

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
TRUMP/ROMNEY VOTERS FOCUS GROUP
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Note: first names were changed in the transcripts to protect the confidentiality of the participants. For instance, if the moderator called on "Sally" by name, that appears in the transcript as "woman."

MODERATOR: . . . policy, consumer products like Coke and Pepsi. You probably figured out from the questions that they asked when they called about coming tonight, we're going to be talking about politics for the most part with a little bit of policy. Before we get started, I just want to walk through some simple ground rules for tonight's discussions. First of all, as can you tell from the cleverly disguised microphones on the ceiling, this is being taped, but that's for my benefit. Don't take it personally, in a couple weeks when I go to write up my report, there's no way I'll remember what we said here tonight, so I'll go back and look at the transcript.

If I refer to anything you say here tonight, it'll just be as a woman or a man in Columbus, Ohio. And I do focus groups all over the country on all different topics, so having this, having the transcript helps me greatly. Also that's a two-way mirror. I've got a colleague back there by the name of Kyle. He's back there, partly because it's awkward if you have two people sitting up here asking the questions.

I'm the only one who's allowed to have their phone on. You see it's on, but that's just so that if Kyle thinks that I missed something, or he's thought of something that has come up during the discussion that he wants me to follow up on, he'll just text me a quick, you know, ask them about this, and that won't be that distracting. In fact, it's not, you know, we did these the other night, and he had nothing. And then earlier, we had a group, and he texted me once. So you'll kind of forget he's back there.

Look, there are no right or wrong answers. We're interested in your opinion. That's why we're paying you for your time this evening. So please feel free to speak up. If, you know, if somebody else is talking, please don't interrupt them, but do jump in after they're done or get my attention. It's not school. You don't have to raise your hand. But, you know, can kind of, you know, make sure that I see that you want to add something in.

If you've been quiet for a while, I may call on you directly by name. There's also going to be times where I ask questions, a question and say, I want to hear from everybody on this, and I'll go around the room. Other times it's just, you know, more free flowing. If you've been talking a lot, I may ask you to hold off to make sure that we get to hear from everybody as well. I ask that there be no side conversations. Sometimes the person next to you says something, and you want to turn to them and whisper, I agree with you, or it reminds me of a funny story. It's just distracting to the group, as a whole, so I ask that you refrain from that.

I don't have any opinions. My job is to ask questions. Occasionally, you'll see me nodding my head while you're talking. It doesn't mean that I agree with you. It just means I'm listening. If I'm not nodding my head, doesn't mean I'm not listening. It's just something I sometimes do and sometimes don't, so just letting you know ahead of time.

If you need to use the restroom, that's fine. I have just two requests on that. One is, just one person at a time, because if we have a whole host of people leaving to go to the bathroom, then it's much less of a discussion. And then secondly, there's going to be a point where I'm asking you to write things down because I want to get everybody's opinion on a question or some creative thinking, and I want to get your opinion without other people impacting it. So if you're writing something down, and you need to use the restroom, wait until after you finish answering that question, and then sneak out for the restroom.

I'm trying to think. I, there's got to be other things that I haven't mentioned. Oh, you know, if you have a different opinion than other people in the room, feel free to speak up. We're not here, that everybody has to agree with each other. It's just a discussion. And if you think that, you know, something is missing from the discussion, make sure you get a word in.

Occasionally, I may say something along the lines of, Man, you get the last word on this, and then we have to move on because part of my job is make sure we get out of here at 10:00. Even though we're starting a little bit later, not much later, I'm not holding it over. We're done at 10:00. 10:00 is kind of late, so occasionally, I may cut off the discussion on something.

To get started, let me ask you, I'd like to hear from everybody in the room but, you know, in no particular order, a word or short phrase that describes how you think things are going in the country these days, so one word or short phrase. And I'll just, I'm just going to, you don't have to shout them out, but say them, and I'll jot them down.

WOMAN: Volatile.

MODERATOR: Volatile? Okay.

WOMAN: Chaotic.

MODERATOR: Chaotic?

MAN: Better.

MODERATOR: Better?

WOMAN: Different.

MODERATOR: Different?

MAN: Disturbing.

MODERATOR: Disturbing.

MAN: Divisive.

MODERATOR: Divisive.

MAN: There's light at the end of the tunnel.

MODERATOR: Light, end of tunnel.

WOMAN: Hopeful.

WOMAN: Slowly improving.

MODERATOR: I'm sorry.

WOMAN: Slowly improving.

MODERATOR: Slowly improving. Okay.

WOMAN: Scary.

MODERATOR: That's everybody, so I appreciate that. Somebody started out with volatile. Who was that? Was that . . .

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, why volatile? What comes to mind?

WOMAN: I think for me, not just even the administration itself but just us as a country, everything just feels like everyone is so on edge, and it just feels like there's some volatility to it because I think there's still a lot of uncertainty.

MODERATOR: Okay. And I think, Woman, you said chaotic?

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: I can only remember like the first two, so . . . don't be too impressed. Anyhow, chaotic.

WOMAN: I just think the Democrats, Republicans, there's such a battle with them that it, there's, I don't know if we'll ever get to where we should be with them working for the people instead of working for themselves.

MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody else said, better.

MAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: I think things have slightly improved in the short, you know, it's been not quite 100 days since the inauguration. I think we're moving in the right direction. I think we needed some definite leadership that wasn't an attorney or wasn't a career politician, but was a businessman. The United States is the largest business, you know, in the world, or one of the largest businesses, and it should be run by a businessman.

MODERATOR: Okay. I heard, different.

WOMAN: That was mine.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: I went along the same lines as Man is with the, we're being run by a businessman versus a career politician, and I think that's one of the reasons that Republicans and Democrats are so against each other, because it's not what anybody is used to. It's different than what we've had for the past 100 years.

MODERATOR: Okay. Disturbing, who said that?

MAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Man? Okay.

MAN: Honestly, I think Obama was the most divisive President we've ever had. I think he split this country, and there's so many chips on shoulders, and any, everywhere you look, that it's just total unrest. I think too many people think they have the rights or entitlement for whatever. I'm a person that, I think you get what you deserve. You work for a living, and you get what you deserve, and that's the way I think, but that's just me. But I, I just think it's, there's a lot, everybody said, just chaotic. You said, chaotic, volatile. You say, light at the end of the tunnel, and I agree with that. You had a positive comment there too, and I think that's also true. I, but you can't have two parties going at it like that. There should be only one party.

MODERATOR: Okay. Somebody else said, divisive.

MAN: That was me, and that was sort of picking up on what, when you said it. I feel like we're more divided now as a country, and it started well before January, absolutely. But it just seems like everyone who, as a Trump voter, I almost feel like I kind of had to come out a little bit, and everyone that didn't vote for Trump just assumes that you're an evil person if you did. And you didn't get that when you voted for either of the Bushes or anyone else. And that's just really kind of a different environment, politically.

MODERATOR: Okay. Before I go to the next one. The four of you in the middle, can you, I'm terrible with names. Can you move your nametag, so I can see it a little bit better? Man, thanks. I couldn't see yours.

MAN: Sorry.

MODERATOR: Okay. We had light at the end of the tunnel. Who said that?

MAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Oh, it was Man. Okay.

MAN: Gosh, where do I start? You know, we, for the last 30 years, we've had this Congress that has acted solely to get themselves re-elected and be career politicians. This phrase, drain the swamp, how refreshing, because it is a swamp. A couple examples, for the past two years, no one received an increase in their Social Security benefits, but yet the checks worth trillions of dollars went overseas to people that hate our guts. Congress passes a healthcare bill, but yet, they exclude themselves from being subjected to that healthcare bill. That's just, you know, it's wrong. It's just absolutely wrong. We need someone there that's going to hopefully drain that swamp.

MODERATOR: Okay. We, I heard helpful, or hopeful, I'm sorry.

WOMAN: Hopeful, I put hopeful. I'm hopeful things are going to get better. After going through and watching, as long as we've had a Democratic President in the Office, it just has been really frustrating to sit back and watch that. And I agree that, you know, we've got a lot of people that feel like they're entitled to handouts, and they want to collect welfare and things like that, and I think, as a businessman, Donald Trump is going to put an end to that. Was he my first choice? No. But now that he's elected, I'm hopeful that we will try to come together and give him a chance to do the best job he can do.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then I heard, slowly improving.

WOMAN: I kind of echo a lot of the views that have already been spoken. I think that there's just been a lot of damage done, and it's taken a lot of years for that damage to have

been done, so it's going to just take some time, I think, to fix some things. So it's, I think it's a slow process. I think that because it's so fresh, it's only been, you know, like the first almost 100 days or whatever. You know, I think that the Democrats are just having a little bit of trouble adjusting. I think that everybody is going to settle down maybe, and then we'll get some things done.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then scary.

WOMAN: I too have to agree with kind of everything that's said. I said, scary, I think, because the foreign policy and all that's going on, worldly, it just seems that every day, there's more that we hear, and it's scary, I guess. I don't know how else to say it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Turning now to the economy, would you say the national economy compared to, let's say, a year ago, I just want to see a show of hands on this, and I may ask a follow-up question. But do you think, I'm going to give you three options. The national economy, compared to a year ago, is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same. How many think that it's getting better? One, two, three. Okay. Getting worse? Staying about the same?

MAN: I think, about the same for right now.

MODERATOR: . . .

MAN: I think they need to qualify because right at this moment, there hasn't been enough time for budgets to be passed and . . .

MAN: Like he said, almost 100 days . . .

MAN: . . . policies to be changed. You know, I think we're looking, not to speak for the group, but I guess I am here, that we're looking at the future of the economy, not the immediate today, because we're still living under the old draconian policies of the past where we spent money like it was water.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: You know, and I think we look for that to change.

MODERATOR: Let me ask, Man had one perspective, but of those, the others of you who say, yeah, no, it's getting better, do you feel like, okay, compared to a year ago, whether it's jobs, or what you're taking home in terms of pay, or the Manet, whatever it might be that you kind of, do you feel like things are actually better, or do you think that they, you know, that there's the potential to be or likelihood of being better?

MAN: Potential . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Likelihood to be better.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: I think confidence has a lot to do with it. I feel more confident in the economy now. I feel like we have someone who actually understands jobs and the importance of keeping them here, and I think a lot of our manufacturers are responding to that well. So I feel like most, I feel much more confident in the economy than I did a year ago.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask you this. Putting aside economy and jobs, what domestic issue, in other words, not foreign issues, not international, but what domestic issue, again, not economy and jobs, concerns you most?

WOMAN: Healthcare.

MODERATOR: Healthcare. Okay.

WOMAN: I find it ridiculous that they give out Narcan pens or injections to heroin addict, but it's going to cost me \$300 to \$600 for an EpiPen when I have no control over whether or not I go outside and get stung by a bee. But somebody, and I'm not saying it's wrong for, you know, that heroin addicts not get these things, but that's a life choice that they make, and they just hand them out. Like, you know, go to CVS or Walgreen, we're giving these things away. I just find that ridiculous when you've got somebody that is working hard full time, and, you know, I'm paying over \$200 a month for healthcare that seems like it covers less and less and less, where the deductibles are going just sky high on these things.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other issues?

MAN: I think whatever the, we have, I'll back up. We have a free enterprise system, and whenever the government is the largest employer in a free enterprise system, it's not going to go anywhere. The economy isn't. And that's got to be fixed . . .

MODERATOR: I'm sorry. Putting aside the economy and jobs . . .

MAN: Okay. You asked me what the biggest thing, and I . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, besides that.

MAN: Okay.

MAN: I think the opioid epidemic is ridiculous, and drugs are just flooding into this country, and we know that most are coming from the southern border. They're coming by land, sea, and air. And until that gets shut down, I don't know if anyone follows the statistics or not, but Ohio, oh, my gosh . . .

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: It's huge

MAN: It's just . . .

MAN: Marion is really bad.

MAN: Marion, Delaware County is just really over their head.

WOMAN: Well, and they say a lot of that is due because they're cutting down and regulating prescription pain pills, you know, harder, and that's what happens, is they get hooked on prescription drugs, and then the heroin is actually cheaper for them to get. But, you know, 10, 15 years ago, when they didn't have the regulations with that, you didn't have the heroin problem either. So, I mean, you're kind of stuck. It's like, you know, which of the two evils do you want there?

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other domestic issues come to mind?

WOMAN: Illegal immigration.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: Prison population.

MAN: Not high enough.

MODERATOR: Man, when you say . . .

MAN: Not high enough is right.

MODERATOR: When you say, prison population, you're saying, tell us more about that.

MAN: We have the highest prison population, per capita, in the world. Something ain't right there. I, whether I, whether the penalties are too, are not stiff enough, I don't know. But that's, I don't want my taxpayer money going to them. I don't know about you. I work hard for my money. I don't want to pay for them.

MAN: Well, there's a demographic that 6% of the population commits 60% of all the violent crimes . . .

MAN: Right. That's . . .

WOMAN: How many of them are illegal immigrants?

MAN: There you go.

WOMAN: They're . . .

MAN: Actually, they're not part of that 6%.

MAN: Yeah, they're not . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: But how many of the population is illegal immigrant?

MAN: Just prison population is just way too much, and you talked about, he talked about drugs and so forth. Look at that. They have more drugs in prison, per capita, than they do on the outside.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, when you mentioned illegal immigration, what concerns you about that issue?

WOMAN: I think illegal immigration is draining our social systems. I think they have, they have use of healthcare. They have use of all types of social systems that hard working people like us shouldn't be paying for the illegal immigrants to have that access. They shouldn't be on welfare. They shouldn't be getting food stamps. They shouldn't be getting any of that if they're not a legal immigrant.

MODERATOR: Okay. Oh, go ahead.

WOMAN: They should have to come through legally, and then anybody that needs help, there'd be so much more of a fund to help those people that need that, that are here legally.

MODERATOR: One more domestic issue that people have . . .

MAN: Terrorism and refugees.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: I can't understand what these people are thinking. I just can't understand the logic of letting un-vetted refugees into this country. You know, the terrorism aspect, those people are our moral sworn enemies. They will not be happy until we are dead. That's their duty, is to wipe out the infidels.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. Thinking globally now, what international reform policy issue are you most concerned about?

MAN: Foreign aid.

MAN: Writing checks . . .

MAN: I googled this morning just to see, because I knew I was coming here. Iran, during Obama's administration, they think they, that he gave about \$150 billion to them, our biggest enemy. What could we do? There, that would lower your EpiPen, wouldn't it?

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: That's \$150 billion we don't have either . . .

MAN: Yeah, that's right. We're writing checks, and he . . .

WOMAN: That's \$150 billion that's going towards nuclear capabilities.

MAN: Bingo.

WOMAN: When we don't even take care of our own veterans here.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: That's just Iran. Okay?

MODERATOR: I'm sorry. Let me just, moving on, other issues, foreign policy, international issues that concern you most?

MAN: Imbalance of trade with other countries. We're bringing in billions of dollars of products from China, Japan, Korea. And if we send, for example, if you, if they, if a Kia automobile is imported, there's very little tax on that, but if Ford wants to send an F-150 truck over there, it costs double because of the import tax put on by China, and that's just not right. That's just not right.

MODERATOR: Okay. So one more international or foreign issue that you're concerned about?

WOMAN: The United States policy with Jerusalem. As a Christian, I'm concerned that they feel like they're going to like start divvying that up, and I am of the belief that that was given by God to the people of Jerusalem, and it's not up for us to be, you know, supporting one way or the other.

MAN: I agree with that.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me do this. Much of our discussion, as you probably know from the questions you were asked when they called, are going to focus on our new President. And I'm going to hand out first some pens and then a thing that in focus group parlance are known as workbooks, but really they should be called fun books. So let me get those out, and we'll go through those a little at a time and put them aside for a bit and then come back to them.

It's not a lot, but what it does is, it allows everybody to kind of get their opinion down and then, you know, some of this stuff, I'll ask you to share. Some of it, we'll just kind of get and then move on. And on the bottom here as it's being passed around, there's a box. Go ahead and put your first name and the, your, the initial of your last name as well in that box, and then flip over to page two and wait there until everybody has had a chance to get there as well.

MAN: I'm sorry . . .

WOMAN: Don't worry.

MODERATOR: So everybody on page two?

MAN: Page two.

MODERATOR: All right. Page two, it says, please do not turn the page until you're told to do so, go to page three. Here's where you're going to do some creative thinking. If Donald Trump were an animal, what kind of animal would he be, and why? So write in the animal he here and then the why. You know, again, just jot some notes down underneath it there on those lines. Take a couple of minutes. When you're done, just actually stay on this page, but put your pen down, and if you're still writing, that's fine, but kind of be wrapping that part up. Woman, I'll just, since you're right here, start with you. What do you have, and why?

WOMAN: I put ass.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: I voted for him. I like him. But he's got to stop tweeting, and he's got to stop making ignorant comments because it's not helping him with the Democratic, it's not helping get that unity.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: I was actually still working on it, but I had just put like an owl because I was just thinking like, you know, trying to be watchful and looking over things, not that I particularly think he's wise. I mean, hopefully he's smart enough to surround himself with good people.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, is it Woman or . . .

WOMAN: Woman.

MODERATOR: Woman. Okay.

WOMAN: I said, a silverback gorilla. He's loud. He's a leader and takes charge.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I put, lion. I feel like he's fierce and unafraid.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I put, tiger. I think that he's strong, he's independent, he's got his own thoughts, and he's going to do what he wants to do, and that he's fearsome. I think a lot of the, a lot of

Congress and everything kind of fear what he might do next, whether or not he'll sign something, whether or not he'll let something go through.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Sticking with the feline, lion, because he's tackling issues this, big issues this country has really never properly addressed before.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Lion. He's kind of got that golden mane thing going on. But seriously, I think he's the natural born leader of the pride, and he's willing to fight to defend his pride, you know, his family.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Lion, king of the jungle, hear the roar.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: The roar should be toned down a little bit though.

MAN: Bingo.

MODERATOR: Man?

MAN: I put down a fox because they're unpredictable, but they're also hunters, and you don't want to mess with them.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I said, coyote, because they, they're kind of sly and sneaky, and they are kind of looked at as kind of dirty animals sometimes, but they do what they have to to take care of their own and get things done.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me tell you the next thing we're going to do. Just stay on this page for now because I want your focus on what I did. It's called, in focus group parlance, it's called a mind map. And basically what happens is, you get a word or phrase in a circle, middle of the page, and then you jot down the phrases and words that come to mind really quickly, like two, three minutes, when you see that.

So I'm going to show you one that I did just when I got here, just as an example. My word was spring just because it's springtime or supposed to be. That's not going to be yours. We'll get to yours in a minute. But I just wanted to show you this example. So I started with spring in the middle and then, you know, the first thing I thought of, you get longer days. You get more

sunshine, so this also means more cooking out. I like to grill even in the winter, but it's just easier. You know, you get home from work, and it's still light out. You just feel more like it.

My wife and I like to plant our, a lot of flowers in our backyard, so we're going to have to do that soon as it gets warm, same with the birdfeeders, fill those back up. I know I could do it through the winter, but I just kind of get lazy. And, of course, bird feeders bring squirrels, and then squirrels mean the dogs chase them. And it's, you know, and by the way, I've done, squirrels, because they're raiding the bird feeders, I've even done like the Vaseline on the poles, and it's kind of fun, and they start to climb up. They hit the Vaseline and slide right back down. But you got to do that like every couple of days, and that's, you know, you forget about it.

Of course, it's baseball season, which is a good thing. I like to bike and kayak, so I get those out more in the spring. And my wife and I actually have, all three of our daughters are in school right now, in college, and that's all wrapping up. We've got two graduations coming up next month, and then the other one also comes home for the summer. So for you, if you go to, what page are you on right now?

WOMAN: Three.

MAN: Two.

WOMAN: Three.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Three? Okay. Go to page four. Okay. Go to page five. And your mind map is, not surprisingly, Donald Trump. So take two or three minutes to jot down everything. You know, some of it's connected. Some of them are different thoughts. Take another minute or so. Okay. I'm going to ask each of you to give me one thing. And, Woman, I'm going to start with you. So it's actually easiest for you because I'm going to ask each of you, and it's harder for those of you, you know, as I work my way around the table that way, that it be something that somebody else has not already said, because there's a lot of different things you could come up with. So, Woman, give me one thing that you jotted down.

WOMAN: Well, I, one of them that I put was, obnoxious, but to stem off of that, I also said that, in a positive light, I hope that that means he won't be easily influenced by the popular opinions of others, that he'll stick to his guns and be true to what he believes is the best for our country.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: I have, business leader, and then branching off of that, I had that he's wealthy, and that he's a job creator.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Man?

MAN: Help the vets.

MODERATOR: Help the vets? Okay. Man?

MAN: Selfless service. The man gave up a comfortable job as a billionaire to work for free to help straighten out our country.

MODERATOR: And then I'm sorry. I'm, I told you I was bad with names.

Man?

MAN: American pride.

MODERATOR: And then we have . . .

MAN: Woman.

WOMAN: Woman.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: I put, unusual.

MODERATOR: Unusual? When you say, unusual, what . . .

WOMAN: He's not like a regular politician.

MODERATOR: Okay. Not a pol. Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I was thinking along the lines of Man. I put, patriot. I think he's very passionate about this country and . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Woman?

WOMAN: Woman.

MODERATOR: Woman. I told you I'm bad with names, so I'm just . . . all night.

WOMAN: I said, never sleeps, because you've taken a lot of the others.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: Inspirational.

MODERATOR: And finally . . .

WOMAN: MAGA, make America great again.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do me a favor. Go ahead. No, don't. I'm getting ahead of myself. One more exercise, and then we're going to take a break for a bit. So go on to page six and now page seven, and there's two questions here. The thing that finishes the, the thing that makes, the

thing that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most proud about my vote for him is, and then the thing that President Trump has done so far that makes me feel most unsure about my vote for him is, so go ahead and finish those two sentences. And then put your pens down. Don't turn the page, because I'm just going to go around one more time and just ask everybody what they have. Man, what did you have, most proud and then most unsure?

MAN: He's trying to do what he said he would do during the campaign. He's keeping his word.

MODERATOR: Let's go with the shorter one, keeping. And then how about most unsure?

MAN: I'm not really unsure yet. As Man said, he's not even had 100 days in, so put down nothing because it's too early.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I put, keeping his promises, trying to live up to his promises. The only thing that's, I was unsure about is his tweeting.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I was impressed with how quickly he jumped on the travel ban. It showed that he was ready to protect our country.

MODERATOR: And most unsure about?

WOMAN: I feel like he's just not as concerned about the healthcare problem anymore. He seems to not have a lot to say about that lately.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman?

WOMAN: I said, keeping the jobs in the USA and bringing the jobs back. And what I'm not happy about is his obnoxious tweets, comments to everyone.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: I put down, and I'm, that he's starting to change and curb the policies with travel bans and working on the illegal immigration issues. The negative is the Twitter feeds, the insults, and the way he just spouts off without really thinking about the consequences, the way he treats women.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Twitter insults and women. Okay. And then we have Woman.

WOMAN: Oh, sorry.

MODERATOR: No, that's okay. I'm moving around.

WOMAN: So I put, helping the economy and hopefully revising the tax code.

MAN: Amen on that.

WOMAN: And tweeting.

MAN: . . . turn the retweets off . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And we have Woman.

WOMAN: For the most part, I said, his work toward immigration reform, and then for most unsure, I said, his healthcare policy or what it will be.

MODERATOR: Man?

MAN: I have, sticking to his promises, and then I also agree that, just stop tweeting.

MODERATOR: Okay. And we have . . .

MAN: Man.

MODERATOR: . . . Man. Sorry. I . . . it starts with a G, and it's four letters . . .

MAN: All right, keeping the jobs here in the U.S., he did more before he was even inaugurated than our previous President did in eight years as far as trying to stem the flow of companies leaving the U.S.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then the . . .

MAN: Damn tweets. You know, in all honesty, the tweets are part of what got him elected, but I think it's time for him to take a chill pill.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: It's embarrassing.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. And, Man?

MAN: I put, respect for the military, because I think that speaks a lot for the man's character and his feelings for the country. And I'm going to make it unanimous or almost unanimous on tweeting. Somebody needs to take his damn phone away from him.

WOMAN: Block his Twitter feed.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Maybe I'll tweet that at him, see how that goes. I'm sure he'd get right on that . . .

MAN: You might get a response.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: You may not like it, but . . .

MODERATOR: . . . be afraid of what he had to say. Do me a favor. Go ahead and close this up for now. We're not going to deal with the workbooks until much later again, and as you can tell, we're most of the way through it anyhow. But let me ask you this. If you could pick one personal quality, putting aside issues, but a personal quality, which personal quality do you like most about Donald Trump?

WOMAN: Hard working.

MODERATOR: Okay. Hard working.

MAN: Determination.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Determination?

MAN: Aggressive.

MODERATOR: Aggressive?

WOMAN: Intelligence.

MODERATOR: Intelligence? Okay.

MAN: Bullheaded. I think that's good.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: Caring.

MODERATOR: Caring?

MAN: Wit. I, one of, his unpredictability is one of the things that got him elected, and I admire that in him.

MODERATOR: Okay. How about a personal quality that concerns you most about him?

WOMAN: Abrasiveness.

WOMAN: Impulsiveness.

MODERATOR: Abrasiveness and . . .

WOMAN: He's impulsive.

MODERATOR: He's impulsive. Okay.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Bullying.

MODERATOR: Bullying?

WOMAN: Rude.

MODERATOR: Rude?

WOMAN: I think he cares too much about what people think. I mean, that's the whole reason for the tweets.

WOMAN: I mean, he's always defending, and he shouldn't have to.

MAN: Defensive in a way, not a good way, because honestly, who cares how Arnold Schwarzenegger does on *The Apprentice*, you know? That was your show a long time ago. You don't need to defend yourself anymore as far as that goes.

WOMAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other, from those who haven't said anything yet, any other personal qualities concern you about him?

MAN: You know, I've heard some words here, but I don't know how many people in this room own their own company. But when you own your own company, you're out there, you're competing with the other guys out there. And I own my own company. They will eat you alive, and you've got to be a bully sometimes. You got to be a jerk. You got to be a prick, and you got to learn how to taste blood. If you don't, you're going to . . .

WOMAN: It's not a bad thing.

MAN: You're going to go under.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: And, you know, if you look at the scallywags we've had in that office for the last 30 years, I don't see one of them that's got the gumption that Donald Trump has.

MAN: It's because they were all bought and paid for by political entities.

MAN: . . . well . . .

WOMAN: And he can't be bought and paid for.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask you this. Do you, did you think that Donald Trump would make a good President before he became a presidential candidate, or was it after he started running for office that you thought he'd be a good President?

WOMAN: After.

WOMAN: After.

MAN: I always thought he'd be a great candidate.

MAN: Yeah, always.

MODERATOR: Always good?

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, what did you say?

WOMAN: I said, after.

MODERATOR: After he started? Okay. What was it, Woman, that he did, or when was it that, you said, oh, you know, this, I can support this?

WOMAN: I guess I just didn't know enough about him and his views until he ran, and when he started speaking about what he wanted to do for the country, and the things he wanted to change, then I realized he wasn't who I thought he was.

MODERATOR: Okay. Did you think, before the election, that Donald Trump was going to win?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: Did anybody . . .

MAN: I did.

WOMAN: I did.

MODERATOR: You did. Okay.

MAN: I had no doubt in my mind.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, why did you think he was going to . . .

MAN: Because everyone I talked to wouldn't tell me who they were voting for, and no one said, I'm voting for Hillary or Bernie.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: So you thought if they weren't telling you, that meant they were voting for . . .

MAN: There was never a doubt in my mind. And I don't know if you ever watch this *Morning Joe* show, but they had all these surveys and all these, you know, raffles, whatever they want to call them, and I, it's bogus. That's bogus.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, why did you think he was going to win?

WOMAN: I work with every Democrat that's out there in my office, and all they could talk about was Hillary, so I'm a closet Trumpster and had to keep my mouth shut. And I still, they still think I'm a, I voted for Hillary. I've kept my job because I've got to keep my job . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: That's sad . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Do you work for the Democratic Party?

WOMAN: I do not work for the Democratic Party. And I just, I've got my entire family that's spread out, and my sister lives in North Carolina. She said there was not a Hillary sign anywhere to be seen in North Carolina. The different places that you go, driving through Ohio, you go into the country, Trump signs everywhere.

MAN: That's true.

WOMAN: And you're not going to hear anything about it in the media. All they're talking about is, Hillary has got it in the bag, and I thought, you know what? They don't know what they're talking about. And I, years ago, I was called for a phone survey about politics, and as soon as I said I was a Republican, they hung up the phone on me.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Do not believe the surveys that are out there. They're not accurate. They, if they don't like your answer . . .

WOMAN: It doesn't make . . .

WOMAN: . . . they won't count your answer.

WOMAN: The media is very liberal.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: And they . . .

MAN: I, sit and glean, that's my motto.

MODERATOR: Those of you who thought that he was not going to win, what was, why did you think he was not going to win?

MAN: As Mitt Romney pointed out, truthfully, during his campaign, 47% of the American public receive a check from the government in one form or another. That's 47% of the

potential electorate you have to overcome, pretty damn difficult. They're going to vote for the free money.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other thoughts? Woman, how about you?

WOMAN: I didn't think he was going to win. I thought Hillary was going to win. I thought it was going to be a sad day for us when Hillary won.

MODERATOR: Why did you think she was going to win?

WOMAN: Same reason, because the Democrats will come out of the woodwork in order to vote her into office.

MAN: I thought it was fixed.

WOMAN: Yeah, that . . .

WOMAN: Yeah, I did too.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I thought it was fixed. There's no way Donald Trump could win. That Hillary, it was bought and paid for.

MAN: Yep.

WOMAN: Yep.

MAN: Well, look how she fixed it with Bernie.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: Yeah.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Look at how the Democrats rigged that.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Well, there's an awful lot of, I know we, this is used too much. Fake news right before the election was just fake polls, just saying it was going to be a landslide. And I have Republican friends who were unsure if they were even going to go out and vote that day. What was the point? Because they were told that, you know, Hillary is up by 20 points or some ridiculous number, and now we know that's all garbage. It's all garbage.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I agree with Woman. I saw the signs everywhere, and I knew that the majority of the people wanted him to win, but I was afraid of voter fraud. I didn't think that he was going to pull it off.

WOMAN: See, where I was at, there were more Hillary signs than anything, and the office I work with, most of the people that were talking about who they were going to vote for were openly saying they were going to vote for Hillary.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm. And if you had mentioned that you were a supporter of Trump, then, you know . . .

WOMAN: Oh, they already knew it because I believe in the Second Amendment, so I . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. In terms of, Woman, finish your thought on that.

WOMAN: Just, you know, like I was kind of, Woman's situation where I work. I mean, it's almost entirely liberal, and so, and all they do, I mean, even now, is talk about how much they hate Trump, and how much they hate, you know, everything he stands for. And so . . .

MAN: Do you work for the state?

WOMAN: No. But I do work downtown, and, you know, it's just a different environment there and . . .

MODERATOR: Well, that leads me . . .

WOMAN: It is.

MODERATOR: . . . oh, Man, were you . . .

MAN: I just want to say, it's almost like even after the election, where I work too, Trump can walk on water, and people would complain he's polluting it, at this point.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: The man can do no, nothing good in people's minds.

WOMAN: Exactly, yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Well, I know Woman and Woman felt this way, based on what you've said. How about any others? Were you reluctant to tell other people at work or in your neighborhood or whatever that you were voting for Trump, and if so, why were you reluctant?

WOMAN: I was, because it's like they said. You know, everyone that was talking was saying how they were for Hillary, and how terrible Trump is. And, you know, you have to maintain a relationship at work to get along with people, to get the job done and not make your work experience miserable every day, so you just kind of keep your mouth shut just to not start arguments.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: On the other side, they're allowed to speak their mind and say whatever they want . . .

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: . . . but you're not supposed to bring politics to work.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: I mean, that's a no-no. I work in a legal department. You're not supposed to do it, and it happened daily in my department, how bad Trump was, and what he was doing. And I was like, oh, my God. Shut up. I can't stand it, just to listen to these people and the lies, and the stuff they're saying. And I'm going, oh, my God. Oh, my . . .

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: And I had to shut my mouth because I need my job. And honestly, I need my job, and it could've been affected.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then, Woman, you were . . .

WOMAN: I was just going to say, kind of to stem off of what Woman was saying too, you know, it just, I don't feel comfortable sharing my political views with other people out, when I'm at work or even sometimes with family. Like I just feel like, you know, your views are your views, and you have your beliefs, and I have mine.

But like you're saying, you know, they're free to say what their voices are, what they stand for with being a Hillary supporter or whoever, but if you agree with anything that Trump says where, that you're automatically a bigot. You're automatically racist. You're, I mean, it, you just, they lump you into this category, and that's all you are to them. Like it doesn't matter that this is something that's really important to you over here. This is where they, you know, lump you, and that's where you stay. So I wouldn't talk about it because I didn't feel like I wanted to have that argument.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, you're saying, you're nodding. Did that, you, did you find it similar?

MAN: I found it similar, and it continues to worsen too because I, you know, if you voted for Trump, then you're racist. You're a bigot. You're all these awful things. But then, all of a sudden, if you listen to the conversations going on, you hear people making fun of Mrs. Trump's accent, you know, and her immigration status. You have people trying to attack poor Barron Trump and say that that, you know, try to diagnose him with disabilities and things like that. All those are just awful things to do, but they justify it because they don't personally like Trump, and so it's kind of like you bite your tongue, but then you bite twice as hard when you hear the other side of it.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: And what's funny to me too is, you know, Trump's slogan through the whole campaign was, make America great again. Well, the Hillary supporters were, make America kind again. And, Lord, help me, but they were the most, you know, ruthless . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . and they still are . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I know. I'm like, and this is kindness? I mean, where's, you know, I mean . . .

MODERATOR: Does anybody else here feel like, when they tell people they voted for Trump, or that they were going to vote for Trump, or that they support him, anybody else here feel like they got attacked for that belief? Like, you know . . .

WOMAN: Absolutely.

MAN: Absolutely.

MODERATOR: Man, you did not?

MAN: I have a rather strong personality, and I like knowing my associates', coworkers', whatever, political beliefs, so I know whether they're part of the solution or part of the problem.

MODERATOR: So if you think they're part of the problem, does that mean you don't really talk to them about it because it's a waste of time, I mean . . .

MAN: No, generally, I'll fill their heads with bullshit . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . to point out, you know, the fallacy of their arguments.

MODERATOR: Let me ask . . . go ahead . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: You can write this down if you want. A man can . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . or a woman, a man or woman convinced against their will be of the same opinion still.

MODERATOR: Right. Okay. Let me ask you this, what emotions did you feel on election night or the next morning, you know, when you learned that Trump had won?

WOMAN: Relief.

WOMAN: Relief.

WOMAN: Shock.

MAN: Hope.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: But, yeah, shock, surprised.

WOMAN: Shock.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man, I'm sorry, I missed what . . .

MAN: Hope.

MODERATOR: Hope. Okay.

MAN: I felt like I had a winning lottery ticket.

WOMAN: Like a weight was lifted off my shoulders, named Hillary.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: It was kind of fun also to watch the reactions of the pundits . . . that was, I went from, when I saw the numbers coming in, my jaw was dropping, and I was like stunned because I went in thinking, you know, I'll have President Hillary, and God help us all. And then once I picked my jaw up, I was flipping to MSNBC and all these other places, and it turned to kind of almost like watching a comedy in a weird way . . . elections.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Exactly.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: I still go back and watch . . .

MAN: I stayed up until 3:00 in the morning . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: They were all stunned.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: They were, and very sad and breaking up on air and all those other things, yeah.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: We had people who did not come into work the next day, and the ones that did, they were just like in tears.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: You can tell they'd been just crying. I'm like, how do you think the rest of us have felt for the last, you know, umpteen years.

WOMAN: You can see that on Facebook too. I had friends that were like, oh, my God, my kids can't go to school anymore because they're so distraught over the fact that Trump won. What is this world coming to? Seriously, what is this world coming to?

WOMAN: It's not like . . .

MAN: Participation trophies.

WOMAN: Yes.

WOMAN: They were childish. I thought it was really childish because their candidate didn't win, and I work right across the street from the State House, so we were all subjected to all of the protests and everything else, trying to get in and out. It was just terrible.

MAN: I thought it was hilarious, actually hilarious, and I could just picture Hillary, and I've got a real long connection to people who've been around the Clintons in a professional, not politics but, and her little garbage or her little information on how the Clintons acted in private. And I could just picture Hillary screaming at her staff while she held her bottle of gin.

WOMAN: She didn't even have the class to come out and say anything to her supporters that night. I just felt that was just really disrespectful.

MAN: How about the rigged picture of her supposedly, the jogger who happened to be a big Democratic supporter, running into Hillary on a walk on that trail, you know, the next day? Who believes that?

MODERATOR: Let me ask this. Do you consider your vote in November was more for Trump or more against Hillary?

MAN: For Trump.

MODERATOR: For Trump. Okay.

WOMAN: Against Hillary . . .

MAN: The choices were . . .

MAN: I would say it was, my vote was not against Hillary. It was against all of the stuff that we've been suffering under for the last 30, 40 years.

WOMAN: I didn't feel like we had really good candidates because I was actually really shocked that that was the best our country had to offer. I was, it's like, you've got to be kidding me.

WOMAN: I . . .

MODERATOR: When did you make up your mind to vote for Trump, the election booth or Election Day or . . .

WOMAN: After, no, after I knew it was going to come down between Hillary or Trump, I felt like I had to pick the lesser of the two evils then.

MAN: So like late spring, kind of . . . when it was clear.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: Yeah, I didn't vote for Trump in the primary here in Ohio . . .

WOMAN: Me neither.

MAN: . . . but there was no way I was going to vote for Hillary Clinton.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Who'd you support for, in the primary?

MAN: I voted for Kasich in the primary here in Ohio. Ohio is in pretty good shape, so . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else here vote in the Republican primary? Okay. How many of you voted for Trump, and then how many voted for somebody else?

WOMAN: I voted for Trump.

MAN: Trump.

MAN: Trump.

WOMAN: I voted for somebody else. I voted Rubio.

MODERATOR: Rubio? Okay.

WOMAN: Kasich.

MODERATOR: Kasich? Okay. Everybody here also, one of the questions that they asked, said they voted for Mitt Romney in 2012. In what ways is Trump different than Romney?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . we're still getting out at 10:00, right . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Other than the one won, and the other one lost.

WOMAN: I think . . .

MODERATOR: Not a politician. Okay.

WOMAN: I think Mitt Romney is classier, more subdued. I think he thinks before he talks, and I would personally feel better having somebody like that in charge of like the nuclear football than somebody that just, you know, says whatever, just spouts off.

MODERATOR: Okay. Other differences?

WOMAN: I think that's a lot of training though, when it comes to being a politician, so I think that's the difference between him and Trump, is that he's the politician. He's refined. He's, he thinks before he speaks, that kind of thing, and Trump is, he doesn't care. He says what he wants to say, and he believe what he believes, and that's the way it is.

MAN: Too much political correctness.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: Not enough truth.

MODERATOR: For Romney?

MAN: That's basically what the difference is to me.

MAN: Nothing against Romney, he's a very intelligent man. He accomplished a lot of things, but he grew up, his father was governor of Michigan.

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: That's turned out well.

MAN: That was a long time ago though.

MAN: You know, I think he grew up in that culture of politics. And I go back to when I was in the eighth grade, and we rode horses to school. I had an eighth grade teacher that said, you have two types of people that run for elected office. You got politicians, and you have statesmen.

And the statesmen will represent the people. The politicians will represent themselves. And I've always remembered that from the eighth grade.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: I think that, you know, clearly one is polished, and one is not. But I think really, in my mind, the biggest is that Romney was disconnected to rural America in a way that Trump, even though Trump is very rich, never lived in rural communities. But Trump had his finger on the pulse of what folks down in Scioto County and other parts who were unemployed and struggling with all sorts of things, Trump had a better sense of how to reach those people and connect with them in a way that Romney never really was able to do it.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other differences between the two? Similarities? What do you see that's similar between . . .

WOMAN: They're both good businessmen.

WOMAN: They're intelligent.

MAN: They're both patriots.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anything else come to mind where they're, an intersection between the two?

MAN: I think they're both strong family men. Romney obviously has Mormon beliefs, and even though Trump has been through a wife or two, who hasn't, I think he holds his family dear to him.

MODERATOR: Okay. Is there any point since the election in which you regretted voting for Donald Trump?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: Woman, you're looking a little like, eh, there might have been one or two things.

WOMAN: It's just really hard because I sometimes tend to see both sides. I have grown sons that, one of them was on the opposing, and when he gets in my head sometimes, I see his side. And, you know, when we said earlier, it was one of those things that we chose as a family to, without joking aside, that we couldn't really discuss it.

MODERATOR: Is there something in particular about what Trump has done or said, a specific instance where you said, you know, that, I kind of, I don't know if I made the right choice?

WOMAN: I think in my heart, no, but there are flashes of things that, I guess I'm compassionate to those that don't have, sometimes to a fault.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else? No? Okay. Next question, do you think that Donald Trump is changing the way things work in Washington?

WOMAN: I think he's trying.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I'm hoping he is.

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: I think he's on the right track to do so. I think he seems like he's really sticking to his guns and trying to make changes that have been, you know, in place for years and years, so . . .

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: It's a very small David fighting a very, very large Goliath, the political machine, the government institutions, the unions. I don't know if one man can do it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Sorry. Oh, what was the Trump campaign slogan?

WOMAN: Make America great again.

MAN: Make America great again.

MODERATOR: I know it's a dumb question. I just got to ask it, so I can get to the next one. What does make America great again mean to you?

MAN: I think in the short term, I think one of the best presidents we had in my lifetime, and I'm almost 59 years old, was the presidency of Ronald Reagan.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Absolutely.

MAN: He brought us out of the, one of the worst economic situations, took over for one of the most dreadful presidents in my lifetime, and actually instilled pride in the United States. We were proud to be Americans. We were respected by the rest of the world. And I, that's what I took from make America great again. Bring us back to that period when we were something.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: I agree. I think just bringing pride back to our homeland, you know, and feeling like you are proud to say that you are an American, because we're focused on taking care of our home and not focused so much on, and addressing everyone else's issues when we have more than we can handle on our own right now. I think that's where our focus needs to be.

MAN: I think that we have allowed our government to create a welfare state where there's such a large group of people who want to be taken care of from cradle to grave, and they think they're entitled to it. And then someone mentioned earlier, you get what you work for. And, you know, I can cite you instances of people I know, friends and relatives, who are on the gravy train, and the amount of money and the benefits that they get, and they really don't deserve it, but they make more money than if they had a job.

MAN: Well, it's vote buying, pure and simple. It's buying the votes.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: So let me ask you this. And, Man, you just kind of touched on one perspective on this, but what are some of the reasons, to you, that America is no longer, is not great right now or, you know, certainly up to when he was, Trump was inaugurated? What is it that, and Man gave one reason, but other reasons you think that, eh, America has kind of lost a couple of steps?

MAN: I think that we have a previous administration which, Obama was a globalist, and he saw America as just one of many, and it didn't bother him that jobs were going, leaving, and going to other countries because at that point, who cares, if all nations are the same? And he went on this big tour before he was inaugurated, the great apology tour, apologizing for everything America ever did.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: And I think that's one of the reasons why we, a bad president can't ruin a country. America is too great for that. But it certainly sort of, you know, it did damage our reputation, internationally, and I think it really hurt a lot of folks' own sense of pride in their own country. And a lot of young people who were brought up under the Obama administration lost that sense of American exceptionalism that all of us were raised with, that there is something special about this country that we're all in and the blessings that we enjoy. And Obama had utter complete disregard for that. And it has had a very profound impact, I think, on all of us.

And that's why make America great again resonated with me, because I was always raised to believe that America is great, and that America can always get better when we stick to our values. That's why the world is better off with a strong America, not just an America who's just, hey, one of, you know, 170 other countries all *Kum Ba Ya*-ing together.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: The world is better when America is great.

MODERATOR: That's, better be careful, or they're really going to draft you to run for office.

WOMAN: That's part of it too. I mean, we've taken all of the things that are American about this country, and they're trying to change them because everybody is so afraid about not offending anybody, you know. They want to put like, you know, mats and things for them to pray in the schools, but they can't pray to like Jesus or whatever, and it's just ridiculous. People find any avenue to complain over, and it's just, I disagree with.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Yeah, that's the foundations that we all grew up with. You know, I mean . . .

WOMAN: It's America. If you don't . . .

WOMAN: In schools, you know, *The Pledge of Allegiance* is something, I think, that we all had close to our hearts, and that we felt proud to recite. And now, I mean, they . . .

WOMAN: We do say it. I'm a teacher.

WOMAN: Okay. Well, you know, but there are a lot of schools where they want to eliminate it altogether, or if they are going to keep it, they want to change the wording, and I'm like . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Or they don't have to say it, or they can . . . well, everyone else is saying it. They shouldn't have a choice.

WOMAN: No.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: You live here, you follow our guidelines.

WOMAN: . . . you come to our country, and you . . .

WOMAN: You learn our language.

WOMAN: . . . our rules, our ways. That's what this country was founded on. And, you know, we shouldn't have to accommodate for everyone else that wants to come here.

WOMAN: And apologize for it.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Sorry. Let me, and I know a couple of people want to add, but again, I need to get you out of here on time, so I want to move on. We're still 15 minutes away, but that shows that I have a fair number of questions still. So I apologize. I know a couple people wanted to comment, but one more question on the, make America great again. Some people criticize that as a racial thing, wanting to take America back to the '50s and days of segregation. Is, did you hear that?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: Never.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: No.

MAN: I heard fools on TV saying it.

MAN: Fake news.

MAN: I never believed it for a second.

WOMAN: I hear more of unity in that, make America great again. We are all here. We are in the United States. You fly one flag. You do, you believe in one United States.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm . . .

WOMAN: We are all a melting pot, no matter how many years ago we came over, we're all a melting pot, and we all conformed to that one United States. Now everybody that's coming and wants to have their own little pieces and parts everywhere, and they want to have their own rules and regulations everywhere. That's not the way it works. You make America great again, you bring them all in together, and we all sit, unified.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: You don't see other countries doing that. You know, other countries have their ways of doing things, and when you go to their country, you're expected to assimilate to that.

MAN: That's right.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: And I don't understand why it's, when you come here, we're all supposed to cater to that.

MAN: You can't have prayer in our schools because it's offensive, and they consider *The Pledge* offensive. But yet, schools have to have separate rooms, so someone can go there with their prayer rug.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Wait a minute.

MAN: That was Obama's thing.

WOMAN: . . . the fear of offending too much . . .

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me change topics, or not topics, but move along, away from make America great again to the next question. And as, just by show of hands, I'm going to give you two options. So was your support for Donald Trump more based on his issue positions or more based on, that he will bring change to Washington? So how many said, I really, you know, I really backed him for his issue positions? Okay. How many of you say, no, I did it because he's going to bring change to Washington? Okay. So I kind of get it, that everybody was for that. Okay. Let me ask you this. If Hillary Clinton had won the election instead of Donald Trump, would you be more supportive or less supportive of the Republican Party?

WOMAN: More.

WOMAN: More supportive.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: More, yeah.

MODERATOR: Is that because of Hillary . . .

MAN: If she'd be President, she'd be like . . .

MODERATOR: Kind of like she's pushing you into the Republican corner?

WOMAN: I can't even imagine having her as commander-in-chief after what happened in Benghazi and some of the other stuff that she's been involved in.

MAN: The only time I would ever vote Democrat is when I'm dead, and they're voting from the graveyards.

MAN: They have been doing that . . .

MAN: And there's a history of that, right?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: That's the only time . . .

MAN: In Chicago . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: If you ever see my name on it, that's why, but I think at that point, you have to, just to, because that's the last line of defense.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: But would anybody say, look, Republican Party, we couldn't even beat Hillary, if she won? Anybody think, look, Republican Party, we couldn't even beat Hillary Clinton. These guys are a bunch of, you know, morons. I don't mean guys, just men, men and women, a bunch of morons that can't even beat Hillary Clinton, I'm giving up on the Republican Party.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: It's such a mountain to overcome. You know, in the Hillary campaign, we were dealing with, again, I mentioned the 47% of people who receive a check from the government in some form or the other. You know, the media, the FBI, the Department of Justice were all in the Hillary camp, obviously.

WOMAN: The whole entertainment industry . . .

MAN: Exactly.

WOMAN: And just the way that media would spin things. Because, you know, especially as a woman, we, I think the things that Trump was known to have said, I think that pulled a lot of people to Hillary's side in a way . . .

MAN: There's not a guy in this entire city of Columbus that hasn't said the same thing in the locker room. It's just, it's potty talk.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I'm not defending it. I'm just saying, believe me, I've been in some women locker rooms.

WOMAN: He says these kind of things on TV too. It's not just in the locker room. I mean, it's . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I disagree. I've never heard him say anything . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me, I'm going to, staying on the election, just a couple more questions on that before we move onto the next topic, did you vote a straight Republican ticket, or did you split your ticket? Did anybody here split their ticket?

WOMAN: I did on some things, yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. I think, Man, you did as well.

MAN: I did. I'll share it if you want.

MODERATOR: Sure.

MAN: I would not vote for Pat Tiberi if you gave me \$100 million.

MODERATOR: Okay. And who's he?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: He's a nobody. He's a . . .

MAN: He's a congressman.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: U.S. or Ohio?

WOMAN: U.S.

MAN: U.S.

MODERATOR: Okay. And then, Woman?

WOMAN: It just really depended on the candidates to me, which candidates I felt were best for the position, regardless of the party. Even though I lean more Republican than anything else, if I had a politician that was Republican, I would not vote for them just because they're Republican.

MODERATOR: Is there any Democrat, nationally, right now that, let's say, Trump wasn't President, or Trump decided not to run again in 2020. Is there any Democrat, national Democrat who might, could run, you could see run for President, who, you say to yourself, yeah, I could support that person?

MAN: Nope.

WOMAN: Not right now, I don't.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. And then I don't mean the chair, the new chairperson of the DNC, the national party, the Democrat National Committee, so don't think about that person. But

in your mind, who is the new leader of the Democratic Party? Who's the, when you think of the Democratic Party right now, who do you think of?

WOMAN: Who's that woman, the congresswoman that's on all the time from, I think she's from California? I can't think of her name.

MAN: Not Feinstein, are you? Boxer? That's the only two that I can think of from California.

WOMAN: It might be Feinstein. I think it's Feinstein.

MAN: Hillary is starting to put herself back out there.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Crazy.

MAN: You know, she just said something today about, we need to take Assad's air control out. So I think she, I got a feeling that she's, you know, just like an awful sequel, she's coming back. But I think that, you know, Elizabeth Warren is putting herself out there quite a bit, from Boston.

MAN: Who's no longer Indian . . .

MAN: . . . yeah . . .

MAN: I can't think of a person, not one, male or female, of the Democratic Party that would be a . . .

MODERATOR: No, but not necessarily somebody that you like, but who you think of as this, when you think of the face of the Democratic Party or the leader of the Democratic Party, it is . . .

WOMAN: I still think of Hillary because she hasn't shut up.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Tell us how you really feel.

MAN: . . . be surprised to see Michelle Obama make a run at it, you know, because she's got the jackpot so many different ways.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else come to mind? I've heard Elizabeth Warren, Hillary, Michelle Obama. Anybody else come, and they don't necessary have to run for

President but like, you know, right now, with the Democrats out of power, who's, who represents them? What do you think of Chuck Schumer?

MAN: Schumer the goomer.

MODERATOR: Okay. Anybody else, I, some people didn't even respond. Does that name not ring a bell?

MAN: He should go into standup comedy with his niece, Amy, you know.

MODERATOR: Oh. Okay. They're, I didn't know they were related.

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let's change topics. When you hear what is often called the mainstream media being critical of Donald Trump, does their criticism make you question your support for him, or does it reinforce that he's on the right track in terms of shaking up D.C.?

WOMAN: Reinforces it.

MAN: Reinforce . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Because I know they're lying through their teeth.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Now, Woman, I don't mean to, but earlier, you said, eh, you know, you've got some qualms. Do they give you, does the media give you qualms?

WOMAN: Yeah, I get tired of hearing one side all the time.

MODERATOR: So they don't give you qualms about Trump.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: They make you feel, oh, you're, it's, you know, they're saying the same thing over and . . .

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: Grade school type behavior on the media side, in my opinion.

MAN: Get over it, you know. You lost.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: They're still in the corner, crying, asking for counseling . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: How do you react? Trump said this. I'm not sure. I can't remember whether he said it on Twitter, or he said it in a, you know, an interview or something, but he said that, quote, the press is the enemy of the people. What does that mean to you when you hear that?

MAN: I think they're spreading lies. I really do. They're inflating everything in order to keep people at unrest. That's just me. I don't, I can't hardly watch the news. It just upsets me so much.

MAN: There was a congressman just two days ago, made a statement in front of a committee, and he was quoted, and I, I'm sorry. I can't think of his name right now. But he paraphrased a few verses from *The Bible*. But when it appeared in *The Washington Post*, which is a very reputable newspaper, they chopped it up and basically said that his quote was that we should not feed the hungry, and that was only part of the verse. And when you see that type of thing happen, how can you trust these media people?

MODERATOR: Okay. Does anybody feel like, yeah, you know, the media is just kind of doing its job? They're not biased.

MAN: They're not doing their job.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: They're incredibly biased.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: They . . .

MAN: There's no such thing as unbiased media. They work for somebody. Somebody is making money . . .

WOMAN: They're trying to sell papers, and they're trying to get subscriptions, but the problem is . . .

MAN: Sensationalist.

WOMAN: . . . yeah, you don't have, I think Americans are less educated now and less apt to not believe everything they see come across a Twitter feed, or that they read in the print without doing more investigating into it. I think they tend to take things at face value.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: What do you think, in your mind, is the most biased news report that you've seen the press do against Donald Trump?

MAN: Rachel Maddow, she's . . .

MAN: That was hilarious.

MODERATOR: Are you talking about the media source, or is that the, I'm wanting to know what the story was that they did that you felt, about Donald Trump, that you felt was pretty biased? So, Man, when you say, Rachel Maddow, are you referring to something in particular, or are you . . .

MAN: Just that whole big tax thing, it kind of backfired because he paid the most taxes of any elected official ever I think.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: \$38 million.

MAN: Yeah, I mean, it was like . . . and she still tried to spin it that it was, oh, he's really, you know, he's not for the people, or I don't know. It just, I don't know how you, I don't know how they can twist, I don't know how they can sleep at night with the lies that come out of their mouth.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other examples come to mind of, boy, the press was just so biased by saying this and doing this?

MAN: It's hard to say, pick anything, because it's everything.

WOMAN: That's right.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: It's like seeing the forest for the trees.

MAN: You know, Trump could come up with a cure for cancer tomorrow and pass it out for free to anyone who wanted it, and it would be, Trump puts oncologists out of work, just completely spin things. It's completely ridiculous, out of character.

MAN: I think the most biased and inaccurate headline that keeps coming out and won't die is Russian hacking of the election.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Yes.

MAN: That is the biggest falsehood, and that keeps getting put out there.

MODERATOR: And when you say, it's a falsehood, what . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Even that phrase, if you say, the Russians hacked the election, most people, if they don't think about it, will say, oh, that means that there was some guy in Russia

changing my vote, and the election was stolen. Newsflash, people in other countries try to influence our election all the time. They donate to candidates. They, you know, endorse people. They do all sorts of things. That's been part of the course for years and years and years and years and years.

Instead of sitting here and asking the question of, why did Hillary lose? Well, maybe because she didn't campaign in Wisconsin and Michigan, all these other places. Maybe her messaging was bad. Maybe Trump's message resonated. Instead it's Russian hacking. That's exactly what it is and presents itself as if votes were stolen. And even if you believe that the Russians were behind the, whatever Julian Assange's group and all that stuff, which I don't believe is true, you know what? It would've been very nice if they hacked into the DNC computers and said, oh, nothing to see here. But instead they found some really awful things that, the harsh light of day was, revealed all those things. But that phrase, every time I hear it, the Russians hacked the election, it's not true at all.

MAN: As far as the victim mentality, and I think that sums up the entire Democratic Party and their electorate, that it's not my fault. It's because the Russians hacked the election. It's because Trump said something horrible 20 years ago in a locker room. It's because of this. It's not my fault.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: And there's no way he could've won unless the Russians hacked . . .

MODERATOR: Quick show of hands, how many people here are on Twitter? One, two, three, four. Okay. Those of you who are not, a lot of people mentioned Twitter earlier. Do you generally feel like you know what Twitter is, or you've just kind of heard of it?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Pretty much know what it is.

MODERATOR: Okay. Those of you who are on Twitter, do you follow Trump on Twitter? One, two, three, four. Okay. All four of you do. And then those of you who do not, one of the things I learn is that his tweets also kind of, somehow maybe supporters put it on Facebook. You see it on Facebook . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: He has a Facebook page too, so . . .

MODERATOR: Oh, he does? Okay.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Never hear about that. You only hear about Twitter. Do you think that he, or first of all, let me start before I ask that question. Why do you think he tweets so much?

WOMAN: To get his message out because he knows the media will screw it up.

WOMAN: It's coming directly from him.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: And he's purposely said that he's not going to go through media outlets to get out his message. He's going to, you're going to hear it from his lips, more or less.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Do his tweets though help him or hurt him?

WOMAN: I think it hurts him.

WOMAN: Hurt him, yeah.

WOMAN: In many cases, yeah, I think . . .

WOMAN: I think he needs to think about what he's putting out there before he puts it out there. Like, you know, maybe we can give him like a delay, like a ten-minute delay after something happens where he can think about it.

MAN: Like on radio stations, seven-second delay and a dump button.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Yeah, it seems to me he's got a good spell check.

MAN: That's, yeah, I would agree with you on that . . .

MAN: And I'm sure he's just going like that.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: And you can tell . . .

MAN: It's like, looking at his Twitter account, it's like you're looking for the diamond in the rough, because not every tweet he sends out is bad. But the problem is when you're, who cares? Nobody watches *Saturday Night Live* anymore. Nobody watches *The Apprentice*. Let all that stuff go. Because then, when he does tweet something that is a positive one or something, you know, okay, yeah, that's really good. Everyone, you know, ignores it, or it's buried beneath all the garbage tweets that he sends out.

MODERATOR: Man actually touched on, oh, Woman, you get the last word, and then I move on.

WOMAN: I don't think it's a problem that he has Twitter. I think it's a good way for him to get in contact with millions of people. It's, what bothers me about his tweets is the terminology he uses, the spelling issues. He is our commander-in-chief. He's supposed to be the highest man in the world. He's supposed to be, and I think he's a very intelligent man, but maybe he's better with numbers than he is with letters. I don't know. But he's, he doesn't look as intelligent as he actually is when he's tweeting out these things.

WOMAN: Right.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: He needs somebody to proofread for him.

WOMAN: Yes . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I was just going to say, he needs to . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . somebody got to rein him in on that, period.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: The tweet czar.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: That's for Obama.

MAN: I mean, I can't think whether it's 120 characters you get.

MODERATOR: One hundred and forty.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: One hundred and forty, I mean . . .

MODERATOR: Man brought up my next question, actually, SNL, *Saturday Night Live*. How many of you still watch that?

MAN: That show is still on?

WOMAN: It is.

WOMAN: Isn't it on earlier now?

MAN: I watch it once in a blue moon.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Only when my sons want to replay certain skits when they show up, and it's rare.

MAN: I see a lot of their clips show up on Facebook when people are posting YouTube things, but I, my gosh, I haven't watched that . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: And on the news.

WOMAN: Yeah, you see them on like . . .

WOMAN: . . . the morning news segment . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Like on *Good Morning, America* and stuff, sometimes they'll show up.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: And it's usually the ones on Trump that show up there.

MODERATOR: How many of you watch the ones about, on Trump?

WOMAN: Some, I have.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . sometimes . . .

MAN: Yeah?

WOMAN: Spicer.

MODERATOR: All right. Changing topics, go ahead and open the workbook again, this time to page nine, and very quickly, go ahead and jot down some issues, you know, three, four, five, that you think it's most important for the President to be successful on. And I'm going to hit the little moderator's room. I'll be right back. Thanks for laughing, Woman.

WOMAN: . . .

MAN: I have a joke if anyone wants to hear it.

WOMAN: Go ahead, sure.

MAN: You know, the pope came into town last weekend to visit Donald Trump in Mar-a-Lago, and they went out on his yacht. And a storm came up, and it went and blew the pope's hat off into the ocean. Well, Secret Service started to go after it, and Donald said, no, wait, I'll get it. So he jumps off the side of the boat, walks across the water, picks up the pope's hat, brings it back, and gives it to him. Monday morning, *Washington Post*, Trump can't swim.

MAN: I thought you were going to say, Trump steals pope's hat.

MAN: He's back.

MODERATOR: Okay. In the interest of time, go ahead and put that aside.

We're not going to actually talk about that. I'll just read them after . . . let me ask you this. Do you trust government more now that Donald Trump is in office than you did when Barack Obama was in office?

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: Yes.

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: The executive branch, yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. What do you mean by that?

MAN: Not a whole lot has changed anywhere else yet so far.

WOMAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other thoughts about trusting government?

MAN: Not much.

MODERATOR: Not much. Okay. Let me ask about a few controversies that have been in the news, and we'll keep it simple. It's, I either want to see, I'll yes or no, and if you said, yes, raise your hand. If you say, no, then we're, no, I mean, you'll figure it out. It's late. Do you believe Obama ordered wiretaps on Trump before the election? How many say, yes?

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. So everybody. Did anybody say no? Okay. Do you believe the Trump campaign worked with people in the Russian government during the campaign to impact the election?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

MODERATOR: Anybody think, yes? Okay. Do you think the press purposely low-balled the estimate of the crowd at Trump's inauguration?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do you think that Attorney General Jeff Sessions intentionally misled Democratic senators during his hearing when he said he had not met with Russians about the campaign?

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: No.

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

WOMAN: No.

MAN: No.

MAN: I think he, there was some prevarication.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, what's your thought on that?

WOMAN: Well, I mean, we already know he did, and you could tell just by listening and going through the answers and things, how evasive he was being.

MODERATOR: Okay. Do you think it is nepotism and wrong for Donald Trump to allow his daughter and son-in-law to have official positions within the U.S. government?

WOMAN: No.

WOMAN: I do.

MAN: No.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: You guys . . .

WOMAN: I do.

MODERATOR: I heard, did I hear another yes as well?

MAN: I say, it is nepotism. I don't know if it's bad nepotism, but it is nepotism.

MODERATOR: Okay. Woman, you . . .

WOMAN: I work in a law office. We have policies against nepotism there. I mean, if it's, it sways you, and I don't think it's right to do that. Just because you're related to the President means you automatically get this position. I think they need to work for it like everybody else.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask some, you know, not everybody but some folks were, no, it's not wrong. Does this mean nepotism is okay for other politicians as well?

MAN: I think it depends on qualifications.

MAN: Yeah, if you have a position, you want a person you can trust, that has some experience, that you can rely on. I don't care if it's his wife or his mother. I think we've seen government go the other way for so long where there was nepotism, but it wasn't a relative, and that's the reason why we've got the situation we've got.

WOMAN: I think you hit the nail on the head too. It's trust. He's got so many people that he's not sure he can trust yet because it's so early on, and he knows he can trust them.

MAN: Look at the leaks they've had so far.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. Let me ask this. Supreme Court justice nomination that came up earlier, thoughts on that, general positive, his choice, generally support his choice?

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Fully support.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. And I think somebody mentioned his name, but what's his name?

MAN: Gorsuch.

WOMAN: Gorsuch.

WOMAN: Neil Gorsuch.

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Neil Gorsuch. Okay. Anybody here not know his name, off the top of their head? He's pretty well known. Okay. Let me ask about repeal and replace of ObamaCare. How come that is not happening yet?

MAN: Politics, politicians.

WOMAN: The House and Senate won't let it happen.

MODERATOR: Okay. Politics and, Woman, what did you just . . .

WOMAN: Politicians won't let it happen.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: I think it's priorities. I mean, he's got to get other things together before he can start working on that . . .

MODERATOR: Do you think that . . .

WOMAN: It's going to take time.

MODERATOR: Oh, go ahead. I'm sorry . . .

WOMAN: . . . no, it's just going to take some time.

MODERATOR: Do you think that before the next election, not 2020 but 2018, do you think that ObamaCare will have been repealed and replaced?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: I certainly hope so.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Yeah. Okay.

MAN: I hope so.

MAN: I think it was about money, big business, big money, politicians taking bribes, period. You call that lobbying. I call it a bribe.

WOMAN: Didn't they already, didn't they already try to repeal it?

MAN: Many times.

WOMAN: And it couldn't go through because all of the riders that everybody wanted to have on, he wouldn't accept?

MAN: Look at Ryan.

WOMAN: But isn't that what happened because he was trying to change that way of life for the Congress by saying they can't . . .

MODERATOR: More that the Congress didn't agree.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: The Republicans in the House, they couldn't get enough, the Democrats are all voting no, so just all of them are voting no, 192 or however many there are.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Fine, give the Democrats that ObamaCare then.

MODERATOR: Right, but they're happy with that, so . . .

MAN: No, I mean, let them live on that.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Yeah, let them cover, be covered by that.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: But the Republicans in the House couldn't get 218 or however many votes it is to pass . . .

WOMAN: But was that because they wanted things riding on that bill that they couldn't get to stay on because Trump took them off?

MODERATOR: No . . .

MAN: No, I think it was because they're bought and paid for by other interests.

MAN: No, I think another part of it, according to the way the current laws are written, this was only phase one of the repeal and replace. This had to be done, and then step two, and then step three would take place. But I think that the Freedom Coalition wanted everything in the first document.

MODERATOR: Okay. If Republicans can't agree, and the Affordable Care Act does stay the law of the land, it's also obviously known as ObamaCare, is that going to help or hurt your family?

WOMAN: Hurt.

MAN: Hurt.

MODERATOR: Does anybody here have family members who've been helped by ObamaCare? Okay.

WOMAN: I think I have, actually. I have two nieces that are disabled that are on Medicaid and that have to have, they're going to be disabled for, I mean, they're going to be on that coverage for the rest of their life, and it's, and they're going to end up falling off of it.

MAN: See, I'm okay with that. They can't help themselves. You help people that can't help themselves.

WOMAN: But they're going to get, they're going to end up falling off of it. They're not going to have the coverage.

MAN: That's . . .

MAN: I think there would be something to put them back on because . . .

WOMAN: But I'm thinking with ObamaCare, the way it's written now, I think that they're going to, I don't think it's going to stay to help them.

MAN : I have, I don't think anyone could really say, for a fact, that it's yes or no, because number one, none of us here have read, you know, the laws, the law that was proposed. So I think what we're relying on is hearsay and innuendo from the Democratic Party and the left-wing news media as to what's actually in it. Because, you know, I have no idea what's in it. I've never read it so, you know, I can't form an opinion on what's in it, and who's going to fall off, who's going to benefit, and who's going to be, suffer detrimental effects from it, because I don't know.

WOMAN: . . .

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: We had Medicaid before ObamaCare, so there were lots of disabled and elderly and poor folks who had access to that long before, so it's question of how many of those folks really will lose coverage, and how many of those folks will go back to the way things were, are still going to be okay. And that's what we don't, that's what I don't know, but I know that . . .

WOMAN: I don't think anybody knows.

MAN: Yeah, Medicaid has been around for a long time. It was already helping a lot of people.

MODERATOR: Should, changing topics, issues, should President Trump allow same-sex marriage to continue to be legal, or should he work to change it back?

MAN: Don't care.

MAN: I think government should stay out of your bedroom.

MODERATOR: So, in other words, no?

MAN: No.

WOMAN: I could care less who marries who. If they're in love, let them go. They're not bothering me any.

WOMAN: I don't think they should be allowed to marry. I still believe this country is founded on Christian values, and that is not my concept of what a marriage is. I think, and I've got some very close friends that are gay. I think that there, if they're in a committed partnership, that they should be able to have access to the same rights as a married couple, but I don't think we need to be calling it a marriage.

MODERATOR: Okay.

MAN: No one ever thought about too the financial ramifications for that. You know, in the military, if we're starting allowing spousal benefits for gay couples, whether it's male-

male, female-female, that entitled them to a plethora of government handouts and government benefits. Same thing with Social Security, you know, now they're entitled to spousal benefits.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: It's billions and billions of dollars that suddenly became, you know, coming out of the pocket that wasn't coming out before. I'm not saying that's a reason to not allow it or to allow it or whatever. It's just, there's huge financial aspects of doing that.

WOMAN: Well, even like your income tax, they can file married on their income taxes. I mean, that's huge, instead of like single, you know.

MODERATOR: Let me get, I'm trying to get a sense of how important this issue is to the group. So let me just, again, I hate to do this, because it's a simple way out, but a show of hands, how many say that President Trump should allow same-sex marriage to continue to be legal? And then I'll ask the other question. How many people say, he should allow it to continue to be legal?

WOMAN: Give us an option of I don't care. It doesn't matter.

MAN: Yeah. I mean, I . . . if I have to pick one, I'd say, keep . . . I mean, how could he make it, a President can't override a Supreme Court ruling.

WOMAN: Yeah.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: . . . five six. How many think that he should work to change it back? One, two, three. Woman?

WOMAN: I don't have an opinion.

MODERATOR: Don't have . . .

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: It's not something that you're even . . .

WOMAN: I think there's bigger issues.

WOMAN: That's what I was going to say. It's like I'm not for it, but I feel like there are bigger fish to fry right now.

MAN: I don't spend a lot of, large portion of my life dwelling on other people's sexuality, because I don't care.

MAN: Yeah, life is too short.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: So does Trump mean it when he says, we're going to build a wall?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: I certainly hope so.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: I hope so.

WOMAN: . . .

MAN: I hope so.

MODERATOR: Man, you sound, you say, the way you said that, I hope so, means you're not 100% certain.

MAN: I'm relatively certain.

MODERATOR: Any other thoughts on the wall? How important is that?

WOMAN: It would have to go down off, deep as well, because all the tunnels and everything that are coming across too need to be blocked off, so it has to go up just as high as it goes down.

MAN: And I think he also, I want the wall, but I want comprehensive immigration reform. Scratch that. I want immigration laws to be enforced.

WOMAN: Yes.

MAN: I think that the biggest, we have a huge problem in this country of, people who are coming legally on visas, and then they just don't leave, and we need to follow up on that.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: They just disappear.

MAN: And if they fly over that wall on the visa or just on a, you know, yeah, a travel visa, and we don't follow up on them to make sure they leave, that's a huge problem.

MODERATOR: Which is going to be more effective, stronger enforcement or a wall?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . both.

WOMAN: Stronger enforcement.

WOMAN: I think it's going to have the more long-term effect, you know.

MODERATOR: Which?

WOMAN: The enforcement.

MODERATOR: The enforcement, okay, sorry.

WOMAN: Bad part is, is you enforce it, and they get arrested, whatever. They get deported back over, and in two weeks, they're back again.

WOMAN: They come right back.

WOMAN: They just come right back in, so you have to have the enforcement, plus you have to have the blockage to keep them from coming back.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: . . .

WOMAN: I lived in Texas for . . .

MODERATOR: Woman, let me come back to you for, Woman, what's your thought on that?

WOMAN: I don't, I think the wall thing, I think it was something he said at one point, and he got a rise out of people for having, you know, building the wall, and enough people agreed with that terminology. I think it was really just a term when he said it at first, in my opinion. I don't see us having a wall from Texas all the way over through, I don't think that's realistic, to be able to do that, feasible financially.

MODERATOR: So to you, the wall represents stronger border security?

WOMAN: Yeah, than actually building a wall.

MODERATOR: Woman, I'm sorry. I . . .

WOMAN. No, it's okay. I lived in Texas and watched, you know, and like have visited like Juarez and places like that and watched these people. And they try to control it, but it's ridiculous, how many illegal aliens you see just coming across our borders. It's crazy.

MAN: I was in line in Matamoros, when I was working down in Texas, to get back in the United States, and I was waiting in line to go through, you know, talk to the customs and immigration people, and about 20 Mexicans just ran past.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: That was it . . .

MAN: Mexico will pay for the wall

WOMAN: Stop . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: And it's a very simple way to have Mexico pay for the wall, because we're the largest importer of Mexican food products from cantaloupes to strawberries to blueberries to celery.

WOMAN: Avocados.

MAN: And once they build a wall, and those trucks have to bring the produce through customs, and they're pulled to the side, and they have to unload every truck and have it inspected, and they lose all that product, it won't be long before Mexico starts saying, we'll pay for the wall.

MODERATOR: Okay.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: It's amazing because Mexico . . .

MAN: Their economy will go right down the . . .

MAN: It's amazing, but Mexico has a wall on its southern border with Guatemala.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: Isn't that amazing?

MAN: Oh, and it's amazing that there were no sanctuary cities before the election. Everyone said there was no such thing as them. Then the election, everyone is proud that they're a sanctuary city.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Let me ask this on the whole, play devil's advocate here. You know, Mexico has problems importing their food and other things to the U.S. That means prices for us go up in our grocery stores and that sort of thing. Are you willing to pay more to, because ultimately . . .

MAN: Absolutely.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: We're already paying more than we should because of other, the lack of immigration reform, so I think that in the short term . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . I think we would all be okay with paying more for a product than to let things continue as they are.

MODERATOR: Well, wouldn't that, again, just playing devil's, wouldn't that mean we end up paying for the wall, essentially? Even though it's kind of Mexican money, we're the ones paying the higher prices for the food and the clothes . . .

WOMAN: But we're paying less in social services.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: Yeah, we're paying . . .

MAN: It's . . .

WOMAN: Kind of a give and take.

MAN: I delivered for UPS, and I always was more reluctant to deliver when they had a big dog in the front yard, and I just think that's like the big dog in the front yard. People are going to be a little bit more reluctant to do things or break the law.

MODERATOR: Let me ask this. There's obviously limited resources for government, and I'm guessing nobody here wants tax increases. So if there's a choice that has to be made because of those limited resources. Would you rather see the money spent on building a wall or spending the money on fixing healthcare?

WOMAN: Building the wall.

MODERATOR: Building a wall? Man?

MAN: In fact, revising that tax code, but I'd rather build a wall.

MODERATOR: Man.

MAN: I don't see how fixing the healthcare is going to, should take money out of the federal government. I think the question is irrelevant because you're comparing two completely different things. We're talking about building a wall, which definitely requires federal funds, and fixing healthcare. To me, fixing healthcare doesn't mean, you know what, what we need to do is dump another \$12 trillion a year in it. That's not fixing healthcare, and that's not going to fix it.

MODERATOR: Okay. Man?

MAN: Build a wall . . . go down on a Friday or Saturday the Riverside Hospital or Children's Hospital or Grant or Mount Carmel, and go in the emergency room and see who's in there.

WOMAN: Yep . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: It will absolutely shock you because . . .

WOMAN: They are related.

MAN: . . . they're using our hospitals. Those people who are here illegally, they can walk in. Because it's a public hospital, they have to give, have to treat them.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Well, walk right out.

MODERATOR: Sorry. I'm, Man, wall or healthcare?

MAN: I agree with Man. I don't see how healthcare reform is going to cost anywhere near as much as the wall, so if we're spending the money, build the wall.

MODERATOR: Woman.

WOMAN: I think I'd have to kind of just say the same thing. I think that the healthcare reform isn't going to cost as much as what the border security will.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: Building the wall.

WOMAN: Yeah, I'm with the wall, and I think the two things are somewhat related because I think if we build the wall, we get the legal aliens to come in there. It's going to help reform our healthcare too, so it's kind of like a win-win, and then we're also securing our borders against some of these terrorists that come over here and do, you know, God only knows what.

MODERATOR: Okay. Wall?

WOMAN: I agree, yep, wall.

MODERATOR: Okay. Sorry, I'm, want to make sure we get through . . .

MAN: I'm having fun.

MODERATOR: Since the election, stock market has gone up more after any new president was elected in history, with one exception, and that's John F. Kennedy in 1960. That was not point-wise, but percentage-wise, which is really, you know, apples to apples. Why do you think the stock market, putting aside Kennedy, and then why do you think the stock market has gone up so much since Trump got elected?

WOMAN: I think they're hopeful.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Confidence.

MAN: Confidence . . .

MODERATOR: Okay. This, does the market going up have any impact on your life?

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. And if anybody says, no, not really, don't have . . .

WOMAN: Yeah, it does.

MODERATOR: You say, no, not really.

MAN: . . . got a 401(k).

WOMAN: I mean, it probably does for my families, yeah.

MAN: IRAs.

MAN: You know, my retirement plan is doing a little bit better, but I'll notice that later on down the line maybe.

MODERATOR: Who here votes in non-presidential elections? Everybody does. Okay. Do you think that the elections in 2018 will be more about the Republican Congress or more about President Trump, who's not on the ballot in 2018, but doesn't mean people don't make their decision.

MAN: I think it's going to be about Trump because, just like Woman said, she got, she would get chastised if they, if she told her people at work she was a Trump supporter, so it's association. I think that's where the media is trying to move everybody to.

WOMAN: They're going to try and get on a Democratic council, so that they don't have to worry about Trump and what he's doing, because the House and Senate will be ruled by Democrats.

MAN: The next election will be about trying to . . . the Trump presidency.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay. I want you guys to finish this sentence relatively briefly for me. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if, okay, so finish the sentence. Donald, to me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if . . .

WOMAN: He curbs illegal immigration.

MODERATOR: Okay. To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if . . .

WOMAN: He helps to end our reliance on foreign oil. I'd like to see him look at the Canadian pipeline issue again.

MAN: We're actually the net oil exporter now. My son is heavily into the business. We actually export more than we import.

MODERATOR: To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if . . .

MAN: He revises the tax code.

MODERATOR: To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if . . .

MAN: He keeps his promises.

MODERATOR: To me, Donald Trump's presidency will be a success if . . .

WOMAN: The economy continues to grow.

MODERATOR: Next question, finish this sentence for me. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on . . .

MAN: His promises.

WOMAN: Controlling terrorism.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: Securing borders.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: National security.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Sovereignty.

MODERATOR: Okay. I will be disappointed in him if Donald Trump doesn't deliver on, anything else? All right. Go ahead and go to page 11, which is the last page, and I want you to go ahead and write a postcard to President Trump with either some advice for the president or asking him to work on a certain issue.

MAN: Is this final jeopardy?

MODERATOR: No, I've got one more question after this. When you're finished, go ahead and put your pen down and close up your book. Kyle, I have something for you. Nope. Actually, we've got a newsflash I'm going to ask you about. The U.S. tonight launched about 60

missiles into targets in Syria, and President Trump said in a statement or a speech, I didn't catch which, it just flashed up and then went away, that it's in the U.S., it's in the vital interest of the U.S. to have done this. Is this something you support, or is this something you say, oh, man, more involvement in the Middle East? That's a problem.

MAN: We need to pack our bags and go home from the Middle East.

MODERATOR: So you didn't like that he sent, that he shot the missiles.

MAN: . . . no way.

MODERATOR: Man, you did not either.

MAN: Absolutely not.

MODERATOR: Who supported it? I . . .

WOMAN: I think it needed to be done. I think we need to send a message. I mean, it's always a hard decision, and it's sad to see missiles, but I think sometimes those are the types of decisions that have to be made.

WOMAN: I question why we have to be the one to make them though, just because we're the biggest country. There's other countries out there that can back us up that can be doing the same thing that we're doing.

WOMAN: They could, but they're not . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Well, the Russians have.

WOMAN: Why does it have to be us?

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Why didn't the UN react?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: . . .

MAN: The UN, what is that?

MAN: Yeah, the League of Nations.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: All that needs to happen for evil to survive and succeed is for good people and good countries to sit back and do nothing, and that's why the United States has to be the one to do it.

MAN: If we wait long enough, they'll all kill each other off over there.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . the Americans . . .

MAN: They'll come over here and kill us.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . the wall.

MODERATOR: Let me read you this tweet. Have you, do you guys know the actor, James Woods?

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: Okay. U.S. launches, this is in. U.S. launches missiles into Syria in response to a, to chemical weapons attack, finally a president with some balls. Reaction to that tweet?

MAN: I frequently, I'm sorry.

WOMAN: Well, if you look at what Obama did, he drew a line and said, don't do this anymore, and then they kept doing it, and then he backed off and did nothing, so I agree with that statement.

MAN: He paid for peace, tried to anyway.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MAN: Yep.

WOMAN: But you can't draw a line in the sand and then say, you know, this is what's going to happen and then keep backing it up either. It gives you the appearance of, you're weak.

WOMAN: Yeah, they knew after a while that it was weakness.

MAN: Exactly.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: If you object to the Russian influence in Syria, and then you send 60 missiles in, if this wasn't coordinated with Russia, then we've created another big problem.

WOMAN: And how many different fronts can we be on?

MODERATOR: Woman, what . . . sorry, I'll come to you next.

WOMAN: Okay.

WOMAN: I agree that we need to get a little respect back. I think that other countries have lost so much respect for us under Obama and made, he's made us look weak. I don't know that I necessarily like this action, but I think that we do need to do something to stand up and say, we're not going to take this.

MODERATOR: Woman?

WOMAN: How many different fronts can we be on? How many different places can we have our show of force where there's only so much of us to go around? I come, I'm a military family. My husband is military. It's scary to see these things happening because you just don't know what's going to happen next.

MODERATOR: Woman, what's your reaction?

WOMAN: I do feel like we need to kind of stand our ground and show that we are a force to be reckoned with. And, you know, because for so many years, it seems like, like Woman said, well, here's the line, but then they cross over and, oh, well, okay, we're going to create a new line. And, you know, and after that happens so many times, it becomes almost laughable because there really is no consequence. They're going to keep pushing until they get what they want. Well, we've got to show, well, this is what we'll stand for, and this is what we won't, and if you cross us, then there are consequences.

MAN: Big dog in the White House.

WOMAN: Can I ask a question? Did we put that line out there with Syria? Did we say, if you do this again, this is what we're going to do?

MAN: No.

WOMAN: Or did they just, okay, they did their bombing, so we're just going to retaliate with bombing to help the people out that are on the ground? Did we put that line out there for the bad people, lack of a better term, to cross?

WOMAN: Well, if you go back to what Obama said, yeah, we did.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: I think that we traditionally have had a zero tolerance for people that use weapons of mass destruction, including chemical attacks, and I think that we should continue to do so because eventually those will come our way. But the sad thing to me is, and maybe it's just because I'm jaded, was, as soon as you said that, was, how's this going to be spun tomorrow? Because does that mean that now Trump and Russia broke up, like we don't work together anymore? Like that's my

immediate thought was how I thought that we were best friends with Russia. They got Trump elected, and now we're disagreeing with them. And just 100 days later, does that mean a headline tomorrow, honeymoon is over, with Putin and Trump on the cover?

MAN: The missiles are one thing, but if there are boots on the ground, Trump is going to be in big trouble.

MODERATOR: Okay. Any other last thoughts on Syria?

MAN: It's a war we can't possibly win. The sides change so rapidly in the Mid East, the alliances, the allegiances.

MAN: Yeah, but Iraq is . . .

WOMAN: And Afghanistan . . .

MAN: One of the worst mistakes the United States made, unfortunately, was taking out Saddam Hussein who, for all the horrible, evil things the man did, was a stabilizing force in the Mid East.

WOMAN: Well, we helped put him in power.

MAN: Yes, we did.

WOMAN: People forget this stuff.

MAN: CIA helped train his people.

WOMAN: Yes, we did.

MAN: And taking him out was a huge mistake.

MODERATOR: Let's do this. Let's wrap up on that issue because it just happened, you know, within, I don't know how recent, but obviously it was just breaking news on my phone, so that is sort of exciting, to get to ask that question about it. Can I ask you to pass up the workbooks and let you know that the nice folks who checked you in will have your payment for your time on the way out? I hope you enjoyed the evening, and please drive home safely.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Thank you.

MAN: It was a pleasure.

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: I'm glad you enjoyed it.

WOMAN: Two hours went by fast.

WOMAN: It did.

WOMAN: It did go by fast.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.