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This is the third in a six-paper series. It speaks to the state of America's economy under the existing administration specifically as it relates to trust, or, should I say, the lack of trust that voters have in the economy overseen by this hapless administration, specifically in District 25.

The inexorable truth about stability is that it acts as the engine that drives economic growth. In fact, stability is the number one ingredient necessary for small businesses to make investments and thrive. However, the latest Gallup poll published in May 2024 indicates only 30% of Americans think they are better off today than they were three years ago, as the Consumer Confidence Index poll continues to drop. This gut-wrenching truth tells the story of Bidenomics – a dismal failure!

The economic slide taxpayers experienced over the term of this administration is getting worse, not better, if that is even possible. All recent polls are speaking the same language as the Democrats struggle to find any bright spot in an otherwise dismal economic forecast. Lacking that, they simply pin the economic problems on the former President, attempting to make him the scapegoat while outright lying about the true economic condition small entrepreneurs face today.

Albeit this article is not about Trump's attempt to regain the presidency, his presidency is the standard by which many voters judge a good economy from a bad one. It was a time when District 25 was booming, and visitors flocked to the area while small businesses prospered, driven by their belief in a stable economy, propelling them to invest and hire.

During his administration, there existed a can-do spirit in the economy that emanated from the White House down like never before, driving the economy forward. And isn't it ironic that after the dramatic decline of confidence in the U.S. economy since this administration assumed office with rising inflation and a soaring interest rate, we suddenly find economists on the left speaking about the growth in jobs, the low unemployment rate, and how gas prices are coming down. What they are not revealing is the quality of jobs, who is filling those jobs, and why flooding the market with our country's oil reserves is the primary reason that prices at the pump decline.

To wit, I point to the recent Gallop Economic Confidence Index (CCI) which indicates the inflation rate remained at 3.5% as of May 2024, when the target rate continues to be 2%, which is necessary to get things under control.

The damage inflation has inflicted on small to midsize businesses and consumer confidence has crushed the bottom lines of far too many businesses within District 25 leading to mistrust. Putting politics aside, policymakers have been hung up on trying to live within the guidelines

under Bidenomics on both sides of the aisle, which is mostly about giveaway programs to gain votes.

Until recently, I was unaware the term Bidonomics was not created by President Biden or his party, but was invented by the Republican Party to exemplify how the economy is failing under Biden's leadership. Our illustrious president and his team of leftists believed their course was the correct course to improve on President Trump's economy. Biden's disdain for President Trump's success in entrusting the American spirit to the individual entrepreneur while building a prosperous economy is in stark contrast to what we experience today, and to add insult to injury, this president is proud of the job he is doing. Talk about disconnected!

You may wonder what I mean when I speak of the great divide. To answer this question, one must first recognize and acknowledge the gap between the super-wealthy, the rich, and the local entrepreneur toiling day-after-day to keep the doors open has never been greater.

Fortune Magazine's top 400 richest people in the world shows the gap between the wealthy and the rich continues to grow. And those at the bottom of the economic food chain, especially those entrepreneurs, have been hit the hardest in the United States, as the small business failure rate grew by 52% between 2022 and 2023.

This is an alarming number given small businesses across the country, especially in District 25, are the lifeline to economic growth and prosperity. Typically, small businesses account for 65% to 70% of job creation. Jobs creation from small businesses overwhelmingly comes from the little-known local companies and not from the big brand companies that comprise the Fortune 500 list. And when small business owners mistrust the system to provide a stable economic environment they can believe in, the result is a **GREAT DIVIDE!**