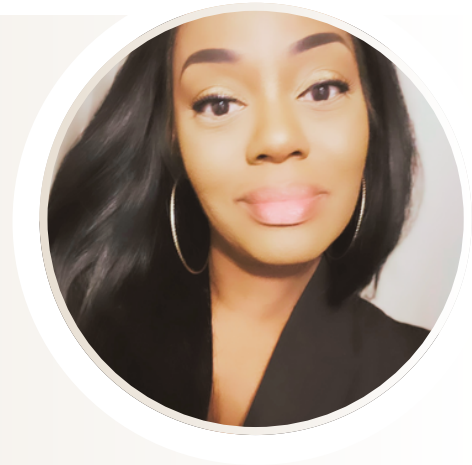


From the Editor.

The upcoming election in November is weighty. As we, Americans, decide between the Democratic incumbent President Joe Biden and the repugnant Donald, each of us holds our nation's future in our hands. Reproductive rights, immigration, gun control, climate change, and foreign policy are hugely consequential issues that we are tasked with examining as we make our way to the ballot box. That's a lot of pressure. To take things a step further I, as a Black woman, cannot help but examine each of those issues through the lens of my human experience as a Black woman. It's no secret that Black women have a higher likelihood of death during childbirth, are most impacted by abortion restrictions, and are more likely to be impacted by gun violence and environmental racism. As I see it, the life of every Black woman I know is on the line this November. I can't help but experience anxiety when I think about November.



I wish we all felt that pressure, but we don't. Just last week, a white woman told me that a colleague of hers – also a white woman – told her that she was considering withholding her vote because she didn't like either candidate. When pressed, the woman's response was, "If Donald wins, it won't impact me as much as it will others, so I am not worried." I was astounded by the audacity of her apathy.

As a Black woman in America, I am used to fighting alone, holding up my own banner, and speaking to a room full of deaf ears. Yet, I continue to fight, stand, and speak. Because if I do not fight, if I do not stand, if I do not speak then not only is my life on the line, but yours as well. How? The democracy that makes America great, that benefits us all (men and women of all races) is the democracy that the lowest of America's citizens have fought and died for – often Black women. That is the democracy that is at stake this November. No democracy is perfect because it is comprised of imperfect people. But an imperfect democracy for, of, and by the people is far better than a dictatorship saturated in rampant white supremacist policies and "Christian nationalism". That is what is on the line this November.

So, even if you are not a Black woman, if you care about democracy you, too, should be worried when you vote in November. Vote like our lives depend on it.

In Black,

Alpha.