

Administration of Barack Obama, 2016

Remarks at a Campaign Rally for Democratic Presidential Nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton in Kissimmee, Florida

November 6, 2016

The President. Hello, Florida! Are you fired up? Are you ready to go?

Audience member. I love you!

The President. I love you back! It is good to be back.

Couple of people I want to thank. First of all, my favorite and, more importantly, Michelle's favorite, give it up for the great Stevie Wonder. I was going to come up and sing with Stevie, but Stevie explained that this was designed to get votes not lose votes, so we decided not to do that. [*Laughter*]

I also want to thank one of the finest public servants Florida has ever known and one of the greatest Senators in the country, Bill Nelson. And I want to thank your next United States Senator, Patrick Murphy.

Two days, Florida. Two days to decide the future of this country. And I need you to go vote. I need your help to help finish what we started 8 years ago.

Think about when I was—where we were when I last visited Florida, in the final days of the 2008 campaign: living through two long wars, about to enter into the worst economic crisis in 80 years. Because of you, we have been able to turn the page. We fought back. We avoided a depression. We restored the housing market. We helped to make the financial system work again. We raised income. Poverty fell. Created 15½ million new jobs. Unemployment rate 4.9 percent, near a 9-year low. Twenty million Americans have health insurance. We kicked our addiction to foreign oil, doubled our production of renewable energy. Became a world leader in climate change. Oh, and by the way, gas is 2 bucks a gallon.

We brought home more of our men and women in uniform. We took out Usama bin Laden. High school graduation rates, alltime high; college enrollment at an alltime high. We helped to make sure that in all 50 States, people have the freedom to marry who they love. No wonder I've got gray hair. We've been working hard.

And most of all, over these last 8 years, as I've traveled all across 50 States, as I've traveled to Puerto Rico, as I've traveled all around the country, I've seen what has made America great. I have seen you, the American people.

Audience member. Yes, you! [*Laughter*]

The President. I've got a hype man here.

Audience member. Obama! Obama! Obama!

The President. I have seen Americans of every party and every faith who know that we are stronger together. Doesn't matter whether you're young or old, men or women, Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native American, folks with disabilities, gay, straight—all of us are pledging allegiance to the red, white, and blue, all of us trying to make life better for our kids and our grandkids and generations to follow.

And I will tell you there's only one candidate in this race who has devoted her life to lifting up that better America, and that's the next President of the United States, Hillary Clinton. Hillary!

Audience members. Hillary! Hillary! Hillary!

The President. Now, here's the thing though, Florida: All the progress we've made goes out the window if we don't win this election. And we win this election if we win Florida. If we win Florida, it's a wrap. We win Florida, it's over.

So we've got to work our hearts out this week, these next few days, as if our future depends on it, because our future depends on it. And I know that sometimes at the end of a campaign, there's been so much negativity and so much noise and so much distraction and so much innuendo and rumors and false statements, and at a certain point, you feel like you just want to tune it all out. Some of you all saw "Saturday Night Live" yesterday? They just decided that's it, we can't do it anymore. They ran outside. [*Laughter*] And sometimes, you feel like that.

But I want you to focus on this election and its candidates, because the truth is, the choice couldn't be simpler or clearer. On the one hand, you have somebody who may be the most qualified person ever to run for the Presidency. On the other hand, you've got the Donald.

Audience members. Boo!

The President. Don't boo, vote. Don't boo, vote. Don't boo!

Audience members. Vote!

The President. He can't hear your boos, but he can hear your vote.

There is a reason that so many Republicans, so many conservatives have denounced Donald Trump, even if sometimes they said, well, but we're going to vote for him anyway. That is because Donald Trump is uniquely unqualified to be President, temperamentally unfit to be Commander in Chief.

Look, if you want to keep our military the greatest fighting force in the world, if you want America to be strong and respected around the world, we cannot have a Commander in Chief who suggests that it's okay to torture people or to ban entire religions from our country or insults POWs or attacks a Gold Star mom or talks down our troops.

Even a Republican Senator said we cannot afford to give the nuclear codes to somebody so erratic. Think about that. We're talking about somebody who has the nuclear codes if they're elected President. Now, you may have heard that—this was just announced, I just read it, so I can't confirm it's true, but apparently, his campaign has taken away his Twitter. [*Laughter*] In the last 2 days, they had so little confidence in his self-control, they said, we're just going to take away your Twitter.

Now, if somebody can't handle a Twitter account, they can't handle the nuclear codes. [*Laughter*] If somebody starts tweeting at 3 in the morning because "SNL" made fun of you—[*laughter*—then you can't handle the nuclear codes.

If you believe that America is stronger when everybody does their part, and everybody pays their fair share, then you can't have the first candidate in decades who refuses to release any tax returns, who hasn't paid his Federal income tax in years, who stifles small businesses

who have done work for him, stiffs workers who have done work for him. That's not being a champion of working people. That's exploiting working people.

If you cherish our Constitution, you can't elect a President who threatens to shut down the free press, throws his—threatens to throw his opponents in jail, discriminates against people of different faiths. That's not what our Constitution allows. There may be other countries who do that. Maybe he admires Vladimir Putin and some other folks who think that's okay, but this is the United States of America. We can't have that.

The President. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. We believe in the Constitution here in the United States of America. We believe in the Bill of Rights.

Audience member. *Sí, se puede, Obama!*

The President. *Sí, se puede.*

If you believe that we're stronger together, we cannot elect a President who vilifies minorities, who mocks Americans with disabilities, who calls immigrants criminals and rapists. We can't elect a President who brags that because he's famous, he can get away with stuff that looks like the definition of sexual assault or calls women pigs and dogs and slob, grades them on a scale of 1 to 10.

I've got two daughters, and they are magnificent because my wife is magnificent. And we've taught them that they can do anything a man can do and then some. And our friends who have sons have taught their sons to respect women and respect girls and judge the on the content of their character, not what they look like, and not to demean them and put them down. That's what I want whoever is in the Oval Office to do, is to help show all our girls, all our boys what it means to respect women.

So this election should not be a close choice. And the fact that, look, let's admit it, there are people who are supporting this other guy is an indication of the degree to which stuff that's not normal people have been treating like it's normal. I mean, we hear people justify some of this comment—some of his comments—

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Hold on a second.

Audience member. Mr. President, we love you!

The President. I love you too, but hold on one second.

We hear people say that it's okay because he doesn't mean it. Or they say, well, it's just locker room talk. Or they say, well, yes, what he says is terrible, but once he gets into office, it will be different.

Audience members. No!

The President. Let me tell you something. I've been in this office now almost 8 years. And here's what I can tell you. Here's what I can tell you. Who you are, what you are does not change when you take office. It just magnifies who you are. It just shines a spotlight on who you are. If you disrespect women before you became President, you'll do so once you're President. If you accept the support of Klan sympathizers before you're President, then you'll

accept their support after you're President. If you disrespect the Constitution when you're running for President, then you are even more likely to disrespect it even when you swear to uphold that Constitution when you take the oath of office.

And look, I am a proud Democrat. But we're not Democrats or Republicans first. We're Americans first. I've got Republican friends. They don't think or act the way he does, which is why they're not planning to vote for him. Our values are at stake.

You know, just a small—just a little example. I was in Fayetteville—some of you may have seen this—and it was a packed hall, and a Trump supporter stood up with a sign. He was an elderly gentleman, had a military uniform on. I couldn't really hear what he was saying. And everybody in the crowd started shouting him down and booing. And I said to everybody, you know what, just settle down. First of all, he's not doing any harm. Second of all, he's elderly. And third of all, we have free speech in this country. And I—and fourth of all, I said, don't boo, vote. [*Laughter*]

Just a few hours later, Trump gets up on stage in front of his crowd—this is just a few hours later—and he said, did you see how President Obama yelled at a Trump supporter in his audience? Now, just made it up. Didn't just make it up, but said the exact opposite of what had happened. With impunity. There was tape, there was a video, and some of the press called him out on it. But the point is that he thought it was okay just to lie in front of all his supporters, on television. Wasn't even trying to be sneaky about it.

And—but that says something about how unacceptable behavior has become normal. And that's why he is uniquely unqualified to hold this job. And the good news is, all of you are uniquely qualified to make sure he doesn't get the job. Florida, you've just got to vote!

And the good news also is, you don't have to just vote against somebody, you got somebody to vote for. You got somebody who is worthy of your vote. Because she is smart and she is steady and she is tested—probably the most qualified person ever to run for this office—our next President, Hillary Clinton!

Audience members. Hillary! Hillary! Hillary!

The President. Hillary!

Audience members. Hillary! Hillary! Hillary!

The President. This is somebody who's dedicated her life to making this country better. Think about how she got her start. While Donald Trump and his developer 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 equal educations. She has not stopped fighting for justice and equality ever since.

Her heart is in the right place, works hard every day. I know. I ran against her. [*Laughter*] And it was tiring because she worked so hard. I benefited from it because she came to work for me, and she was there in the room when we were making tough decisions, when we were deciding whether to go after bin Laden. She circled the globe tirelessly as Secretary of State, earned the respect of world leaders. Her efforts weren't always flashy; folks didn't always appreciate them here at home. But she made me a better President. She made this country stronger. She understands the challenges we face.

And by the way, when things don't go her way, she doesn't whine, she doesn't complain, doesn't talk about things being rigged. Just works harder. Comes back stronger. Comes back better. She's like the Energizer Bunny; she just, like, keeps on going.

She will be an outstanding President, especially if she gets some help, which is why you got to also vote for Patrick Murphy for United States Senate. One thing about being President, you've got to have allies in Congress. Unlike his opponent Marco Rubio——

Audience members. Boo!

The President. Don't boo. Oh, don't, oh, whoa—you're supposed to vote!

Patrick actually shows up to work, puts you ahead of politics. He's fought to make sure Planned Parenthood is still around to provide health care to people. He's fought for comprehensive immigration reform. He accepts the science behind climate change, brought Democrats and Republicans together to fund the Everglades restoration.

There's one other big difference between Patrick and Marco Rubio: Marco Rubio supports Donald Trump. Now, keep in mind, Marco, a while back, when he was running against Donald, called him a "dangerous con artist" who "spent his career sticking it to working people."

Audience member. Hypocrite!

The President. He tweeted, "friends don't let friends vote for con artists." [*Laughter*] Guess who just voted for Trump a few days ago: Marco Rubio. So, A, that means he doesn't have any good friends. [*Laughter*] B, it means that even though he knows Trump is unqualified, even though he knows he's a con artist, he still voted for him because it was politically expedient.

So if you want a Senator who will say anything, do anything, be anybody just to get elected, then that's your guy. If you want a Senator who will show up and work for you and tell you the truth, then vote for Patrick Murphy, and give Hillary some help.

It's not enough just to vote for Hillary. You can't stick her with a Republican Congress that behaves the way they've been behaving with me. I mean, we were about to go into a Great Depression. By the way, because there had been a Republican administration that had created a whole bunch of problems, we were coming in to clean it up. And they refused to lift a finger, said no to everything we said we would do. And now they want to take credit for, like, the auto industry being saved. No, they weren't there. [*Laughter*] They said, no. Run back the tape.

Instead, what they've done is to practice unprecedented dysfunction in Washington. And they say now that they're going to do the same if Hillary wins—promising years of hearings, years of investigations, years of shutdowns, more obstruction, more repeal votes.

Marco Rubio said he would not have supported the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, an outstanding jurist, first Latina on the bench. Proud of her Puerto Rican heritage, by all accounts doing an outstanding job. He would not have voted for her. Now he and his Republican colleagues are threatening to block all Supreme Court Justices.

Audience member. We need a medic!

The President. Okay, we need a medic. They'll be all right. Don't worry, people fall down when you're standing up this long. Everybody bend their knees real quick. [*Laughter*] There you go. Do a little exercise. They'll be okay, just give them some room.

So now they're threatening to block all nominees. And they're suggesting they might impeach Hillary. They don't know what for yet—[laughter]—but they're thinking about it. You know what? That's not how this democracy is supposed to work. If a Democrat was threatening to do that, I would say that's wrong. It's not any better when a Republican decides to do it. Gridlock is not some mysterious fog that descends on Washington. It's not both sides being equally wrong. Gridlock has been happening because you've got folks like Marco Rubio who decide to oppose anything that's good for the country if a Democrat opposes [proposes][°] it.

Audience member. Your first 4 years!

The President. You want some more endless gridlock, vote for Republicans. You want an America that can do better, that can put people back to work, that can make sure that young people can go to college, that can provide childcare for the single mom, that will raise the minimum wage, that will make sure that we've got paid family leave—then you need to vote for Democrats up and down the ticket. You've got to vote for Hillary; you've got to vote for Patrick—people who will put you ahead of politics, who are ready to do work and move this country forward.

So here's the bottom line. [Applause] Here's the bottom line: There is something more fundamental at stake in this election than any policy, any plan. It's about the character of this country. Who are we? What do we stand for? What do we project around the world?

When Hillary was young, her mom taught her the Methodist creed: Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, for as long as you can. That's what she believes. That's the idea she believes she can summon from all of us in this country. That's what America is about.

What makes America great—the reason people from all around the world have looked up to us and want to come here—it's not because of the size of our military. It's not because of our wealth. It's because this country was founded for the sake of an idea: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights." You don't have to be born into wealth and privilege in this country to succeed. You don't have to look a certain way or have a certain last name to be able to provide for your family.

That's what drove patriots to fight a revolution. That's why our GIs fought fascism and communism. It's what gave women the courage to reach for the ballot, marchers to cross that bridge in Selma, workers to organize for collective bargaining and better wages. That's what makes America exceptional and great.

It's not about what somebody on high will do for us, it's what we do together, from the bottom up: citizens, self-governing, helping to move this country forward.

And Hillary understands that. She knows our democracy is big. It's diverse. We don't demonize each other all the time. Progress requires compromise. She knows that. She knows that none of us are perfect, not even Presidents, but we should try to conduct ourselves with the basic values of decency and courtesy and dignity and respecting other people and being bighearted and knowing that if this country has given you so many breaks you should give something back; that we should look out for all kids, not just our own kids.

[°] White House correction.

So I know a lot of you may be cynical or fed up about politics. And this election has been a tough one. But you have the power to reject the mean-spirited politics that would take us backwards. The most important office in a democracy isn't President, it's citizen. You have the chance to make sure that this country goes in a better direction. You have the chance to elect somebody who has spent her entire life believing in this democracy.

Audience member. We're going to miss you!

The President. You have the chance to elect the first female President, an example for our daughters and our sons.

You have the chance to shape history. Don't let that chance slip away. Don't fall for those who tell you your vote doesn't matter.

Audience member. No!

The President. Don't fall for this idea that all politicians are the same. They're not. None of them are perfect, but they're not all the same. Although, some of them are a lot worse. [Laughter] Some of them are better. Some of them will look out for you. Some of you—well, I can't say what they'll do to you. [Laughter]

So if you've been marching for criminal justice, you've got to have a President and a Congress who actually wants to disrupt the pipeline from underfunded schools to overcrowded jails. If you've been marching for the environment, you've got to have a President and a Congress that believes in science and will protect this planet.

If you want more good jobs and a higher minimum wage, you can't just sit there and complain, you've got to vote. If you care about immigration reform or helping Puerto Rico get back on its feet, you've got to vote.

You know, over these last 8 years, a lot of things have happened, but I can tell you unequivocally, without a doubt, with data to back it up, that this country is a lot better off now than it was when I came into office. I can prove it. The numbers don't lie. And so I want you to understand that that would not have happened had it not been for the votes you made back in '08, wouldn't have happened had it not been for the votes that you made in 2012. You have proof that your vote matters. And I may not be on the ballot this time, but everything we've done has been on the ballot.

Justice is on the ballot. Fairness is on the ballot. Looking after working people is on the ballot. Higher wages is on the ballot. Protecting the environment is on the ballot. Treating people fairly is on the ballot. Civil rights is on the ballot. Our democracy is on the ballot.

Hillary Clinton, she'll build on the progress we've made, but you have to vote. Then, you've got to get your friends voting, your cousins voting, your neighbors voting, your coworkers voting. Cousin Pookie has got to get in the—get him off the couch, he's got to vote.

And when you vote, America is transformed. When you vote, we cannot lose. When you vote, we reject fear. When you vote, we embrace hope.

Choose hope! Choose hope! Choose hope! Vote! Vote! Elect Hillary Clinton. Elect Patrick Murphy. Let's continue this amazing journey that we started and show the world why America is the greatest nation on Earth.

I love you, Florida. Let's finish the job!

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the Osceola County Stadium at Osceola Heritage Park. In his remarks, he referred to Ghazala Khan, mother of Capt. Humayun Khan, USA, who was killed in Iraq on June 8, 2004; Sen. Marco A. Rubio; and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign rallies :: Kissimmee, FL.

Locations: Kissimmee, FL.

Names: Clinton, Hillary Rodham; Khan, Ghazala; Murphy, Patrick E.; Nelson, C. William; Obama, Malia; Obama, Michelle; Obama, Natasha "Sasha"; Putin, Vladimir Vladimirovich; Rubio, Marco A.; Sotomayor, Sonia M.; Trump, Donald J.; Wonder, Stevie.

Subjects: Civil rights : Same-sex marriage; Civil rights : Women's rights and gender equality; Congress : Bipartisanship; Congress : Senate :: Presidential nominations, confirmation process; Economy, national : Improvement; Education : Global competitiveness; Elections : 2016 Presidential and congressional elections; Elections : Voter participation; Energy : Domestic sources; Environment : Climate change; Environment : Quality and improvement efforts; Florida : Democratic Party events; Florida : President's visits; Health and medical care : Insurance coverage and access to providers; Immigration and naturalization : Reform; Judiciary : Supreme Court :: Associate Justice; Labor issues : Minimum wage; Law enforcement and crime : Criminal justice system, reform efforts; Planned Parenthood; Russia : President.

DCPD Number: DCPD201600755.