

You Too Can Become A Politician

by Michelle Mostovy-Eisenberg

Why are amateurs and nonprofessionals getting involved in politics? What does a Hollywood actor or business tycoon know about the world of politics? Can a former wrestler really do well in the political arena?

Lately, American society has seen a flood of nonprofessional politicians announcing their candidacy for public office. Actors Warren Beatty and Cybill Shepard want to run for President, as does talk show host Jerry Springer (Springer has held public office before). Businessmen Donald Trump and billionaire Ross Perot want to run for the highest elected office in the land. Basketball star Charles Barkley is expressing that he would like to run for Governor, as does actor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Oprah Winfrey's name is also mentioned in the presidential nominee's forum.

Seems like nowadays, anyone with a couple million dollars to their name can run, doesn't matter if you know anything about politics, geography, history, etc. Is the world of politics turning into just a popularity contest? Are we Americans going to vote for someone just because he played a president in the movies? Or are we going to add some slot machines to the Oval Office?

Are the foundations of our government so frail that anyone nowadays can be elected president? What do Jerry Springer, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Donald Trump, Warren Beatty and all the other loonies out there who call themselves a "serious" candidate for public office stand for anyway? Do they have a platform? What issues will they press for once elected? What is their stand on abortion, health care, the death penalty, or gun control? Or can these people even find Washington, D. C. on a map? Do they have agendas other than to be elected?

These candidates, however serious they take politics and the country as a whole, have made politics exciting again. I have to give them credit there. Otherwise, people probably wouldn't even know next year is a presidential election year. Bill will be out of office and the shame he brought to the most prestigious office in the world can be restored to its glory. Or can it be restored? Not with an actor in the White House. We have had that before with Ronald Reagan.

Is the White House a place for the glitz and glamour so commonly associated with Hollywood? Do we want Annette Bening as First Lady? Do we want our president wearing snakes around his neck? Do we want next years' Miss America pageant held in the White House (Trump owns the Miss America Pageant, as well as the Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA pageants)?

Polls by CNN, USA Today and Gallup show that few Americans consider candidates like Trump, Ventura, and Beatty as serious candidates. Ventura's popularity has dipped severely since his controversial interview with Playboy magazine, where Ventura made some interesting comments about religion and gays in the military.

Even if you don't care about politics, or never voted before, your one vote can make the difference, next year, and every year. Vote in elections. Keep the actors in Hollywood, the businessmen making money, wrestlers wrestling, and Pat Buchanan saying Hitler wasn't all that bad. Wake up voters!!! Voice your right to vote. Vote for a serious candidate.

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