

# In a Raucous Election Year, Don't Throw the Baby Out with the Bathwater

## -A Personal Perspective

-by Cynthia Marek Lundeen



For most of human history, throughout time and place, from small villages to great empires, the majority of people had no voice in their own governance.

Interestingly, in a lecture series for The Great Courses, Professor Patrick Grim noted that in 1980 only 43% of Americans polled thought there were important differences between political parties, whereas today that figure stands at 74%.

Such divergent opinions as to whether it is Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton who can best lead the U.S. forward is complicated by the fact that both candidates are seen to have shortcomings, not only by their detractors, which is to be expected, but also among some of their own supporters.

How then is a voter to arrive at a decision? One factor to consider is that each individual is seldom in total agreement with any other indi-



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vidual, including a best friend, spouse, etc., therefore, it is not truly unusual that a voter would disagree with his or her chosen candidate on some issues.

With only several weeks before the election, undecided voters appear to be weighing Donald Trump's controversial statements against Hillary Clinton's already high untrustworthy rating which was recently exacerbated by the WikiLeaks revelation that important policy position statements she makes to the public at times conflict with those she makes in private.

There is a saying which is used throughout a variety of cultures: "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater," which means, don't throw out that which is desirable along with something undesirable.

Along a similar concept, I have coined the word "chronelecticism" to describe my own

personal philosophy, which in simple terms, involves drawing insight from many schools of thought and cultures throughout time. While I certainly do not suggest that everyone should adopt my philosophy, I have found that when I mention it to others, I am often told that they also engage in a similar thought process, although they may not have put a name on it.

For voters who are still undecided, it may help to consider, after the bathwater is discarded, do you expect to have a candidate whom you trust to address the issues which

are important to you?

In this rather raucous election, it is not only Americans, but much of the world which anxiously watches to see which baby will emerge from the murky water victorious.



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