

AMENDMENT 28
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Amendment 28 to the Constitution of the United States of America. (Enacted July 4, 2021.) The President and Vice President will be chosen from among the qualified citizenry by random lottery on July 4 of each Leap Year to serve for one term. Vacancies will be filled in the same manner by lottery to complete the term.

A Scene in the Oval Office July 7, 2044.

“Welcome to the Oval Office and congratulations to both of you on winning the lottery for President and Vice President elect. I’m Maria Alvarez, your president. This meeting will be the first of many and I am sure that it will help put your minds at ease and give you some guidance about what you are getting into.

Four years ago I was in your position. I was scared out of my wits. I had no idea of what I was supposed to do. I felt an overwhelming sense of responsibility and incompetence. I can see from your bug-eyed expressions that both of you feel as lost and desperate as I did.

I want to assure you that you will grow into the job, and if you are lucky you will grow to enjoy it. Will you have sleepless nights? You bet! You probably have already since you got the news three days ago on Lottery Selection Day. That is why we invited you so soon, and don’t worry if you fall asleep here in the Oval Office while I am talking. I did four years ago.

The main reason you will do well is that you don’t have the monumental egos, vested interests, agendas, cocksure biases, and hostilities that most of our *elected* presidents had. As I am sure you know, I am the fifth president chosen by lottery, and historians have ranked my four predecessors near the top of all who have held the office since George Washington! And the United States and world have fared quite well under those last four administrations.

Another reason you will do well is that you will not only have great help but recognize that you’ll need it. First of all, there are your 10 predecessors. We have found so many outstanding advisors and candidates for the Cabinet who have no vested interests. This will avoid the problem of getting biased advice from every

side. Of course it will take you some time, probably about a year to sort things out and get to feel you have some idea of what you are doing.

I think the most important thing is that though there may be many extremely talented and brilliant people who you think might do a better job than you, given the odds that you are as ordinary as I and my four randomly chosen presidents are, when you find yourself in the extraordinary situation that we found ourselves in, you will rise to do extraordinary things.

We'll get to your questions real soon. But first, let's have some ice cream.