FROM THE ARCHIVES

Dear Mr. President

Additional Letters
From the Archives brings primary source documents and exploration into the classroom. These educational resources, carefully curated by our Education team, are meant to enhance historical discussions around relevant topics of today in history, civics, geography, and economics.

“Dear Mr. President” brings together a wide array of letters written to President Reagan shortly after he was elected president on 4 November 1980. The letters come from students of all ages and from across the country. Some are letters that were written by the student on their own, while others were a class project. These letters contain the hopes, dreams, and concerns of these students for the incoming administration.

The following letters are from shortly after the election of President Reagan in 1980. They are from a variety of grades and schools from around the nation. The letters are grouped by school with the cover page included if the teacher wrote one. They can be used either on their own or in conjunction with the original “Dear Mr. President” resource.

Developed by
The Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Learning Center
Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute
40 Presidential Drive, Suite 200
Simi Valley, CA 93065
www.reaganfoundation.org/education
Dear Governor Reagan,

I had a feeling you would be elected as President for our state. If I was an adult, also a citizen, I would have voted for you.

Everyone says if you were President that you would start World War III. Could you tell me if you are going to start World War III?

If you are, please try to change your mind. We all know you will be a very good President.

We all congratulate you.

Sincerely yours,

Clarissa Castro
Dear Governor Reagan,

Congratulations on winning the election. I'd like to talk to you about something. But I can't do it now. I'm writing you a small letter. In the state of California there is a lot of smog. It would be good for you to do something about it. Because smoke is bad for you—your eyes water and you cough a lot and get sick. Another thing—

Inflation has gone up this year. One dollar is worth a little bit of money. Little kids like us barely have enough money to buy a candy bar. Some candy bars cost one dollar and the candy bars are as big as a Babe Ruth. At the market some people can't even afford to buy groceries. Now let's change the subject and talk
about ourselves. I hope you are a good president. My name is Edith Reyes. I am 10 years old and when you are already president I am going to be 11 years old. I saw the election and you were very happy when you heard you were going to be president. I also liked your speech. I also hope for what is best for our country. That’s all.

Yours Truly,

Edith Reyes
Dear Governor Reagan,

Congratulations, Governor Reagan. I'm glad you won. I am a girl from Annadale School. My name is Srithip/Sē-tip/ and I know you will be a good president. I've seen you on t.v before and I've seen your wife too. You two look like a very happy couple. Governor Reagan, I want to know why children can't vote like other people? I'm asking you why children can't vote because we have are feelings too. Could you please write to me and tell me why children can't vote? Thank you for reading this letter.

Your Truly,

Srithip/Sē-tip/
Dear Mr. President

People are so poor that... congrats. Some people their jobs back. It would be nice to give you won.

I’m glad you won.

Dear President Reag...
Dear Mr. President,

Price down. Well by be nice to put the nothing at all it would or toys or clothing and they can't buy food.

Your Fan Jennifer
445 North Church
Tupelo, Mississippi
November 6, 1980

Dear Sir,

Is it hard being President Sir? My Mother does not like you. I'm glad you won the Presidential election even we didn't vote for you. I'm glad you
From the Archives: Dear Mr. President

Won but my Mom and Dad are not glad, if I
were old enough you'd have
my vote. I really I'm
glad you won and I hope
you are President for 4
more years. I really like
you and stay President
for the rest of your life.
President Reagan.

Your friend,
Laura Lee Smith
Dear President-elect Reagan,

I hope that since you were elected president on Nov. 4, 1980, that there will not be a war. Because if there is there will be a lot wounded. I don't want some of my friends and relatives to get hurt. But I'm glad that you were elected President.

Sincerely yours,
Dawn Hall
Dear President-elect Reagan,

I write to you to congratulate you on winning the 1980 elections. For the coming years in which you will be serving, I hope the best luck will come your way.

"Reagan!"

Sincerely,
Denee Caldeiron

"Yea!"
2426 Ridge Ave
Rockford, Ill.
Nov. 5, 1980

Dear President-elect Reagan,

I didn't know who I wanted for president but after the debate I made my mind. President Carter didn't really answer the questions. If you do what you said you would we will do O.K. for four years or maybe.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Eriksen

P.S. Free our hostages.
Dear President-elect Reagan,

I am glad you are our next president and that you don’t approve of the E.R.A. I hope you find a solution to the hostage problem.

Sincerely,

Joe MacMurdy
1204 Mulberry
Rockford, Ill.,
Nov. 8, 1980

Dear President-elect Reagan,

I congratulate you.
I hope you lower taxes,
free our hostages, and grant
the E.R.A. (equal rights amend-
dment).

Lisa Hoarde
Nov. 7, 1980

Dear President-elect Reagan,

I am 11 yrs. old, white, I go to Collin School, and I'm in 6th grade. I am glad you were elected president.

Please get the hostages out of Iran some way other than a war.

I think if you have a nice long talk with the Iranians who are holding our people, they just might give them back.

Yours Truly,
Sara Regilla
Dear Mr. President,

I am a 6th grade student at Hillcrest Elementary School in Alabama. My name is [Student Name].

I am writing to you because I want to be president of the United States. I think I should run for president because I believe I have the skills and qualifications to lead our country.

I have always been interested in politics and I have read about the history of the United States. I think it would be an honor to serve as the president of our great nation.

I have some ideas on how I would like to run for president. First, I would want to campaign across the country to listen to the concerns of the American people. I would want to meet with leaders from different backgrounds and I would want to learn about their ideas for the future.

I understand that being president is a difficult job, but I am ready for the challenge. I believe I have the strength and determination to make a difference in our country.

I hope you will consider my application to run for president. I am excited about the possibility of serving our nation and I am committed to doing my best to make our country great again.

Sincerely,

[Student Name]

Hillcrest Elementary, Alabama

Nov 3, 1980
514 Whispering Pines
Enterprise, Alabama 36330
November 3, 1980

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

In the next four years, I think you should do something about the welfare program. Our parents are working hard while the people who get welfare buy big cars and wear expensive
clothes, the things we can't have because practically half of the money our parents earn go to these people.

I think congress should pass a law requiring welfare recipients to earn the money they are given by working in jobs in public buildings, government offices, libraries, post offices, etc.

I also think you should do something about the Iran situation. The United States and Iran should come to some kind of agreement and
become friends.

Respectfully,
Ginny
Lewis
304 Cherry Hill Road
Enterprise, Alabama 36330
Oct. 28, 1980

Dear Mr. President-Elect,

I think war is terrible. I would like to have a strong military, but I hope we can work things out in a better way than having a war. I hope we can become friends with Russia, because to be everlasting enemies is just not right. I do hope we can become good friends with all the countries. Then not only will we be highly thought of, but also we would be free of all wars. I understand that this is almost impossible and they do do a few things we don't agree with, but I hope this will not stand in the way of friendship.

I hope we will be able to protect our people and show other countries the high value we put on our citizens.

Hello!! Have a nice day!!

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Mr. President-Elect
Dear President,

While you are the President of the United States, I would like for you to improve the following. First of all I would like for you to cut inflation. Inflation is becoming very bad. The poor people especially are in a jam. The prices seem to be rising every day. I also would love to see the hostages soon to get their homes safely. Another is for the government to improve our military strength for the purpose of a war. Also the U.S. needs to invent better war bombs and other war equipment. I feel that the United States needs to be above Russia instead of Russia being on top. I strongly believe that this next four years that we as Americans can accomplish these things I have mentioned if we work hard enough and if we work together as a nation.

Yours truly,

Maria Merritt
Dear Mr. President - Elect,

Hi! I'm a sixth grade student and I would like to tell you some of the things I expect from you in the next four years.

1) If the hostages have not been rescued yet, rescue them!
2) To have a stronger military force.
3) Cut taxes, so people won't have to pay so much.
4) Help inflation and try to cut food and gas costs.
5) Try to keep Japan from getting world power.
6) Help the elderly people with Medi-Care.

I don't expect all this to happen, it would be a miracle come true. All I expect is for you to try.

(over)

Our thoughts and prayers are with you each day.
Thanks for listening!

Sincerely,

Natasha Jackson
Dear Mr. President-Elect,

My main concern for your next four year term is with inflation. I hope you intend to use all your power as President of the U.S. to do all you can about inflation. It has hit all classes of people. The young couples just starting out and most especially the retired working classes living on fixed incomes. It is becoming impossible to live comfortably with increasing cost of food, shelter and clothing. These are the essentials in order to survive. The increasing cost of gas is ridiculous!

The President of the U.S. is the most
powerful position to be held and is an honor. I am sure and a substantial reduction in inflation is a sure way of insuring a long and continuous position as President of these United States of America.

Sincerely Yours,
Regina Stewart
Dear Mr. Reagan,

I urge you to consider the elderly in this nation and not do away with Medicare. I also am urging you to do something for the poor black Americans who will desperately need your help in the next four years. I like your economic policy but I hope you don’t take away from other organizations that we need.

Sincerely,

Carla George

Nov. 5, 1980

Dear Mr. Reagan,

I urge you to keep in mind South Florida (and its racial immigration problems) along with the rest of the country. I know and have always believed that you are the man for the job, and with God’s help you will bring America back to its feet. (I’m proud I had a chance to work on your campaign here.)

Yours truly,

Mickey Roca

GOOD LUCK.
These letters were written by my 4th grade students on election day. They wanted the new president to start his new term off right, with their concerns uppermost on his mind.

Donna Boucher
Rose School
980 N. Ash
Escondido, CA. 92027
Dear Mr. President,

My concern is about the bills and food prices. They are too high. My mother is in the hospital and I know that the bill of the hospital is going to be so high that we will not be able to buy much of the food that we need. Books and other things are expensive. I hope you take care of this and very soon.
Write me back at:

1466 E. Lincoln 92027
Phone Number 746-0308

Sincerely
Jessie Hernandez
Dear Mr. President,

My mother just went to Germany because my grandpa died and she almost went broke because it cost so much to fly there.

Well, when she came back our car broke down, and it is going to cost about $800.00 to fix it. Luckily, my grandma saved $200 for her. I think she has $600 in the bank. She still has to buy food and pay water, electricity, gas, insurance, bills, and she still owes money on the house. If I were president I would make things better.

From,
Kristin
Dick
Dear Mr. President,

My concern is inflation, gas, hostages, Iran crisis, oil, Russia, and electricity. Since these things are affecting everyone, please work on it. My Mom and Dad pay $200 a week on groceries and that's a lot of money just to eat. When I got my new clothes it cost $50.00 just for me not counting my 8 brothers and sisters. Please work on it.

Sincerely,

Plaza Heiland
Dear Elected President,

How does it feel to be President? I let it feel good to have planned all those years. It really wanted Carter to win, but my mom said you would do a good job, and I think you will. I didn’t mean to say I hoped Carter would even to be mean, I just wanted to be honest. I hope you mean what you say about all those promises (smile).

I like the idea of having strict laws like if you get in jail you stay in jail. I don’t like the law that says if you get public aid you have to get off.
of it. Don't think I'm on welfare because I'm not. But, some people need to have public aid. I have this friend whose dad almost died because of an operation. But God got him. He's not a cop. He's got two children and a wife. If that the wife is unemployed. But she can work. You're a good sport. That's what I am. I am scared of is that you want America to be great again and you might start a war. Please don't do that, you might kill every body. That's crazy risking millions of lives to prove something. If you have a soft heart you will think about that.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Write back. Oh and congratulations!
Jocelyn McFarlane  
Koolhans School  
30 Flower Street  
Chula Vista, California  
92010

Dear Mr. Reagan,

Congratulations President. Soon to be. I am very glad that you have won. Because I know that you can do the job and I am sure you do, too. I think you deserve every bit of it. I am from New York, but I moved to California several months ago. I live at 1448 Minot Ave. The old number at my other house in New York was 268 Sheaffer St. in Brooklyn. I miss New York very much. I shall get off of that subject right now. How does it feel to be elected President? My education means a lot to me and my school needs more supplies, say for instance, post
equipment and art materials. My school is depending on you for things like that. And to help teachers get raises, please President Reagan, be a real President when it is time and help!

Sincerely,

Viola McCurley
Dear President Reagan:

I am very glad you were made President. We have 23 students in our class. How many people is there in your family? I have eight counting me. How old are you? I hope that you make good choices for our country. I'm glad that my parents voted for you. If I could vote right now I would vote for you too. Here is a suggestion that I would do if I were President. Make only 6th school 6th vacation. I wish it would happen cause you learn things in summer besides learning in the school time. So then it would be fair anyways. P.S. Please write back.

Sincerely yours, Amy Barrow.
Our new president.

Ronald Reagan.
Dear President Reagan,

Congratulations! I hope you like your new job. I am happy you won. How old are you? How many kids do you have? We have 29 kids in our class. Here is a suggestion if I were president, lower the taxes. Please write me back.

Good luck!

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan Campbell
Dear Reagan,

Congratulations! I am happy that you won. Be careful what you do.

Dear Nancy, I hope you are happy. I were elected President I would help make good rules and help Cuba and get the price of gas down. I would help poor people. And help get the hostages back to their families. How many children do you have. Good luck!

Please write back.

Sincerely yours,

Diana Katherine Zambrano

look at back
This is me.
Katherine. I am from Venezuela.
Nov 10 1980
L.A.

Bill Foley III
Box 1565f
Park Springs
Ks. 66012.
11/4/80

Dear, 
(president) Ronald Reagan,

Hello! You may remember me, and again you may not.

In the event that you do not, I am Bill Foley, and I have written you two times already. I also am very, very proud to say that you wrote me a personally signed letter, and that I am a friend of the 40th President of the United States of America.

I must say that I don't exactly know why I wrote you this letter, I guess I just want to congratulate you on your outstanding victory over Mr. Carter, Mr. Anderson.

I am writing you this letter on the 4th Day of November, Therefore, when you receive this you will be next in line for the biggest job in the country.

Most of the people of the U.S. know that Mr. Carter has raised inflation 14% since he was elected as the 39th (pres), and we are hoping that you will be able to correct his mistakes. We understand that you, or anyone else could solve these problems in one term. I want you to know that people may criticize you after your first term, but I think you will prove to be the greatest president of the U.S.

I'm only 11 years old, but am impressed that important people take the time to communicate with the youth of America.

Again I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Your Friend,

Bill Foley III.
Dear President Reagan:

Congratulations on your victory! My name is Jennifer Gaipa if you can please answer me write back. Do you think the hostages will be released when you are President? Do you know if your going to make inflation go down; if so how do you intend to do it? I hope you can bring the prices down, and get the hostages out of Iran. We are all praying for you and wishing you the best of luck for the next four years.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Gaipa
November 5, 1980

Dear President,

Elect Reagan. I hope you do a good job in fighting inflation. We all hope that you don't start a war because we all want to live.

From
Lee Manna
Dear Mr. President elect,

Our class has been talking about the election. Our teacher asked us to write a letter to you and tell you a few things I would like for you to do in your four years of presidency. Here are a few things such as, cut down on unnecessary welfare, cut down on taxes and most important of all keep the United States from going into war with Iran.

Your Friend,

Bill Ward
Nov 6, 1980

Dear President Reagan,

I am glad you are president because we need somebody new.

Please don't start a war because I don't want to be blown up.

Would you please bring down the prices of dirtbikes and food.

Respectfully,

64 Scudder Rd.
Newtown, CT 06470
November 5, 1980

Dear Mr. Reagan,

I am in 5th grade. If I were old enough to vote, I would vote for you. I am happy that you won for president. My teacher, Miss Masfch, read us an encyclopedia that had your name in it. I found out that you were a movie star! I am sure that you can lower inflation and get the hostages out of Iran. Good luck with being president.

Respectfully,

Miss Valerie Dubeck
Ventura County Scholars Program

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Scholars Program awards Ventura County, Calif., high school seniors who exemplify outstanding leadership skills and personal character with a total of $50,000 in scholarships annually.

Student Leadership Program

This five day program will develop leadership skills with a goal of accomplishing the following task: identify a problem in the community and create a Leadership Action Plan to address that problem.

The GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

The GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program honors the legacy and character of our nation’s 40th President by rewarding college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Through the generous support of General Electric, this national program awards $40,000 in scholarships to numerous high school students each year.

Leadership and the American Presidency Program

The Leadership and the American Presidency is a program designed to facilitate leadership development among undergraduate students through the unique lens of the American presidency. This accredited course is grounded in real history as students critically examine the leadership journeys of presidents in relation to their own lives. Students hear from real leaders in the fields of business, government, and the nonprofit sectors learning lessons on leadership, while simultaneously applying all of these skills in the real world in an internship setting and in an authentic culminating course assessment.

Great Communicator Debate Series

The Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Debate Series is a national series of high school debates that develops informed citizens and leaders. At the National Championship, a total of $40,000 in scholarships is awarded.

Student Leader Award

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute offers high school administrators a way to recognize outstanding high school students whose leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship skills are emblematic of our nation’s 40th President.

www.reaganfoundation.org/education