

Election has engaging storylines

Democracy doesn't always have to be nail-biting, edge-of-your-seat drama and agita. But nor need it be the foot-dragging snore that breeds low turnout, youth disengagement, and voter malaise.

If the past few weeks are any indication, 2024 is shaping up to be one of the more "engaged" elections in our lifetimes. This is for good reason: both sides of the aisle see in this election a referendum on our political process itself. That means taking a clear-eyed look at liberal democracy's many shortcomings - legislative gridlock, pay-to-play healthcare, taxpayer-funded genocide in Gaza, spiraling debt, etc., etc. The list is certainly not short.

But we also recognize the many privileges and

benefits of representative democracy. Most would agree, the upsides make what we have far and away the best of the available options - a system worth protecting.

With that in mind, 2024 offers Americans the benefit of a particular hindsight, as they look back three-and-a-half years ago at the mosh pit of January 6th and the attack on the U.S. Capitol. One would have thought that doubts about the value of the peaceful transfer of power were put to rest that day, once and for all. It's ironic, and to my mind not a little tone deaf that, even with J6 right there in the rearview mirror, one side's chosen anthem at this point in our history is "Fight! Fight! Fight!" Personally, I'm more interested in turning the page. I look forward to a peaceful transfer of power, and am excited to welcome a woman in the White House.

Nicholas Griffin, East Haddam

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To the Editor:

Nicholas Griffin, in his letter "Election has Engaging Story lines," stated we should be "taking a clear-eyed look at "liberal democracy's many shortcomings." Unfortunately, I don't think he followed his own advice.

For example, he cites "taxpayer-funded genocide in Gaza." Here is a direct quote from the Hamas Charter: "Israel will rise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it as it had eliminated its predecessors." I think he should have read that document to see which side actually condones "genocide" before writing his letter.

Referring next to the "mosh pit of January 6," at the Capitol, I agree absolutely that those responsible for breaking the law should be punished, but why didn't he mention that the woman he would welcome to the White House actively promoted a bail fund to "free convicts, including murderers, and serial domestic abusers" in 2020 according to an article written by Gabe Kaminsky in the Washington Examiner, July 22, 2024.

Let's examine another vital right we have in our democracy: freedom of expression. An NPR article written by Shannon Bond on July 22, 2021 said: "Democratic senators introduced a bill on Thursday that would hold Facebook, YouTube and other social media companies responsible for the proliferation of falsehoods about vaccines, fake cures and other harmful health-related claims on their sites." This sounds like de facto government censorship to me and it has no place in America. I don't know about you, but I have a real problem with putting anyone from this party into office, especially the White House.

In conclusion, I sincerely you'll keep these things in mind and make your own "clear-eyed" decision this November about the kind of America in which you want to live.

Edward Wood

Aug 17, 2024
I sent this via your website on Aug. 9th. Just wanted to make sure you have it, so I'm sending along this hardcopy. Mr. Griffin's views can NOT go unchallenged, in my opinion.

Thanks
E. Wood