**“**each statement is evaluated by a POLITIFACT.COM editor for its truthfulness. After initial analysis, we found duplicate labels, and merged the full-flop, half-flip, no-flip labels into false, half-true, true labels respectively. We consider six fine-grained labels for the truthfulness ratings: pants-fire, false, barelytrue, half-true, mostly-true, and true.**”**

**PolitiFact Truth-O-Meter rulings**

**TRUE**– The statement is accurate and there’s nothing significant missing.  
  
**MOSTLY TRUE**– The statement is accurate but needs clarification or additional information.  
  
**HALF TRUE**– The statement is partially accurate but leaves out important details or takes things out of context.  
  
**MOSTLY FALSE**– The statement contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression.  
  
**FALSE**– The statement is not accurate.  
  
**PANTS ON FIRE** – The statement is not accurate and makes a ridiculous claim (outrageous language/Hyperbole)

**Principles in Truth-O-Meter rulings**  
  
**Words matter**-- We pay close attention to the specific wording of a claim. Is it a precise statement? Does it contain mitigating words or phrases?

**Context matters**-- We examine the claim in the full context, the comments made before and after it, the question that prompted it, and the point the person was trying to make.

**Burden of proof**-- People who make factual claims are accountable for their words and should be able to provide evidence to back them up. We will try to verify their statements, but we believe the burden of proof is on the person making the statement.

**Statements can be right and wrong**-- We sometimes rate compound statements that contain two or more factual assertions. In these cases, we rate the overall accuracy after looking at the individual pieces.

**Timing**– Our rulings are based on when a statement was made and on the information available at that time.

**Process for Truth-O-Meter rulings**A PolitiFact writer researches the claim and writes the Truth-O-Meter article with a recommended ruling. After the article is edited, it is reviewed by a panel of at least three editors that determines the Truth-O-Meter ruling.

The Flip-O-Meter has three ratings:

* **NO FLIP** – No significant change in position.
* **HALF FLIP** – A partial change in position.
* **FULL FLOP** – A complete change in position.

**How we determine Flip-O-Meter ratings**

The Flip-O-Meter rates an elected official's consistency on an issue.

What is the most sensible label configuration?

REAL

True – 0

Mostly-True – 0

FAKE

Half-True – 1 [“fake” because it takes things out of context]

Mostly-False – 1

False – 1

Pants on Fire – 1