

# Politicians lie the most - who would have thought?

**Devin Rokyta, Moscow-Pullman Daily News Editorial Board**

Here's an old joke: How do you know a politician is lying? His lips are moving.

We'd like to add "her" to the answer - yes, Hillary, we are thinking of you.

We all lie - according to experts most of us started around the age of 3 - but, it turns out, some of us just do it more and politicians are the kings (and queens) of telling fibs.

According to a recent story from The Associated Press, experts in psychology and political science say politicians lie more often than your average Joe and Jolene, distorting the truth more frequently and deceiving in larger ways - and of course the consequences are much higher.

Did anyone really need an expert in psychology or political science to tell us that?

Still, what we are seeing unfold on the political stage is especially concerning.

"I feel more worried about lying in public life (specifically by politicians, and in particular, Trump) than I ever have before," Bella DePaulo, a University of California, Santa Barbara, psychology researcher, wrote in an email to the AP. When lies succeed, they make it "more tempting to lie. Lies can stick. They can have a lingering effect, even if they are debunked."

Remember death panels? How about "If you like your plan, you can keep your plan"?

And this oldie but goodie: "Iraq has weapons of mass destruction and supports al Qaida."

Of course presidential frontrunners Hillary Clinton and reality TV star Donald Trump have distorted the truth and lied so often that it is next to impossible to know where either actually stands on the issues. According their enemies, at least, which are legion. And the lies, flip flopping and truth bending will likely only become more commonplace as the two begin to position themselves for the general election.

Lies from politicians, even at the lowest levels of government (think Flint, Mich.), erode public trust, confuse the public and have other extreme consequences.

We've all reluctantly accepted that our political leaders lie to us - it is just politics as usual. Unfortunately, these are people we really should be holding to a much higher standard.