
CHAPTER 3

CHOOSING A PARTY

The great thing about America is that anybody can grow up to be president. At least that is the popular myth. A much safer statement is that anybody can grow up to *RUN* for president. Of the forty-four individuals who have held the office, forty-two have been heterosexual, white Protestant men. (Of the other two, one was Catholic and the other had only one white parent). And ever since Abraham Lincoln was elected president seven score and fourteen years ago, all Chief Executives have held political beliefs which fell somewhere within the relatively narrow political spectrum of conservative *Republican* to liberal *Democrat*.

Why do I bring any of this up? After all, the purpose of this book is not to make any type of comment on the state of the social climate in America. Nor am I trying to discourage anybody from running. I bring up this entire issue for just one reason: what it tells you about choosing a political party. *So what is my point? If the answer is not intuitively obvious, Idiot, I seriously question the value of you bothering to read on. It is apparent that the sole function of your cranial cavity is to maintain a separation between your ear drums. With that level of mental capacity you shouldn't expect to get elected to any office higher than say Congressman or Senator at best.* (please forgive the seemingly abusive language, but I figure I can get away with it, because you obviously have already purchased this book- Don't despair, because if you have gotten this far into the book, you have clearly demonstrated that you are more than capable of receiving some type of lucrative political appointment. And besides, if you are really cut out to be a serious presidential candidate you are going to have to get used to people saying things a hell of a lot worse than this!).

Well anyway, I veer off topic. The point I'm trying to communicate to you is that despite the fact there is a seeming myriad of officially recognized/sanctioned political parties in the United States and that we live in a free country where everyone is entitled to hold his/her own political beliefs and values, you cannot possibly hope to win a presidential election unless you just happened to be a *Democrat* or a *Republican*. So forget about attempting an independent run or joining any of those third parties... *the Libertarians, the Greens, the Socialist Party USA, the United States Marijuana Party, or even the Bull Moose Party*. I am sure that they all have redeeming features, but they are never going to deliver you to the oval office. The American people are too pragmatic to fall for any of the ultra right or left wing utopian society crap that these alternative parties promise. A true American knows that it is only by obsessively protecting his or her own selfish interests that any good will ever occur in this world.

SO, a logical question you might ask at this point, is which way should I lean, *Democratic* or *Republican*? (at last, a logical question, *perhaps there is hope for you!*). Going back to the early years of our Republic, it was easy. You didn't even need to choose between the two. George Washington was unanimously elected president twice, and he had *NO* political party affiliation. In fact he was totally against *ALL* political parties. Then, from 1801-1829, four of our all-time greats, (all of whom have been inducted into the Presidential Hall of Fame) Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and John Quincy Adams (affectionately known to his groupies as *J-Quin*) belonged to a party that was literally called "***the Democratic-Republicans.***" (What do you boys and girls at **FOX NEWS** and **MSNBC** make of that?). So you still didn't have to choose between Democrat or Republican. But that was a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away. Today the Democrats and Republicans are clearly two distinctively different parties and according to some evolutionary biologists, possibly even distinct species incapable of inter-breeding. Nowadays, if you said publically that you were a Democratic-Republican you would be put on some kind of anti-psychotic medication and the Democrats and Republicans would spend the next eight years bickering over who should have to pay for your prescription.



OK, so now you know that you have to be either a Democrat or Republican. But how do you actually decide which way you should swing? Well, there are any number of logical ways to make the Democrat-Republican decision. Each methodology is just as good as the other. A few of the more common are:

PARTY SELECTION METHODS

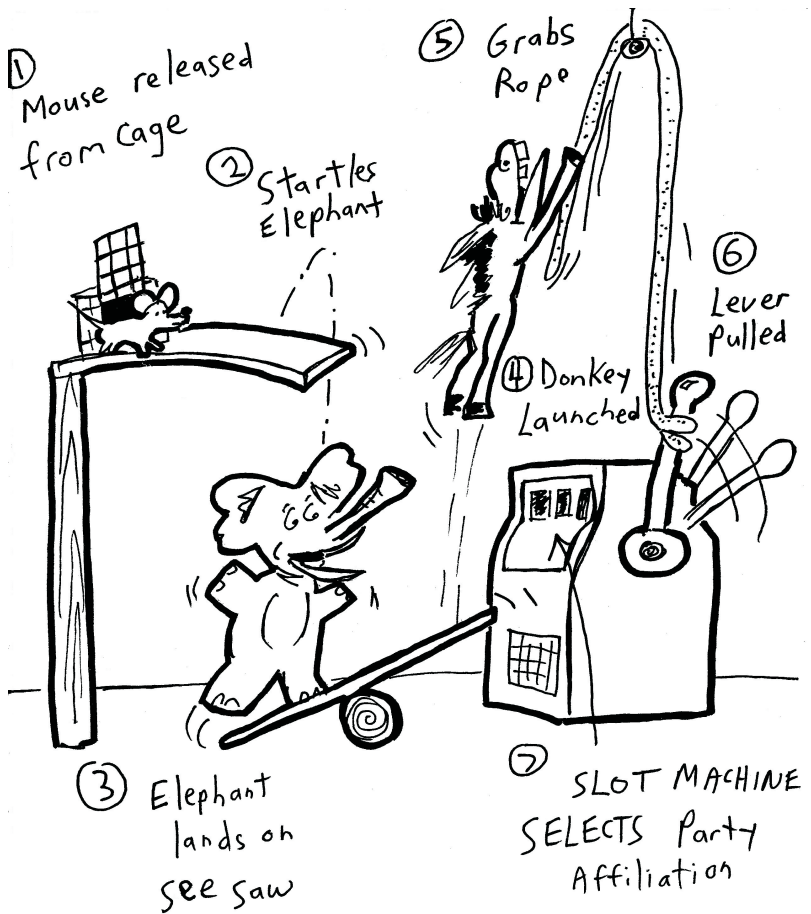
- A. Join the political party that your father was a member of.
- B. Join the political party that is most popular in your home state.
- C. Toss a coin.



Strong arguments can be made for each method. **Method A's** strong suit is that it may provide you with connections within the party. (don't forget the concept of networking that I introduced you to in the previous chapter). **Method B** is effective in that it provides you with a strong base of guaranteed constituents (also known as mindless party-line voters). **Method C**, however, is my personal favorite. Somehow, it seems to be almost scientific.

There are, in fact, a number of software packages available on the market which will help navigate you through the party selection process based upon your answers to a series of questions tailored to identify your core values and beliefs. I recommend that you don't spend any precious campaign funds on any of these products. Most political analysts agree that all political party selection methods are equally effective. Don't waste time fretting about this decision because the truth is that it really doesn't matter which of the two parties you join. If you really want to be president, you are going to have to sell out your core beliefs anyway. Furthermore, each party alternately falls in and out of fashion. Generally speaking the party which isn't in power today is the one that is most popular with the general public. Even if your party is not riding the wave of popularity right now, chances are it will be back in favor over the course of the political cycle which can last anywhere from four to eight years. In pursuing a goal as lofty as the presidency, I hardly consider that a long time to wait.

Once you choose a political party, the decision is not necessarily engraved in stone. It is sometimes possible to give your political career a jolt by jumping parties. Ronald Reagan, arguably the *Godfather of Republican Conservatism* actually began life as a *Democrat*. *Party jumping* should not be taken lightly, however. If you don't handle this move properly your political ambitions could suffer irreparable damage. Even in the filthy, dirty, backstabbing game of politics, nobody likes a traitor. Also, remember that once you play this card, it is basically irreversible. If you continually bounce back and forth between parties it will be interpreted as a sign of indecision. Even though it is essential to be indecisive if you expect to be a good politician, it is somehow not advisable to advertise that trait to the public at large.



RUBE GOLDBERG PARTY
SELECTION MACHINE