

# G. A. Beller

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**CLINTON vs. TRUMP: VOTERS' RIGHT TO KNOW!**

By: G. A. Beller

Let's conclude that Hillary will not get indicted, and the Republicans will come to their senses, rallying behind their voters and nominate Donald Trump. Based upon those assumptions, voters will be choosing between two candidates who surveys show the majority of voters do not trust.

For the old-timers, we remember the TV game show from the early 1960's starring Johnny Carson called "WHO DO YOU TRUST?" That question requires significantly more disclosure from both candidates.

As I believe many voters will make their choice based upon who they dislike or distrust the least, or won't even exercise their right to vote, we must demand the information required to make informed decisions.

Let's begin with Mr. Trump. During the primaries to date, he has been given a pass on a potentially major conflict of interest. He has announced that should he be elected president, he will give his business interests to his children. Trump's companies have business interests worldwide. Is it acceptable for the President of the United States to retain family assets that may come into question regarding conflicts of interest? Let's ask our legal scholars what is acceptable in this regard. In the past, presidents were required to establish blind trusts to remove any question of a conflict. Is disassociating yourself from your business interests yet those interests remaining in the family acceptable?

To take the disclosure issue a little further, it is my perception that a business mogul is subject to a significant number of lawsuits. It is not unreasonable to question Donald Trump's litigation responsibilities for a four-year term or more. It would not be improbable that many voters might think Trump is more litigious than most, but nevertheless they are entitled to know. Lawsuits require the plaintiff or the defendant to allocate significant time to the pursuit and defense of that litigation. Transferring business interests to your family does not remove your time commitment to defend or pursue the strategies of those named in the lawsuit. They cannot just transfer that obligation to someone else. Trump would most likely say that's why he hires and pays lawyers. However, that answer does not eliminate the significant amount of time the litigants must devote to resolving their dispute. A defendant must spend even a more significant amount of time. Furthermore, I suspect Trump micromanages his attorneys, as he didn't amass his wealth by relying on others to make all the decisions. The voters deserve full disclosure of all litigation Donald Trump is currently involved in worldwide, and let's have a qualified legal team analyze the question of the time commitment. If Donald Trump wants our votes and wants to become our President, we have the right to know.

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Now let's discuss candidate Clinton who along with her husband is a master at deflecting the issues. Notwithstanding the disclosure of all campaign contribution donors, it's been widely reported that The Clinton Foundation has been raising massive amounts of money. Questions have surfaced regarding the activities of this non-for profit organization and their use of funds. Certainly the answers to date have fueled more questions that need clarification as to the use of funds and the donor list disclosure. The Clinton deflection efforts are unacceptable if voters are expected to support Hillary Clinton in the general election. They may conclude that she can win because she is thought to be less dishonest than Trump; however, the voters have the right to know the answers and should demand full disclosure.

Let's conclude for the moment that both candidates are capable of performing the duties of President. Are we to just hold our noses as we pick the leader to the most powerful country in the world? How has the democratic process been reduced to such a low standard? We must DEMAND that both candidates answer our questions and *earn* our vote.

I am an independent voter with no party affiliation. To win the presidential election, the independent voter will control the outcome. The candidates must be challenged by voter demands for more specific views and full disclosure of potentially conflicted issues. They cannot be allowed to dodge these inquiries. The creditability of the office of the President of the United States is at stake.

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G. A. Beller is a self-professed political junkie and author of the novel *Not Black and White: From The Very Windy City to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, published by G. Anton Publishing/Chicago.

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