Almost four years ago, despite our differences — in politics, religion, and ideology — this country elected Barack Obama. The evening of his election was an historic moment for all Americans. We were proud to be Americans. It was a warm night, candles were lit, people were holding hands and tears were shed. This great country stood up and did something that many believed impossible — we elected a black American man to the most important and powerful position in the world. We believed, or wanted to believe, that this relatively unknown, highly charismatic, outsider had the hope and audacity to reach across race, religion, national origin, and yes even political affiliation and was going to heal this great nation.

This man, our president, made many promises. He told us that he would cut the deficit in half, he would have unemployment down below 6 percent, he made commitments about improving family income, reforming Medicare and Social Security, and reforming immigration, just to name a few. My area of expertise is recruiting and selecting top performers. I can tell you that people make all kinds of claims when they are interviewing and that politicians make all kinds of promises when they are trying to get your vote. I have a golden rule that has served me well and it goes like this — “When all else fails, believe the observable.” Put aside the way they look, their eloquence, their ability to convince and persuade, then observe what they have actually done because there is no better predictor of the future than to examine the past.

So let’s examine how President Obama has performed over the last three-plus years. Unemployment was at 7.8 percent and it is still at 7.8 percent; not below 6 percent. The average unemployment rate over that time is 8.98 percent — the worst record in recent history. The real unemployment rate is 14.7 percent — 23 million Americans out of work. Many have given up hope. The federal deficit was at $10.6 trillion and it is now at $16.1 trillion. This is a national tragedy. I can go on and on — median family income down $4,300 per family, gas prices at $3.75 a gallon up from $1.86 a gallon when Mr. Obama took office; 47 million people are on food stamps up from 32 million, no reforms of immigration, Social Security or Medicare.

America can do better. As I travel the world, people of other countries ask me: “When is America going to get their act together and help pull the world economy together?” My answer is Mitt Romney. Mr. Romney is a hardworking, compassionate, principled, articulate leader that has a proven record of success. He wants this success for all Americans and has a plan to help us get there. Why is it that he is often vilified in the media for being successful? When did Americans decide that it is a crime to be a success? Is it okay for Oprah Winfrey, Donald Trump and the Kardashians, but not for a presidential candidate? This just is the media imposing their political agenda again.

Sure, President Obama inherited a tough economy. But nearly four years have passed and we’re much worse off than when he took office. Someone once said that “you cannot talk your way out of what you behaved your way into.”

Enough enchanted speeches already. President Obama’s had his chance and I believe that it’s our duty as American citizens to replace this president on Nov. 6 and quit just hoping for change. It’s time to ensure a change with our votes on Election Day. My suggestion is to take a hard look at the last four years, turn off the TV, avoid the negative ads and vote with your head and not just your heart. Or just consider if you would replace an employee whose own record is so poor that he has to keep blaming his predecessor rather than to take responsibility for his total lack of ability to accomplish the goals that he was hired to accomplish — no matter how much of our money he has spent trying?

The time for trying is over, it’s time for doing; it’s time for Mitt Romney.

The Perrys will host Mitt Romney in their home on Saturday when he visits Perrysburg.