

Opinion | LETTERS

'Vision, Chutzpah and Some Testosterone'

JAN. 17, 2018

The Times editorial board has been sharply critical of the Trump presidency, on grounds of policy and personal conduct. Not all readers have been persuaded. In the spirit of open debate, and in hopes of helping readers who agree with us better understand the views of those who don't, we wanted to let Mr. Trump's supporters make their best case for him as the first year of his presidency approaches its close. Tomorrow we'll present some letters from readers who voted for Mr. Trump but are now disillusioned, and from those reacting to today's letters and our decision to provide Trump voters this platform.

To the Editor:

Donald Trump has succeeded where Barack Obama failed. The economy is up, foreign tyrants are afraid, ISIS has lost most of its territory, our embassy will be moved to Jerusalem and tax reform is accomplished. More than that, Mr. Trump is learning, adapting and getting savvier every day. Entitlement reform is next! Lastly, the entrenched interests in Washington, which have done nothing but glad-hand one another, and both political parties are angry and afraid.

Who knew that all it would take to make progress was vision, chutzpah and some testosterone?

STEVEN SANABRIA
OAKDALE, CALIF.

To the Editor:

I voted against Hillary Clinton more than I voted for Donald Trump. That said, President Trump has exceeded my wildest expectations. Yes, he is embarrassing. Yes, he picks unnecessary fights. But he also pushed tax reform through, has largely defeated ISIS in Iraq, has named a number of solid conservative judges, has prioritized American citizens over illegal immigrants, has gotten us out of several bad international agreements, has removed a number of wasteful regulations, is putting real pressure on North Korea and Iran, has reined in a number of out-of-control agencies, and so on and so on.

I loved George W. Bush, but he failed on policy over and over again. If it takes putting up with Mr. Trump's brash ways to see things get done, that is a deal I'm willing to accept. To be honest, I'm not sure he would have accomplished what he has so far without being an unrelenting public bully.

JASON PECK
HOLTSVILLE, N.Y.

To the Editor:

I voted for Donald Trump and, considering the alternative, I would do so again. Newsflash: Not all Trump voters are Hillary Clinton's "deplorables." Many of us are well-informed and highly educated, and we are weary of the Democrats' tiresome focus on identity politics, class warfare, and disparagement of corporations and the "wealthy."

Opinion polls give Mr. Trump a low rating, and I would, too, for character, personality and temperament. But I would give him high marks for policies and programs that are stimulating the private sector, which, after all, pays the bills for the Democrats' extravagant welfare programs. And because of Mr. Trump we have an education secretary who actually cares more about educating children than appeasing the teachers' unions.

Even more important, we desperately needed a seismic change in the pusillanimous foreign policy pursued during the Obama years, which emboldened our adversaries, including China, Russia, North Korea and Middle East militants. I also support a more robust approach to border security and illegal immigration,

which could still entail legal residency for law-abiding Dreamers but not an undeserved pathway to citizenship.

DAVID MACNEIL
CHATHAM, N.J.

To the Editor:

Yes, I was a Trump voter. There, I've said it. Though I am subjecting myself to derision, I think that President Trump has performed well policywise. Changes for the good of our country in both foreign and domestic affairs have happened under his watch.

Much of the media, as the hotbed of hatred against Mr. Trump, has pushed me more toward him than his social behavior has done the opposite.

SONIA SCHWARTZ
VALLEY STREAM, N.Y.

To the Editor:

Not only did I vote for him, but I also made more than 5,000 calls on his behalf (and I've been a registered Democrat for 40 years). So far I am thrilled with his performance. Numerous reasons, but here are a few: recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital; letting the generals crush ISIS; stronger plans to prevent North Korea and Iran from using nuclear weapons; getting out of biased United Nations organizations; and respect for the flag and the rule of law.

I thank my dear New York Times for asking to hear from Trump voters. It's been difficult to read the paper this past year. It's anti-Trump in everything from the front page to fashion. It's so pervasive that I wouldn't be surprised to learn that there's not another loyal New York Times reader out there who voted for Mr. Trump and that I'm sending the only submission. New York Times, I will always love you, despite our disagreement.

ELLEN MACKLER
NEW HAVEN

To the Editor:

A president like Donald Trump only appears every 100 years or so. He came to office with a solid Electoral College majority and a history of strong leadership of people from all walks of life. His positive agenda can be boiled down to national security and economic growth.

By any measure President Trump's first year has shown prodigious progress. As a child of the '60s I admire his iconoclastic nature, optimism and unapologetic humanity. When asked during the campaign about his truthfulness, he replied that maybe he is too truthful. He does ruffle feathers, but seems to end up being right about most important things. I think Mr. Trump is doing a terrific job against all odds, and is getting better. I am proud when I see the First Couple representing us on the world stage. Tens of millions of thoughtful, compassionate Americans agree with me.

DAN LOREY
CINCINNATI

To the Editor:

I've voted twice in my life: once for myself when I ran for Congress 10 years ago, and once for Donald Trump last year. Virtually all of my friends or colleagues actively hate Mr. Trump. I'm a minority in every circle I move in. I have a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor's and master's from Harvard; I'm a former hedge fund trader and now an academic; I'm a journalist and author. Imagine being a Trump supporter in even *one* of those circles! We learn to stay quiet.

How's he doing? He has turned a fragile nation "anti-fragile" (the scholar Nassim Nicholas Taleb's term). Before Mr. Trump, we were scared of any volatility. Oh no, ISIS! Oh no, banks! The more chaos there was, the worse we were.

Now volatility is our friend. The more chaos, the better! Entrepreneurship *up*. Optimism *up*. Good old American problem solving is back! You know who loves change? Capitalists. Mr. Trump has led us on that spiritual exodus.

PHILIP MAYMIN
GREENWICH, CONN.

The writer is an associate professor of analytics and finance at the University of Bridgeport.

To the Editor:

I went to the polls with a clothespin on my nose. I had very low expectations for a Trump presidency. A justice like Neil Gorsuch was all I was sure we'd get. I believed that Donald Trump could be a disaster, but the other two branches of government would keep him in check. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, was guaranteed to take us down the path that President Obama started.

That said, I am shocked at how well President Trump is doing. I give him a B-plus. His performance under extreme pressure and harsh criticism has been admirable. Some of the many positive results of his policies are a booming economy, low unemployment (record low for black Americans), soaring stock market, lower taxes, the repeal of mandatory health insurance coverage, ISIS defeated in Iraq, and much, much more.

I do not understand why people still believe anything that the media, or politicians and pundits who have an agenda, say. They have been wrong about practically everything since long before November 2016.

DANIEL IRWIN
NORTH SYRACUSE, N.Y.

To the Editor:

I'm thrilled with the progress that President Trump has made in defeating ISIS, cutting taxes for middle-class families and making court appointments. Thanks to the tax cuts, my husband and I stand to keep a much larger portion of our paychecks. I'd like to see more work in securing the border, enforcing immigration laws, improving our infrastructure and combating political corruption in D.C. (in both parties).

I'm thrilled at his support for Israel. Nikki Haley is one of his best appointments, and I love seeing strong women stand up for what's right on a global stage.

What I like least about his presidency so far is the tweeting. It's often immature and lowers the tone of the debate while debasing the office of the presidency. That said, I think the media needs to be a lot more evenhanded in its coverage of him and keep its personal opinions in check.

EMILY ROBERTSON

AUSTIN, TEX.

To the Editor:

Granted we have the most unpresidential president of our time. Crude, rude, clueless dude — but I believe, with the help of his friends, he's stumbling through one of the most effective presidencies in memory.

As the Sonny LoSpecchio character wisely concluded in the movie "A Bronx Tale," it's better to be feared than loved. My hope is for our enemies to fear Donald Trump and for his domestic opponents to realize he's on their side.

STEVEN LANDIS

HAMPTON BAYS, N.Y.

To the Editor:

After voting for Democrats for over 60 years I voted for President Trump. As an immigrant, I was concerned that the country I have grown to love was, to quote a recent Op-Ed article in your paper, beginning to undergo "a national descent into chaos." Towns were being destroyed by their own citizens for what they saw as police injustice, our police were being slaughtered in cold blood and New York City's mayor said he had warned his son against the police.

I thought sanctuary cities were unjust to our own citizens, and our attempt to keep intact our reputation as welcoming Uncle Sam was becoming detrimental to our own welfare. Mr. Trump's language is often inappropriate and juvenile, and I

had hoped he would rise to his new position. But although words are indeed important, I thought his tough take-no-prisoners manner and, yes, even his unpredictability might be what was needed at this particular time to cause offending persons and countries to sit up, consider us seriously, and think twice about taking advantage of us financially and otherwise.

ANNE MINICH
MILFORD, CONN.

To the Editor:

My hometown, Newton Falls, Ohio, was once a working-class Mayberry. Though not rich, the men and women of the town had pride and worked hard for their families and for their share of the American dream.

I am 28, and in the nearly three decades I've been alive, I've seen Newton Falls and its surrounding environs succumb to a despair reflected by the opioid crisis. I have seen Republicans and Democrats sell out through a false dogma of free trade. I have seen my friends sent abroad to foreign lands with ill-defined military missions, coming back mangled or not at all. I have seen a political class eager to replace a working class with an imported labor class, driving down wages.

One candidate sought to address this — Donald Trump. While admittedly a gamble, he promised to address the trifecta of poor trade deals, an end to needless foreign wars and a crackdown on immigration. On these three goals, he has done an excellent job so far and I support him wholeheartedly.

DANE DAVIS
NEW YORK

To the Editor:

Several of my friends with whom I discuss politics in the San Francisco Bay Area (not many!) have told me that I'm the only person they know who voted for Donald Trump. Truth be told, I think there are others who have not admitted it.

Donald Trump was not my first choice. However, even though I'm a "women's libber" from the late '60s, and I feel that we should have had a female president by now, Hillary Clinton was not worthy.

Mr. Trump is a vulgarian in the way he tweets and sometimes talks. However, as Rich Lowry wrote in *National Review*, his presidency is better than his tweets, and he has made significant progress in nominating and appointing conservative judges.

He has undone many of President Barack Obama's unconstitutional executive orders. He has been rolling back burdensome regulations. He shepherded through Congress a tax bill that most people think will be a boon to the economy and "lift all boats." Obamacare is mortally wounded.

I think Mr. Trump is a true entrepreneur who will adjust his approach and succeed in the end.

MARGARET O. TUNNELL
ALAMO, CALIF.

To the Editor:

President Donald Trump still has to deliver bigly for me on fiscal responsibility. The national debt is my biggest concern today. I am very happy with the number of executive orders he's passed to get around an obstructionist Democratic Party that is out for his blood. His combative attitude with the Democrats and the media on Twitter never gets old with me either.

If I wanted a scripted smooth talker for president, I'd have voted for someone else. An unscripted Mr. Trump feels more authentic to me, and I still don't see him as a politician. If the election were held again today, I would 100 percent vote for him again.

JOSHUA DAWSON
UNDERWOOD, IOWA

To the Editor:

Before I respond to your questions, I have a question of my own: Did you run similar surveys for Obama voters? Or, for that matter, Eisenhower voters? Trump voters are not circus freaks to be displayed or singled out.

The very fact that we have a tax cut, a roaring economy and stock market, a magnificent new Supreme Court justice and a wonderful attorney general with not only a moral compass but also a determination to actually enforce the laws of the land gives me great hope for this country's future.

I think President Trump is doing just fine, particularly when one considers the sustained assault of the media, Hollywood, talk shows and, dare I say, "the paper of record," which has abandoned all pretense of objectivity to join, if not lead, "the resistance."

ALEXANDER GOLDSTEIN
BROOKLYN

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