



AN APRIL 8, 2024 FOCUS GROUP WITH VOTERS FROM MICHIGAN, PENNSYLVANIA, AND WISCONSIN DISCUSSING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

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MARK HALPERIN: Welcome, everybody. Today we're joined by eight voters from the key battleground states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, all undecided voters. And just to be clear, raise your hand if you voted for Joe Biden in 2020. Raise your hand if you voted for Joe Biden in 2020. That's Kim, Katie and Omar. And raise your hand if you voted for Donald Trump in 2020.

Three of you voted for Trump. And three of you voted for Biden last time. Okay. Raise your hand if you consider yourself an undecided voter in this election, this presidential election. Raise your hand if you consider yourself an undecided voter. And raise your hand if you're unhappy with the choices for president this year. Raise your hand if you're unhappy. All right.

So that's everybody. Okay. How do you feel about the choices for president this year as you think about what's on offer? How do you feel about the choices? Gigi?

KIM: Not great.

GIGI: I was going to say the same thing ... I haven't felt good for several elections. You know, it's, it's been a while. It feels really unfortunate that we, you know, every four years, I feel like, find ourselves, are finding ourselves in the same situation where I feel like I am picking the least worst choice. This year.

I mean, I am a little bit more interested in the fact that we have someone like Robert F. Kennedy. He, he has me interested in the different things that he is saying and putting out there. So unlike the last election where I was like, really? Like I don't want either. Like, okay, like maybe let's see what's on the table with this other character.

MARK: We'll talk about Bobby Kennedy in a little bit, but other folks, just in general, how are you feeling about the choices? What words would you use to describe them?

NATHAN:: I just feel like we've seen this timeline before. And, I, going back to what Gigi said, like it's been, picking the lesser of two evils resulting in evil for, you know, I don't know how many iterations now, and it's just getting old.



OMAR: Yeah. It just feels like they haven't earned the vote, you know?

SHAWN: I think it says a lot about our country not having good options. I think that's, you know, as, as, as, as a country, we should be embarrassed that this is the best two that we can put up to choose from.

TENISHA: We should have more options, more variety to choose from, not just the same two sides.

VIRGINIA: I wish there was two completely different guys out there for me to choose from, really.

MARK: What traits are missing from the candidates that are being available. What would you like to see different in some other type of candidate?

KIM: Well, first of all, all the back and forth and commotion with, with each other that they're portraying to everybody.

I would like to see some here. Just a couple of reports of one, of what you just, you know all about what's going on with the world, with our different countries, instead of what they want and, you know, all the fighting, It makes you not, not wanting to pay attention, I'm pretty much lost right now.

MARK: So who talks more about what you care about?

Go ahead. Omar.

OMAR: I was just going to say, they're definitely touching on, you know, the, the party. You know, like key points. Each party has their key points. But I feel like just compassion, morality, integrity, that's like, those are missing from both sides. It was really like, I don't see any other way around that. I see hypocrisy and I see, just, you know, self-service out of both, all candidates.

GIGI: Yeah. hypocrisy and self-service are two big words that I would agree with is what I see that I wish would not be president.



SHAWN: Integrity, I think, is a big thing that's missing. And there was a time when most of the candidates and presidents were military men, and they understood stuff like that, like honor, integrity, service, these things. And we haven't had that in decades.

TENISHA: Yeah, it's been a long time.

MARK: Virginia?

VIRGINIA: Yeah, I was just going to say respect. I mean, neither one respects each other and I mean respect. I remember, even as a kid, you respected the president, you respected who was in office, and now it's just a bunch of bashing each other. And it's not cool.

OMAR: It's not just for each other. It's respect for the people as well. Like ... (someone interrupts) How many people feel disenfranchised by these two folks?

NATHAN: Yeah, I think we live in a real accountability vacuum too, as far as politics goes, especially at the highest levels. It seems that the sole purpose to be in power is to not get in trouble often. And, and people, people fight to have that position.

MARK: I want to go around and ask, you all want 1 or 2 words as you think about it between now and November, watching the candidates watching at campaign, what's 1 or 2 words about how you feel thinking about that 1 or 2 words to describe how you feel thinking about the rest of this political year? Let's start with you, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I just have so much anxiety about the whole thing.

MARK: Okay, okay. Anxiety is a great word. 1 or 2 words. That's all I need from you on this round. Sean?

SEAN: Embarrassed.

MARK: Embarrassed. Okay, Tenisha?

TENISHA: Just confused about which way to go.

MARK: Okay, Katie. 1 or 2 words about how you feel about this presidential year?



KATIE: Confused?

MARK: Okay. Nathan?.

NATHAN: Not hopeful.

MARK: Okay. Gigi?

GIGI: Frustrated.

MARK: Okay. Omar?

OMAR: I'll say disappointed and optimistic.

MARK: And Kim?

KIM: Ashamed and confused.

MARK: Ashamed and confused. Okay. I want to talk about President Biden. He's standing for reelection. And I want to start in terms of thinking about your positive thoughts about President Biden. Gigi, I'll start with you. What's the best argument for giving President Biden another term that you see?

GiGI: I know his stance. I agree with his stance on abortion. I mean, for me, that's probably the only positive I have right now. And that's a big issue.

MARK: Okay. What do other people think? What do you see as the best argument for another term for President Biden?

KATIE: I agree with you. Yeah, that's the only positive thing I've got going for him.

OMAR: He definitely, like, shows more care towards disenfranchised people. Like he's not, one of the hey, you know, you're on your own kind of people. And I personally agree with, you know, like, we should be supporting people who need support and it should be kind of a collective good sort of thing. And I think, like, you know, he's not a socialist. But Biden definitely. You know, represents that far more than Trump does. That's the case, I would say.



MARK: Other people who haven't talked, what's the best case you can make for another term for the president?

TENISHA: I like what he did for loan forgiveness for college students? With their debt from loans for college? I think that was something positive he was trying to do.

TENISHA: And, that was something I liked about him.

VIRGINIA: I think he's doing well, with the carbon credits, and the environmental issues.

NATHAN: I think he represents something of a safe status quo choice, if that's a good thing or not, I'm not really certain.

MARK: Nathan, I'm going to stay with you, stay with you and switch up the question. What's your biggest reservation about giving another term to President Biden? What's your single biggest reservation?

NATHAN: Yeah, I think I think he's been absolutely disastrous for the economy.

VIRGINIA: I agree,

SHAWN: Yeah, yeah.

MARK: Raise your hand if you agree with Nathan, that President Biden's performance on the economy is your biggest reservation

ALL: Oh, okay. Well, biggest one of the biggest, a big one.

MARK: Okay, so, so it's a big one, but not necessarily the biggest one for a lot of you? OK, Tenisha, what's your biggest reservation about another term for President Biden?

TENISHA: I don't know, it's just seeing him speak, and some of his mistakes and errors. I'm not sure if he should continue or he should retire, so I'm just kind of on the line about that. And just saying the different things that he was supposed to do, and then making mistakes or errors. So I'm a little bit on the fence about it.



GIGI: To Tenisha's point, I don't think health isn't a big issue because I just, you know, you want to have someone in there for four years. So you're voting that person in and you're not necessarily wanting to vote in the vice president. And from what we've seen of his health just in this term, it's concerning to be putting him up for election again, just on that alone.

MARK: Raise your hand if you have doubts about whether President Biden would finish his term. Raise your hand if you have doubts about, if he was reelected, whether he would finish his term.

MARK: Alright, alright, keep it. Keep them up just because we got some late votes here. Alright, so all but two of you do. All but two of you have some doubts about that? And of the six of you said you have some doubts. Is that a reason you might not vote for him? Is that a consideration?

GROUP: Yeah. Yeah most definitely.

KIM: It's a possibility. But it's not like the main thing.

NATHAN: I think one of the things we don't necessarily even know for certain is who his VP will be. And I think that uncertainty, is, is there, is out there. I think Harris is, has been, tremendously unpopular with the vast majority of voters. And I, I think there may be a last minute switch, and I think that may be holding people back from going all in on Biden.

MARK: I want to ask you now about President Biden versus President Trump on this question. And I'll start with a show of hands, and then we'll talk about it. Whose policies do you think would be better for your family, personal finances, your family's personal finances going forward?

Whose policies? Raise your hand if you think President Trump's policies on the economy would be better for your family personally, raise your hand. All right, so that is everybody. Okay, let's talk about that. President Biden argues that his economic record has been very good, that President Trump's was not as good. What, what, what are you keying off of?

Sean, since you had the best... what are you keying off of, to say, President Trump's economic policies would be better?



SHAWN: I mean, my past performance of my, of my 401k, I mean, I have hard data of my finances that I can just look at and say, well, that I mean, I know his post 2020, you know, everything kind of flipped around. But, you know, you can't— you can't blame everything on 2020 for forever. You know?

MARK: Okay, Virginia, why are you smiling at the question?

VIRGINIA: I mean, yeah, businesses just seem to be booming. I mean, we have areas here in Pennsylvania where it's just at a standstill right now. Like things are supposed to be being built and the interest rates are just way too high for people to, to, to, you know, invest and start moving around.

MARK: And Virginia, just staying with you because Pennsylvania is near and dear to Joe Biden's heart. Are there Biden policies that you would blame for the problem, and if so, what are they? Or Trump policies you would credit?

VIRGINIA: I mean, I'm just still looking at the interest rate. You know, the interest rate is so high right now. And I know they're trying to cut the inflation down. But, like, if the interest rate is not low, nobody is building. No businesses are really coming to Pennsylvania right now to keep us moving forward. It's just kind of stagnant right now. Nothing seems to be happening.

MARK: Does anybody have a story to share about your family's personal finances? Since Joe Biden's been in the white House, where you'd say because of Joe Biden, like, that's been a problem for my family. Does anybody have a story that they'd like to share about that? Virginia, go ahead.

VIRGINIA: We really want to add on an addition to our house. But I mean, there's no way we can afford to do that. We're a family of six. And I really needed to have a new bedroom and a bath, and not the way the interest rates are right now. They're just way, way too high.

MARK: But you attribute that to Joe Biden's policies?

VIRGINIA: I do, because if the interest rate was lower when Trump was in, I would be able to do more. Definitely. I'd be able to do more.



TENISHA: The prices of everything is so high now. The price of food, the price of living, even if you're trying to buy a house because I'm trying to become a first-time home buyer. The prices are so high right now. It's just hard.

VIRGINIA: You can't do anything. You just have to rent.

MARK: Is there anything Joe Biden could do or say between now and the time you vote that would make you feel differently about feeling that his policies would not be as good for your family on the economy? Or are you pretty much decided that Trump's policies would be better for the economy?

GIGI: I mean, I feel like he doesn't even take accountability at all for what's going with the economy. And that's not even accountability. Like, he's in denial that it's happening. Like his team is like, "no, the inflation isn't that bad. The markup on groceries and just everyday goods, it's not that bad."

And you're like, "oh, but my grocery bill has gone up like at least \$150 a week in the last year." When we're a family with two adults and one baby, like, that's crazy.

KATIE: And it's almost a little bit— it's too late. I mean, you're talking three and a half years into his term and now you're going to do something about it. You know, for what?

So you get reelected and then everything goes right back to what? The way it was before? Yeah. No.

OMAR: The point is Biden needs to hear the people because when he's talking about the economy doing stellar, he's talking about the stock market. He's not looking at homelessness or joblessness. He's not, by his point, thinking about how much it costs to go to the grocery store. He's gaslighting literally everyone in the process. It's definitely a lot. We could be doing better there.

MARK: Okay. And, Omar, you voted for Joe Biden last time, right?

OMAR: Yeah, yeah.



MARK: Yeah. Okay. I want to ask about a different issue and a comparison between President Biden and President Trump, which is who do you think in office, both in terms of their presidencies and in the next presidency, who would keep America safer?

Who would do a better job of keeping America safe? Raise your hand if you think President Biden would do a better job of keeping America safe? President Biden. Omar? Okay. And hand down, Omar. And raise your hand if you think President Trump would do a better job of keeping us safe. All right, so that's everybody else except Kim.

MARK: You think it's a tie?

KIM: Yeah. Yeah. yeah.

MARK: Okay. Okay. Tinesha, explain why you think President Trump would do a better job of keeping America safe around the world?

TINESHA: Well because he's all for America. I know people may have their opinions about him, but he's all for, you know, building America, making America better, helping businesses. He's a businessman.

He was a businessman before he became president. So he knows how to make more money and build up our country. So, I'm kind of on the fence about him, but as far as his business aspect, I think that will help to keep us safer.

MARK: I would like to hear from others. If you think President Trump's policies would keep America safer, tell me why. First Nathan and then Gigi.

NATHAN: I think I think Trump, but only marginally so because he projects strength and Biden I think just projects weakness. I think to my liking they're both far too pro-war. I would like to see the US out of a lot of these foreign entanglements.

Eisenhower warned us about this long ago, and here we are walking right into it all over again. But yeah, I think Trump, just because he projects a little more strength than Biden.

GIGI: I mean, I agree with part of what you're saying, Nathan. And President Trump definitely projects a stronger presence, I believe, as well. And I think when he was, you know, our



president that came across as some people thinking that put us in danger because he was more aggressive, more— that's how it was portrayed.

But look at the conflicts that we now have been brought into while Biden has been in power. So, I mean, I also just feel like part of this, too. And I'm sure this is going to be another topic we're going into is immigration. For me. I think the open borders lead our country to be very unsafe. And that is one of— that's my biggest concern with the safety of this country.

MARK: Let's talk about that. Let's talk about that. I don't want to prejudge it, but raise your hand if you think President Trump would be better than President Biden at securing the Mexican border. Raise your hand if you think President Trump would do a better job. All right, so that's everyone but Omar.

Okay. I'm going to... we'll come back to immigration in a moment. But I want to ask you another question, a comparison between them. Think about this one between President Biden and President Trump. Who do you think better understands the daily challenges faced by people like you? Who do you think better understands the daily challenges faced by people like you?

MARK: Raise your hand if you think President Trump better understands the daily challenges. All right. Surprisingly, Omar says yes to that one. And Gigi. Alright, and raise your hand if you think President Biden better understands your daily challenges.

GIGI: I feel like neither of them really do that. Right. Exactly.

MARK: So if I offered you a tie or that neither of them really does, who would vote for that? Okay, neither.

GIGI: I mean, that's most politicians, I feel like.

MARK: What if I asked you to compare them to, say, Barack Obama, would you say that he understood better?

OMAR: Yeah.

MARK: Omar says yes.



NATHAN: I'd say slightly.

MARK: Okay, well, we'll come back. We'll come back. I want to ask you a little bit about President Trump because I'm surprised on one level that given the group in general, what you said about President Biden, you don't really think he understands people like you. You think he's been bad on the economy. You don't think you do as good a job at controlling the southern border as President Trump? You don't think he'd keep the world safe. Not all of you, but most of you. And yet you're not all voting for Donald Trump. So let's start with Virginia. Virginia, what is it that gives you reservations about Donald Trump?

VIRGINIA: I just, I just think Donald Trump is mean. He's the bully and I yeah, I think I think his policies are solid. I, I pretty much agree with most of them. I just don't like him as a leader. Okay.

MARK: Other folks, tell me, tell me your reservation. What's your primary reservation?

SHAWN: I don't like Donald Trump. I don't think he does a lot to try to bring groups together. And, you know, from when he ran the last time our country became so divided. I don't know if it's anything particularly particular about what he said or did, but our country really just— we really picked sides on this.

OMAR: And I just— I feel like people forget about that, Sean. That's such a good point. It's like Trump is so volatile. And not only internal strife and conflict, but, you know, like I don't feel comfortable with him calling someone with nukes, Rocket Man. You know, it's like, I don't want—

GIGI: One hundred percent.

OMAR: I don't know, I thought it was funny too, but maybe Kim Jong didn't.

MARK: And so, I've heard people say he's mean and have reservations about this.

SHAWN: That doesn't bother me. I just think that there could be more done for the people in terms of that. Where he just said, well, you know, I don't know. I don't really know how that works. Is it really? Did he just reveal how the human heart is throughout the country anyway? Or did he cause it? You know what I'm saying? Like that's that's the problem.

GIGI: Yeah.



KATIE: And then I think so much about social media. I mean, it's like, yeah... just get your fingers off the phone.

SHAWN: Yeah. Exactly.

KATIE: I mean, it's easy to hide behind that screen.

KIM: It's the situation that went on at the Capitol for me that got literally out of control. It makes you wonder, well, if he's back in there, what the— anything can happen that— it's really a scary thing.

VIRGINIA: I feel like if Trump just shut his mouth like, and just did the policy and his work, I would say, yes, please come back. But if he just learns to keep his mouth closed, don't make comments about people that he might not necessarily like that much and just be a strong leader and do his job.

GIGI: I think that I keep hearing everybody say, and I agree too, and everybody's just kind of saying in a different way, it's like— yes, he is mean or whatever. But it's that he's divisive, period. The divisiveness that he causes in the country is like the big, big problem. His policies can— could be great, but that almost undermines that all. The way that it caused the divide and the craziness within our country.

NATHAN: He's actually told a number of different groups, a number of different people in different places that his position differs based on his audience. And I mean, you know, as a politician, that's a great skill to have. But it just makes him so untrustworthy to anybody who's paying attention that, you know, he has more camps than he has feet and he's got— Yeah. And he just shuffles around and exists where he needs to in order to please the most people in that moment. And that just seems entirely disingenuous.

OMAR: In a media sense, I get what you're saying with respect to Trump, but like, you know, other politicians are just as wishy-washy.

GIGI: And I hear people who are big Trump supporters basically say that— That's like one of the things they like that he's so transparent about like his—

SHAWN: Weaselness.



GIGI: The way he's honest. Like that's what you'll hear people say.

MARK: Kim raised January 6th. And obviously that's one of the areas where President Trump is now facing some criminal indictments. I want to talk a little bit about whether the indictments and any possible convictions could impact how you decide to vote in the end, or whether you decide to vote.

Shawn, let's start with you. How do you feel about the indictments and any possible conviction?

SHAWN: I just think they're a political farce. If this was such a big deal, we have a policy in America: right to a speedy trial. Like, why wasn't this brought up in 2020 or 2021. It just shows that they're just trying to railroad him to try to get him off the ballot. It's really just, you know, come on.

MARK: Okay. How do other people feel compared to what Sean said?

GIGI: I mean, I agree.

OMAR: It's in line with that, but it just feels like the DOJ at this point is completely abusing the justice system. And don't get me wrong, there are some things that I agree on. Like he probably lied on facts, but he probably should be charged— like he probably was guilty of some of that, but it's entirely being weaponized and it doesn't seem fair at all. And it feels just like a big brother tactic to keep dissenters down. And even if I don't agree with Trump, I disagree with that one.

MARK: Does anyone feel differently about the prosecutions from Shawn and Omar, I gather from the head nodding Virginia. Does anyone think these prosecutions are legitimate? Important? Anybody?

KIM: I think some of them are important. I also feel like if they have the proof and why is it being dragged out so flat? You know? Yeah, if it was any of us, they'd have handled it.

MARK: And let me ask you, if you agree with the statement that the prosecutions— again, there are four of them. But these prosecutions in terms of how they've been dragged out, was politically motivated by the part of the prosecutor. Raise your hand if you agree that the prosecution timing has been politically motivated. All right. So everybody but Kim. Kim, you're not—



KIM: You know, just, I don't understand. Okay.

MARK: But the rest of you think the timing of it.

KIM: Oh, most definitely the timing. Yeah.

MARK: The timing has dragged out. All of you think that. Tenisha, if Donald Trump were convicted— and maybe you'd feel differently depending on which charges he was convicted of— Would that make you feel less likely to vote for him or?

TENISHA: No, I think it would depend on the charges. Because it was dragged out for so long. It depends on the charges.

MARK: Can anyone think of any of the charges he's facing? And again, it's a lot. You've got busy lives, maybe not following it super closely, but can anyone think of any of the charges that you think is particularly serious where your sense is he is guilty from what you've heard and if he gets convicted that it's a serious disqualification. Can anyone name anything that he's charged with? You feel that way?

SHAWN: I heard treason being kicked around in the beginning? I don't know if that was ever an official charge. Because back in the day, we would just take them out and hang them or shoot them, right? I'm not sure.

OMAR: I'm not sure of the word, but definitely one is like incitement of something. Yeah, but it's like specific to overruling the current administration, which I mean is a bit of a stretch, but definitely something important. I think another is tax fraud, something like that. Like he owes the IRS a shit ton of money. Sorry, a lot of money. I'm not a hundred percent though.

KATIE: I don't think tax fraud has any bearing on his ability to lead the country.

OMAR: I mean, it's a moral thing.

KATIE: Well, yeah, it's a moral thing. But yet, you can go up and down the street, and I bet you nine out of ten of your neighbors is lying somewhere along the line on their taxes. I mean, it's—



SHAWN: Yeah, I mean, he was very transparent about that when he said he's just using the laws the way they are. He's like, if you don't like it, change the laws. He's like, but I know you won't.

MARK: We've talked a little bit about politicians and ethics and particularly Trump and Biden. Just a show of hands— if you were rating them in terms of honesty, truthfulness and character... I'm going to ask you about Trump, Biden and no difference who's got who's got, in your view, better character, morality, honesty.

Raise your hand if you think Donald Trump has better moral character than Joe Biden. Raise your hand for Trump. Okay, raise your hand, Joe Biden. You think he has better character? all right, so Katie's halfway. And raise your hand if you think there's really no difference between them.

All right I want to ask you about other potential candidates and actual candidates. Gigi mentioned Bobby Kennedy before. What do people think about him? Gigi, you already weighed in. So, what do other folks think about Bobby Kennedy? He's someone you might consider voting for? What do you know about him? What do you like about him? What don't you like about him? Omar, you go.

OMAR: He's a consideration. He— I mean, anyone's a consideration. Frankly, at this point, he seems to have a decent track. He comes from a family that has historically done good for the nation, but I don't I don't give him credit just because he's a Kennedy. Like he has to, again, earn the vote. And I hear a lot of his points, like I think he had just had a recent ten minute uplift— like some political advertisement.

And he was saying a lot of really relevant things about how, you know, we have, you know, like, chronic illnesses, like off the charts and how, you know, there's just high violence rates and, you know, high death rates. And he's talking about real American problems, whether he'll do anything about that. You know— he can talk about whatever he wants, but he hasn't really proved himself.

MARK: So that's interesting. So Omar, would you consider voting for him at this point? Is it on the table for you?

OMAR: I mean, if he changed his foreign policy stance towards the conflict in Israel, I might. Not right now.



MARK: Anyone else? Tell me what you've heard about him, what you think about him. Besides, Gigi and Omar. Go ahead, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: I don't really know too much about him except for his, you know, he's a Kennedy. I'm assuming a Democrat. My sticking point, and it's just going to be opposite of Gigi and Katie is abortion. I'm for life. And, if he's for abortion, that's going to be a sticking point for me. But I would like to hear more about what he stands for and about his policies.

MARK: Okay. Other people, what do you know about him? What do you like about him or not?

NATHAN: Like, he's pretty hard line on the environment. And I know some people may like that and some may not. To me it seems like his policies are so strict that I think it's going to further impair business. It's going to raise costs. It's going to create an additional regulatory layer that is going to hurt us all, in my personal opinion. I haven't really heard a whole lot else about him. I just, I don't know. He's a nonstarter for me, but I would like to see him in the race.

Not because I think he's going to be Ralph Nader 2.0, but because I think that, I think that it's good to have additional voices out there. I just see too many policies that I think are going to be a continuation of Biden, quite frankly. And economically speaking, I think that he's looking for a blank check from the taxpayer in order to do a lot of these pet projects as far as the environment goes.

And I just don't see that as being worthwhile.

OMAR: I agree, that's a good point.

MARK: If Bobby Kennedy is on the ballot in your state, and it appears that he's doing well enough in the polls to win, raise your hand if you possibly might vote for him based on what you know. Possibly might vote for him if he were on the ballot in your state.

Yeah, raise them up. Keep them up because you got some indecisiveness. All right. So five-ish, six-ish. Okay. Who else can name anybody else who might be running or is running for president?

OMAR: Cornel West, Jill Stein. Let's go.



MARK: Yeah, yeah. All right, Omar's got it down. What do folks think about those options? Anybody attracted to that kind of option?

SHAWN: I don't know that America is ready for a female president yet.

NATHAN: I disagree, I, I disagree, but, yeah.

GIGI: I disagree about that.

SHAWN: I mean, Hillary was a great option. I mean, she was somebody who—

OMAR: Hillary was not a great option.

TENISHA: I don't know about Hillary Clinton, but anything's possible.

KIM: What's your problem with a lady being president?

TENISHA: I don't have a problem with a lady being president. I think that anything's possible. I just don't agree with the Hillary Clinton, option, but—

KIM: Oh. You said Hillary.

MARK: Okay, just raise your hand if you think voting for someone besides Trump or Biden is basically a waste of the vote, raise your hand if you think that's a wasted vote.

OMAR: What do you mean by waste?

MARK: You can define it.

GIGI: I feel like they make us like— you're made to feel that way, which is a problem. And that's why people will not vote a lot of times for the other candidates. Right?

VIRGINIA: I used to live in Montana and like, the election was already done by the time I voted. Basically, like it was a bummer, you know. So that's why I feel, you know, that it's kind of a waste, I mean—



NATHAN: I have to disagree. I lived in Texas and I felt very much the same way many, many of the years that I lived there. But because it's a foregone conclusion, I actually felt like voting for a third party gave me a lot of power and agency because it was a vote of disapproval for the status quo.

VIRGINIA: That's a good way to think of it.

KIM: Thank you for saying that.

MARK: Okay, first thing I want to come back to a couple issues here. And we're getting close to the end and just want to make sure types of couple issues have come up. First, a few of you mentioned abortion, abortion rights as an important thing to you.

I'm wondering again how important it is to you and whether it could be decisive for you in the end in terms of how you vote. Raise your hand if abortion is one of the top issues for you in this election. Raise if it's one of the top issues. All right. So four of you, let's start with Virginia. You said you supported pro-life. So could Joe Biden win your vote even though he supports abortion rights?

VIRGINIA: That's the hard thing. That is the struggle for me. Like, I think Joe Biden is a little more compassionate maybe than Trump. But then at the same time, I don't feel that as a country, we should say it's okay to murder babies. I just have a really strong, moral— I just feel really bad even allowing it because of my beliefs.

MARK: Okay. And Gigi you have the opposite point of view regarding abortion and the law. So could you see yourself voting for Donald Trump, who's responsible for overturning Roe versus Wade?

GIGI: I mean, I could. It is a big and important issue for me. But I'm also— it's not like I'm... it's not as black and white as like I'm pro-life or not pro-life. Like I think there's limits. I think that abortion can be used inappropriately. And I think that being banned— flat out like letting states just totally ban it without there being like proper exceptions for medical, incest, rape. That is dangerous. I think it's a really hard issue for me. It's hard for me to say that. This is one of the biggest hang ups for me, I would say, in voting.

KATIE: For me, it's more about women's rights and not about whether I'm, you know, pro-life or, you know, it's about giving women the opportunity to make that decision.



And it goes back to what Gigi said. You know, there's so many extenuating circumstances that haven't been taken into consideration. It's not just black and white. You can't just say, no, we're not going to do it. And then, you know, a mother's life is at risk because of a pregnancy. And you're not going to allow that to, you know— that's where I struggle with it. It's not black and white.

GIGI: And I think women's rights and just medical rights too, like they're both really important. Flat out, just having your own medical rights and your own like authority over your body and not having a state or the government tell you what you can and can't do with your body, period.

KIM: I look at it in a lot of different ways, but biblically we're not supposed to, you know, kill. So that's my strongest thing of wanting to, you know, going on. But also, as Gigi said, you know, if some incest or someone got raped, that's a hard thing for some people to be able to handle. So, you know, I'm like, there should be limits. But at the same time, you got a lot of young people out here just having babies and killing them and killing them and that's bad.

MARK: Thank you, Kim. Nathan—

NATHAN: Gigi touched on it a little bit but I think the idea that the government being the ultimate arbiter of our health care in our bodies is terrifying. I mean, they do such a poor job of everything else.

I do not want the government having a say over my body, my wife's body or any of your bodies. And it's just terrifying to think that we're going to go down this road of, of certain allowances. But then the government is deciding what those allowances are. And I'm deeply concerned with how involved they're going to get into, vetting those reasons for each individual. I think that's really terrifying to think about.

MARK: Okay. I want to ask you another one more question about immigration. You all said before that you thought President Biden's record on the economy pretty much settled on it. And if he did anything different, you'd attribute it to the election year. Do you feel that way about immigration, or if he made some changes in his immigration policy now, you think that could win back some of your confidence in him to handle the issue?

TENISHA: I don't know how I feel about that, because even with the statement of the government, you know, encouraging us to open up our homes to immigrants, but we have a



large percentage of homeless people who are still homeless and are giving housing to immigrants. I'm not saying they don't need space, but we have homeless people who are already here who need assistance, who need funding, and they're giving away free things to immigrants and not helping the homeless.

KATIE: But a lot of those homeless people... Yeah, I still have property in California. A lot of those homeless people do not want to be housed because they don't want to follow the rules. So, you know, I mean, I feel for anybody if they're given the opportunity as a homeless person, you know, to get the same benefits that we're offering, you know, these people coming in across the borders, then great. But I can't—I can't weigh, you know, homelessness against immigration because to me they're they're just they're completely separate.

OMAR: I think that the just the thing with immigration is they both have pretty strong, you know, they want to mitigate foreign immigration and especially through the southern border. It's become a hot button issue. And Biden and Trump frankly, in my opinion, take very similar stances with regards to that. They were both putting kids in cages back on the southern border. It's like, what kind of what are they..? At the end of the day, what I want to see is someone who really addresses the speed to get, from kind of like first step of legal immigration status to, you know, a legal, you know, American citizen, or at least you're here on, you know, some visa or whatever while you go through the process.

But they need to have a better vetting system on a quicker time frame to kind of tackle illegal immigration and make it more feasible. And at the same time, you know, like, we got to keep people who shouldn't be here out.

GIGI: I think you are 100% correct on that.

OMAR: It needs to be a faster process and there needs to be restrictions. We do want to let people and we do want to help people as a country. But you can't just let anybody walk through.

NATHAN: I think that, you know, there's a lot of specters being raised about just the danger of immigration. We're a country of immigrants, you know, some of us don't have to go too far back and in and our families were coming here. And, you know, personally, I have someone in my family who just got here, you know, only a handful years ago. And it's just very, very concerning to see people who are, who are so upset with the idea that immigration is what's ruining this country.



It's actually in my opinion, what is making this country great— the diversity of opinion and experience and all of that coming together is what made America great in the first place. And it's what will make America great again.

I agree with that. It's just that there needs to be boundaries. You can't just have open borders. I think that's just like really the difference. I 100% agree with that.

TENISHA: I just want to say I don't have a problem with immigration. I think, what someone was saying earlier about it being legal immigration. I think I'm okay with that, as long they go through all the proper procedures and everything to become a citizen. I think that's why I think it should be open.

I just have an issue with illegal immigration and then trying to get the citizens to open up their homes and give them free resources when they haven't went through the proper resources to become legal. That's the issue because you do have to be careful about who you let in because of a lot of human trafficking, you know, especially with children and women, and you really want to be careful to keep the country safe.

NATHAN: I think the legal system is broken on purpose, though. I think that it's set up to be difficult. It's set up to be expensive. It's a source of revenue for the government and, you know, they know that there is a never ending stream of people who would want to come here legally. They know there's a never ending stream of people who will pay to come here legally, and they are just keeping the system broken on purpose.

And there is no will on Republicans or Democrats' side to fix it because it's actually doing what they want it to do, which is unfortunate.

KIM: I agree.

MARK: I want to go around and ask you all for one sentence. If you were asked by President Biden, he called you up and said, Virginia, I really want to win your vote.

What do I need to do to win your vote? You know what you would say to President Biden? What's the thing he could do to win your vote. Virginia?

VIRGINIA: It would be to be pro-life.



MARK: Okay, Sean, what would you tell President Biden needs to do to win your vote?

SHAWN: To be a better leader?

MARK: Okay, Nathan.

NATHAN: Stop spending money.

MARK: Yeah, okay. Gigi?

GIGI: Stop spending money, take accountability for the economy.

MARK: Omar?

OMAR: Stop giving Israel carte blanche to bomb my family.

MARK: Okay, Kim.

KIM: Just take notes, start taking notes and keep up with what's going on. Pay attention to what's really going on.

MARK: Okay, Katie, what would you tell President Biden how he could win your vote?

KATIE: Be present.

MARK: Okay. Tenisha.

TENISHA: Be more informed about what's going on, maybe have some better people around so he can become a better leader.

MARK: Same question about President Trump. Gigi, I'll start with you. What would you tell him if President Trump said, I really want to win your vote. What can I do? What would you tell him?

GIGI: Keep your mouth shut. Be compassionate. Be like a little empathetic, compassionate.

MARK: Okay, Omar.



OMAR: I was thinking something similar. Have a heart. You know, it's like, be more decent. '

MARK: Okay, okay. Kim,

KIM: Get your neck back. Get your neck back. Yeah.

SHAWN: That's cruel.

KIM: You're doing too much and you're not caring. Step back because you got a lot of great points.

MARK: Katie?

KATIE: Just because you think it doesn't mean you should say it.

KIM: Right. Get your neck back.

MARK: Okay, Nathan.

NATHAN: I think, get in touch with the real American people.

MARK: Tenisha?

TENISHA: Hire a better PR team so he can learn how to communicate better with everyone. To bring the country together, not divided.

KIM: There you go.

MARK: Shawn?

SHAWN: Everything that comes into your head doesn't have to come out of your mouth.

MARK: Okay. And, Virginia.

VIRGINIA: Be kind and promote peace.



MARK: Very grateful to all of you for making time and for being so generous with your points of view. You are, as I say, very important voters because of where you live and how thoughtful you are. And thank you all. Have a great evening.