

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2024

People-Centered Policies: Progress for The People, or All People?

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In the 2024 election cycle, campaign rallies, debates, and non-stop news coverage, give us a glimpse at the competing visions that will shape the country's future over the next four years. With issues like climate change, reproductive rights, immigration and economic justice on the line, the stakes are high for the millions of Americans waiting for real solutions. But, as the debates have revealed, we have a long way to go before we see policies that truly serve all Americans.

SiX Action believes it's time to move beyond campaign rhetoric, and decipher the policy stances of the Trump/Vance campaign and the Harris/Walz campaign.

Climate Change and Rural Communities

The campaigns reveal contrasting views on addressing climate change, each proposing differing paths forward. The Harris-Walz campaign champions clean energy investments from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Law, citing job creation and carbon reduction, particularly benefiting farmers and rural communities. In contrast, the Trump-Vance campaign promotes an "America-first" energy policy, focusing on natural gas and nuclear power, arguing it boosts energy independence and rural economies. However, this reliance on fossil fuels raises concerns about long-term sustainability.

SiX Action believes climate policy should be driven by science and centered on the needs of those most affected by the changing climate—rural communities, farmers, and those impacted most recently by Hurricane's Helene and Nadine. [For rural communities](#), we develop comprehensive solutions that balance environmental responsibility with economic growth, ensuring that the transition benefits all, not the wealthy few. By investing in clean energy, sustainable agricultural practices, and modern infrastructure, we can create economic opportunities for rural Americans, while combating climate change.

For too long, rural voices have been unheard in the climate conversation. It's time to ensure that climate solutions serve these communities, not bypass them.

Women's Reproductive Rights and Family Autonomy

The campaign conversation around reproductive rights highlights the differing policy approaches and priorities between the candidates. Harris-Walz highlights the multiple stories of women affected by restrictive abortion policy, including the story of [Amber Thurman](#), who died two weeks after Georgia enacted a six-week abortion ban. Thurman's story is a grim reminder of what is at stake in discussions of reproductive rights: the real lives of real women.

During the VP debate, Senator Vance acknowledged that "Amber Thurman should still be alive," while calling for Republicans to restore trust with the American people by supporting women

and families. However, true support for families means empowering women to make their own healthcare decisions, including access to abortion care.

To be clear, abortion bans do nothing to improve patient safety. Lawmakers should focus on expanding comprehensive healthcare, maternal health support, and resources for families—without compromising personal autonomy. High healthcare costs also limit access, making affordable care essential. Moving forward, policies that strengthen healthcare systems and support women, mothers, and families are key to equitable care. SiX Action firmly advocates for women's full autonomy over their bodies and their right to make healthcare decisions.

The Economy—For Whom?

The Harris-Walz campaign advocates for down payment assistance and workforce development, funded by ensuring the wealthiest pay their fair share. In juxtaposition, the Trump campaign favors trickle-down economics and deregulation, which have historically worsened economic inequality and concentrated wealth at the top. Between the two campaigns, we see starkly different economic visions for the future of America.

SiX Action believes it's time to reject policies that favor corporate profits and billionaire interests over working families. Decades of deliberate policy choices have widened the wealth gap and stripped power from everyday Americans. A just economy invests in people by ensuring living wages, affordable housing, healthcare access, and strong worker protections.

We call for transformative policies to redistribute resources and create pathways to prosperity for those who have been left behind, particularly communities of color, low-income families, and small business owners. Our vision for [economic justice](#) includes strengthening anti-monopoly laws, advancing tax justice, and supporting collective worker power. True economic recovery puts people, not profits, at the center of policy.

It's time to shift the balance of power back to the people so that all Americans can share in the nation's prosperity. By doing so, we can build economies in every state that are rooted in justice, dignity and shared prosperity for all.

Moving Forward to Pursue People-Centered Solutions

During the VP debate in particular, there were more moments of agreement that could serve as the foundation for bi-partisan solutions—if leaders have the courage to act. The future of our country is not predicated on one political party or the other, but on all of us coming together to create a country that prioritizes the needs of the people. Real progress requires a commitment to building a just and inclusive society—one that prioritizes comprehensive healthcare, economic justice, reproductive rights, immigration, and gun safety over political loyalty and corporate interests.

At SiX Action, we know that change starts at the state level, where communities and legislators can work together to drive meaningful, people-powered progress. SiX works through the power of state legislators to lead boldly and decisively, driving change that truly serves and represents inclusivity, collaboration, and strengthening our democracy. Our vision for America is one where every person has the freedom, resources, and support to thrive—regardless of zip code, income, background, or political affiliation. We believe that the key to creating a better tomorrow is for all American people to work hand-in-hand with their legislators to create real change.

We invite those who share this vision to join us in creating real change. To learn more about SiX's vision for the future, [start here](#). Let's move to inspire hope and drive change, together.