

The **Institutions**, not the man.

I voted for President Trump, I am a republican, I am a capitalist, but above all else, I am an American. I came to the U.S for the same reason that many people do, because of its institutions and laws. America was a nation built and developed like no other. Its founding fathers were philosophers and lawyers looking for their people's best interest and the long-term success and stability of their constitution. However, nothing matters nearly as much as the democracy on which it is all founded upon. It is the very bedrock on which the United States was conceived and is what keeps its institutions fresh with change.

That is why the President's actions in light of the presidential election has shocked and disgusted me. I chose Trump because of his economic policy and his strong-arm strategy globally, yet I would have never cast a ballot for Trump if I had known how he was going to react to losing. He has been railing on Twitter and the media about a fake election system, voter fraud, and institutionalized enemies, which can become a precedent for future distrust of the election system. Such a direct affront to the United States electoral process is unacceptable no matter what party or President, it

should not be allowed. Countries all around the world have been taking note of this election, of how divided we are, and how the President has been responding. To lose trust in the election is to begin to lose the social contract that we hold with our government and its process. I fear that the longer that Trump continues to delay a concession, if he continues with empty lawsuits and rants on Twitter, then we might see an opening for others to begin to question the systems that run our country.

It is within his right to sue, recount, and press claim to corruption, and recounts do indeed show some voter irregularities, yet to claim victory preemptively, to sow a divide in the nation. That is not acceptable. In the pursuit of reclaiming the presidency, he is tearing apart a social fabric that has taken hundreds of years to form. I cannot continue to support a president who is putting our nation's good and well-being in harm's way so he could retain that control, which he has lost democratically. I encourage other republicans to reflect on the situation as I have to ask yourself the question. When this becomes history, when Trump is seen through the next generation's eyes, will you want to have stood with him

in this pursuit? I think of the opportunity I had as an immigrant to this nation, the opportunities it afforded me, and I only wish to preserve that for the next generation and give them those values and institutions intact.

While the election itself has been monumental for our nation in these past months and is critical in the policy's short-term direction during the pandemic, it seems to me that the transition of power might just be the most important part. If it is done right, we can have an example and calm within our divided nation and maybe begin the healing process we have all been yearning for. However, if Trump drags this out, if he continues with the rhetoric, if he makes the transition of the presidency a topic of debate or conflict, then I will seriously begin to worry over what the state of our institutions will become.

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