

## TALKING POINTS WITH THE UNDECIDED

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On a day of many important stories, the most important news came from Donald Trump's interview with Time Magazine. See *Donald Trump on What His Second Term Would Look Like/TIME*. In the interview, Trump confirmed that he will attempt to exercise dictatorial powers in a second term.

We have been warned.

We ignore Trump's threats at our peril and the peril of our democracy.

In describing his fever dream of autocratic powers, Trump said he would take (or allow) the following actions:

- Allow states to monitor the pregnancies of women to ensure they comply with abortion bans (a grotesque violation of liberty, privacy, and dignity).
- Fire US attorneys who refuse to prosecute defendants targeted by Trump (a violation of US norms dating to the creation of the Department of Justice).
- Initiate mass deportations of alleged illegal immigrants using the US military and local law enforcement (neither of which are authorized to enforce US immigration law).
- Pardon insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol on January 6.
- Prosecute President Biden (for unspecified and non-existent crimes).
- Deploy the National Guard to cities and states across America—likely those with predominantly Democratic populations (presumably under the Insurrection Act, a deployment would violate the terms of the Act and implementing regulations).
- Withhold funds from states in the exercise of his personal discretion (a violation of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974).
- Abandon NATO and South Asian allies if he feels the countries are not paying enough for their own defense.
- Shutter the White House pandemic-preparedness office.
- Fire tens (hundreds?) of thousands of civil servants and replace them with Trump acolytes with dubious qualifications (other than loyalty to Trump).

Most of us understand the seriousness of Trump's threats and are working tirelessly to prevent a second Trump term. But tens of millions of Americans seem oblivious or apathetic in the face of an imminent and dire threat.

**We must redouble our efforts. Commit the above list to memory. Send this newsletter or the Time Magazine article to friends, colleagues, and complete strangers who doubt that Trump is a danger to democracy. Pick two or three issues and be prepared to discuss them when the moment arises. We have been warned—and we must act accordingly.**

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