

To the Editor:

What a difference a week makes! Watching the Democratic National Convention last week was like a breath of fresh air after the previous week in Cleveland. We heard from the Democrats what we need to hear: that we are already a great nation, that we do, yes, have problems, but that we have a national ticket that is ready and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Both Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine understand the needs of America and Americans. On the domestic front, they understand the unacceptable persistence of income inequality, the need for a higher minimum wage for working class people, the value of educational opportunities that are not astronomically expensive and that prepare our workforce for 21st century jobs, and the devastating effect that the Supreme Court case of *Citizens United* has on our democracy.

On the international scene, Clinton and Kaine understand the threat of global warming, the evil of ISIL, the treachery of Russia, the value of NATO, and the complexity of the Middle East crisis.

It was clear from the Convention that their comprehension of these issues has led to thoughtful policies for addressing them. Clinton, in particular, has standing among and respect from world leaders.

It was all a far cry from the Republican National Convention where there was no substantive discussion of the issues we face. Only doom and gloom. Republicans nominated a man who lacks the temperament, empathy and knowledge to lead this country.

At the Democratic National Convention, the Democrats squarely faced the issues and proposed solutions. We have a nominee whose actions show a steady temperament, great empathy, and superior knowledge of the challenges we face. The message was clear: Yes We Can!

Ellen Wandrei
Bedford