




The Atlantic weighs in on the presidential race for the third time in its 159 year history

Key takeaways from *The Atlantic's* endorsement

	Editors' remarks
<p>Presidential race overall</p> 	<p>This election has become a referendum on democracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The editorial board is steadfast in the magazine's adherence to being "of no party or clique" and instead regards Trump's unfitness for office as a threat to democracy • There has not been a race where such a large number of policy makers and officeholders from one candidate's own party have publicly renounced him since Barry Goldwater's candidacy in 1964 • <i>The Atlantic's</i> other two endorsements were Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 • The editorial board underscores the significant role civil rights played in all three decisions to back a certain candidate in defense of democracy and not in endeavoring to favor one party over others
<p>Not Trump</p> 	<p>Donald Trump is unfit for the presidency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Trump has no record of public service and no qualifications for public office ... he is an enemy of fact-based discourse; he is ignorant of, and indifferent to, the Constitution" • By making himself the face of the birther movement in 2011, Trump succeeded in stoking fear among white Americans of dark-skinned foreigners—a tact which propelled him to where he is now • While the board is careful not to dismiss the many Trump supporters motivated by legitimate anxieties about the future, it does find Trump's manipulation of these fears cause for disqualification
<p>Clinton</p> 	<p>Though not a perfect candidate, Clinton has earned her place in the race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Atlantic's</i> decision to endorse was driven more by Trump's unfitness than Clinton's merits • Given her experience serving as first lady, as a senator from New York and as secretary of state, Clinton is among the most prepared candidates ever to seek the presidency • The editorial board is "confident she understands the role of the United States in the world"

Sources: The editors, "Against Donald Trump," *The Atlantic*, October 5, 2016; Image via The Noun Project.