

# Fact-Checking the Presidential Debates

By ISABELLA LI

The political fact-checking website PolitiFact rates 70% of statements by Donald Trump, the Republican President-Elect, as mostly false, false, or "pants-on-fire" false. 27% of former Democratic Presidential candidate and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's statements are given the same ratings.

(To put this in perspective, roughly 26% of President Obama's statements are rated varying degrees of false)

Trump and Clinton are considered by the American public as two of the least trustworthy candidates in all U.S. history. Let's review some of the most outrageous statements from the 2016 Presidential Debates to see if they live up to their "pants-on-fire" liar reputations.

## Donald Trump

*We have a situation where we have our inner cities, African-Americans, Hispanics, are living in hell because it's so dangerous. You walk down the street, you get shot.*

FBI data for 2015 found that murder rates increased 11% and violent crime increased 4%. However, in general, violence and crimes have consistently lowered over the past 20 years.

Statement rating: mostly



DAVE KAUP/REUTERS

*Supporters of Donald Trump, above, have rallied around the President-Elect despite his sometimes-false statements.*

false.

*When I watch what's happening some horrible things like Obamacare where your health insurance, your health care is going up by numbers that are astronomical. Sixty-eight percent, 59 percent, 71 percent.*

Healthcare rates have gone up, but not at the rate Trump claims. For example, political news agency PolitiFact estimates average increases of 4.4- to 13%.

Statement rating: somewhat false.

*I was against the war in Iraq.*

In a 2002 interview on the Howard Stern Show, Donald Trump, when asked if he supported the war, stated, "Yeah, I guess so."

Statement rating: false.

*I think my strongest asset, maybe by far, is my temperament. I have a winning temperament.*

A Fox News poll found that 38% of voters say that Trump has the temperament to be president. Critics have accused Trump of narcissism, oversensitivity, and disagreeableness. Supporters, such as Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, have called Trump "even-handed" with regard to temperament.

Statement rating: you decide.

## Hillary Clinton

*You can look at the propaganda on a lot of the terrorists' sites and what Donald Trump says about Muslims is used to recruit fighters.*

Jihadist organizations have used Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric for recruitment. For example, al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda affiliate, used footage of Trump's proposed Muslim ban on a 2015 propaganda video.

Statement rating: true. *Donald thinks that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese.*

Trump tweeted in 2012 that "The concept of global warming was created by and for the

not been laid out yet. However, the Tax Foundation estimates that Trump's tax plan would cost \$440 billion annually; Bush's tax plans cost an average of \$91.5 billion annually.

Statement rating: mostly true.

*After a yearlong investigation there is no evidence that anyone hacked the server I was using.*

James Comey, director of the FBI, noted that if hackers



AP PHOTO/FRANK FRANKLIN II

*A Clinton supporter wipes tears as it becomes clear that Republican Donald Trump will take the presidency.*

Chinese to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive"

Statement rating: true. *His plan will give the wealthy and corporations the biggest tax cuts they've ever had. More than the Bush tax cuts by at least a factor of two.*

Trump's full tax plan has

had infiltrated Clinton's email, there would be little evidence left. Furthermore, he stated that people in correspondence with Clinton had, definitively, been hacked.

Statement rating: technically true, but really, false.

## An Open Letter to the Democrats of NCSSM

Dear Friends,

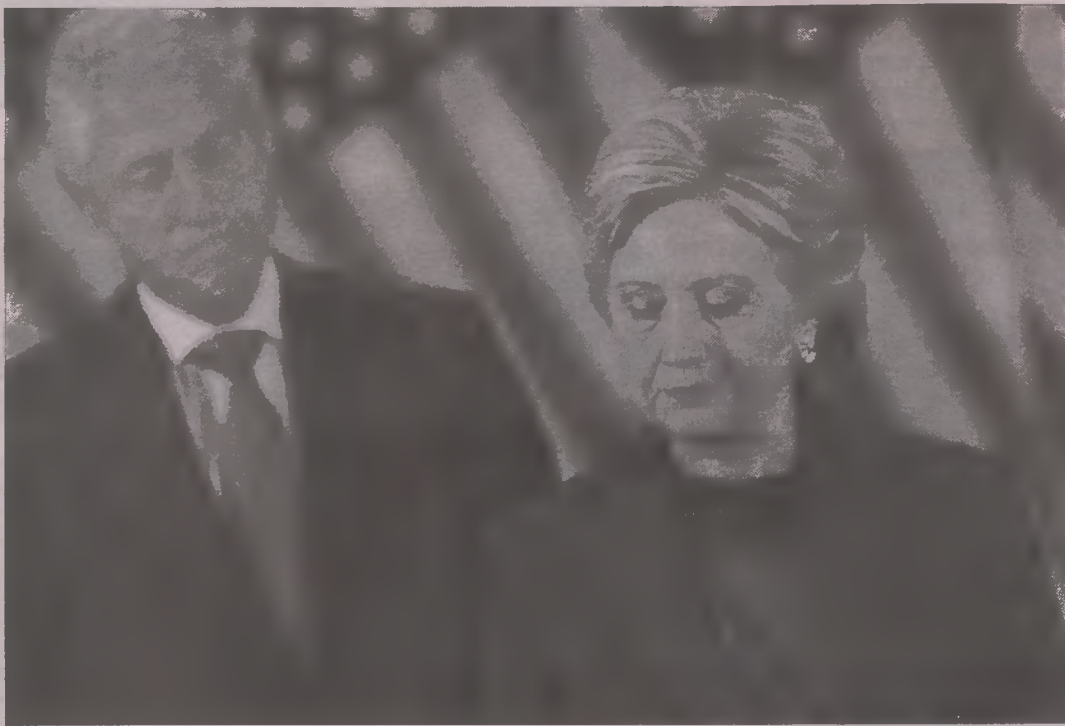
The last time we had a President whose last name did not rhyme with llama, we were in elementary school. I don't know about you, but my biggest concerns at that point were if I would ever figure out fractions (no) and if my Sunday School teacher would get mad at me for cutting up in class (yes).

I had a fondness for the young senator from Illinois, but I really liked his primary opponent. Hillary Clinton was everything that I wanted to be: smart, successful, and living proof that my gender could not supercede my potential. She showed me that politics is a field that is open to me despite being essentially a boys' game. Hillary lost, Obama won, and I fell in love with politics.

When I sat down in the Second Bryan lounge on Tuesday night, I was that eight-year-old kid again. There's nothing quite like the election night buzz; nothing quite like the pounding in your heart and the knot in your stomach. I had three bottles of (non-alcoholic) sparkling champagne in my fridge and two trays of cupcakes. I was ready for a great night.

We did not have a great night.

Donald Trump will be our president. Typing those words doesn't make it any more real



OLIVIER DOULIERY / POOL VIA CNP/MEDIAPUNCH/IPX

*Former President Bill Clinton looks on as former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton makes her concession speech to President-Elect Donald Trump.*

for me. I still feel like this is all a dream, that somehow the results will change. It isn't; they won't; he won.

So, what happens now? The Republicans have the House, Senate, Presidency, and soon, the Supreme Court. All three branches in the control of one party, and it isn't us. The pounding in my heart and the knot in my stomach are still there, but suddenly it's not exciting.

It is important to recognize

the very real consequences of this election. The President-Elect of the United States is a man who has, among many other things, refused to sell housing to African Americans, has a running mate who has proposed sending members of the LGBT community to conversion therapy, and has not only been accused of sexual assault, but has bragged about it.

He has expressed a desire to develop policies that

are contrary to what we as Democrats stand for on nearly every front, from immigration to climate change. The progress we've made over the past eight years is suddenly in danger--now is not the time to sit on the sidelines.

Your fear, anger, and sadness are justified. You are allowed to be upset about the results of this election. You are allowed to process this in whatever way you need to--be it protests or angry Facebook

posts, heightened emotion or total numbness. You are allowed to do all of these and more, to feel all of these and more.

I ask of you only one thing: do not forget the way you feel right now. Do not forget the pain, the fear, and the sadness. Do not forget the moment you first heard that he won. Remember this: now we mourn, but soon we fight. Political detachment is not an option anymore, if ever it was.

Register to vote. Volunteer in local elections--movements are built from the ground up, not the other way around. Hold Donald Trump and Congress accountable. Pay attention. Write to your representatives when you are dissatisfied. Talk to anyone who will listen, including our friends across the aisle, and listen yourself. Talk to young people, especially young girls and people of color; do not let them get discouraged. Vote in every single election.

I have faith in this country and I have faith in each of you. Take care of yourselves; take care of each other.

Here's to brighter, bluer days.

Jessica Sullivan  
President,  
NCSSM Democrats