

PLEASE VOTE
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Whether you are Republican, Democrat, Independent, Green, or whatever, please exercise your right, privilege, and duty to vote, and vote. That is my message to my Facebook friends.

That being said, I would like to express my reasons for voting for Barack Obama. First, let me say that politically I am by nature a Democrat, and even more than that I am interested in the Green Party. However, I am also a realist and recognize that with this particular election so close, that my vote by necessity must be for Obama this time.

My only real beef with Obama is that once he was elected he stopped asking me to sacrifice and give of myself. In my opinion, he stopped talking to me. I expected that all of us would be asked to contribute, big time. That didn't happen and I find it regrettable.

I also believe that, as much as I don't like it, compromise is required in these things. Life itself is a compromise, especially at my age. I defy anyone seventy-years of age or older to look me in the eye and claim otherwise. We choose the greatest good (or the lesser evil), depending upon whether we think the glass is half full or half empty. I have no qualms about choosing Obama over Romney, and here are just a few of my thoughts on this.

I cannot forget that, after college, when Obama had an opportunity to do most anything he wanted, he chose to become a devoted community organizer, helping ALL the people in his community and the poor in particular. Few among us have done that.

The idea my Republican friends tell me, that to be strong, individuals must learn to take care of themselves, especially the poor and helpless, and that any government help is only socialism does not fly with me. Good grief, what do you think the "social" in social security (and Medicare) are? And the admonition to give all power to the states, the local, and finally to each individual and have little to no federal government flies in the face of facts. Just one example: in the recent hurricane Sandy, how much power do you think the state of New Jersey would have been able to exercise, if FEMA and the federal government were not there to help? Their entire infrastructure just washed out to sea!

Of course, we need to be self-reliant, but not to the point of ignoring the suffering of others. History has been there and done that. It is Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, etc. to give a helping hand to those less fortunate than we are. I believe it is a strength and also self-reliant to be generous that way. And here are just some other areas where Obama has made the right decisions..

THE WEALTHY: Asking those with more money to pitch in at Clinton-era levels? Of course we

should.

ECONOMY: IMO, the current economy was caused by and inherited from the Bush era, with its deregulation, greed, etc. Obama has had almost zero help from the Republicans in solving this situation in the last four years. I am ashamed of the congress in general, both sides, and would fire most of them if I could, but particularly I hold the Republicans responsible for blocking change. They have not behaved responsibly.

HEALTH: Obama passed healthcare for those without coverage, those with pre-existing conditions, and so on. Everyone deserves access to basic health care. It is barbaric not to promote this IMO. Most major democratic countries offer this to their citizens. We should have done this long ago.

EDUCATION: I am particular sensitive to matters of education. Our education system is worsening. I have witnessed it. Obama is concerned with improving primary and secondary education, helping students with loans, etc. Our children's education is the future of this country. What is hard to understand about that?

MILITARY: Romney has called for increasing the military budget by \$100 billion, without it even being requested. Enough arms already. We are the strongest military in the world. How about spending something on our infrastructure and things a little closer to home?

IMMIGRATION: We need to do something about this, and at least Obama has taken steps other than putting up an even larger wall. We need to actually take reasonable action in regard to immigration and sort it out. Obama has at least done something forward-looking, albeit not enough.

FOREIGN POLICY: Obama has dealt with the rest of the world as if these countries actually exist. He has not been weak on terror or threats to our country. What does Romney know about foreign relations? Dealing with others is not a business decision, any more than friends are.

ENERGY: Global warming and alternative energies. Obama has taken steps to limit our dependence on foreign oil, and develop new energy sources. Makes perfect sense. As for investing in some projects that failed. Ha! I am an entrepreneur and have started many businesses and projects, some of which failed. How unrealistic to assume that all speculation will succeed!

EXTREME: The Republican Party has gone not toward the center to bring all Americans together, but to the far right, supporting Wall Street, deregulation, is against scientific research, global warming, and etc., just what we don't need more of. I could go on.

WOMEN: And last but not least, this should go without saying, but I am saying it again: we live in the Age of Women and Obama recognizes that by his actions to promote their welfare, wages, and wisdom.

It is simple, I don't see Romney as a solution, but just more of the problem. Obama has been slow, but his actions are in line with what I feel we need.

I have a right to my opinion, as do you. Let's all vote.