

# The **BIG** Issues

The president has to tackle big issues that are facing the United States. Here are some of the issues Americans will be talking about this election season.

## The Economy

Unemployment, or the number of Americans who are out of work, is a big concern for every U.S. president. Without jobs, people can't support themselves and their families. Plus, when more people are working, the whole U.S. economy gets a boost. People spend more money, which helps businesses and creates more jobs.

Over the past 10 years, the number of unemployed Americans had been dropping. By this past February, the number of people who were unemployed was just under 6 million. But the outbreak of Covid-19 quickly changed that. In April alone, more than 20 million Americans lost their jobs. As businesses across the U.S. slowly reopen, it remains to be seen how fully they will bounce back and how many people will be able to go back to work.

Even as Americans go back to work, millions will face a problem they had before the spread of Covid-19. Their pay hasn't increased in years—even as many



A New York City store shut down due to coronavirus

businesses were making **profits**. Some people argue that one solution would be to raise the national minimum wage. That is the lowest amount per hour that someone can legally be paid for most jobs. The national minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. (Many cities and states already require employers to pay more than \$7.25 per hour)

But others say raising the minimum wage will hurt businesses that can't afford to pay workers more, especially businesses that have been hurt by sudden closures this year. Instead, they want the government to cut taxes on large companies. They say that the extra money will enable companies to hire more workers.

### WORDS TO KNOW

**profits:** the amount of money that remains after all the costs of running a business have been subtracted from all the money earned

**pandemic:** an outbreak of a disease that spreads quickly and affects many people around the world

**deporting:** forcing a person who is not a citizen to leave the country

