

# FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE

## The Importance of the Upcoming Election

**First Lady By:** Mary Jane Grauso



240 plus years ago our Founding Fathers drafted our country's Articles of Confederation<sup>1</sup>, Declaration of Independence<sup>2</sup>, followed by the Constitution of the United States. Principle's upon which our country was founded. These important documents declared our country's independence from the British Monarchy.

**What is a democracy? a government by the people.** A government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation, usually involving periodically held free elections<sup>3</sup>.

Recently, our democracy has come under attack from within. Institutions that were established as pillars of our society and Rule of Law have been chinked at. Our world as we once knew it has been turned upside down and we now live in an alternative universe.

***This year's election is one of the most important elections in recent history*** that we as voters will participate in. We will be electing leaders whose decision and actions will directly impact our lives. This is especially true as we cope with the coronavirus pandemic which effects every American, getting our economy back on track and Social Justice for all.

ting our economy back on track and Social Justice for all.

**Who Will Lead The Recovery?** Whoever is president in 2021 will set the nation's economic agenda and will decide whether to sign legislation passed by Congress. Congress which is composed of both the House of Representatives and the Senate have oversight over the administration's policies and the power to pass legislation.

**What's At Stake?** The following issues will be major areas of discussion. Which candidate has a doable plan? As you watch this years presidential debates please keep these issues in mind;

**Coronavirus Pandemic-** Could it have been handled better? How will it be handled in the future?

**Economy-** Worst in 75 years. What is the plan to put the 26 plus million unemployed back to work?

**Social Justice-** What changes need to be made to address this?

**Pro-Life-**How do the candidates feel about Reproductive Rights, Capital Punishment, and any other issues dealing with the sanctity of life.

**Medicare-** How will the program continue to be funded? [The trustees of the program estimate the within 6 years it won't be able to pay full hospital benefits]<sup>4</sup>. What changes will be made? Rising costs are an issue.

**Drug Prices-** have increased at rates higher than inflation what will be done to control this?

**Healthcare For All-** On Nov.10 the Supreme Court will hear arguments concerning the Affordable Care Act. Does any candidate have a plan they are willing to put forth and discuss in detail?

**Social Security-** Without any changes the trust funds will be exhausted by 2035<sup>5</sup>. Wharton School of Univ. of Pennsylvania report<sup>6</sup> suggests these funds will be depleted sooner because of all the millions of workers who have lost their jobs.

**Long Term Care-** How to protect residents of nursing homes and other long term care facilities against sickness, neglect and isolation, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, and how to ensure older Americans can choose to age in their homes.

**Climate Change-** its estimated that we have ~12 years to make changes that will help reverse the drastic effects of climate change i.e. using less fossil fuels, going green, utilizing wind and solar energy more etc.

For the next 33 days it is paramount and your responsibility that you all pay careful attention to what the candidates say regarding these issues. Our country faces a long hard road to overcome these challenges and its important that the right candidate that can get us out of this situation be elected. Unemployment is at the highest its been since the Depression. Our economy is in the dumpster. Sure the Stock Market is up but how many working class individuals have investments in the market? How many even earn a living wage and don't have to work 2 or 3 jobs to support their families? For those who were fortunate enough to have worked at a job that paid well and were able to invest in the Stock Market kudos to you. The majority of the working class unfortunately does not.

Unfortunately, we humans tend to have very short memories and forget what our elected leaders have done in the past. Its not just voting for president but for both the Senate and the House of Representatives. It appears that they aren't doing all they can as our elected representatives. Therefore, this is your opportunity to have your voice heard. Take advantage of one of the greatest rights you have as an individual to **VOTE** and let your voice be heard loud and clear.

If you haven't registered go and do so. The last date to register is Oct. 13, 2020 and the last date to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 20, 2020.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE NOV. 3, 2020** either in person at a local pol or by mail.

<sup>1</sup> [1774] <sup>2</sup> [1776]<sup>3</sup> Webster's dictionary <sup>4</sup> AARP Bulletin Sept. 2020 <sup>5</sup> AARP Bulletin Sept. 2020 <sup>6</sup> AARP Bulletin Sept. 2020