

Political Campaigns

Just an idea...

I viewed this last presidential campaign through opened eyes; I used to be much more naive than I am today. Oh, I knew politicians lied, that they are corrupt. What you see is never what you get. But before I worked with Organic Lifestyle Magazine, I wasn't really aware that corporations run this country. Yes, that is one thing I can give Monsanto credit for—they opened my eyes to the truth.

I hoped President Obama was telling us the truth when he said he was against big business and special interests running the country. Then he appointed Vilsack, a Monsanto man through and through, as the Secretary of Agriculture. And before I could pick myself up off the floor, President Obama tells us his version of healthcare for all is to pass a law to force us to pay our hard earned money to crooked insurance companies. At that point, I was done. No fork test needed.

So after the 2012 election I thought about the obscene amount of money it takes to run a successful campaign and where all that money comes from. I knew that those deep, deep pockets bought votes as well as future favors from the elected officials they put in office. That's how the system works. So why not change the system?

If campaigns were free, corruption of our politicians by the money machine would end. And other benefits would ensue.

Imagine a website dedicated to the political election process. Each politician would have a profile listed with his full biography (one that has been well vetted for truth) along with his full voting and attendance record for any prior office held. He or she could state their stance on the issues and

make promises—officially, publically, permanently. And if elected in office, that record for keeping or ignoring those promises would become part of the permanent public record as well. Candidates could hold debates on the website and voters could view those debates at their leisure. It would be so much easier to evaluate the similarities and the differences between the candidates. And so easy to separate lies from the truth. Voting records don't lie.

According to Internet World Stats 78.6% of North Americans use the Internet. If we ensure that every public library houses public computers, our political website would be available to all Americans. But we could make it even easier. According to Statistic Brain. 99% of Americans own at least one television. One dedicated television station could mirror the website, scrolling the same information.

No more TV or radio campaigns. No print costs. No touring. No outside marketing of any kind. No bought and paid for candidates. No cost at all to the politicians. Of course we would have to come up with a means to select candidates so that only serious, qualified individuals were allowed on the site. But we could figure that out.

Remember when I said there could be added benefits? Today's politicians begin campaigning for their next election on the day they take office. With this new system, that practice would end, and our elected officials could focus on doing the jobs they were elected to do.

Another benefit, dare I say it? There would be no need for a party system. Imagine that! The best candidate could actually rise to the top and win! And all those Senators and Representatives could vote their conscience instead of worrying about Republican vs. Democrat party lines. And then judges appointed to the Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals, and the United States district courts could be appointed the same way! No party affiliations to muck up

their rulings!

And while we are at it, we could decide that women should have equal rights by law, that a line item veto is in the best interest of the country, and that poisoning our water and our food supply is not the job of our government. I know that's not everything, but it would be a good start, don't you think?