

Elections in the United States of America

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Presidential elections are scheduled for a Tuesday, the 5th of November 2024. We will know who will be elected President and Vice-President of the country for a period of four (4) years in our country of adoption. Parallely, all the 435 seats in the house of Representatives will be contested as well as 34 seats of the 100 seats of the Senate. This will determine the next 119th United States Congress. It will be also the time to determine 13 State or territorial Governorships while other local elections may also be contested during that same night.

The USA is a country of Law and the constitution is followed for the best outcome although so much violence is seen nowadays. One will say that the country has changed but if you are an adept of History, you will see that, nothing has really changed in this country. Events come like a clock and re-surface with different politicians during the last 50 years as we can remember.

In September 1975, President Gerald Ford survived two assassination attempts in a little more than two weeks interval, both in California, carried by two women. In September 2024 past President Donald Trump and now candidate for the presidency, has also survived one assassination attempt, in New-Jersey some three months before the next presidential election. There has been also two other arrests in Florida and in California for gunmen caught with the intention of killing the same candidate. The coming elections revive competition and brings more hate in a country already divided. Political and social tensions re-surface and foreign countries like Iran, China and Russia seems to have a re-gain of interest in the American internal affairs.

Many remember the sixty's and the Vietnam War followed by the Watergate scandal. This was the year before Ford becomes unexpectedly president replacing President Richard Nixon after his resignation. He later will struggle with his popularity ratings once he

decided to pardon the same president he succeeded. It was a time of inflation and people were living in a difficult reality. Two assassinations attempted against Gerald Ford as if we were re-living the dark days of the 1960's remembering the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and later Martin Luther King Jr. as well as finally Robert F Kennedy.

This may be a period where everybody actually, in their 70's, may remember well where he/she were or what they were doing, at the radio's announce of the shooting down of John F Kennedy, in Dallas TX. A time of reflection when we were asked to pray for the first catholic president of the United States, while attending a class, at a catholic college where I was a student. It was a time where the life of a politician did not have much value, can we say!

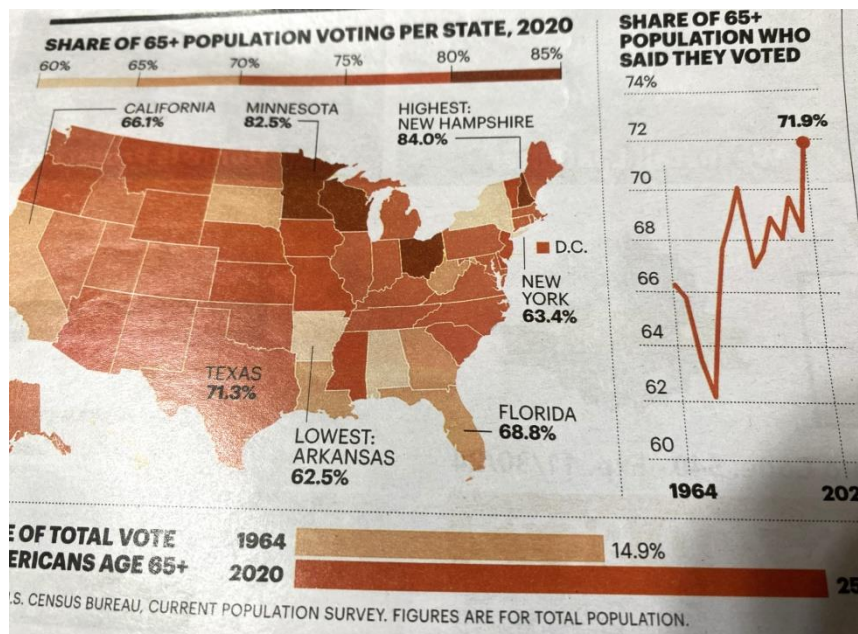
More, Ford may have survived the years of tumult during his administration, but at a first attempt of assassination, while walking in the street to enter his hotel, he stopped for shaking hands in the crowd, a woman Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, member of the Chales Manson Family cult, approached him and aim a .45 caliber handgun at him. Fortunately, she was disarmed by a secret agent of his security team. This woman was sentenced to life in jail, on November 1975 but finally was granted parole in 2008 but released a year later.

The nightmare was not over for President Ford. Another time while coming from his hotel to enter his limousine, Sarah Jane Moore managed to shoot twice at the president on 22 September 1975, using a 38-caliber revolver gun. It was then the turn of an ex-marine, Oliver Sipple, standing in the crowd, who rapidly reacted and managed to grab her arm and the bullet hit another bystander who survived the incident. This surely saves the life of the president while Moore was convicted over the attempted assassination, sentenced and thrown in jail for a lifetime. She was later paroled in 2007.

I can keep going over facts of past history in this country around assassination attempts over candidates seeking for the Presidency in the United States of America but it appears that I will be in a better place if chose to be the voice of the older actual population, the way I

am seeing it establish under my eyes. This is always the older voters who are turning out well above other age groups in recent elections. Times have changed because in the past, it was always the younger population which voted at a higher percentage until the events of the 80's. Each party may explain such changes by the new voter-outreach programs, awaking the sense of civic involvement, or the voting ballots making voting easier. More, older people know that voting matters.

There are two issues that dominate the interests of the constituency in "Medicare" and "Social Security". In 2020, more than 70% of people above 65, voted with the Census bureau surveys and the older voter turnout has increased. It is not only Social Security and Medicare which is important, but this is also prescription drug prices, family care giving costs and long-term care. Let us see the way both candidates stand in front of issues presented to older Americans compared to the last 2020 elections. Can it provide the same influence on the outcome?



One a Vice-President, still in her position of the last four years, states that her priority is to "build up the middle class and help the "seniors". She answered also that her approach is based on a common sense to

bring down prices at the grocery stores, while she was in charge for the last four years without being able to accomplish it.

The other candidate, a past president answers: “by drilling and looking for oil because the energy prices are what has led to the problem of actual inflation bringing to people devastation in many areas of the country. “All started with overspending and by bringing the price of energy to the ceiling for home, car, heating, gasoline etc.

Both agree to protect Social Security and the vice president enforces the facts that she will have the billionaires and the big corporations pay a fair share of taxes. The ancient president will claim money from the strength of the economy of the country on a business point of view.

AARP has found out in preparing for this interview that 48 million of American family care givers provide 600 billion in unpaid care each year. Both candidates recognize the importance of the dedicated people providing care to the needy and the need for founding such part of the Social Security.

Retirement for American workers have also been poor and as pointed out , by the past president, it has become impossible to have many participating in activities because of the inflation in which the country is plunged while the Federal brings the interest rate to a higher level. For the vice-president, it starts by protecting Social Security and fight the inflation with no clear explanations.

High price of prescription drugs was also approached by both candidates expressing their will to approach the big Pharma Group and the Canadian and European Companies, in imposing a reduction in price over the medications. Affordable healthcare for people over 50 was also approached by both candidates for a reduction of the premiums in insurances.

High speed internet for all was also suggested while the vice president seems to plan to have given a 90 billion dollar system allowing people to get hook-up for 60-70 dollars, while the former president will built its

internet system. The issues of criminal perpetrating frauds from texts and calls to target older Americans will be approached by enforcing the law while the past vice-president states that she will continue the work started when she was a DA in California, doing outreach.

I tried to overview as many topic of discussions to help the one who live in our country of adoption to have a fair view away from partisan politics allowing the American elders to understand better the importance of making a difference while participating in the process of voting. I was so happy to discover that many have a conscience and do not need to listen the verbiage of the usual bystanders.

In this 2024 election, many other issues will be on the ballot, like different amendments of the right to bear arms, the right of a woman to dispose of her body, the way she desires especially when she decides to have an abortion, generally performed before three to four months of pregnancy as defined by the science of medicine in relation to the heart beat of the fetus. Some decides that a woman has the right to decide at any moment to terminate a pregnancy. Exceptions still are the rule with incest, rape etc. Many are unhappy that the Supreme Court overturned the previous Roe vs Wade and turned the decision to the states.

The Southern border of the USA is open and unsecure under the last administration, allowing entry to more than 4,5 million of foreigners, is a contrast with the previous administration. This has bought a direct invitation to the criminals and the drug cartel around the world, to invade the American territory in bringing drugs, prostitution and insecurity.

So many other issues like the school curriculum, immigration and the spending of American funds to care for people of different countries just because of the desire of an administration to increase the census and hopefully allow such migrants to vote. Housing, medical cards, credit cards, re-payments of student's loans, the spending of FEMA and the inability to help the countrymen in need after disasters like hurricanes, the need to help the veterans.

All have contributed to the inflation in the country and has pushed the Federal to increase the interest rate while American are fighting with the prices of goods at the grocery store, unable to pay their electricity bills, fighting the price of gasoline... So many issues... So little time... The country will need to advance their agenda and we urge you to dispose of your ballot on November 5.

November 5th will be day of self-determination and an opportunity to asset your convictions, knowing that you have chosen the best candidate, not in function of what you have heard but in harmony with your conscience. In closing I would like to repeat:

You will never be wrong when you vote for the candidate of your choice. You would act with happiness, in the name of a constitution that you must respect blindly. You do not need to vote for somebody but you will express love for the country under which rules you protect your family. You will value tolerance and acceptance, avoiding chaos and humiliation in the truth and respect of the institution. In doing so, you would have participated in your civic duty in the rule of law with dignity and in the fear of God.

May the next president of the United States bring prosperity and a better way of living at the next election on November 5th, 2024!

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