Votes" up there, I just want to make sure that whoever put up that sign isn't telling a lie. I need you to vote. The country needs you to vote. Because, I don't know about you, but I like to finish what I start. I like finishing what I start. And we need to finish what we started 8 years ago.

Now, I realize I'm kind of gray now. You say I still look good, though, right? Okay. Michelle says that too. [Laughter] But it makes me realize that back in 2008, some of you were 10. [Laughter] Some of you who are acting like you're grown now and you're in college, but back then you were watching the Disney Channel. So let me refresh your memory about where we were when I visited Charlotte in the final days of the 2008 campaign.

We were living through two long and painful wars. We were about to enter into the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. But because of you, because of the American people, we battled back from what might have been a Great Depression. Last year, we saw incomes rise at the fastest pace in four decades. We saw poverty fall at the fastest pace since 1968.

We've created 15½ million new jobs. The unemployment rate is down to 4.9 percent, near its 9-year low. Twenty million people have health insurance that didn't have it before. We kicked our addiction to foreign oil. We doubled our production of renewable energy, including right here in Carolina. You've been a leader. America became a world leader in fighting climate change.

And by the way, we did all that, and gas is 2 bucks a gallon. Back in 2008, they said if you elect Obama, it's going to be 6 bucks a gallon. It's 2 bucks a gallon. Thanks, Obama.

We brought home more of our men and women in uniform who had sacrificed so much for our security. We took out Usama bin Laden. We've got ISIL on the run.

Here at home, we've seen the highest high school graduation rates on record. Highest college attendance and graduation rates. Provided Pell grants to millions more young people who didn't have them before. And by the way, we made sure that in all 50 States you can marry the person you love.

Now, the reason this happened wasn't just luck. It had to do with some policies that were thought through. But it most of all had to do

with our greatest asset, and that is you, the American people. People of every party, people of every faith, people of every color, creed, background, who understand we are stronger together. That it shouldn't matter the circumstances in which we're born, we should be able to live out our dreams. That it shouldn't matter whether you're young or old, Black or White, Latino, Asian, Native American, whether you've got a disability, whether you're gay or straight, we all pledge allegiance to the Red, White, and Blue. We all love this country. We all want to move it forward. That's the America I know.

And there is only one candidate in this race who understands that be—and she has devoted her life to creating a better America, and that's the next President of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Now, this should not be a close race.

Audience members. No!

The President. But it's going to be a close race. It's going to be especially close here in North Carolina. And I want everybody to understand, all the progress we've made, everything we've fought for, everything we aspire to, all of that goes out the window if we don't win this election. So we've got to work our hearts out this week, over the next 4 days. We've got to work like our future depends on it. Because, you know what? Our future depends on it.

And that also means we've got to block out the noise. I know here in North Carolina, you are tired of all those ads on TV. It just gets you depressed, and there's so much noise and so much distraction, so much stuff that has nothing to do with your lives, so much stuff that's made up and fabricated. And so there's a temptation to want to just tune it out. But I want you to focus on the choice that we face in this election, because if you block out the noise and the distraction, the okey-doke, the nonsense, the hype, the misinformation, if you block all of that out, the choice could not be simpler, it could not be clearer.

I mean, there is a reason why, in an unprecedented fashion, you have Republicans and conservatives, who aren't running for office so they feel it's safe to do so, to denounce Donald

Trump. And the reason is, is because Hillary's opponent, Donald Trump, is uniquely unqualified to be President, is temperamentally unfit to be Commander in Chief. And the fact that he has gotten this far tells me the degree to which our politics has become like a bad reality TV show.

Listen, if you want to keep our military the greatest fighting force in the world, if you want America to stay strong and respected around the world, you can't have a Commander in Chief who says it's okay to torture people. You can't have somebody who suggests that we can ban entire religions from our country.

Audience members. Boo!

The President. Don't boo.

Audience members. Vote!

The President. Vote! He can't hear your boos, but he can hear your votes. A boo don't get you nowhere. Voting gets you someplace.

We can't afford a Commander in Chief who insults POWs, attacks a Gold Star mom, says he's going to be his own foreign policy adviser because he says he's got a "good brain." [Laughter] Who says that? [Laughter]

No, listen, I'm serious. If, like, you just knew somebody, some guy in your office or somebody at school, and they're all, like, "No, I've got a good brain," what would you think? You would not put that guy in charge of nothing. Come on, man. You can't do that. Listen, you know, you can't have somebody as your Commander in Chief who doesn't know the difference between Iraq and Iran; who doesn't know the difference between Lithuania and Latvia. Even a Republican Senator said we can't afford to give the nuclear codes to somebody that erratic. Now, think about that. We are talking about somebody being responsible for the nuclear codes. Right after you get sworn in, somebody comes and says, okay, Mr. President, here is what you've got to know. It's serious. You sit there and you go, oh, okay, this is serious.

So you can't have that person, as he is getting briefed, thinking "Saturday Night Live" insulted me, now I'm going to send a tweet. You can't have that. You've got to have

somebody who's focused, because this is serious business.

If you think that America is stronger when everybody does their part, and everybody does their fair share, you can't elect a candidate, the first in decades, who refuses to release any tax returns. We don't know who he does business with. We don't know who he owes favors to. We have no idea.

And what we do know is, because he's bragged about the fact that he's a really smart businessman, from his perspective that mean he doesn't pay Federal income taxes, and stiffs small businesses that did work for him, and stiffs workers what he owes them, and puts his name on a phony university that tricks people into paying up money and getting nothing for it.

The idea that this guy claims to be the voice for working people, someone who exploits working people, who probably doesn't know any working people except the guy who's cleaning up in his hotel and the guy who's mowing the lawn in his fairway. Come on. I know a lot of successful businesspeople. They don't go around cheating people to be successful.

If you cherish our Constitution, how can we elect a President who threatens, seriously, to shut down press that reports things he doesn't like? Or suggests that he might throw his opponent in jail in a Presidential debate? Or feels comfortable suggesting we discriminate against people of different faiths? Our Constitution does not allow that. You don't have to go to law school to know that. You've just got to read one of those pocket Constitutions that Mr. Khan was handing out. It's right there under the Bill of Rights.

There are places in the world where that might be acceptable, but this isn't one of them. This is the United States of America. We've got laws. We've got rights.

How could we possibly elect a President who feels comfortable—no, let me change that—who, for political purposes, deliberately vilifies minorities? Thinks it's funny to mock Americans with disabilities? Has no compunction in suggesting that women be treated as objects? Who brags about how being famous al-

lows him to get away with something that is the definition of sexual assault, that we're trying to fight on college campuses right now, that we're trying to get rid of in those instances where it happens in our Armed Forces?

You're the Commander in Chief. You're supposed to be setting an example. And you've got somebody who wants to be elected President who calls women "pigs" or "slobs" or "dogs," or grades them on a scale of 1 to 10.

Listen, I have two magnificent daughters because I have a magnificent wife. And they are strong, and they are smart, and they are full of character, and they are kind. And there is nothing they cannot do. And we have taught them not just to respect others, but to respect themselves. The idea that we would put in place in the most prominent, most powerful office in the land somebody who undermines that?

And the worst part about it, Charlotte, is we have begun to treat this as if it's normal. Every day, this is a candidate who has said things that just 4 years ago, just 8 years ago, 12, we would have considered completely disqualifying. I mean, imagine if in 2008 I had said any of the things that this man said. Just imagine it. Imagine if I had behaved in the way this man behaved. Imagine what Republicans would have said. Imagine what the press would have said.

But now we act like, I guess, this is normal.

Audience members. No!

The President. As if it's some parody. You can't tell the difference between "Saturday Night Live" and what's actually happening on the news. [*Laughter*]

And then we hear people who are voting for him justifying it. They say, well, he doesn't really mean it. Or they say, well, that's just locker room talk. Although I've been in a lot of locker rooms; I never heard that. Or they say, well, you know what, we really don't like that, we really don't like this, but as long as he helps us potentially get tax cuts for the wealthy passed, or as long as he's willing to roll back Obamacare so 20 million people don't have health insurance anymore, as long as he's willing to do the things we want to do, then it's okay, we can ignore these elements of his character.

But I want all of you to understand something. I've been in this office now 8 years. And—[*applause*—no, no, no, hold on, hold up. Hold on. I want you to pay attention here, because it's been interesting to watch the evolution of—and the realization that I arrived at during the course of this campaign and then the Presidency. Who you are, what you are does not change after you become President. It magnifies it. It shines a spotlight on it. You may be tested, and you may see who you are, but it doesn't fundamentally change who you are.

So, if you disrespected women before you were President, you'll disrespect women after you're President. If, as Dennis said, you accept the support of Klan sympathizers before you were President, are kind of slow in disowning it, saying, "Well, I don't know," that's how you'll be when you're President. If you disrespect the Constitution when you're running for President, you'll disrespect the Constitution even after you've sworn an oath to uphold and protect it.

And the reason that's important to understand is, because I'm a proud Democrat. But—[*applause*—no, hold on. I can honestly say to myself that if we as Democrats had nominated somebody who said the things Mr. Trump said, then I'd have to say, I'm sorry. Yes, I'm a Democrat, but I'm an American first. I'm a human being first. I'm a father first. I'm a husband first.

And there are Republicans who have done that. I have a—Republican friends who don't think or act the way Donald Trump does, and they don't intend to vote for him because they understand this is somebody different who is uniquely unqualified to hold this job.

And the good news, though, North Carolina, is that you are uniquely qualified to make sure he doesn't get the job. But you've got to vote. You can't just sit on the sidelines. You've got to vote. You can't just complain. You've got to vote. You can't just get depressed and crawl up in the fetal position, and look at the online polling and go, oh, what's going to—no, you've just got to vote!

And the good news is, you don't have to just vote against somebody. You can vote for some-

body, because there's a candidate who's actually worthy of your vote. A candidate who is smart and is steady and is tested, probably the most qualified person ever to run for this office: our next President, Hillary Clinton!

You know, I will tell you, as I've been watching this thing unfold, it has been a source of some frustration to me to see the degree to which Hillary's reality diverges from what you see in the media and on the news and on the blogs and all that, because this is somebody who has devoted her life to making this country better. This is somebody who has always fought on behalf of working people, has always fought on behalf of the vulnerable. Somebody who has worked tirelessly for civil rights.

Think about how she got her start. When Donald Trump and his dad were being sued by the Justice Department for denying housing to African American families, Hillary was going undercover from school to school to make sure minority kids were getting an equal shot at a good education. That's at the start of her career. And she didn't stop: working with the Children's Defense Fund, working as First Lady, working as a U.S. Senator, working as a Secretary of State.

Her heart has always been in the right place. She works hard every single day. I know, because I ran against her. [*Laughter*] I got worn out. [*Laughter*] And I said, she's so smart and hard-working, let—come on, work with me. And she made me a better President. She was in the Situation Room when we made the decision to go after bin Laden. She circled the globe tirelessly, earning the respect of world leaders. She did her homework. She was well prepared. She wasn't flashy. She was loyal. She had my back. She had the American people's back. She understands the world. She understands the challenges that we face. And when things don't go her way, she doesn't whine, she doesn't complain, she doesn't say the game is rigged.

You know what, I—you know, Malia and Sasha, they used to have, like, soccer when they were kids—little kids—7, 8. They'd be running around, just all circling around the ball. You know how they don't know how to spread out;

they're just like running around. [Laughter] And sometimes, they'd lose; sometimes, they'd win. But the one thing that I always taught Malia and Sasha—and I'm sure the parents here who have kids in sports teach you—is you don't complain when things aren't going your way. You don't whine. There's no crying in baseball. [Laughter] You just come back and you work harder and you do better. And that's what Hillary Clinton does. If she gets knocked down, she gets back up. She dusts herself off. She gets back to work. She'll be a great President as long as, Carolina, you vote for Hillary Clinton for President!

And by the way, Deborah Ross will be the same kind of Senator if you give her a shot. I've gotten a chance to know Deborah. This is an outstanding woman. She has heard your stories. She's going to fight to give working families a fair shot, our kids a great education, our seniors a secure retirement. And unlike her opponent, she does not support Donald Trump. So you can't just stop voting. You can't just stop by voting for Hillary. You've got to go down the ballot. You've got to vote for Roy Cooper. You've got to vote for Deborah Ross.

You know, Senator Richard Burr, who Deborah is running against—

Audience members. Boo!

The President. Don't boo. What are we going to do?

Audience members. Vote!

The President. Vote!

He said just a while back, "There's not a separation between me and Donald Trump." Now, you think about that.

Audience members. What?

The President. What?

Audience members. What?

The President. What? [Laughter]

"Not a separation." Two things are possible there. Either he really does think like Donald Trump, in which case you don't want him in the United States Senate representing Carolina. Or he's just saying he agrees with Donald Trump because he thinks it will help him get elected, in which case you don't want him representing North Carolina in the United States Senate.

The other day, he joked about violence against Hillary Clinton. He went on to apologize. And you know, I know Richard Burr, and I suspect he didn't actually mean it. But the problem is, is that they've become so accustomed to saying these things in their rallies and in their town halls and on the Internet, it becomes an applause line. And it's become normalized, the idea of making a joke about violence against somebody who is running for President or is President. There's a reason why we've got Secret Service. There's nothing normal about that. And that's not what North Carolina is about. That's not what America is about.

So, if you want Hillary Clinton to continue the progress we've made, then you've got to give her allies like Deborah Ross. You can't just elect Hillary and stick her with a Republican Congress that's been behaving the way they've been behaving. They have not been willing to work with me, even when we were trying to prevent a Great Depression. They wouldn't do stuff even when it originally was their idea. I'd, like, go through their list of things they wanted to do, and I'd say, okay, I want to do this too. Let's do it. They'd say, oh, well, now that you're for it, we can't be for it.

Now they're promising even more dysfunction in Washington. That is hard to do. [Laughter] They're promising years of hearings and investigations. They're promising more shutdowns, more obstruction, more repeal votes. Deborah's opponent just said, if Hillary wins, he'll do everything he can to block all Supreme Court nominations. Never in history have we seen that attitude. Eleven years ago, the same guy said a Supreme Court could not function without nine Justices. So what changed all the sudden? The reason they say they're not confirming my nominee, Merrick Garland, who everybody acknowledges is an outstanding jurist, is they said, "We're going to let the American people decide; it's too close to the election." Now we're getting close to the election, and they're saying, "Well, if Hillary wins, we might not nominate him anyway." I—what happened? Only Republican Presidents get to nominate judges now?

You've got some Republicans who are actually suggesting they will impeach Hillary. She's not elected yet. They can't even tell you what it is they'll impeach her for. They just decided, that's how we're going to roll, that's what we're going to do; we are good at saying no because we can't say yes to anything; we can't pass our own stuff; we don't know what we stand for, but we do know if we block everything from happening, no matter how much it damages the American people, it might advantage us in an election.

Listen, gridlock—gridlock is not some mysterious fog that descends on Washington. Gridlock is not the result of Democrats and Republicans being equally unreasonable. Gridlock has happened because Republicans like Richard Burr have decided they're going to oppose anything, no matter how good it is for the country, because a Democrat proposes it or because they're worried about their Republican voters not liking it. So, if you think a vote for gridlock is good, you should vote Republican.

But if you think America can do better than that, if you care about creating jobs for families in your neighborhoods, if you care about child-care for single moms who are trying to get to work, if you care about equal pay for equal work and raising the minimum wage, if you care about making sure that we're rebuilding our roads and our bridges and our airports, rebuilding America, then you need to vote for Democrats up and down the ticket. You need to vote for Hillary Clinton and vote for Deborah Ross, vote for Roy Cooper, people who will put you ahead of politics, people who are ready to roll up their sleeves and move this country forward.

So let me just say this: If you are not yet persuaded, I want you to understand, there is something more fundamental at stake in this election than just policies and programs. What's at stake right now is the character of our country. Hillary Clinton says her mom taught her the Methodist creed: Do all you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can. That is her idea of America. Those are the values she wants to

summon for all of us to make this country better. That's what this country is all about.

We are a nation like no other, not because we're the largest or the richest or we've got the biggest military. We are exceptional because this country was founded for a sake of an idea: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," that we're endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. You don't have to be born into wealth or privilege to make a difference in this country. You don't have to practice a certain faith or have a certain last name in order to be successful in this country.

That idea is what drove patriots to choose revolution over tyranny. It's what led our GIs to defeat fascism an ocean away. It's what gave women the courage to reach for the ballot, gave marchers the courage to cross that bridge in Selma, gave workers the courage to organize for collective bargaining and better wages. That's what's made America exceptional. That's what's made America great.

And the thing about it is, North Carolina, it doesn't depend on somebody up on high, doesn't depend on somebody doing it for us. It's what we do for ourselves. It's what we do for each other. It's achieved by us, together, through the hard and sometimes frustrating, but ultimately necessary work of self-government.

When I ran in '08, I didn't say, "Yes, I can." I said, "Yes, we can." You and me. All of us. Justice Louis Brandeis once said, the most important office in a democracy is not President or Senator or mayor, it's the office of citizen. That's what this has always been about: What can we do together? And so the question right now is, what are we going to do together? Because if you vote, if you vote, we will win North Carolina.

But we're going to have to do it together. You can't just depend on somebody else to do it. That's what Hillary understands. She understands this is a big, diverse country, a big, diverse democracy. We only succeed when citizens are involved and paying attention. And that's why it's so important that we understand, even when we disagree with somebody, that

we can engage with them. We don't demonize other people. We're willing to compromise even when we think we're right. We don't try to burn the house down when we don't get our way. She understands that.

But she needs help. She needs your help. You can't sit on the sidelines on this one, especially here in North Carolina. Because some of you may be aware there was a time when African Americans couldn't vote here in North Carolina. You had to figure out how many jelly beans were in a jar. You had to figure out how many bubbles there were on a bar of soap. You may also know that just recently, this Governor who is currently in place signed a law that a Federal judge said with "surgical precision" was trying to discriminate and prevent people from voting.

Now, that law has been suspended, which is why it matters that we have an independent judiciary. It matters that we have a Constitution. But can you imagine, after all the battles that have been waged, after all the blood, sweat, and tears to give us the right to a voice in our democracy, after all the hardship, all the struggle, that some of us would choose to give away our birthright, give away our power, give away our voice because we couldn't go across the street and spend 15 minutes to determine who it was that we're going to make fundamental decisions about our lives?

If that idea doesn't upset you, I want to tell you about a woman named Grace Bell Hardison. She sent me a letter. You might be interested in it. She's a hundred years old. Says: "Dear Mr. President, at a hundred years old, you can believe I've seen it all. It's by God's grace I'm still able to be here with my family. I lived through the civil rights era. I know the blood that was shed in the name of the right to vote. I remember how hard Dr. King and many civil rights lawyers fought for the right to vote. I remember the victories they won for me and generations after me. I can assure you, Mr. President, I will keep fighting on. If I haven't stopped fighting at a hundred years old, then neither can you." Neither can you.

The authorities were trying to strike her off the voter registration rolls a few weeks ago.

Somebody caught them and said, uh-uh. She got her voter registration reinstated. You can bet she's going to vote.

If Miss Grace Bell Hardison, a hundred years old, if she's not tired, then I'm not tired. If I'm not tired, you can't be tired. My name won't be on the ballot this time. But everything we've worked for is on the ballot. Twenty million people having health care is on the ballot. Treating the LGBT community with respect and equality is on the ballot. Good jobs and good wages is on the ballot. Early childhood education is on the ballot. Women's rights is on the ballot. Workers' rights is on the ballot. Justice is on the ballot. Fairness is on the ballot. Decency is on the ballot. Our very democracy is on the ballot.

And Hillary Clinton will advance these things if you give her a chance. Deborah Ross will fight for these things if you give her a chance. But you've got to go out and vote. You've got to get your friends to vote and your cousins to vote, your uncles and neighbors and coworkers to vote. Tell them, this is a moment where we take a stand. Tell them, this is a moment where our character is tested. Tell them, don't succumb to fear. Tell them to lift up hope. Tell them to choose hope. Choose hope. Carolina, choose hope. Carolina, choose what's best in us. Choose hope. Get out there and vote.

Let's work for 4 more days. Let's win North Carolina. Let's win the Presidency for Hillary Clinton. Let's put Deborah Ross in the Senate. Let's make Roy Cooper our Governor. Let's finish what we started and remind the world why this is the greatest nation on Earth.

God bless you, North Carolina. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:56 p.m. at the PNC Music Pavilion. In his remarks, he referred to Dennis Reed, founder and chief executive officer, Inspire the Fire, who introduced the President; Attorney General Roy A. Cooper III and Gov. Patrick L. McCrory of North Carolina; Ghazala and Khizr Khan, parents of Capt. Humayun Khan, USA, who was killed in Iraq on June 8, 2004; Sen. Marco A.

Rubio; and Judge Diana Gribbon Motz, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He al-

so referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

The President's Weekly Address *November 5, 2016*

Hi, everybody. Americans have been fighting for the idea that health care is a right and not a privilege since the second-to-last time the Cubs won the World Series. I'm not talking about the 2016 Cubs, I'm talking about the 1908 Cubs.

That's a really long time. And thanks to the efforts of so many of you, we did it. Today, 20 million more American adults know the financial security of health insurance. On top of that, another 3 million more kids have coverage than when I took office. In fact, never in American history has the uninsured rate been lower than it is right now, and health care prices have been rising slower than they have in 50 years.

If you haven't gotten covered yet, now is the time to do it. It's open enrollment season. That means you can go to healthcare.gov and shop for insurance plans in a marketplace where insurers compete for your business. [Healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) is faster and easier to use than ever before. With a few clicks, you can start comparing plans to see which one is right for you and your family. You can even look up your doctor and medications as you shop. Most Americans who get coverage through healthcare.gov can find an option that costs less than \$75 a month. That's probably less than your cell phone bill.

Now, most of us don't get our health care through the marketplace. We get it through our job or through Medicare or Medicaid. And what you should know is that, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, your coverage is better today than it was before. You now have free preventive care. There are no more annual or lifetime limits on essential health care. Women

can get free checkups, and you can't get charged more just for being a woman. Young people can stay on a parent's plan until they turn 26. Seniors get discounts on their prescriptions. And no one can be denied coverage just because of a preexisting condition.

That's because our goal wasn't just to make sure more people have coverage, it was to make sure more people have better coverage. And as we continue working to make the system better, there's something you can do to help yourself and help the country. Go to healthcare.gov. Get covered. And if there's someone you care about who hasn't signed up yet, help them get covered today too.

Enrollment is open right now, but only until January 31. If you sign up by December 15, you'll be covered by the beginning of the year. So go check out healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596, and someone will personally help you find a plan that's right for you.

Insurance is based on the idea that we're all in it together. That's what makes it work. And it's the same idea that's always made America great.

Thanks, everybody, and have a good weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 12:05 p.m. on November 4 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on November 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 4, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on November 5. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address