



## Value Voters

*The political left are also value voters. You might want to check out their list.*

I hope my friends and neighbors in Arizona who consider themselves “Value Voters” will consider some of my favorite middle class “values” next time they go to the polls. For example, the 40-hour work week and having weekends off has been great. I’ve enjoyed paid annual vacations, annual pay increases, cost of living adjustments, and paid holidays. It’s also been a comfort to have company paid health insurance, maternity leave, disability insurance, dental insurance and life insurance to protect my family. I always felt good about going to work because I was protected by the Occupational health and Safety Laws and Workplace Harassment Laws enforced by the EEOC. If I had lost work, I knew that Unemployment Compensation would keep my family from starving or Workman’s Compensation if I got hurt at work, and Cobra Laws would give me temporary coverage for health insurance. And best of all, my contributions into Social Security, Medicare, and my company retirement program have made it possible for me to avoid destitution in my old age.

And while you are thinking on these things and deciding which are your favorites benefits of working in America, let me remind you that all of these benefits, without exception, have their roots in collective bargaining and legislation proposed by and fought for by Democrats and unions.

There is no shortage in a political season of people to tell me what to think, or even how to think. Political candidates, media stars, political analysts, journalists, columnists, newspaper editors, actors, all have an ax to grind. Truth and objectivity are subordinated for the cause. Persuasion takes precedent over honesty. Glibness, misrepresentation, and innuendo *trump* fact, fairness, and balance. There are screaming madmen and women to the left of me and bellowing belligerent men and women to the right of me. Where is the center? Where is the middle ground? Where is sanity and reason? Who can you trust? Who can you believe?

We have come so far in creating the American Dream and yet with each step we take we sow the seeds of our own destruction. I am not one who believes that we are on the brink of disaster, but we are on a collision course driven by greed, vice, and our lust for power. We are self-centered, self-indulgent, and complacent. We have lost our drive and we are losing our edge. Help me find the center. Help me find the voice of *Independence Day*.

*Gene Ziegler, Chandler Arizona July 2018*

***Letters to The Editor – Arizona Republic - Rejecte***