

off the fence.

America's 2020

6 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. A Big Year Ahead

As 2020 begins, Americans are getting ready not only for a turbulent election year but also for their individual dreams and challenges. A right-wing conservative student leader wants to make a career in big politics, a social worker on the South Side of Chicago wants to run for Congress, an illegal immigrant from India works as a driver in New York dreaming of big money, and a couple in Utah are trying to get their neighbors from both political camps to sit down at the same table.

2. The Calm Before The Storm

While the corona virus is still far away, the division of the USA is evident even among evangelical Christians. A group of liberal Evangelicals is touring the country by bus to convince people to vote against President Trump. In a small town in Missouri, however, another pastor drums for Trump - and incites against gays. An attorney in Atlanta fights for the rights of immigrants, and a social worker in Chicago is in the final stages of her internal party candidacy for a seat in Congress.

3. On The Brink Of Civil War

The corona pandemic affects the USA with varying degrees of severity. While public life in New York is already at a standstill and the dreams of the Indian immigrant suddenly recede into the distance, the mayor of Clairton is still busy with the normal challenges of his impoverished steel city - before he too finally has to organize public food distributions to save his citizens from starvation. The same picture in Chicago: The social worker whose candidacy for Congress has just crashed out is now helping with food spending in her neighborhood, while the conservative pastor in Missouri is still playing down the threat of Corona. And right in the middle of the pandemic, the news of George Floyd dying in Minneapolis by police violence is bursting. The incident shakes the country and leads to violent protests in many cities. The liberal pastor, who had to cancel his bus tour because of Corona, mingles with the crowd - and tries in vain to mediate between protesters and police. The violence escalates, the USA is looking into an abyss.

4. The Tensile Test

While the number of new infections in Europe is continuously decreasing, the corona pandemic is dramatically worsening in the USA. The great social inequalities are becoming apparent like through magnifying glass, and the rift between Trump supporters and opponents is deepening

even further. A good three months before the election, the United States of America appears more divided than ever before.

5. Before The Decision

Only a few weeks before the presidential election, the protagonists of our series review the turbulent year. Whatever the outcome of the election on November 3 - the result will have a very concrete impact on their lives and their future.

6. The Struggle Continues