

# FORUM

## Open letter to our new President-Elect

Dear President-Elect,  
Today you are elected to lead this great nation. The campaign season is over. As you prepare to lead us, please consider carrying with you these four questions as guidelines of the things you think, say and do for your Presidency and for your administration.



**Al Jubitz**

Guest Columnist

\*First, is it the truth? Seek the truth at every opportunity and then tell us. We can handle the truth.

\*Second, is it fair to all concerned? We like to be treated fairly and that one effort could lead to your re-election.

\*Third, will it build goodwill and better friendships throughout our country and the world? We Americans feel friendly toward others and want others to consider us friends. A smile, a conversation, listening to the aspirations of others is a step in this direction.

\*Fourth, will it be beneficial to all concerned? Truth, fairness, goodwill are important but please take the extra step to try to benefit all stakeholders both within this country and all over the planet.

You have earned the right to lead us and we are here to help as we also seek to live by these principles. We wish you well.

*Al Jubitz is a retired businessman and founder of the War Prevention Initiative and the Rotarian Action Group for Peace. These principles are paraphrased from Rotary's world renowned 4-Way Test.*



Clinton

Trump

## Whose election is it anyway?



**Matt Meyer**

Guest Columnist

When talking to a group of Black and Latino teenagers, it's become clear that the 2016 election campaign seems more than a little strange to most of them. Just a year or so shy of being able to vote themselves, almost all of them admit being influenced and encouraged by Black Lives Matter and other movements for progressive social change. But they seem largely unmoved by the rivalry which is being termed by pundits "the most important election of our lifetime."

As a historian and teacher, I tried to look back at past electoral battles – including some very strange ones – to gain insights on the gaps we face today.

Almost one hundred years ago, an outsider who would make Bernie Sanders look like a typical Washington bureaucrat

received almost 1 million votes – even though he ran his campaign from a prison cell, with buttons which read "For President: Convict No. 9653."

Socialist Party candidate Eugene V. Debs was doing time because he was a staunch anti-militarist – much more than merely being in favor of gun control – and advocated resistance to the draft during World War I. Though hardly a threat to the mainstream parties, Debs' 1920 campaign influenced many people (including women, whose nonviolent suffrage struggle prevailed and they voted across the entire country for the first time in US his-

### 'For President: Convict No. 9653.'

tory). Fifty years ago, a former convict – Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver – ran for President on a platform including immediate withdrawal from Vietnam and "Black liberation: Black Power to

Black People!" Though Cleaver himself did an about-face, becoming a Reagan-supporting Republican by 1980, in 1968 he was as militant as they come – beating out civil rights icon comedian Dick Gregory as the nominee of the Peace and Freedom Party (PFP).

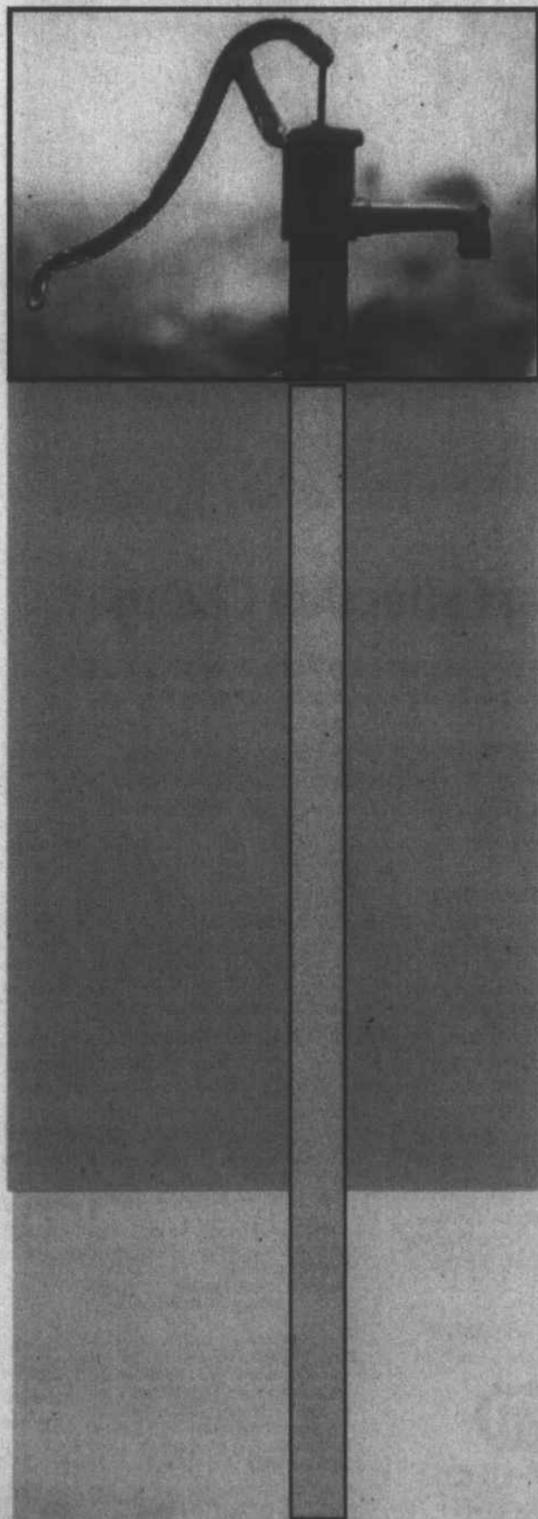
The PFP ran many candidates in that turbulent year, including war resisting socialist David McReynolds, in an attempt to energize potential youthful voters concerned about racism and militarism. But

they had hardly more influence than 1972 candidate Shirley Chisolm of Brooklyn, New York – the nation's first African-American congresswoman, first African-American to run for President, and first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. No doubt both President Obama and Hillary Clinton owe Chisolm a great debt of gratitude.

There should be little surprise that, at a time of concern about policing and incarceration of Blacks and Latinos there is still disenfranchisement and distrust among many "people of color."

In the end, I believe much of the fear and anger we see amongst the electorate on all sides is based on a frustrated desire for fairness, for justice. Let us remember that – whoever wins – there is much work to be done to heal past wounds and reunite these United States.

*Matt Meyer is an educator and author, affiliated with University of Massachusetts's Amherst's Resistance Studies Initiative.*



## Well water and your health: what you need to know and do



**Sarah Frantz**

Guest Columnist

Ever wonder what's in your well water? The Forsyth County

Department of Public Health, Environmental Health division offers services to test your well water from properly constructed wells in order to protect your health.

As a private well owner, it is up to you to test your water to ensure it is safe to use. Protect yourself and your family by testing your water regularly.

### When should your well be tested?

All newly constructed private wells in Forsyth County must be tested prior to establishing the well as a source of drinking water. This means the well must be tested before it is used. These tests check for bacterial and chemical contaminants, and should be conducted within 30 days of well construction completion.

After the initial testing to ensure the well is providing safe drinking water, you will need to keep up with

testing your well. Well owners should check the wellhead once a year to make sure it is working properly and ensure that there are no cracks or openings where contaminants can get into the well water.

Well water should also be tested after any repairs, replacement of well parts, and after flooding events. Contaminants may enter your well through cracks in improperly constructed wells, if the wellhead is removed, or if the wellhead is underwater. Contamination of wells can also be caused by surface runoff, agricultural and construction activities, toxic spills and leaking fuel tanks.

The State Laboratory of Public Health recommends you test your well every year for total and fecal coliform bacteria. Every two years, test for heavy metals, nitrates, lead, copper, and volatile organic compounds (VOC). Every five years, well owners should test for pesticides. If you know that pesticides are being applied in your area, test the well yearly for pesticides.

There are special situations that may require additional, or more frequent, testing. If you are pregnant or have an infant at home, you should test your water for nitrates.

### Look for nitrates

If your well contains nitrates, do not drink the water or use it to prepare baby formula. Boiling does not remove nitrates, so use an alternate source of water instead. Additional and more frequent testing is also needed when there are known problems with well water in your area, flooding, land disturbances, or waste disposal has been found in the area. If you replace or repair any part of your well system or if you notice changes in water taste, color, or smell, test your well.

Well water testing services can be provided through Forsyth County Health Department by completing a water sampling request form and providing payment for the tests chosen. This form is available at [www.forsyth.cc/publichealth/environmentalhealth/wells\\_water\\_sampling.aspx](http://www.forsyth.cc/publichealth/environmentalhealth/wells_water_sampling.aspx)

*For additional information about private drinking water wells see the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/privatewells](http://www.epa.gov/privatewells)*

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