



**ANYTHING
BUT THAT!!!**

*Alternatives To
Presidential Elections*

A 2012 Calendar

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ANYTHING BUT THAT!!



Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Introduction

Everyone knows how Presidential elections suck. Suck suck suckity suck suck. But just like the weather, everybody *talks* about elections but nobody *does* anything. Well, we at the Junior G-Man Institute of Political Theory And Tinkertoy Social Mechanics feel that that's an oversight to be corrected, by George!

So here, delicately presented to assuage the sensibilities of the genteel audience of which we're sure all of you reading this are members, are a collection of alternatives, modest proposals if you will, to the current flying saucer trainwreck that constitutes our *real* national sport.

We hope that these earnestly presented possibilities inspire you to a sense of the genuine flexibility of national politics, or at least provide you with a distraction to help prevent puking your guts out for the next eleven months (and possibly thereafter as well, gawd wot).

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
NOO YEAR'S DAY 1	2	3	4	5	6	EPIPHANY 7
8	○ 9	10	11	12	13	14
15	MLK JR BIRTHDAY (OBS) ☾ 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	● 23	24	25	26	27	28
29	☽ 30	31				



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Draft All Legislators

It's long since been crystal clear that there's a quantifiable inverse correlation between the desire of an individual to run for public office and their fitness to fulfil the duties of that office. Clearly, even with the generous salary and benefits (free health care for life! Is this a great country or what?), being President is a job that only a fool, a crook or a madman would want — which is exactly what we get running every four years.

Instead, why not treat legislative service the way we treat military service in time of war, as a nasty but honorable obligation that must needs be distributed evenly through the population, and establish a national legislative draft at all levels of governance? Draftees would be assigned duties in keeping with their qualifications as demonstrated by uniform assessment testing and subject to regular review by an appropriate oversight agency.

FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
				GROUNDHOG DAY		
			1	2	3	4
5	6	○	7	8	9	10
		VALENTINE'S DAY				
12	13	☾	14	15	16	17
	PRESIDENTS' DAY	MARDI GRAS				
19	20	●	21	22	23	24
26	27		28	D	29	



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Legislative Monastery

Our government suffers from a surfeit of worldliness. Conflicts of interest abound, covert influences threading their way through the body politic like cold spaghetti in greasy sauce.

We need leaders who aren't distracted by worldly things, who focus on governance in the same serious and dedicated spirit that a monk focuses on their spiritual practice. And like monks, our politicians need surroundings conducive to such dedication.

Thus, politicians should be cloistered in grim stone-walled sanctuaries where they practice vows of poverty and chastity, dress in plain robes, tend gardens and vineyards, rise early and meditate before beginning the political day. If nothing else, it would keep them out of our hair.

MARCH 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
				1	2	3
			PURIM			
4	5	6	7	○	8	9
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS						ST PADDY'S DAY
11	12	13	☾	14	15	16
		VERNAL EQUINOX				
18	19	20	21	●	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	D	30
						31



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

The Button (1st!)

Despite the ostensive democratic nature of elected office, all too often both official and constituency feel a decided, er, disconnect separating their mutual needs and wants. In part this stems from the inability of the populace to directly connect with their representative.

The power of aversive reinforcement have long been touted by research scientists studying creatures of far greater sophistication than the average politician. Perhaps its stern but honest guidance could be utilized to reform the governmental process as well.

Give each official a collar with a unique activation code. Viewers of CSPAN or other such observational platform would have access to a Button, virtual or otherwise as detail would will it, which they could press at will when their personal representative's actions displeased them. When collective pressings reached a certain level, the solon would be administered what the illustrious W.S. Gilbert once characterized as "a short, sharp shock."

Details of the implimentation of this process are well left as a matter for administrative management, or delicious daydream.

APRIL 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
ALL FOOL'S DAY 1	2	3	4	5	PASSOVER ○ 6	7
EASTER 8	9	10	11	12	☾ 13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	● 21
EARTH DAY 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
D 29	30					



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

IQ Vote

Turning from the obvious vacuous inadequacy of Presidential candidates for a moment, one is put face to face with the yet more vacuous expanse of the voting public. Most people are ill-equipped to tie their own Internet connection, let alone decide acrimonious and obscure public policy wonkery.

Poll taxes are obviously a route to rule by the rich and fat, but what about an intelligence test as a prerequisite for voting? Just a simple little literacy and political awareness exam with questions like “Does Article 7, Section 3 of the Constitution deal explicitly with the export of soft goods to domestic allies and consortiums without regard to regional disputes in the territorial encomium of blitherix plumbid?”

And don't worry, we're sure you'd pass.

MAY 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
		MAY DAY				
		1	2	3	4	5 ○
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 ◐
MOTHER'S DAY						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
●	20	21	22	23	24	25
	MEMORIAL DAY (OBS)					
27	◐	28	29	30	31	



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Social Value Vote

Social networks aren't just a really fun way to waste time, oh no. They're also an incredible embedded social connection metric, charting the relative standings of every member — and that includes, well, everyone. Everyone that matters, at least.

It would be trivial (trivial! I say) to leverage all that metric into a voting system that weighed an individual's opinion against their social connectivity, and hence, obviously, their influence and confluency with popular viewpoint. Their Facebook friends or favorites or +1's would translate into greater or lesser effect in the given poll. It's Web 2.0! It's modern! It's connected!

It'd also make a heck of an online game.

JUNE 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
					1	2
3	○	4	5	6	7	8
10	◐	11	12	13	14	15
FATHER'S DAY			SUMMER SOLSTICE			
17	18	●	19	20	21	22
24	25	◑	26	27	28	29
						30



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Yes Means No (The Captain Peachfuzz Ploy)

Nobody's right all the time, and when you're the head of state of the meanest-ass country on earth, it's virtually impossible to be right at all. The sainted Jay Ward has pointed the way in this matter (as in so many others) by his invention of the character Captain Peter "Wrong-Way" Peachfuzz, an individual so befuddled that he could reliably be used as an oracle simply by utilizing the exact opposite of anything he said.

A similar approach to Presidential decrees couldn't help but lead to better governance, or at least more entertaining. Who says cartoons can't be serious literature?

JULY 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
					1	2
	INDEPENDENCE DAY					
○ 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
☾ 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	● 18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	☾ 26	27	28	29	● 30



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

President For A Day

One of the more burdensome aspects of Presidents is that we vote for them once and they stick around for at least four years, more than long enough to work all manner of mischief before they're mercifully plunged back into the private sector. Buyers' regret is one of the leading features of national politics, and all parts of the political spectrum suffer its pangs (except maybe the independents, who never expected all that much in the first place).

So, why not elect a plethora of Presidents, four or five at least, and instead of opinion polls, hold daily electoral polls to determine who gets their pinkies on the Big Lever for the next 24 hours. You could even make it into a reality TV show! Ratings, baby!

AUGUST 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
			○ 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	☾ 9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	● 17	18
19	20	21	22	23	☽ 24	25
26	27	28	29	30	○ 31	



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

The Big Auction

We all know all too well how the system we live under (and by under, I mean “WAY under”) works. People with intelligence, reason and perspective present views, opinions and focused arguments in favor or opposed to various issues, candidates and policies. Then those statements are carefully considered by an informed and educated populace to allow them to properly decide which ones to supBWAHAHAHAHAHAHHEEHEE HEEOHGODI KNEWICOULDN’TSAYTHATWITHASTRAIGHTFACEHAHAHA

Heh. Well. It’s very simple. We live in a one-dollar, one-vote world where money buys elections. That’s all. Really, that’s it. That’s how it works.

So instead of all the foofawraw, let’s allow all the candidates to amass all the money they can from any source they want, because, you know, they do. Then on election day, everybody antes up and, to quote the sainted Sir Mixalot, “Big bank takes little bank.”

And, as a social justice kicker, all the money involved gets confiscated and distributed to the poorest quarter of the population. Win. Win.

SEPTEMBER 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
				LABOR DAY		1
2	LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6	7 ☾ 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 ●
YOM KIPPUR	16	17	18	19	20	21 ☽ 22
23		ROSH HASHANAH				
30	24	25	26	27	28 ○	29



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Report Cards With Consequences

Accountability, as in so many other things, is a vital part of democratic government. But all too often, politicians are shielded from the consequences of their bad decisions and corrupt policies. Isn't it time we had a national report card system for politicians? They could be graded on penmanship, attention, playing well with others, how well they put their toys away.

And if the grades are low? Well, you know what they say — a bad report card follows you your whole life, but a good one is forgotten in five minutes. And we're sure a 30 day timeout would have a salutary effect on government efficiency. Heck, it might even be made permanent.

OCTOBER 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	☾	8	9	10	11	12
14	●	15	16	17	18	19
D	21	22	23	24	25	26
			ALL HALLOWS EVE			
28	○	29	30	31		



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Internet Anarchy

The Internet is inarguably the single greatest social and economic event of the last 20 years, creating enormous waves of change in how we relate to each other in virtually every aspect of life. That those waves frequently swamp our boats and smother us is beside the point.

We must harness this force, this titanic conglomeration of spam, trolling and fruitless comment wars, of flame consuming flame, of unfounded opinion posted as eternal truth, of unvetted, untrammelled tweek-witted folly, for the good of the nation, nay, of the world!

Oh wait. We already have.

NOVEMBER 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
				ALL SAINTS DAY 1	ALL SOULS DAY 2	3
4	5	☾	6	7	VETERANS DAY 9	10
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 11	12	●	13	14	15	16
18	19	D	20	THANKSGIVING 21	22	23
25	26	27	○	28	29	30



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Get A King Already

Enough. Democracy has it's place in the world but only a fool would give it better than a D+, and that's with a lot of E for effort. Human beings aren't genetically designed for autonomy. Deep down inside, we yearn for titanic, heroic figures in flowing robes and gilded crowns, sitting in state on gorgeously carved thrones and handing down decrees in ducit, godlike tones to cringing courtiers.

I mean, don't we?

DECEMBER 2012

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
						1
2	3	4	5	☾	6	7 HANUKKAH
9	10	11	12	●	13	14 WINTER SOLSTICE
16	17	18	☽	19	20	21 22
23	24	CHRISTMAS DAY	KWANZAA			
30	31	25	26	27	☉	28 29



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Alternatives To Presidential Elections

Forget It

It's pointless. Why bother? Who cares? What difference does it make who runs the country? It's like those old questions in grade school like "Would you rather die by being smothered in bat guano or being slowly trampled by a herd of mad bison?" Okay, that was an old question in *my* grade school, anyways.

All you really need to know about politics in America is that Democrats are vampires and Republicans are zombies*. You pays your money and you takes your choice.

*Unless you subscribe to the disputed theory that Democrats are Grays and Republicans are Reptilians, in which case may Wha have mercy on our souls.

JANUARY 2013

SUN	MOON	TIW	WOTAN	THOR	FREYA	SATURN
		NOO YEAR'S DAY				
		1	2	3	4	5 ☾
6	EPIPHANY	8	9	10	11 ●	12
13	MLK JR BIRTHDAY (OBS)	15	16	17	18	19 ☽
20		22	23	24	25	26
27 ○		29	30	31		