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| **Donald J. Trump** |
| **Remarks at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina** |
| *August 18, 2016* |
| I'd like to take a moment to talk about the heartbreak and devastation in Louisiana, a state that is very special to me.  We are one nation. When one state hurts, we all hurt – and we must all work together to lift each other up. Working, building, restoring together.  Our prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones, and we send them our deepest condolences. Though words cannot express the sadness one feels at times like this, I hope everyone in Louisiana knows that our country is praying for them and standing with them to help them in these difficult hours.  We are one country, one people, and we will have together one great future.  Tonight, I'd like to talk about the New American Future we are going to create together.  Last week, I laid out my plan to bring jobs back to our country.  On Monday, I laid out my plan to defeat Radical Islamic Terrorism.  On Tuesday, in Wisconsin, I talked about how we are going to restore law and order to this country.  Let me take this opportunity to extend our thanks and our gratitude to the police and law enforcement officers in this country who have sacrificed so greatly in these difficult times.  The chaos and violence on our streets, and the assaults on law enforcement, are an attack against all peaceful citizens. If I am elected President, this chaos and violence will end – and it will end very quickly.  Every single citizen in our land has a right to live in safety.  To be one united nation, we must protect all of our people. But we must also provide opportunities for all of our people.  We cannot make America great again if we leave any community behind.  Nearly Four in ten African-American children are living in poverty.I will not rest until children of every color in this country are fully included in the American Dream.  Jobs, safety, opportunity. Fair and equal representation. This is what I promise to African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and all Americans.  But to achieve this New American Future we must break from the failures of the past.  As you know, I am not a politician. I have worked in business, creating jobs and rebuilding neighborhoods my entire adult life. I've never wanted to learn the language of the insiders, and I've never been politically correct – it takes far too much time, and can often make more difficult.  Sometimes, in the heat of debate and speaking on a multitude of issues, you don't choose the right words or you say the wrong thing. I have done that, and I regret it, particularly where it may have caused personal pain. Too much is at stake for us to be consumed with these issues.  But one thing I can promise you is this: I will always tell you the truth.  I speak the truth for all of you, and for everyone in this country who doesn't have a voice.  I speak the truth on behalf of the factory worker who lost his or her job.  I speak the truth on behalf of the Veteran who has been denied the medical care they need – and so many are not making it. They are dying.  I speak the truth on behalf of the family living near the border that deserves to be safe in their own country but is instead living with no security at all.  Our campaign is about representing the great majority of Americans – Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Conservatives and Liberals – who read the newspaper, or turn on the TV, and don't hear anyone speaking for them. All they hear are insiders fighting for insiders.  These are the forgotten men and women in our society, and they are angry at so much on so many levels. The poverty, the unemployment, the failing schools, the jobs moving to other countries.  I am fighting for these forgotten Americans.  Fourteen months ago, I declared my campaign for the Presidency on the promise to give our government back to the people. Every day since then, I've worked to repay the loyalty and the faith that you have put in me.  Every day I think about how much is at stake for this country. This isn't just the fight of my life, it's the fight ofour lives – together – to save our country.  I refuse to let another generation of American children be excluded from the American Dream. Our whole country loses when young people of limitless potential are denied the opportunity to contribute their talents because we failed to provide them the opportunities they deserved. Let our children be dreamers too.  Our whole country loses every time a kid doesn't graduate from high school, or fails to enter the workforce or, worse still, is lost to the dreadful world of drugs and crime.  When I look at the failing schools, the terrible trade deals, and the infrastructure crumbling in our inner cities, I know all of this can be fixed - and it can be fixed very quickly.  In the world I come from, if something is broken, you fix it.  If something isn't working, you replace it.  If a product doesn't deliver, you make a change.  I have no patience for injustice, no tolerance for government incompetence, no sympathy for leaders who fail their citizens.  That's why I am running: to end the decades of bitter failure and to offer the American people a new future of honesty, justice and opportunity. A future where America, and its people, always – and I mean always – come first.  Aren't you tired of a system that gets rich at your expense?  Aren't you tired of the same old lies and the same old broken promises? And Hillary Clinton has proven to be one of the greatest liars of all time.  Aren't you tired of arrogant leaders who look down on you, instead of serving and protecting you?  That is all about to change – and it's about to change soon. We are going to put the American people first again.  I've travelled all across this country laying out my bold and modern agenda for change.  In this journey, I will never lie to you. I will never tell you something I do not believe. I will never put anyone's interests ahead of yours.  And, I will never, ever stop fighting for you.  I have no special interest. I am spending millions of dollars on my own campaign – nobody else is.  My only interest is the American people.  So while sometimes I can be too honest, Hillary Clinton is the exact opposite: she never tells the truth. One lie after another, and getting worse each passing day.  The American people are still waiting for Hillary Clinton to apologize for all of the many lies she's told to them, and the many times she's betrayed them.  Tell me, has Hillary Clinton ever apologized for lying about her illegal email server and deleting 33,000 emails?  Has Hillary Clinton apologized for turning the State Department into a pay-for-play operation where favors are sold to the highest bidder?  Has she apologized for lying to the families who lost loved ones at Benghazi?  Has she apologized for putting Iran on the path to nuclear weapons?  Has she apologized for Iraq? For Libya? For Syria? Has she apologized for unleashing ISIS across the world?  Has Hillary Clinton apologized for the decisions she made that have led to so much death, destruction and terrorism?  Speaking of lies, we now know from the State Department announcement that President Obama lied about the $400 million dollars in cash that was flown to Iran. He denied it was for the hostages, but it was. He said we don't pay ransom, but he did. He lied about the hostages – openly and blatantly – just like he lied about Obamacare.  Now the Administration has put every American travelling overseas, including our military personnel, at greater risk of being kidnapped. Hillary Clinton owns President Obama's Iran policy, one more reason she can never be allowed to be President.  Let's talk about the economy. Here, in this beautiful state, so many people have suffered because of NAFTA. Bill Clinton signed the deal, and Hillary Clinton supported it. North Carolina has lost nearly half of its manufacturing jobs since NAFTA went into effect.  Bill Clinton also put China into the World Trade Organization – another Hillary Clinton-backed deal. Your city of Charlotte has lost 1 in 4 manufacturing jobs since China joined the WTO, and many of these jobs were lost while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State – our chief diplomat with China. She was a disaster, totally unfit for the job.  Hillary Clinton owes the State of North Carolina a very big apology, and I think you'll get that apology around the same time you'll get to see her 33,000 deleted emails.  Another major issue in this campaign has been the border. Our open border has allowed drugs and crime and gangs to pour into our communities. So much needless suffering, so much preventable death. I've spent time with the families of wonderful Americans whose loved ones were killed by the open borders and Sanctuary Cities that Hillary Clinton supports.  I've embraced the crying parents who've lost their children to violence spilling across our border. Parents like Laura Wilkerson and Michelle Root and Sabine Durden and Jamiel Shaw whose children were killed by illegal immigrants.  My opponent supports Sanctuary Cities.  But where was the Sanctuary for Kate Steinle? Where was the Sanctuary for the children of Laura, Michelle, Sabine and Jamiel?  Where was the Sanctuary for every other parent who has suffered so horribly?  These moms and dads don't get a lot of consideration from our politicians. They certainly don't get apologies. They'll never even get the time of day from Hillary Clinton.  But they will always come first to me.  Listen closely: we will deliver justice for all of these American Families. We will create a system of immigration that makes us all proud.  Hillary Clinton's mistakes destroy innocent lives, sacrifice national security, and betray the working families of this country.  Please remember this: I will never put personal profit before national security. I will never leave our border open to appease donors and special interests. I will never support a trade deal that kills American jobs. I will never put the special interests before the national interest. I will never put a donor before a voter, or a lobbyist before a citizen.  Instead, I will be a champion for the people.  The establishment media doesn't cover what really matters in this country, or what's really going on in people's lives. They will take words of mine out of context and spend a week obsessing over every single syllable, and then pretend to discover some hidden meaning in what I said.  Just imagine for a second if the media spent this energy holding the politicians accountable who got innocent Americans like Kate Steinle killed – she was gunned down by an illegal immigrant who had been deported five times.  Just imagine if the media spent this much time investigating the poverty and joblessness in our inner cities.  Just think about how much different things would be if the media in this country sent their cameras to our border, or to our closing factories, or to our failing schools. Or if the media focused on what dark secrets must be hidden in the 33,000 emails Hillary Clinton deleted.  Instead, every story is told from the perspective of the insiders. It's the narrative of the people who rigged the system, never the voice of the people it's been rigged against.  So many people suffering in silence. No cameras, no coverage, no outrage from a media class that seems to get outraged over just about everything else.  So again, it's not about me. It's never been about me. It's about all the people in this country who don't have a voice.  I am running to be their voice.  I am running to be the voice for every forgotten part of this country that has been waiting and hoping for a better future.  I am glad that I make the powerful a little uncomfortable now and again – including some powerful people in my own party. Because it means I am fighting for real change.  There's a reason the hedge fund managers, the financial lobbyists, the Wall Street investors, are throwing their money at Hillary Clinton. Because they know she will make sure the system stays rigged in their favor.  It's the powerful protecting the powerful.  The insiders fighting for the insiders.  I am fighting for you.  Here is the change I propose.  On terrorism, we are going to end the era of nation-building and instead focus on destroying ISIS and Radical Islamic terrorism.  We will use military, cyber and financial warfare and work with any partner in the world, and the Middle East, that shares our goal of defeating terrorism. I have a message for the terrorists trying to kill our citizens: we will find you, we will destroy you, and we will win.  On immigration, we will temporarily suspend immigration from any place where adequate screening cannot be performed. All applicants for immigration will be vetted for ties to radical ideology, and we will screen out anyone who doesn't share our values and love our people. Anyone who believes Sharia law supplants American law will not be given an immigrant visa. If you want to join our society, then you must embrace our society, our values and our tolerant way of life. Those who believe in oppressing women, gays, Hispanics, African-Americans and people of different faiths are not welcome to join our country.  We will promote our America values, our American way of life, and our American system of government which are all the best in the world.  My opponent on the other hand wants a 550% increase in Syrian refugees. Her plan would bring in roughly 620,000 refugees from all refugee-sending nations in her first term, on top of all other immigration. Hillary Clinton is running to be America's Angela Merkel, and we've seen how much crime and how many problems that's caused the German people.  We have enough problems already, we don't need another one.  On crime, we are going to add more police, more investigators, and appoint the best judges and prosecutors in the world. We will pursue strong enforcement of federal laws.  The gangs and cartels and criminal syndicates terrorizing our people will be stripped apart one by one. Their day is over.  On trade, we are going to renegotiate NAFTA, withdraw from the TPP, stand up to China on our terrible trade agreement, and protect every last American job.  Hillary Clinton has supported all of the major trade deals that have stripped this country of its jobs and its wealth.  On taxes, we are going to massively cut tax rates for workers and small businesses – creating millions of new good paying jobs.  We are going to get rid of regulations that send jobs overseas and we are going to make it easier for young Americans to get the credit they need to start a small business and pursue their dreams.  On education, we are going to give students choice, and allow charter schools to thrive. We are going to end tenure policies that reward bad teachers and hurt good ones. My opponent wants to deny students choice and opportunity, all to get a little bit more money from the education bureaucracy. She doesn't care how many young dreams are dashed in the process.  We are going to work closely with African-American parents and students in the inner cities – and what a big difference that will make. This means a lot to me, and it is going to be a top priority in a Trump Administration.  On healthcare, we are going to repeal and replace Obamacare. Countless Americans have been forced into part-time jobs, premiums are about to jump by double-digits yet again, and just this week Aetna announced it is pulling out of the exchanges in North Carolina. We are going to replace this disaster with reforms that give you choice and freedom and control in healthcare – at a much lower cost.  On political corruption, we are going to restore honor to our government.  In my Administration, I am going to enforce all laws concerning the protection of classified information. No one will be above the law.  I am going to forbid senior officials from trading favors for cash by preventing them from collecting lavish speaking fees through their spouses when they serve.  I am going to ask my senior officials to sign an agreement not to accept speaking fees from corporations with a registered lobbyist for five years after leaving office, or from any entity tied to a foreign government.  Finally, we are going to bring this country together. We are going to do it by emphasizing what we all have in common as Americans. We are going to reject the bigotry of Hillary Clinton, which sees communities of color only as votes and not as human beings worthy of a better future.  If African-American voters give Donald Trump a chance by giving me their vote, the result for them will be amazing. Look at how badly things are going under decades of Democratic leadership – look at the schools, look at the 58% of young African-Americans not working. It is time for change.  What do you have to lose by trying something new? – I will fix it. This means so much to me, and I will work as hard as I can to bring new opportunity to places in our country which have not known opportunity in a very long time.  Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party have taken African-American votes totally for granted. Because the votes have been automatically there, there has been no reason for Democrats to produce.  It is time to break with the failures of the past, and to fight for every last American child in this country to have the better future they deserve.  In my Administration, every American will be treated equally, protected equally, and honored equally. We will reject bigotry and hatred and oppression in all of its forms, and seek a new future built on our common culture and values as one American people.  This is the change I am promising all of you: an honest government, a fair economy, and a just society for each and every American.  But we can never fix our problems by relying on the same politicians who created these problems in the first place.  72% of voters say our country is on the wrong track. I am the change candidate, Hillary Clinton is the failed status quo.  It is time to vote for a New American Future.  Together, We will make America strong again.  We will make American proud again.  We will make America safe again.  Friends and fellow citizens: Come November, we will make America great again.  Thank You, and God Bless. |