

On Election Day

November 8, 2022
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We are at the end of another sickening season of deceit, exaggeration, irresponsibility, and worse. Our system of nominating and electing people is archaic, driven by private money, and too often produces mediocre, self-serving, even corrupt, policymakers.

Republicans have made lying integral to their marketing. Democrats are continually on the defensive as the opposition hurls vile charge after vile charge, from accusations of organized pedophilia at the highest levels of Democratic leadership to allegations of illicit grassroots ballot box stuffing and software attacks on election machines that inflate vote totals for Democrats.

Because I have made campaign donations, I am daily besieged with e-mail messages and texts literally begging—*begging!*—me to help again and again and again. And if I give again, I will be asked again and again and again and again and again...and again and again... And, if I don't, the endless messages assure me the consequences will be villainously disastrous. "Unsubscribing" is effective in some cases but not all.

Polls currently are predicting the worst for Democrats but ever since they roundly forecast a trump drubbing in 2016 and the degenerate *won*, I don't look at them. They are completely irrelevant though I'm concerned they might influence people to vote or not vote.

Campaign advertisements are constructed of misstatements, half-truths, ad hominin attacks, Big Lies. Candidates excoriate each other in base ways rather than detailing plans for maintaining and improving the lives of citizens.

I'd like to see political advertising banned. Period. It's a misleading waste of money. Those interested in holding public office should be required to fill out an application that delves into their histories of paying taxes, obeying laws, and accumulating credentials through education and work. These should then be checked by an impartial panel comprising individuals from both major parties.

Candidates should be given broadcast and webcast time—free of charge!—to state what they intend to do. Debates should be mandatory and refusal to participate grounds for disqualification. Giving air time at no cost to candidates for principled explanations of plans and debates would be a great way to use our national and state broadcasting systems—the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television.

Fundraising too should be banned. Instead, tax revenue should help quality candidates with appropriate credentials and well-grounded ideas explain their

positions. Public financing would take a lot of graft, greed, and other corruption out of the process.

I'm a rationalist and hardcore conservative and the thought of a raft of radical, Christian nationalists winning is disgusting and upsetting, but I'll remain optimistic until the final tallies are announced.

And I've survived benighted, right-wing governance before many times: Nixon, Reagan, Bush Jr., trump, and in Wisconsin, myth-addled Walker. Each waged war on liberty and the right to live as individuals see fit. But we have survived their governance and will continue to survive if a new mob of totalitarians is elected.

Probably those reading this think I'm a registered Democrat, but definitely I am not. I wouldn't join a party that dug the country more deeply into the terrible slaughter of Vietnamese or aided and abetted right wingers since the early 20th century in prosecuting a moronic policy against the use of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and other recreational drugs. Democrats are every bit as bad in this regard as Republicans, though in recent years they've worked to at least legalize marijuana.

However, I will proudly admit I've *never* voted for a Republican because their candidates are *a/ways* the greater of two evils. *Always*.

The completely creepy situation we find ourselves in will not go away until we change how public servants are elected. Biggest problem is they themselves probably don't want change.

Most likely Republicans would be more opposed than Democrats because traditionally they have the corporations and other monied interests on their side. Think I'll contact my various senators and other representatives and see what they have to say about these ideas.

Meanwhile, I have to wrap this and go vote!

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