

What It Means To Be United

While our country remains divided and politically polarized between two major political parties, it can be further delineated into Progressives and establishment members among its Democratic party and “Never Trumpers” and more moderate members of its Republican party. Some are looking for a revolution and others just want to end the changes that the Republicans have installed over the last four years while also culminating change.

In the midst of a global pandemic it is clear that Covid-19 could be a surprising jolt to American democracy. This was evident when thousands of voters went to the polls and risked their health to vote when Wisconsin elections were held during the risky circumstances of Covid-19. This gives us a glimpse of citizens that are eager and motivated to participate in our democracy.

While both parties attend their inner philosophical squabbles, what we see now is an equal opportunity Pandemic that has struck over 600,000 Americans with a dangerous and deadly virus. This virus has killed friends and family members and crippled our economy. This unseen enemy emphasizes the need to increase our reliance on our government and strong leadership, which also means surrounding our politicians with experts who will lead the way with data backed science.

When we watch TV, read online, or listen to the radio we look for others to agree with us and we respond to others who disagree with us in anger. During this struggle with Covid, we have to concentrate on what we have in common; how we can all bring about productive change and how we can look forward to the future. This is a unifying message that can help transform the world of politics and the media.

We have to make real sense of our reality and the media can help transform that narrative. There is a sense of untruthfulness in the news with the claims of “fake news” and journalism is constantly under attack by political polarization. While it is impossible to avoid all bias in the news, it is imperative to try to build trust and consensus with all Americans.

The idea of being stranded without toilet paper and social interaction is a straight up horror movie for many Americans. Who could have guessed that this viral threat would be a unifying force for our country? This destabilizing living situation gives us a unique opportunity to think differently and brings us together for the good of all. While we are shook up and trying to adjust, it makes for a ripe time to change our thinking about our values, differences and what is really important to us.

The wake of Covid-19 exposed many of our vulnerabilities. The aftermath may help us mobilize efforts to make big changes like reforming our healthcare system and redesigning our political

priorities. Without this virus affecting all sectors of our society, the need for change remains rooted down party lines. This might change now.