

ELECTILE DYSFUNCTIONS

Greetings, dear readers. There I was, enjoying a peaceful vacation on the stormy Oregon coast until Election Day came along and harshed my mellow. Of course, it was thrilling to hear local good news about the defeat of Measure N and Measure W, and the win by Deirdre Martin, but not so happy about disastrous national news. Here are my takeaways from the presidential election:

- The pollsters got it all wrong. Did a lot of lying or shy voters not admit to pollsters that they were going to vote for Trump and other Republican candidates?
- You can get elected president even if you say horrible things about women, minorities, foreigners, immigrants, war veterans, journalists, and disabled people.
- You can get elected president even if you do not release your tax returns or pay federal income taxes for 20 years.
- You can get elected president even if you get help from a foreign power seeking to undermine the American democratic process and fair elections.
- You can call your cabinet “the best and brightest,” then fill it with racists, neo-Nazis, and other extremists.
- The Electoral College is an antidemocratic farce, allowing one candidate to game the system and win the election despite losing the popular vote.
- Despair, anger, grief, and sleepless nights can last only so long, because if you care about America, eventually you have to stop mourning and start organizing.
- I hear so many different explanations for this horrorfest of an election that it must be some combination of Russians hackers, smart Republican strategies, dumb Democratic

strategies, FBI interference, inept pollsters and pundits, software glitches, stupid voting/election rules like the outmoded Electoral College, solar flares, 60 million ignorant voters, 18 months of information overload, fake news stories planted by Macedonian teenagers. Got more?

POLITICIANS

Some who pursue a political career do so out of desire to initiate change. They've faced or witnessed injustices that they want to end, or have grown tired of the ineptitude of their current representative or government. But hunger for power and attention also plays a role. Researchers at Queendom.com and PsychTests analyzed data collected from their Values Profile, focusing specifically on people who indicated that they are interested in pursuing a career in politics. According to the study, politically minded people tend to possess the following values: intellectual creativity, imagination, resourcefulness, unconventional thinking, idealism, innovation, love of learning and knowledge, financial security and stability, personal pride, power and decision-making, career success, recognition, winning, hard work, competition, self-interest.

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER

"I am 72 and was born in '44. My daughter is 44 and was born in '72. How cool is that!" (Scott McKellar)

102 MILLION DEAD TREES

Climate change and drought have killed more than 100 million trees in California, a new study reported last week

(source: SFGate.com).

SWAMI SEZ

“Coinfusion: When you wonder what to do with all the loose change you collected while visiting a foreign country.”

(Pierre Messerli)

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