



Where Do You Stand?

When I started *Bloom* 12 years ago, I made the decision to keep politics out of the magazine. I imagined that including politics in the editorial mix would be a surefire way of alienating some readers and potential advertisers. Especially advertisers. Like almost all newspapers and magazines, *Bloom* depends on advertisements to exist. The situation here is even more critical than at most publications because the Bloomington market is so small and the magazine is free.

But events in this country over the past year have caused me to change my mind about politics in the magazine. You may have noticed the difference in recent issues, both in the opinions expressed in our columns and the topics we choose to write about. (For example, “The Plight of Asylum-Seekers” on page 122.)

I now believe that it's important for every thoughtful, responsible person to speak out about the state of America. While athletes, artists, authors, performers, religious and civic leaders, educators, and politicians have platforms where they can be heard by a wide audience, most people don't. Which is why I am making this offer to you:

Tell us where you stand on what's happening in this country, and we will print your thoughts in an upcoming issue of *Bloom*.

Some suggested topics: North Korea, Charlottesville, investigations into Russian interference and possible collusion in the 2016 presidential election, global warming, race relations, possible conflicts of interest and transparency within the current White House administration, traditional media coverage, the influence of social media, health care, tax reform, immigration, LGBTQ+ issues, the proposed border wall, and the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

You might also want to weigh in on the performances of Vice President Mike Pence; Attorney

General Jeff Sessions; Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt; Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson; Secretary of Energy Rick Perry; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; and Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, Mitch McConnell, and Paul Ryan.

And, of course, you might want to assess the job President Donald J. Trump is doing.

Your comments will reach approximately 30,000 readers of the magazine and many thousands more on magbloom.com. We will send the magazines containing your letters to Sens. Joe Donnelly and Todd Young, to Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, and to President Trump to show where readers of *Bloom Magazine* stand.

Here are the ground rules:

- Keep your letter to no more than 150 words.
- Include your full name.
- Include your address and phone number. (We will not publish this information, but we may use it to confirm your identity.)
- We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and inappropriate content.
- If you like, you can send a headshot of yourself. We will print as many as space allows.
- Deadline: November 10, 2017.

Post letters to:
Editor
Bloom Magazine
P.O. Box 1204
Bloomington, IN 47402

Email letters to:
Subject: Where I Stand
editor@magbloom.com

I hope to hear from you. Your opinions matter.

Malcolm Abrams
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