**Vice President Biden Town Hall | Oct. 16, 2020**

**George Stephanopoulos** [18:40:16] ~~It into cooler weather is quite concerning. We have a baseline of daily infections at approximately forty five, fifty thousand today. Thirty eight states plus Washington, D.C., seeing a rising number of new cases in six states, setting records for hospitalizations, several funeral homes in El Paso, Texas, adding extra mortuary refrigerators. So that way we have enough capacity to hold all the deaths that are happening here. Meantime, the trumpet ministration has reportedly embraced the unsupported idea of herd immunity, which would allow the coronavirus to spread among young, healthy people while protecting the vulnerable. So this idea that we have the power to protect the vulnerable is total nonsense. You'll wind up with many more infections of vulnerable people, which will lead to hospitalizations and death. Kamala Harris has canceled all travel through the weekend after her communications director and a flight crew member tested positive for coronavirus. Harris herself testing negative today. And she tweeted she was not in close contact with either person two days prior to their positive test. She's going to hold a virtual event tonight in North Carolina. Europe also facing a surge. Spain and Italy seeing record numbers of new cases,.~~

**Vice President Biden** [18:41:33] ~~New charges in that alleged kidnaping plot targeting Michigan's governor, Gretchen Whitmer. The state's attorney general charging a 51 year old man from Wisconsin with helping in an act of terror. That brings the total number of state and federal defendants in the case to 14 people. This latest defendant allegedly helped surveil the governor's home with a dash cam and night vision goggles. I can't give you more information, but I can't tell you that our investigation is ongoing. Authorities claim the planning is months in the making, according to the FBI. The men were apparently angry because of Governor Whitman restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, including those on gyms on Capitol Hill. The Senate Judiciary Committee has wrapped up four days of confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Amy CONI. Buried in your hearts. You know that what's happening here is not right. It's not normal. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted against a motion introduced by Blumenthal to postpone the consideration of Judge Amy Barrett's nomination until after Election Day. Committee members will vote on her nomination next week. A full Senate vote could take place before the election. Warnings across several states. Flames forcing dozens of evacuations tonight near Redlands, California. And Colorado's Kameron peak fire exploding in size now the largest wildfire in Colorado state history.~~

[18:42:57] ~~This wind event blew up. We just knew it was over. This makes it extremely challenging for our firefighters, especially right now where it's most active. A.~~

[18:43:06] ~~Scary close call caught on police body cam.~~

[18:43:12] ~~Albuquerque police responded to this compact car actively burning. Both passengers stuck. The fire extinguisher is not effective or time limited. Officers cut the seatbelt and pulled the passengers out to safety. Police reportedly say speeding played a part in the crash, but that there were no serious injuries.~~

[18:43:32] ~~Do you love bacon? If so, there is a.~~

[18:43:34] ~~New face mask for you. Hormel Foods Normal Foods has now.~~

[18:43:38] ~~Created what it calls Black Label breathable bacon. Sound tasty? I'm not sure about that one. According to the company, the limited edition mask uses the latest and pork scented technology. Give me the mask away online now through October 20. No word.~~

[18:43:54] ~~On whether the masks will be sold after the giveaway. You will likely remember the heartbreaking story of the toddler who fell to her death from a cruise ship while her grandfather was holding her. While he says it was an accident, his family has stood by him from the very beginning. Authorities charged him with negligent homicide, and today he pled guilty. Ariel Reshef explains why.~~

[18:44:19] ~~Tonight, the grandfather who lost grip of his 18 month old granddaughter on a cruise ship making the gut wrenching decision, pleading guilty to negligent homicide in her death, saying he just wants to help end part of this nightmare for his family. Sam Anello holding little Chloe Wiggan when she plummeted from this 11th floor Royal Caribbean cruise ship window in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in July of twenty nineteen. To.~~

[18:44:43] ~~Lose our baby this is just unfathomable. The toddler's parents standing by her grandfather, Anello, always maintaining it was a grave accident that he didn't realize the ship's window was open.~~

[18:44:59] ~~They see their broken. We all should have broken, but our family is strong and will stay strong together. But unreleased.~~

[18:45:08] ~~Surveillance video seen by ABC News appears to show Anello look over the railing through the open window. Anello then picks up Chloe and they appear to lean over together before she disappears from Frame. Tonight, the family's attorney telling ABC News because the plea agreement includes no jail time and no admission of facts, it was decided the plea deal is in the best interests of the family so that they can close this horrible chapter and turn their focus to mourning Chloe.~~

[18:45:37] ~~And Lindsey. Chloes family is suing Royal Caribbean for negligence. But while the cruise line disputes that lawsuit tonight, they say their thoughts are with the family during this difficult time. Lindsey,.~~

[18:45:49] ~~Our thanks to Aryal. And now to tonight's ballot watch. And news of the U.S. Postal Service has agreed to reverse changes that had slowed down mail service nationwide. The Postal Service settling a lawsuit filed by Montana's governor that argued that changes implemented by the Postal Service over the summer had harmed access to mail services, leading to delayed deliveries of crucial mail and hurting the ability of people to vote by mail during the pandemic, when a record number of Americans are expected to cast their ballots by mail. You might remember embattled Postmaster General Lewis Dejoy being grilled on Capitol Hill over the changes, which included removing collection boxes and mail sorting machines, closing and consolidating some processing facilities, as well as restricting extra trips and overtime for postal workers. Well, the changes had been temporarily blocked by a federal judge in September. And with this new settlement, many of those postal service changes will be reversed. But while no more sorting machines will be removed, don't expect them all back in action. The Postal Service has said that some have been dismantled and stripped for parts. As for your election ballot, under the agreement, the Postal Service will be required to prioritize election mail in the coming weeks. Some welcome news, certainly, but remember to still drop that ballot in the mail early to make sure it's delivered on time or consider delivering it to the proper location in person. And now to an unlikely battleground in the twenty twenty election. The villages in Florida, the largest retirement community in the country. It's normally a reliable Republican bastion. But President Trump has lost ground with seniors who he easily won over in twenty sixteen. And that could have major consequences in the must win state of Florida. ABC's Victor Tendo is there and filed this report.~~

[18:47:33] ~~Tonight in a key part of Florida. The signs say it all. President Trump is back in the battleground state. He's visited more than any other and must win. The voters who could decide it live here inside central Florida, a sprawling retirement community, the villages this year, Republicans are fired up. Democrats are, too. Residents here are well aware that senior citizens make up 82 percent of covid-19 debts in the state. David Grimes, a one time Republican prosecutor, is voting for Biden. He says he has little trust in the White House. They say they value life, but they don't value elder life. But.~~

[18:48:12] ~~Susan Morrel, a Trump supporter, says covid-19 was not a concern of hers.~~

[18:48:17] ~~To me, it's a fluke. I'm almost 70 years old. And am I worried about it? No, I'm not.~~

[18:48:23] ~~The candidates battle for votes has been playing out in time in Florida this week.~~

[18:48:27] ~~How many have you been unable to hug your grandkids? In the last seven months?~~

[18:48:32] ~~The president who took the demographic in 2016 has been trying to shore up support.~~

[18:48:38] ~~Biden's agenda would be a catastrophe for Florida's seniors.~~

[18:48:42] ~~A recent poll of likely voters in Florida shows those 65 and older backed Biden 55 percent to 40 percent over Trump. Chris Stanley, the head of the village's Democratic Club, says she's heard from Republicans making the switch. I.~~

[18:48:57] ~~Haven't had anywhere between five point five and six point two percent that we've peeled off support from the villages. And so that's significant. It doesn't sound like a lot, but that can make a huge difference in Florida, in Florida, that that could.~~

[18:49:11] ~~Win or lose this race.~~

[18:49:14] ~~Victor Kando joins us now from the villages in Florida. And Victor, seniors traditionally vote in high numbers, but of course, the pandemic is complicating things this year. How are people there planning on casting their ballots and how do they think that election night will go? Lindsay, every single resident that we spoke with today told us that they've already voted by mail. They also expect President Trump to win the villages. But the big question is by how big or about how small of a margin. Lindsey and many of us remember video that President Trump retweeted with residents there clashing over the summer and their golf cards. Did you feel any of that tension there as you were talking to these seniors who live side by side in this typically close knit community? There is definitely some tension here, Lindsey. While we were speaking with the head of the Democratic Club, our interview was interrupted once or twice by some Trump supporters. And she also shared her story with us about a Biden supporter who woke up one morning to find out that someone had taken weedkiller to their front lawn to write the name Trump all over it. Wow. OK, Victor Kendo, our thanks to you. And.~~

[18:50:21] ~~When we return, you may have heard about sea level rise posing a threat to cities like Miami. Ginger explains. It's not just for the reasons you might think. Stay with us.~~

[18:50:32] ~~With a pandemic during a presidential election, reduced to we by familiar, you'll be safe right off. And the pope is so important to.~~

[18:50:58] ~~It's the most important thing you can do for these six deaths every day. She can be heroes to all of those things for just six books, all because we have the means. How you came in shikimic make our.~~

[18:51:45] ~~Lawyers just want you to know that this isn't real. That's my point. Just remember my motto. You ain't first. You're purchase.~~

[18:51:54] ~~And get ten dollars per horsepower with Dodge Power dollars. That's 7000 970 on the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat Red-Eye.~~

[18:52:03] ~~Finally tonight, a look at the impact rising seas are having in South Florida. And it's not just flooding a beautiful bay. An entire ecosystem is at risk. So in this week's It's Not Too Late. Our Ginger Zee takes a look. The imminent threat to Miami's fragile water infrastructure.~~

[18:52:30] ~~Hi, I'm Ginger Zee, and it's not too late today. I want to talk about sea level rise in Miami.~~

[18:52:38] ~~I.~~

[18:52:38] ~~Know you're probably saying to yourself the we know that the sea is rising in Miami. We've seen the video of water overtaking the buildings. We know that sea level has risen five inches since nineteen ninety three. And we've also seen the four hundred million dollar pump system that was recently installed just to keep their feet dry. But this story is about the less obvious and even more imminent threat, the quality of the water, specifically.~~

[18:53:10] ~~Biscayne Bay also KISS's that strip of land, the barrier island we call Miami.~~

[18:53:32] ~~Beach. Biscayne Bay generates billions of dollars annually for our regional economy. It's one of the jewels of the state of Florida. It has parts of it that are so protected and special that you're not even allowed to kayak through it without a permit.~~

[18:53:46] ~~Biscayne Bay is protected in so many ways, but currently it's dying, thanks in part to sea level rise. Kevin Linskey heads up Miami-Dade County water and sewer system, and he says that their department has to plan for a worst case scenario. If you.~~

[18:54:02] ~~Look from now to 20, 40, so 20 year horizon, we're planning on worst case, about 11 inches of sea level rise, which if you live in South Florida, that's a very frightening to your coastal community. It's worse. And on.~~

[18:54:16] ~~Top of that, the water is being polluted by runoff from fertilizer, litter and waste from, get this, septic tanks. Yes, septic tanks. It's something that most of us think are reserved for farms and rural homes, but they still have them in the city of Miami.~~

[18:54:34] ~~We have over one hundred thousand septic tanks in Miami-Dade County still to this day. And we need to transition those septic tanks and connect them to our sewer system, which is also aging ASAP, because those skeptics are just spewing wastewater into our groundwater. Whatever goes through our groundwater goes into our bay, and that's pretty disgusting. In a typical septic setup, the waste from your house enters the tank. Then the solid part of the waste settles to the bottom. The water that is above that goes to the drain field to be clarified. Now, when sea level rises, the drain field mixes with the groundwater and the septic can fail. Yeah, that means your waste from your toilet could go directly into the groundwater and in this case, into Biscayne Bay. There are also big problems coming from the inland parts of Florida. You went.~~

[18:55:26] ~~Into all the area where humans live today in South Florida. You would have been in muck today. They call it the Everglades, a beautiful place. We all love it. We all protect it. Back then, it was a swamp and they sought to drain the swamp.~~

[18:55:38] ~~As a project of mammoth proportions. So they came in and started building canal systems, new levees, and they drained all the water out of the Everglades in a giant zone where humans could live and build agriculture. And.~~

[18:55:50] ~~Now those canals pick up trash, nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer and toxins that we're putting on our agriculture and on our lawns. And then they dump it all right. Into the bay. All those chemicals were also met with historic heat this summer, drowning out the oxygen in the bay.~~

[18:56:08] ~~And without oxygen, this happens thousands of fish died. Now, what happened with the fish kill? That was an unprecedented once in a lifetime phenomenon that regrettably, because of climate change and our rising water temperatures is likely to happen again. So what you had the day of the physical was water temperatures that were six degrees higher than normal. You had no circulation in the bay. You had no wind, and you had the, you know, incredible amount of nutrients that were seeping into the bay due to marine debris and due to sewage spills and septic leaks. And that created this lack of oxygen in different various pockets of the northern basin of the bay.~~

[18:56:51] ~~Summer is always hot in Florida, but this past summer was next level seven of the top ten warmest weeks in Miami's history happened in twenty twenty. It wasn't just breaking records in the hot afternoons either, but instead it was also the overnights. That's what it's supposed to get. Cooler temperatures in the 80s. Can you imagine in the overnight? Well, Miami had six consecutive nights of record warm lows. Three of them were all time records. Lulia Gary from our Miami affiliate PLG did an entire special called Saving Biscayne Bay.~~

[18:57:26] ~~We noticed that the floor of the bay was littered with dead fish. There.~~

[18:57:30] ~~Is urgency happening now that has never happened before. But there's a vigilance. There's an awareness actually happening now, Miami Dade County, where people are going to start to hold our leaders accountable.~~

[18:57:41] ~~Miami Waterkeeper, an advocacy group, says that Miami needs big changes not just in sewage infrastructure, but they also have to regulate the use of fertilizer.~~

[18:57:51] ~~And other chemicals. Sea level rise is having a negative effect and making all these pollution sources worse. So we urgently need to be doing these these investments and taking these opportunities. We have to retrofit how our city is built and how it functions to be ready for sea level rise. I think that we have to and I think it's imperative not just for Biscayne Bay, but to our ability to continue to live here to fix these problems and to tackle them head on.~~

[18:58:21] ~~Now, I do have some good news. Biscayne Bay can recover. It would be a slow process. But if you look at their neighbors and Tampa Bay, they, too, we're at a tipping point. About four decades ago there seagrass was killed off by pollution and algae blooms, but it took 30 years and now they've brought back their bay. Today, seagrass and Tampa Bay covers the same area it did in the nineteen fifties, and that's nearly twice the size of Manhattan. So if Miami starts now, I promise it's not too late. Minimally, those dead fish in the water perhaps will serve as a wake up call for many. Our thanks to Ginger Zee for that. Before we go tonight, our image of the day. Pro-democracy protesters in Thailand flashing a three fingered salute during a protest as they occupy a main road in the heart of Bangkok. This all stems from a student led protest, which is even targeted the king, which is unheard of until recently. Certainly lots of firsts lately. That is our show for tonight. Be sure to stay tuned to ABC News live for more context and analysis of the day's top stories. I'm Linsey Davis. Thanks so much for streaming with us. The special edition, 20 20 Town Hall. Joe Biden is coming up next.~~

[18:59:47] ~~With so much at stake, so much on the line. More Americans turn here than any place else. ABC News World News Tonight with David Muir. We made it through another week together, America's most watched program across all of television. It's being called the most consequential election of a lifetime, the most important vote. And with so much on the line, it demands the most straightforward news making real answers, the most informed voices from all sides. The countdown is on to the vote. What will our future look like? ABC's This Week with George. It all plays out right here on this Sunday, the most consequential week yet of this hyper political year. Right. As you get closer to casting your vote every Sunday on ABC,.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:00:36] ~~Good evening from the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, our town hall with Joe Biden starts right now.~~

**Voiceover** [19:00:42] ~~This is an ABC News 20/20 event special.~~

**Vice President Biden** [19:00:47] ~~Let's stand up and vote and take back this country now.~~

**Voiceover** [19:00:53] ~~With an ongoing pandemic, a Supreme Court vacancy, economic uncertainty and racial injustice dominating this election. Final voting is just 19 days away. Tonight, voters in a key battleground state put their questions directly to former Vice President Joe Biden. Can he seize the moment and secure their vote? Live from the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, this special edition of 20/20, the vice president and the people now reporting chief anchor George Stephanopoulos.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:01:28] And welcome to our town hall with Joe Biden. Mr. Vice President, welcome to you.

**Vice President Biden** [19:01:32] Good to be with you.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:01:33] We're here with a group of Pennsylvania voters, you can see they're all appropriately socially distanced tonight. And they're a group of some are voting for you. Some have said they're voting for President Trump. Some are still undecided. And we're going to try to take questions from as many of them as we can tonight. And we're going to start with Nicholas Fed, and he's from Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. That's close to you here in Philadelphia.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:01:54] I know it well.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:01:53] You're a Democrat.

**Question** [19:01:57] I am a Democrat. Thank you, George. Mr. Vice President, every day my wife and I are in disbelief at the lack of coordinated federal action on covid-19. We know that your administration would follow the science. My question for you, it's two parts. First, looking backwards to when this country first became aware of covid-19, what would following the science have meant in terms of actual policy? And then looking forward, what would your administration do in terms of following the science with real concrete policies that haven't been done by the current administration?

**Vice President Biden** [19:02:41] Well, first of all, going back, the fact is that the president was informed how dangerous this virus was. And all the way back at the beginning of February, I argued that we should be keeping people in China. And we had set up in our administration a pandemic office within the White House. There were forty four people on the ground. And I didn't hold public office. I was a former vice president. I suggested we, in fact, ask to have access to the source of the problem and the best of our knowledge. Trump never pushed that all those forty four people came home, never got replaced. In addition to that, I pointed out that I thought in February I did a piece for USA Today saying this is a serious problem. Trump denied it. He said it wasn't. We later learned that he knew full well how serious it was when he did an interview with George Woodward. I mean, excuse me, Bob Woodward. And at the time he said he didn't tell anybody because he was afraid Americans would panic. Americans don't panic. He panicked. He didn't say a word to anybody. Then I wrote a piece in March about what I thought we should be doing to take hold of this using the the, there's an act passed a long time ago that allows the president to go into a business and say, stop making this and start making that. And it took a long time for him to even institute that, to get ventilators and so on. And so the point was he missed enormous opportunities and kept saying things that weren't true. It's going to go away by Easter. Don't worry about it. It's going to all when the heat, when the summer comes, it's all going to go away like a miracle. He's still saying those things.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:04:18] Before you go to the future, can I follow up? And looking backward, just a little bit. You did have an op ed in January where you warned to the seriousness of the pandemic, but there's no record of you calling for social distancing, limited social gatherings, mandatory.

**Vice President Biden** [19:04:33] Not back then.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:04:34] In January, February.

**Vice President Biden** [19:04:35] January, February. No, that's correct. There wasn't. That came at the end in March. And then I laid out a detailed plan relative to school openings in June and July. But by that time, the science was becoming clear and clear of how this was spreading so rapidly. But the president kept denying that. If you notice from March on, I stopped doing big meetings, I started wearing mask, you know, so it was at a time when the science was saying and his key people, Dr. Fauci, were saying you should be taking these precautions. So what we should be doing now, there should be a national standard instead of leaving this up. Remember what the president said to the governors. "Well, they're on their own. It's not my responsibility. The governors can do what they need to do, not my responsibility." It is a presidential responsibility to lead and he didn't do that. He didn't talk about what needed to be done because he kept worrying, in my view, about the stock market. He worried if he talked about how bad this could be, unless we took these precautionary actions, then in fact, the market would go down. And his barometer of success, the economy, is the market. Thirdly, what we didn't do is the president had an opportunity to open and allow schools and businesses to stay open if they got the kind of help they needed. So the Congress passed a couple of trillion dollars worth of help. And what happened was most of that money, a significant portion of that money, went to the very wealthiest corporations in the country, didn't get to the mom and pop stores. So you had one in five, one in six minority businesses closing, many of them permanently, people be laid off. And then what happened was when the first tranche, the first round of money for unemployment, enhanced unemployment went went by, he didn't do anything. He didn't do anything. And to the best of my knowledge, I mean this sincerely, I can't think I've been around for a lot of presidents and, you know, a lot of presidents. And the crisis, I don't ever remember one never calling the House and Senate Republicans or Democrats together.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:06:38] Let's let's look forward a little bit. You said that you would lock down the economy only if the scientists said it was necessary,.

**Vice President Biden** [19:06:43] By the way, that wasn't the context. I said what I lock down the economy of science said. So I said I'd follow science. What I but I don't think there's a need to lock down.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:06:52] But I want to press you on that point. You've been in the Oval Office for eight years with President Obama. He would always say that only the only the hard to solve problems hit his desk. What is most likely to happen is the scientists will disagree. The scientists will disagree with the economists. So the question is, how are you going to decide this? Who are you going to listen to? And how can you contain the pandemic without crushing the economy?

**Vice President Biden** [19:07:14] Well, you can contain the pandemic by being rational and not crush the economy. For example, I laid out a plan how you can open businesses. You can open businesses and schools if, in fact, you provide them the guidance that they need as well as the money to be able to do it. What's happening now is we know, for example, if you can open a business and you could have a sign on the door saying safe to come in, that's why people aren't going anyway when they when they're open. And say because you have social distancing, you have plastic barriers. When you go to the cashier, you have separators between the booths. You don't have large crowds. You reduce the size, the number of people you can have in the restaurant. You make sure there's testing. That's a really critical piece that he didn't do, testing and tracing. And you make sure that people are equipped going to schools. You know, we initially said, the government initially said they're going to provide mask for every student and every teacher. Then they said, no, no, no, no. FEMA said that, the president or whomever said, no, no, that's not a national emergency, not a national emergency. We need fewer we need more teachers in our schools to be able to open smaller pods. We need ventilation systems changed. There's a lot of things we know now. And I've laid them out in some detail. Now, again, when I say I laid them out, I'm not an office holder, I'm running for office. It's not like I'm still vice president or I was a United States Senator pushing this. So I don't want to say I, I, I. But we did lay out exactly what needed to be done and take a look. We make up four percent of the world's population. We have twenty percent of the world's deaths. We're in a situation where we have two hundred and ten plus thousand people dead. And what's he doing? Nothing. He's still not wearing masks and so on.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:08:59] We're getting some other questions on covid. The next one comes from Kelly Lee. She's from Philadelphia.

**Vice President Biden** [19:09:03] Thank you.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:09:03] Republican voted for Donald Trump in twenty sixteen, undecided now.

**Question** [19:09:09] I did.

**Vice President Biden** [19:09:09] Hey, Kelly, how are you?

**Question** [19:09:10] Hi, Mr. Biden. My question is about the coronavirus vaccine, or potential. Senator Harris stated that she absolutely would not take a vaccine from President Trump. And, of course, we all know it's not President Trump that would create this vaccine. It would be doctors and scientists that presumably we all trust. So my question for you is, if a vaccine were approved by between now and the end of the year, would you take it? And if you were to become president, would you mandate that everyone has to take it?

**Vice President Biden** [19:09:44] Two things. Number one, President Trump talks about things that just aren't accurate, about everything from vaccines, we're going to have one right away is going to happen and so on. The point is that if the scientists, if the body of scientists say that this is what is ready to be done and it's been tested, they've gone through the three phases, yes, I would take it and I'd encourage people to take it. But President Trump says things like, you know, everything from his crazy stuff he's walking away from now, inject bleach in your arm. And that's going to work on not being a bit. I'm not being facetious. He actually said these things and now Regeneron is the answer, that's going to cure everything. There's five hundred thousand doses. We've got a couple, you know, we have more than a few million people, you know, and so and most if you notice, most of the companies who are developing these vaccines are working. They're making real progress. I meet with four leading scientists at least twice a week in the beginning, four times a week, giving us the detail what kind of progress is being made. And right now, they do the right thing. When they run into a serious problem, they halt the test. They don't continue until they figure out what the problem was. They're not there yet. And most scientists say that's not likely to have a vaccine that would be available until the beginning of next year into the spring of next year. And in the meantime, what I worry about is the same thing with Regeneron, which is which is a useful antidote, not an antidote, a useful tool. But what's happening is there is no plan to figure out how to distribute it. How many, you know, we have five hundred thousand, you know, vials of it. Well, we don't have all the testing equipment. We don't have all the to get it to the people who need it and what we should be doing now. And allegedly it's happening, but I've not seen it yet, nor the docs that I've talked to say that there should be a plan when we have the vaccine, how do we distribute it?

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:11:43] And once we get it, if it's safe, it's if it's effective, will you mandate its use?

**Vice President Biden** [19:11:49] The answer is depending on how clear there's vaccines they say have a very positive impact. And there you're going to affect positively. Eighty five percent of the American public are those others say this vaccine is really the key. This is this is this is the golden key. It depends on the state of the nature of the vaccine when it comes out and how it's being distributed. That would depend on. But I would think that we should be talking about it depending on the continuation of the spread of the virus. We should be thinking about making demands.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:12:25] How could you you enforce that?

**Vice President Biden** [19:12:26] You couldn't. That's the problem. Just like you can't enforce measles. You can't you can't come to school unless you have a measles shot. You know, you can't. But you can't say everyone has to do this. But you can't mandate a mask. But you can say you can go to every governor and get them all in the room, all 50 of them as president and say ask people to wear the mask. Everybody know.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:12:49] And if they don't?

**Vice President Biden** [19:12:50] Then they don't. No, not fine. Then I go to every governor, I go to every mayor, I go to every council and I go to every local official, say, mandate the mask and say, this is what you have to do when you're out. Make sure you encourage it being done. Look, George, you and I know and I think you do too as well, the words of a president matter.

**Question** [19:13:11] Absolutely.

**Vice President Biden** [19:13:11] No matter whether they're good, bad or indifferent, they matter. And when a president doesn't wear a mask or makes fun of folks like me, when I was wearing a mask for a long time, then people say, well, it mustn't be that important. But when a president says, I think this is very important, for example, I walked in here with this mask, but I have one of them. Ninety five mask underneath it. I left it in the in my dressing room, the dressing room, the the room I was in before I got here. And so I think it matters what we say. And we're now learning that children are getting the virus, not with this as serious consequences, but we haven't, there's been no studies done yet on vaccines for children. So there's a long way to go. But we can make progress in the meantime and save lives. And the last point I'll make if you if you listen to the head of the of the CDC, he stood up and he said, you know, while we're waiting for a vaccine, he held up a mask. You wear this mask, you'll save more lives between now and the end of the year than if we had a vaccine. And if we had a vaccine. It's estimated by every major study done from the University of Washington to Columbia that if, in fact, we wore masks, we could say between now and the end of the year, a hundred thousand lives.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:14:30] And avoid Lockdown's?

**Vice President Biden** [19:14:32] And avoid lockdowns. Yes, you don't have to lock down if you're wearing the mask.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:14:36] Let's get a question on the economy. Anthony Argerich,.

**Vice President Biden** [19:14:38] Thank you, I hope I answered your question.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:14:39] From Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. It's a suburb of Pittsburgh Republican.

**Vice President Biden** [19:14:42] I know it.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:14:43] For President Trump.

**Question** [19:14:44] Thank you, George. Thank you, Mr. Vice. President. You stated that anyone making less than four hundred thousand dollars will not see one single penny of their taxes raised, but also state that you are going to eliminate the Trump tax cuts. The Trump tax cuts reduces taxes for the majority of workers. I would argue not enough. What is your plan for either extending the tax cuts for the middle class or creating a new plan that further reduces those taxes?

**Vice President Biden** [19:15:09] I carry this card with me. When I said the tax Trump tax cuts about one point three trillion of the two trillion dollars of those tax cuts went through the top one tenth of one percent. That's what I'm talking about, eliminating not all the tax cuts that are out there. And by the way, if you just take a look, we reduce the corporate tax rate from thirty five percent. And Democrats, Republicans who were in office thought it should come down to twenty eight percent. He reduced it to twenty one percent. You have ninety one out of the Fortune 500 companies not paying a single solitary penny. If you raise the corporate taxes back to twenty eight percent, which is a fair tax, you'd raise one trillion, three hundred billion dollars by that one act. If you made sure that people making over four hundred grand paid what they did in the Bush administration, thirty nine point six percent you would raise another goes up to get your exact number here about another two hundred ninety two billion dollars so you could raise a lot of money to be able to invest in things that can make your life easier, make you change your standard of living by making sure you have affordable health care, by making sure you're in a situation where you're able to send your kid to school. And if you have a student debt, you can deal with it, making sure that your your home, you can pay your mortgage. You get 20 million people right now.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:16:37] Let me press you on that. You're going to raise the corporate tax. You're going to raise taxes on the wealthy. Is it wise to do even that when the economy is as weak as it is right now? Another nine hundred thousand people?

**Vice President Biden** [19:16:48] That's a great question. Moody's did an analysis of my detailed analysis of my tax plan and my economic plan. They said I will in four years, Moody's, Wall Street said I will create eighteen point six million new jobs. Good paying jobs. Number one. Number two. And I'll increase. The GDP will grow by a trillion dollars more than would under Trump and seven million more jobs then under Trump. And the reason is when you allow people to get back in the game and have a job, everything moves. Everything moves. Right now, you got the opposite. You had last year during this pandemic, you had the wealthiest billionaires in the world, in the nation. They made it another 700 billion dollars, 700 billion dollars. He talks about a V shaped recovery. It's a K shaped recovery. If you're on the top, you're going to do very well. And the other thing, and if you're in the bottom or you're in the middle or the bottom, your income is coming down. You're not getting a raise. I should I don't know what you do. You may get a raise. I hope you're a billionaire. But but but but but all kidding aside. But it's about growing the economy and George the way out. The reason why I'm so optimistic about economic recovery more than I've ever been is we have these four crises happening at all at once and one helps the other. For example, we're going to invest a great deal of that money into infrastructure and to a green infrastructure. We're going to put five hundred thousand charging stations on new highways. We're building it all highways we're building. We're going to own the electric market. You know as well as I do from your days, you know, in the old days where the president has spent about 600 billion dollars a year on government contracts, everything from making sure they have aircraft carriers to automobile fleets for them in the United States. If you make make and it's not a violation of any international trade agreement made in America, if you actually insist that whatever that product is made in America, including the material that goes into the product, we it's estimated we're going to create somewhere between another four and six million jobs just by doing that. But what's happening now under his trade policy, a lot of this is going overseas. You get benefit from going overseas if you have much of it being made overseas. So if you send it overseas, you get a 10 percent tax increase on your on on a product. If you make it in America and you bring it back, you get a 10 percent growth. If you bring back a company and you're going to open up an old an old facility, you get a 10 percent tax credit for all you've invested. That actually works.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:19:39] So there's not going to be any delay on the tax increases?

**Vice President Biden** [19:19:42] No. Well, I got to get the votes. I got to get the votes. That's why, you know, the one thing that, I have this strange notion, we are democracy. Some of my Republican friends and some of my Democratic friends even occasionally say, well, if you can't get the votes by executive order, you're going to do something, things you can't do by executive order unless you're a dictator. We're a democracy. We need consensus.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:20:07] Got to take a quick break. We'll be right back.

**Vice President Biden** [19:20:08] I hope I answered your question.

[19:20:11] ~~We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. Do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America. This special edition of 20/20 will return in a moment.~~

[19:20:38] ~~What a pandemic during a presidential election reduced to Vocab Builder. You'll be safe right now. Go out and vote is so important to.~~

[19:21:06] ~~It's the most important thing you can do this football season, no matter where you are or how are you pregame. We are all Tailgate Nation team up with General Mills and gear up and we are tailgating nation Dukkha, where.~~

[19:21:26] ~~For those who love to discover, who know an open mind is the only kind you don't need to travel to find something new. You know where to escape. Even just for a moment. You don't need a fortune to find a gem. And you know, when you spend less, you can discover even more and never, ever stop discovering. Spend less, discover more. At TJ Maxx, Marshall's and HomeGoods.~~

[19:21:57] ~~Du lotion and jeans go together. A Navy unbreathable experiment. What about sweaters, silk dresses and leather jackets?~~

[19:22:09] ~~Now they do moisturizes deeply with no sticky feel so you can get on with your day, night or whatever. The game changing.~~

[19:22:21] ~~Neviah breathable DNA.~~

[19:22:26] ~~Hey Malcolm, your podcast on Audible, right? That's right. And, you know, audio book. I mean, they got everybody on here,.~~

[19:22:32] ~~Jane. Austen, John Cena, sleep stories, meditation. I mean, can you imagine a more.~~

[19:22:37] ~~Fascinating place? No, no. I've done the research. You've done a research course. You hear that? A piano.~~

[19:22:46] ~~I want to play something. Pet your dog. I wouldn't.~~

[19:22:50] ~~It the most inspiring minds, the most compelling stories all in one place.~~

[19:22:55] ~~Audible Albie's.~~

[19:22:57] ~~For six barks every day. Kikkan Uros. Two of those things for just six books Albie's We have the meat.~~

[19:23:12] ~~I may hide my hydrogenate is separated far away but never my strength or I am tired but I am tough searching for answers and raising my voice when I can't raise my hand because through the pain wounds Flair's the moments in between and the truth us. I've yet to uncover. I am here. Still get answers about that. No B.S. about X.com and talk to a dermatologist about this chronic condition.~~

[19:23:42] ~~At Whirlpool. We don't know how the same.~~

[19:23:44] ~~Number of people can make twice as much laundry without ever leaving the house. We don't know how breakfast can make you need a snack. How are you still hungry where all the glass is? Keep going. But as the number one selling appliance brand in America, Whirlpool does know By the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. From.~~

[19:24:27] ~~The Constitution Center in Philadelphia, here again, George Stephanopoulos. Then.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:24:33] And welcome back to our town hall with Joe Biden. We're Getting a question now from Cedric Humphrey. He's a student from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, progressive Democrat.

**Vice President Biden** [19:24:41] Don't jump, Cedric. You look like you're way up there.

**Question** [19:24:43] OK, thank you, George. And good evening. Former Vice President Biden. Many people believe that the true swing demographic and this election will be black voters under the age of 30, not because they'll be voting for Trump, but because they won't vote at all. I myself had this exact same conflict. So my question for you then is, besides "You ain't black," what do you have to say to young black voters who see voting for you as for their participation in a system that continually fails to protect them?

**Vice President Biden** [19:25:12] Well, I say, first of all, as my buddy John Lewis said, it's a sacred opportunity, the right to vote. We can make a difference. If young black women and men vote, you can determine the outcome of this election. Not a joke. You can do that. And the next question is, am I worthy of your vote? Can I earn your vote? And the answer is there's two things I think that I care and I've demonstrated that I care about my whole career. One is in addition to dealing with the criminal justice system to make it fair and make it more decent, we have to be able to put black Americans in a position to be able to gain wealth, generate wealth. And so you look at what that entails. It entails everything from early education. That's why I'm supporting making sure that we in title one schools, you know, schools with the least tax base to be able to support their schools. I increased the funding for them from fifteen to forty five billion dollars. That allows every teacher in that school to make up to sixty thousand bucks. And the problem now is they're leaving the schools, they're not there. We're short about a million and a half teachers, a million and a quarter teachers. Number two, every three and four and five year old will go to school, school, not day care, school. And all the great universities, including when you've gone to go to or went to, in fact, talks about in the last eight years what's happened, what happens when you let them go to school. They make up rapidly, whatever, whatever, whatever shortcoming they had in terms of their education prior to that. They will have not heard as many words spoken, et cetera, et cetera. What happens is that the studies show that 58 percent, they will increase by 58 percent heir chance of going all through 12 years of school and going through successfully. It will also provide for the ability to bring in social workers and and school psychologists. We have one school psychologist in America now for every fifteen hundred and seven kids. It should be one to five hundred, not just in and schools that are poor, but in all schools. Because we learn that, for example, drug abuse doesn't cause mental illness. Mental illness causes drug abuse, the failure to get hold of people and deal with their anxieties. In addition to that, I provide for a 70 billion dollars for HBCUs use for them to be able to have the wherewithal to do what other universities can do because they don't have the kind of foundational support they need. And so that would allow them, for example, like we did in our administration, the president allowed me to go down and we awarded a cybersecurity laboratory ability, to compete for cybersecurity laboratory. The federal government spends billions of dollars a year on universities. Because they're the best kept secret of where most of the major inventions come out of. And so that school now will be able to produce young black women and men who are going to go into a field of the future that's burgeoning, cybersecurity. And that's what what is going to help a great deal. In addition to that, if you're a young man about to graduate and you graduated from school and you want on your first home, well, it's awful hard to get the money, depending on the background, what's your what's your your your excuse me, your economic background is, to get a down payment. So we're going to guarantee first time homebuyers a fifteen thousand dollar down payment for first time homebuyers. In addition to that, what all the studies now show, and I've been arguing this for a long time, is young black entrepreneurs are just as successful as white entrepreneurs or anyone else, given a shot. But you can't get the money. Where do you go to get the startup money? So what President Obama and I did, we had a program. We took a billion, five hundred million dollars, and we invested in all the SBAs around the country in the state SBAs, small business associations, and that generated 30 billion dollars, came off the sideline. Because if you have a guarantee of two hundred thousand dollars for your new startup enterprise, a young entrepreneur, you're going to be able to attract, if it's government money is a guarantee, you'll be able to attract another hundred thousand dollars. It generated 30 billion dollars. Well, I'm changing that program and I'll get this done without much trouble, I believe in the Congress from one point five billion dollars to 30 billion dollars. That'll take three hundred billion dollars off the sideline and grow. Because, you know, and for example, if you in fact and I were the same age and we split our differences and we're the same age and we went to the same builder to buy us each the same home, but my home was in a white neighborhood on one side of a highway and yours in a black neighborhood, same exact home. Your home will start off being valued. Twenty nine percent less than my home. Yet your insurance for that home will be higher. You'll be taxed more for it. We've got to end this. That's what got me involved in politics in the first place. Thing called redlining. We can change so much that we can do so much to change the circumstances, to give people a real opportunity.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] Cedric, did you hear what you needed to hear?

**Question** [19:30:09] I think so.

**Vice President Biden** [19:30:09] Well there's a lot more if you want to hang around afterwards I'll tell you more. But I really mean it, it's the key. Look, this is the way every other, how do most, I mean my dad, he lost his job up in Scranton and it took him three years to move to Claymont, Delaware, a little steel town and send us off to our grandpop to live with him. We finally got back. We lived in apartments and it became six and eight housing much later, it was normal apartments. And it took him five years to be able to buy a home. We bought a three bedroom home with four kids and a grandpop living with us, but it accumulated wealth, you build up wealth. That's how middle class folks make it, they build up wealth. Then he was able to borrow a little against that to help us get to school, those kinds of things. It's about accumulating wealth. And your behind the eight ball, the vast majority of people of color are behind an eight ball. And it's the same way with all that's going on now with the money that's been voted. What's happened? You go to the bank if your a black busines man and the president fired the only inspector general that oversees all this help from Congress and what happens you go in and they say, do you have an account here? No. Do you have a credit card here? No. Have you borrowed from us before? No. We bailed this suckers out. Their not liable for any of the money. But they still won't lend it to you. We got to change that, it's about accumulating wealth.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] We want to get another question in here. A republican that voted for President Trump last time.

**Question** [19:30:09] Thank you George. Thank you Vice President Biden, nice to meet you. What's your view on the crime bill that you wrote in 1994 that showed prejudice against minorities. Where do you stand today on that?

**Vice President Biden** [19:30:09] Well first of all things have changed drastically on that. That crime bill when it voted, the black caucus voted for it, the black mayors supported it across the board. The crime bill itself did not have mandatory sentences except for two things. It had three strikes and your out which I voted against in the crime bill but it had a lot of other things that turned out to be both bad and good. I wrote the violence against women act, that was part of the assault weapons ban and other things that were good. What I was against was giving states more money for prison systems that they could build. State prison systems. And ninety out of every 100 people are in a state prison not in a federal prison because they built more prisons. I also wrote into that bill a thing called drug cohorts, I don't think anyone should be going to jail for drug use, they should be going into mandatory rehabilitation. We should be building rehab centers to have these people housed. We should wipe out, we should decriminalize marijuana, wipe out the record so you can actually say in honesty, have you ever been arrested for anything you can say no because we're going to pass a law saying that there is no background that you have to review relative to the use of marijuana. So there a lot of things but in addition to that we got to change the system. I joined a group of people in the house to fight for changing the system from punishment to rehabilitation. Along with Arlen Specter you may remember I wrote the second chance act.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] In the meantime an awful lot of people were jailed for drug crimes, was it a mistake to support it?

**Vice President Biden** [19:30:09] Yes it was. But here's where the mistake came. The mistake came in what the sates did locally. What we did federally is we said and you remember it was all about the same time for the same crime. What I've done as chairman of the judiciary committee is to the ten circuirt courts of appeals and took some really brilliant lawyers working for me in the judiciary and we did a study. And we determined what happens if the first, second, third offence for any crime in the criminal justice system at the federal level. If you're a black man it's the frist time you commit a robbery how long would you go to jail on average, if you're a white man how long? Black man would go to jail on average thirteen years, white man two years. I got down the list of every single crime. So we set up a sentencing commission, we didn't set the time. Every single maximum was reduced in there but what happened was it became the same time for the same crime. So it said you have to serve between one and three years and then black folks went to jail a lot less then they would have before but it was a mistake.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] Let me ask you another followup on the crime bill it also funded another hundred thousand police back in 1994. You've often said that more cops clearly means less crime, do you still believe that?

**Vice President Biden** [19:30:09] Yes, if in fact they are involved in community policing not jump squads. For example, when we had community policing from the mid nineties on to when Bush got elected violent crime went down, you remember the significant rise in violent crime that was occurring in the late eighties and went into the ninetys. It went down and fewer african americans were arrested because you had the requirement, the cops didn't like it, they didn't like community policing because you had to have two people in a vehicle, they had to get out of their cars, they had to introduce themselves to whoever owned the local liquor store, who owned the grocery store, who was the woman on the corner and what they would do George is they would go give people their phone numbers, a cop would give the phone number so if Milly Smith was on the second floor when a drug deal took place and things happened below her she could call and say it's Milly there's something going on here. And they'd never reveal it was her because they know she knew if they put that on the report they'd never report the crime. She'd never report. So it actually started to come down. What happened. They eliminated the funding for community policing. Community policing doesn't mean more people coming in and up arming humvee's and swarming. What they did, it turned out that by the time we got to the late nineties crime had gone down so much that mayors and everybody asked the question where do you want me to spend the money? They say well only one percent thought violent crime was a problem, it was as high as twenty two percent.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] Right now we have a systemic problem, how do you get the kind of policing, prevent the kind of policing.

**Vice President Biden** [19:30:09] You have to change. One of the things I'm going to do George. Is set up a national study group made up of cops and social workers as well as made up of the black community and the brown community to sit down it the White House and over the next year come up with significant reforms that need to take place within communities. You have to bring them together. One of the things I've observed is. You know. Where I grew up you either became a cop, a firefighter, or a priest. I wasn't qualified much to do any one of them. But here's the deal all kidding aside. Most cops don't like bad cops. They don't like it. So what happens is they get intimidated into not reporting. So one of the things we do is there has to be transparency available, we have to be able to at the federal level go in and be able to check out if there is systematic problems within police departments. If in fact a cop needs to be tried it's not the prosecutor in the community, in the district there, you've got to go outside the community to get another prosecutor to come in and handle the crime. There's a lot of things we've learned. And it takes time but we can do this. you can ban choke holds but beyond that you have to teach people how to de escalate circumstances. De escalate, so instead of someone coming at you and the first thing you do is shoot to kill, you shoot them in the leg, there's ways, you have to do more background checks in terms of whether or not person coming in passes certain psychological tests. The last thing I'll say and I'm sorry because it's really, really really important is you have to be in a position where we are able to identify the things that have to change and one of the things that has to change is that so many cops get called into circumstances where somebody is mentally off. Like what happened with that guy with the knife. That's why we have to provide within police departments psychiatric psychologist and social workers who go out with the cops on those calls, some of those 911 calls. To de-escalate the circumstance, to deal with talking them down, but we can't. Cops are kind of like school teachers now, you know a school teacher has to know everything from how to handle hunger in a household as well as how to teach you how to read. Well cops don't have that breadth and there's a lot of things we can do. We shouldn't be defunding cops we should be mandating things within police departments to make sure there's total transparancy.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:30:09] Got to take another quick break, we'll be right back

[19:30:09] ~~To educate have ninety Trint. Every one hundred people in jail now is in a state prison, not in a federal prison, because they built more prisons. I also wrote into that bill a thing called drug courts. I don't believe anybody should be going to jail for drug use. They should be going We'll be right back. I don't know eventually the question, but.~~

[19:39:34] ~~BBC is straightforward.~~

[19:39:36] ~~Hiring is challenging, especially for key roles. Finding the right people is a very difficult task. Zip code finds us the best people for the job. They sit my jobs after day after day. Do lotion.~~

[19:41:08] ~~And jeans go together? And Neviah breathable experiment. The new cataplexy five ranks number one in initial quality among midsize premium cars. Current eligible Lexy's get this low mileage based on this twenty twenty cataplexy to five for round three fifty nine per month. Now you can play through the eyes of the child.~~

[19:41:39] ~~In an all new version of Monopoly, the child seems space's hideouts in Kofman houses and cards and tokens featuring your favorite character. Keep for strong, bring home enough Star Wars, the child edition game.~~

[19:42:07] ~~And times like these, we look for control where we can find it. We flex fast from Capella. University courses are online and on demand to put you in control of your education, set your own deadlines and move at your own pace. You can even finish the bachelor's degree you started in twelve months for ten thousand dollars. Capelli University. Don't just learn, learn smarter at six. Go to bed. I'll make you sick. Our times in the middle of my heart.~~

[19:43:06] ~~I find the chainsaw's heart to you. If you're in a horror movie, you make poor decisions. That's what you do. If you want to save 15 percent or more on car insurance, is which to Geico? It's what we do.~~

[19:43:35] ~~Oh, John Lennon. His life, his legacy, his last days. While there's life, there's hope. New interviews and his last interview. The new 20/20 event Friday night on ABC. He shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint judges of the Supreme Court and all other officers of the United States from the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Here again, George Stephanopoulos.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:44:18] And the Supreme Court is our next topic. The questioner, Nathan Osborne, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Democrat.

**Question** [19:44:24] Hi, I'm George. Mr. Vice President.

**Vice President Biden** [19:44:27] Hey, Nathan.

**Question** [19:44:27] Our country's first Supreme Court gave its first ruling just two blocks from here, from 1791 to 1800, and it's become more polarized since then. Merrick Garland didn't get a hearing for all of 2016 and Amy Coney Barrett's being pushed through at the last minute, even though millions have already voted. So what do you think about ideas from people like Pete Buttigieg and others to put in place safeguards that will help ensure more long term balance and stability? And what do you say to LGBTQ Americans and others who are very worried right now about erosions of their rights and our democracy as a whole?

**Vice President Biden** [19:45:10] Well, let me start on the last point and work my way back. I think there's great reason to be concerned. I was on the road most of the time during these hearings, so I didn't hear many of them. I just got the recaps. I'd get in late at night. I'd been going around the country, Florida anyway. And but my reading online, what the judge said was she didn't answer very many questions at all. And I don't even think she has laid out much of a judicial philosophy in terms of the basis upon which she thinks are there unenumerated rights in the Constitution. And so, number one. So I think there's great reason to be concerned for the LGBQ community, something I fought very hard for, for a long time to make sure there's equality across the board. Number two, I think that also health care overall is very much in jeopardy as a consequence of the president's going to go directly after this election, directly to the Supreme Court within a month to try to get Obamacare wiped out, after ten million people have already lost their insurance from their employer, and he wants to take twenty million people out of the system as well, plus a hundred million people with preexisting conditions. So there's a lot at stake. I don't think it's appropriate. I think the Constitution implies. There's no provision in the Constitution. My problem is I made the mistake of teaching constitutional law for twenty one years, and the separate of powers. The Constitution implies that the way the people have a right to determine who's going to be on the court is how they vote for their senators and their president. We seek the advice and consent of the Senate and the president.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:47:10] The president is president for all four years, isn't he?

**Vice President Biden** [19:47:10] No, he is. But once an election begins, by implication it is inconsistent with the constitutional principles in my view. You get disagreement among scholars on this. But I believe it's inconsistent when overwhelm, millions of people have already voted to put someone on the court. I think it should have been held until the next, this election is over, see what the makeup of the Senate is going to be, if the president wins this election, he should be able to.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:47:10] How about that question of expanding the court? Here's what you said exactly one year ago tonight at a Democratic debate. You said, "I would not get into court packing. I would not pack the court." That's not what you're saying now. Is the nomination of Judge Barrett reason enough to rethink your position?.

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] What is, the nomination, what I wanted to do, George, you know if I had answered the question directly, then all the focus would be on, "What's Biden going to do if he wins?" instead of on, "Is it appropriate, what's going on now?" And it should stay, this is the thing that the president loves to do, always take our eye off the ball, what's at stake. One of the things Pete has suggested is, and there's a number of constitutional scholars who have suggested it as well, that there are at least four or five options that are available to determine whether or not you can change the way in which the court lifetime appointment takes place, consistent, arguably, with the Constitution. I have not been a fan of court packing because it just generates what's going to happen, whoever wins, it just keeps moving in a way that is inconsistent with what is going to be manageable down the road.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] So you're still not a fan?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] Well, I'm not a fan. I didn't say, it depends on how this turns out, not how he wins but how it's handled, how it's handled. But there's a number of things that are going to be coming up. And there's going to be a lot of discussion about other alternatives as well.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] What does that mean, how it's handled? How will that determine-

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] Well, for example, there's actually real, live debate on the floor if people are really going to be able to have the time to go through this, you know, I don't know anybody who's gone on the floor that's been a controversial justice in terms of fundamentally altering the makeup of the court that's gone through in a day kind of thing. It depends on how much they rush this. And you think about it, George, here you got a lot of people not being able to pay their mortgage, not being able to put food on the table, not being able to keep their business open, not being able to do anything to deal with what's going on in terms of the economy as a consequence of covid, and they have no time to deal with that. But they have time to rush this through.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] Well, right now it looks like they're going to have a vote around Halloween. So if they vote on it before the election, you are open to expanding the court?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] I'm open to considering what happens from that point on.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] You know, you said so many times during the campaign, all through the course of your career, it's important to level with the American people.

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] It is. George, if I say, no matter what answer I gave you, if I say it, that's the headline tomorrow. It won't be about what's going on now, the improper way they're proceeding.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] But don't voters have a right to know where you stand?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] They do have a right to know where I stand. And they'll have a right to know where I stand before they vote.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] So you'll come out with a clear position before election day?

[19:57:48] Yes, depending on how they handle this. But look, what you should do is yo've got to make sure you vote, and vote for a senator who, in fact, thinks, reflects your general view on constitutional interpretation, and vote for a president who you think is more in line with you. And if you oppose the position, I would not have appointed her, but if you oppose my position, vote for Trump, vote for a Republican who shares that view. But that's your opportunity to get involved in lifetime appointments. Presidents come and go. Justices stay and stay and stay.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] We have a question from a Republican, Andrew Lewis, I guess a disaffected Republican. You cast a write-in for John Kasich in 2016. You're going to vote against President Trump this year.

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] And John's writing in for me, by the way.

**Question** [19:57:48] I know that. Mr. Vice President, my father, Drew Lewis, served as secretary of transportation under President Ronald Reagan in his first term.

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] Oh, yeah. I'll be darned.

**Question** [19:57:48] And some of his closest allies and friends were Democrats, including House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Senator Ted Kennedy. Sadly, today we have highly partisan and dysfunctional governance. And I believe President Trump is primarily responsible for creating this toxic environment. As president, how will you avoid the temptation to exact revenge and instead take the high road and attempt to restore bipartisanship, civility and honor to our democracy?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] As written by a fellow who won the Pulitzer Prize for a book he wrote about the presidency, he said, "You know, I doubt whether Biden is really Irish. He doesn't hold a grudge." In politics, grudges don't work. They make no sense. I really mean it. I have never. And the second point I'd make is everybody talks about, "Yeah, Joe, when you were a senator and a chairman of foreign relations or a chairman of the judiciary, you got a lot of things done. You were able to cross the aisle. But the days have changed. When you were vice president, you got a lot done, but it can't happen anymore." It can. We've got to change the nature of the way we deal with one another. And it starts off by the way your father was and Tip was and others. You don't question another man or woman's motive. You can question their judgment, but not their motive. We badly needed an infrastructure bill. Well, what happens? I stand up and I say, "You know, we need an infrastructure bill, senator. But I tell you what. You're in the pocket of the cement industry. Let's see what we can do. You can't get anywhere. Nothing happens. Nothing happens. I learned that lesson a long time ago. Even when it's obvious on its face what the motive is, stick to the subject and listen to the other guy. Listen. What I will be doing if I'm elected president, the first thing, and not a joke. You can ask. If they tell your dad's old friends on the Republican side. I'm going to pick up the phone and call them and say, "Let's get together. We've got to figure out how we're going to move forward here." Because there are so many thing we really do agree on. And with Trump out of the way, the vindictiveness of a president going after Republicans who don't do exactly what he says gets taken away, there's going to be, I promise you, between four and eight Republican senators who are willing to move on things where there's bipartisan consensus. Last example I'll give you. You know, after Trump had been elected, named the next president, wasn't sworn in yet, I had been working on a bill relating to cancer cures. And it was called the Cancer Moonshot. And I worked with a number of Democrats and Republicans. And we had a bill that was about nine billion dollars that made significant increases in research and development on cancer alternatives, NIH, and particularly specific cancer initiatives. And we only had at the time, I think it was a hundred and eleven, a hundred and fourteen, whatever it was, votes in the House. I don't know how many, the exact number. And we had fewer than forty in the Senate. But after I was elected, I got those people together as vice president, we sat down and we worked it out. And we ended up getting it passed, three hundred and ninety six votes in the House and ninety four votes in the Senate. And at the end of the day, because it had to do with the Biden Cancer Moonshot I'd been working on, Mitch McConnell, Mitch McConnell stood up, and I was presiding officer, and moved to name the bill after my deceased son, Beau, who had just died. So there is, there is, there are ways to bring this together.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] But how about the question for political accountability? And is there some tension between that and bringing people together? You know, Robert Mueller laid out a lot of evidence of possible obstruction of justice by President Trump. What would a Biden justice department do with that evidence?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] What the Biden justice department will do is let the Department of Justice be the Department of Justice, let them make the judgments of who should be prosecuted. They are not my lawyers. They're not my personal lawyers.

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] So you're not going to rule it in or rule it out?

**Vice President Biden** [19:57:48] I'm not going to rule it in or out. I'm going to hire really first rate prosecutors and people who understand the law, like democrat and republican administrations have had, and let them make the judgments. But turning this into a vehicle as if it's your own law firm. You don't own that Justice Department. You pick the best people you can and you hope that what they're going to do is they're going to enforce the law as they see it. But can you remember any Republican president going out there, or former Democratic president, "Go find that guy and prosecute him." You ever heard of that? Or by the way, "I'm being sued because a woman's accusing me of rape. Represent me. Represent me. Personally represent in the State of New York by not allowing my tax returns." What's that all about? What is that about?

**George Stephanopoulos** [19:57:48] We've got to take another break. We'll be right back.

[19:57:48] ~~The streets belong to you. The Verna's the love with Aqua for.~~

[19:58:20] ~~Success isn't just about where you want to get to. It's also about how you get there.. Popcorn.~~

[19:58:44] ~~Guy. Can't believe it. When pets were given the choice between paying more with cable TV or paying less for their favorite channels with Slint. The results. Well there.~~

[19:58:58] ~~Were no results because they're animals. They don't have a concept of money.~~

[19:59:06] ~~You're not an animal. Make.~~

[19:59:08] ~~The smart choice and switch to Slint. Get the best of cable for the best price. Get started in five minutes. It's linkon.~~

[19:59:18] ~~We all have something in our closet that we can sell jeans. You don't love sneakers. Not your style anymore jacket. That's just not your color. Well I'm pockmark you can put them up for sale in seconds. Just take a photo, set your price and turn your closet into cash. Plus you can use the money you make to buy yourself that new outfit you've been eyeing cash in on your closet and join the fan, download the free hashmark app and get five dollars off your first order. When you use the code love page,.~~

[19:59:47] ~~It's being called the most consequential election of a lifetime, the most important vote. And with so much on the line item, that's the most straightforward news making real answers, the most informed voices from all sides.~~

[20:00:01] ~~The countdown is on to the voting.~~

[20:00:32] ~~From the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, here again, George Stephanopoulos.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:00:39] And welcome back to our town hall with former Vice President Joe Biden. We're going to look at the environment right now. We're going to get a question from Michelle Elise from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania a business woman, a social worker. You're a Republican that's voted for Democrats but you're not sure what you're going to do this time around, correct?

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] Correct.

**Question** [20:02:41] Greetings former Vice President Biden.

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] Hello.

**Question** [20:02:41] in a 2012 report of the University of Pittsburgh's institute of Politics, fracking was discussed and its possible implications for the water ways from the common wells to the Gulf. Fracking has made the population sick and killed wildlife in Southwest Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Small Business Development Centers have already begun to transition people away from fossil fuels. What industries that are not harmful to human health and the environment are you planning for Southwest Pennsylvania and the nation?

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] Well first of all, I make it clear, I do not propose banning fracking. I think you have to make sure that fracking is in fact not admitting methane or polluting the well or dealing with what can be small earthquakes and how they are drilling. So it has to be managed very well, number one. Number two, what we have to do, the future rests in renewable energy. The single fastest growing energy source in the world, because, I'm going to say something that's going to sound self serving but I managed the recovery act and I was able to invest billions of dollars into bringing down the cost of, the cost per BTU of wind and solar. So now it's cheaper than coal and it's cheaper than oil right now and it has great, great promise. And it's also the fastest growing employer in the energy industry and so there are a number of things I would do immediately. Number one, there are well over 100,000 wells that are left uncapped in the region. We can hire 128,000 of these people who are working in the industry to cap these wells and get a good salary doing it now. Number one. Number two, we should be moving toward finding the new technologies that are going to be able to deal with carbon capture so the all the money is transitionally moved from to a net zero emission of carbon that we're still going to be able to use if we find the right technology. Some gases, some gas to be able to be if we can carbon capture. And I think we're going to be able to move in the direction where by the year of 2035 we'll be able to have net zero emissions of carbon from the creation of energy, energy creation that so we can move it by dealing with those and every time we talk about global warming or the environment, the President thinks it's a joke and I think it's jobs. Because what we're going to have happen is you're going to be able to see now, as I was started to say before, I as President am going to invest the 600 billion dollars we spend in government contracts, only on those things, that in fact, also are not only made in America, but building an infrastructure that's clean and new. And what we have to do, is focus on the transmission of energy across the country from areas related to solar and wind. The reason is that has not been mastered yet. I met people a lot of people in Silicon Valley, the battery technology is increasing significantly so you're going to be able to have, for example, solar on your home, in a battery the size of this, by this, by this, as I'm showing you here in your basement. So when the sun doesn't shine for five days, you still have enough energy, so we're making significant progress. The other thing we're going to do, is provide an awful lot of work that's estimated to put close to a million people to work but weatherizing four million building and two million homes because we'll save tons and tons of energy, billions of barrels of energy over time and at the same time, provide significant employment. And good union wages prevailing wages.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:02:41] Let me stick on fracking for a second.

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] Sure.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:02:41] You said you don't want to ban fracking. As you know, it's an important issue here in Pennsylvania, not everyone believes your denial. A member of the boilermaker local 154, Shawn Steffee was quoted in the New York Times today saying "You can't have it both ways, you can't meet your goal to end fossil fuels without ending fracking." What do you say to people like Shawn who doubt your denial because they think you want to keep that promise to end fossil fuels.

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] Boilermakers overwhelmingly endorse me. Okay? So the boilermaker's union has endorsed me because I sat down with them and went into great detail with leadership in exactly what I would do, number one. Number two, what I would do, I would stop making, stop giving tax breaks and subsidizing oil. We don't need to subsidize oil any longer, number one, we should stop that and save billions of dollars over time. What I would also do with regards to, theres no, the difference between me and the new green deal, they say automatically by 2030, we're going to be carbon free, not possible.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:02:41] So are you for it or against it? You say you're not for it, but in your website, it says, you call it a crucial framework.

**Vice President Biden** [20:02:41] My deal is a crucial framework but not the new green deal. The new green deal calls for elimination of all non renewable energy by 2030, you can't get there. You're going to need to be able to transition, George. To be able to transition to get to the place where we invest in new technology that allow us to do things that get us to a place where we get to net zero emmission, including in agriculture, I've laid out a detailed plan. We should be taking the plan where we allow significant more land to be put in conservation, plant deep rooted plants, which absorbs carbon from the air and in fact pay farmers to do it. We can do things like pelletize all the chicken manure and all the horse manure, and cow manure and they can take out the methane and use it as fertilizer and make a lot of money doing it. For example, right now down in, people when I say it, they wonder what I'm talking about. The biggest carbon sink is in the Amazon. More carbon absorbed from the air diminishing global warming in the Amazon than all the carbon admitted on a yearly basis from the United States of America from all vehicles and all means. So we have to use our imagination. We have to move in the direction as well, providing for electric vehicles. Electric vehicles will save billions of gallons of oil, create estimated, not me, Wall Street, one million automobile jobs. But we're lagging, we're not investing, we're not doing any of the research.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:02:41] Time to take another quick break, we'll be right back.

[20:02:41] ~~Or the c Well over a hundred thousand wells that are left uncapped in the region. We could hire one hundred twenty eight thousand of these people who are working in the industry to cap these wells and get a good salary doing it now, number one. Number two,, it's a.~~

[20:03:41] ~~Joke. And I think it's jobs because what we're going to have happen is you'll be able to see now, as I started to say before, I as president are going to invest that six hundred billion dollars we spend in government contracts only on those things.. So.~~

[20:08:18] ~~You said only we had left Fwix Cookies and Cream and Twix. This is a rightwards.~~

[20:08:23] ~~Excuse me, The Monster Jam tomorrow on Good Morning America concert series sponsored by Carmex.~~

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:31:07] And welcome back to our town hall with former Vice President Joe Biden, why don't we look at the environment right now.

**Question** [20:31:07] Greetings form Vice President Biden, in a 2012 report from the University of Pittsburgh's institute of politics fracking was discussed and its possible implications for the waterways from the commonwealth to the gulf. Fracking has made the population sick and killed wildlife in south west Pennsylvania, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and small business centers have already begun to transition people away form fossil fuels. What industries that are not harmful to human health and the environment are you planning for southwest Pennsylvania and the nation?

**Vice President Biden** [20:31:07] Well first of all let me make it clear. I do not propose banning fracking. I think you have to make sure that frack is not emitting methane or polluting a well or dealing with the small earthquakes and how they're drilling so it has to be managed very very well number one. Number two what we have to do is the future rests in renewable energy. The single fastest growing energy source in the world right now. Because. I'm going to say something that sounds self serving but I manged the recovery act, and I was able to invest billions of dollars into bringing down the cost of, the cost per BTu of wind and solar so now it's cheaper than coal, it's cheaper than oil right now. And it has great great promise, it's also the fasted growing employer in the energy industry. And so there are a number of things that I would do immediately. Number one. There are over, well over, a hundred thousand wells that are left uncapped in the region. We can hire a hundred and twenty eight thousand of these people that are working in the industry to cap these wells and get a good salary doing it now. Number one. Number two, we should be moving toward finding the new technologies that are going to be able to deal with carbon capture so that as we move to a net zero emission of carbon that we are still going to be able to use if we find the right technology some gases, some gas to be able to if we can carbon capture. And I think we're going to be able to move in a direction that by the year 2035 we'll be able to have net zero emissions of carbon from the creation of energy. Energy creation. So we can move it by dealing with those

[20:37:29] ~~debt of about four hundred million, asked who does he owe that money to.~~

**Question** [20:37:32] Welcome to Pennsylvania Mr Vice President. So peace is breaking out all over the world, our troops are coming home. Serbia is talking to Kosovo. And the Arabs and Israel are talking. I think it's a modern day miracle what's going on. Does President Trump's foreign policy deserve some credit?

**Vice President Biden** [20:37:32]
A little but not a whole lot. We find ourselves in a position where we are more isolated in the world then we ever have been. Our allies are go it alone, America first has made America alone. You have Iran closer to having enough nuclear material to build a bomb, you have North Korea with more bombs and missiles available to it, we find ourselves where our NATO allies are saying they can't count on us. We're in a situation as well where in the far east we find ourselves in the western pacfic where we're isolated as well. You have Japan and South Korea at odds with one another and China is making moves. So I would say we are less secure then we've been. I do compliment the president on the deal with Israel recently but if you take a look we are not very well trusted around the world. When 17 major nations in the world were asked who they trust more, who's a better leader. And the president came behind Putin as well as Xi and look what Putin's doing. Bounty's on American heads in Afghanistan, they have more people there now then when I left in Afghanistan. And we find ourselves in a situation where he's talked to Putin six times and hasn't said a word to him. And NATO is at risk of beginning to crack because they doubt our whether we are there. You see everything that's happening from Belarus, to Poland, to Hungry and the rise of totalitarian regimes in the world. And as well as this President embraces all the thugs in the world, he's best friends with the leader North Korea sending love letters, he didn't take on Putin in any way. He is learned the art of the steal from the art of the deal form Xi in China. So I would respectfully suggest no, there is no plan, there is no coherent plan for world policy. You know we've always ruled, we've been most effective as a world leader in my humble opinion not just by the exercise of our power, we're the most powerful nation in the world. But by the power of our example, that's what's lead the rest of the world the follow us on almost everything. He's pulled out of almost every international organization. He gets laughed at when he goes to, literally not figuratively, when he goes to the United Nations. It's just not, it's not about the President per se, it's about the nation and the lack of respect that's shown to us.

**Question** [20:37:32] I'm the proud mom of two girls 8 and 10. My youngest daughter is transgender. The Trump administraion has attacked transgender people. How will you as President reverse this dangerous agenda and ensure that the lives and rights of LGBTQ people are protected under US law.

**Vice President Biden** [20:37:32] I will flat out just change the law. Elminate those executive orders. You may recall I'm the guy who said, I was raised by a man, I remember I was being dropped off, my dad was a high scool educated well read man, I was being dropped off at the center of our city, Wilminton Delaware, the corporate capital of the world at the time. And these two men getting out to get an application to be a life guard in the African American community because there was a big swimming pool complex and these two men, well dressed leaned up and hugged and kissed one another. And I'm getting out of the car at the light and I turn to my dad and my dad looked at me and said it's simple, they love eachother. The idea that an 8 year old child or a 10 year old child decides that you know I want to be transgender that's what I think I'd like to be, I think that would make my life a lot easier. There should be zero discrimination, what's happening is too many transgener women of color are being murdered. They're being murdered. I think now it's up to 17, don't hold me to that number, it's higher now. And that's just this year. And so I promise you there is no reason to suggest that there sould be any right denied to your daughter or daughters. One, your daughter that your other daughter has a right to being due. None. Zero. And by the way, my son Beau passed away was the attorney general of the state of Delaware. he was the guy that got the first transgender law passed in the state of Delaware because of young man who became a woman who worked for him in the attorny general's office. And I'm proud of that.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] And welcome back to our town hall with Former Vice President Joe Biden. The next question comes from Keenan Wilson, Narberth, Pennsylvania Democrat.

**Question** [20:41:54] Good evening. You say that you're committed to entering this race after the events of Charlottesville in 2017. I assume that that feeling that prompted you to run will not go away once the results are determined. So hypothetically, if you lose, how will you use your platform to urge Donald Trump and those rallying behind him towards the ideals of a more perfect union?

**Vice President Biden** [20:41:54] Well, to be very honest with you, I think that's very hard. He is not, things have not lent themselves to him learning from what's happened, what's gone before. Instead of being chastened by being one of the few presidents, the only president to be impeached and then have a member of his own party vote to expel him, it emboldened him. But what I will do, hopefully I'll go back to being a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and making the case that I've been made, and at the Biden Institute at the University of Delaware, focusing on the same issues relating to what constitutes decency and honor in this country. It's the thing that got me involved in public life to begin with. As a kid, I moved from Scranton, where there were no African Americans and moved down to Claymont, Delaware. And in Delaware, we have the eighth largest black population as a percent of the population. It was an epiphany for me, seeing what was going on. And I got deeply involved. I'm no great shakes. I wasn't John Lewis. I don't mean to imply that. But it's the thing that's motivated. My dad used to have an expression, for real. He said, "Everyone's entitled to be treated with dignity. Everybody." And it was real. Everybody is. And so whether I'm a defeated candidate for president back teaching or I'm elected president, it is a major element of everything that I'm about. Because it reflects who we are as a nation. And it's what makes us, every single solitary generation, the dials move closer and closer and more and more to inclusion. And we are a country that is a country of slaves who came here four hundred years ago, indigenous people, and everyone else is an immigrant. And we're a diverse country. Unless we are able to treat people equally, we're just never going to meet our potential. But I think the American people want to see that happen. I think they're ready to see that happen. And I tell you one thing, if I'm elected president, you will not hear me race baiting. You will not hear me dividing. You will hear me trying to unify, and unify with bring people together. When I said I was running because I wanted to unify the country, people said, "Well they were the old days." We better be able to do it again.

**Question** [20:41:54] Agreed.

**Vice President Biden** [20:41:54] We better be able to do it again.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] Mr. Vice President, if you lose, what will that say to you about where America is today?

**Vice President Biden** [20:41:54] Well, it could say that I'm a lousy candidate and I didn't do a good job. But I hope that it doesn't say that we are as racially, ethnically and religiously at odds with one another as it appears the president wants us to be. Usually, you know, the president's, in my view, with all due respect, has been divide and conquer, the way he does better if he splits us, you know, there's division. And I think people need hope. I think, look, George, I've never been more optimistic about the prospects of this country than I am today. And I really mean that. I think the people are ready. They understand what's at stake. And it's not about Democrat or Republican. If I get elected, I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I'm going to be an American president. I'm going to take care of those who voted against me as well as those who voted for me. For real. That's what presidents do. We've got to heal this nation. Because we have the greatest opportunity of any country in the world to own the 21st century. And we can't do it divided.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] One more break. We'll be right back.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] And we're wrapping up our town hall here with former Vice President Joe Biden. Mr. Vice President as you know President Trump had a town hall meeting tonight as well. During that town hall meeting he was asked several times whether he took a COVID test the day of your last debate. You're supposed to have another debate a week from tonight. Just two quick questions. Do you expect that debate to happen? Will you demand that President Trump take a test that day and that it be negative before you debate?

**Vice President Biden** [20:41:54] Yeah, by the way, before I came up here I toook another test. I've been taking them every day you know the deep test the one - because I wanna be able - if I had not passed that test I didn't wanna come here and not, you know, expose anybody. And I just think it's - it's just decency to be able to determine whetehr or onot you are, you're clear. I'm less concerned about me than the people - the guys with the cameras, the people working in the, you know, the Secret Service guys you drive up with, all those people. And so yes, I believe he will do that. Look, I'm gonna abide by what the commission rules call for. I was preapred to debate him remotely which was supposed to happen and he said he wouldn't do that, you know, a virtual debate. Our town hall, he didn't want to do that. I didn't set those rules, the commission set those rules. So whatever rules they set - and I'm conifdent that - the Cleveland Clinic is the one overseeing it - I think they're gonna not let happen what happened last time. They're gonna demand that it's safe.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] But you expect to be there.

**Vice President Biden** [20:41:54] I expect to be there.

**George Stephanopoulos** [20:41:54] Mr. Vice President thank you for your time tonight. Thanks to all the questioners here. It was really terrific questions, I think you did a service to our democracy tonight, thank you very much. I'm gonna go back to my colleague David Muir in New York.

[20:41:54] ~~Ready. Our most popular battery is now even more powerful.~~

[20:42:03] ~~The stronger lasts longer. Energizer Max, when you commit to setting a new standard~~