

Evan Vicidomini

Teacher

English 15

7 December 2020

Problems and Solutions with Presidential Elects

The United States has a major problem with how it chooses the presidents. There have been many problems in the past related to this issue, with a history of many poor leaders of the country causing wars, violence, racism, and division of different types of people. There is no legislative system that requires a person to have experience in leadership skills to become a leader. These include intrapersonal skills, decision making strengths, political experience, economic understanding, and the ability to see into the future and benefit the people or having their own original ideas when becoming president. To become president, the person must be a citizen of the United States for at least fourteen years and be at least thirty-five years old to run. This is according to article two of the United States Constitution. This is a problem because anyone can run for office, and it does not need to be based upon skills acquired over a lifetime of work. Someone with no political experience can win over someone who has more experience, which is wrong. There should be a new amendment signed that states that someone running for president should have the important skills that were listed based on their lifetime work and experience.

First, having intrapersonal skills is probably the most important skill when it comes to being a leader. This is because intrapersonal skills are the ability to understand someone else's feelings, beliefs, and frustrations. It is the ability to be open-minded and relate and help other people in need. It is said that "People who are self-motivated, focused, and confident are said to

have great intrapersonal skills. Those people exude self-confidence because they *are* confident. They know who they are and what they are capable of producing and creating.” (Tai, December 6, 2020). People with these skills show signs of being a leader, as they understand who they are and what they need to do. A person that understands that they are the leader of a country should also understand that it is important to take care of the people and what they need. Being selfish and not self-aware of the power that they have creates a huge problem. One president that is criticized for having poor intrapersonal skill is Herbert Hoover, who is ranked as one of the worst presidents in American history. It is said here that “One of Hoover's problem was his inability to communicate his message to the American people, a problem made worse because of Hoover's poor relationship with the media.” (LiveJournal, December 13th, 2016). He is called “Herbert Hoover- The Not So Great Communicator” (LiveJournal, December 13th, 2016) in this article because of his dislike of the media. This inability to communicate with the people and the media was one of the many factors that lead to the 1929 stock market crash. “Hoover's poor interpersonal skills hamstrung his abilities to meet the daunting challenges that he faced. He not only alienated the media, but also members of Congress as well, including a group of senators from his own party dubbed the ‘insurgents’. His inability to appreciate the need for working with these legislators as a necessary prerequisite for tackling the problems impeded his ability to address the challenges he faced.” (LiveJournal, December 13th, 2016) A leader must have the ability to understand his responsibilities and the needs of others. Not everyone should be able run for president, and someone with no understanding of other people can be a leader. This also ties with public speaking skills and a person that cannot communicate with the people should not be a leader. These skills should be demonstrated before a person is able to run for president, which should be shown through experience.

Secondly, a leader should have a good background in decision-making skills, which is the most important quality for a president. This is the ability to make the right decision that helps move the country forward and benefit everyone. Being able to make quick and smart decisions helps to bring people together, and it works with being intrapersonal. People will be impressed by the skills that one has based on how well their decisions are. It creates a group of followers that will support one's ideas and beliefs. This will help a president stay in office for more than one term and be loved by everyone because his or her decisions are so smart and well thought out. Decision making skills include problem-solving, teamwork, emotional intelligence or empathy, intuition, and reasoning, among many more. A person that has good decision-making skills has a good background in their mathematical and logical-thinking skills, which can be proven by facts and evidence based upon their previous education. A person running for president should have a good background in these fields to be qualified to run for president. Someone with no experience in these fields, or someone with no college degree or let alone high school diploma should not be able to run. President George Bush describes the difficulties of the presidency here: "George W. Bush made an enormous number of consequential decisions during his presidency. In his autobiography, *Decision Points*, President Bush writes, 'The nature of the presidency is that sometimes you don't choose which challenges come to your desk. You do decide how to respond.'" (Coleman, July 6, 2018). Challenges can come at any time and the person in charge needs to come up with a quick plan to solve this issue. Having a good background in these skills should be a way to determine who can run for president, and it should be written in the constitution.

Third, a leader should have some political experience to qualify as president of the United States. The fact that a person with no political experience can win over someone who put years of hard work into his or her political career is confusing and unfair. Political experience

should be on a person's resume because that is their past experience understanding their field of work and study. They should have their previous jobs on it, which can include being a governor, a senator, house representative, vice president, among many other positions. Having some sort of political experience means that a person has an idea of how the government works and how to make the best decisions to run the country. A study finds that presidents who have little or no political experience rank lower than presidents who previously had some experience. "To understand how these less politically experienced presidents performed, I consulted two respected presidential rankings: the Siena Survey of U.S. Presidents and C-SPAN's Presidential Historian Survey. Both survey a wide variety of historians, political scientists, and presidential observers. These experts then score each president on an array of qualities like integrity and leadership as well as moral authority and crisis management." (Coulter December 21, 2019). Using these surveys prove that the person needs to have political experience to be able to run, or the country will go into anarchy one way or another. Here it is said that "There have been six U.S. presidents with dramatically less political experience. Five of them — Zachary Taylor, Herbert Hoover, Donald Trump, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ulysses Grant — had never been elected to office prior to becoming president. William Taft served as an appointed governor prior to becoming president of the United States, but never held elected office before that." (Coulter, December 21, 2019). Five out of the six presidents in this list have been ranked the lowest, and it is said that they are the some of the worst leaders of all time. Dwight Eisenhower was the ranked the highest, as one of the best leaders of all time. He was the only successful leader to have little experience in politics, which shows how important it is because most leaders with no experience fail.

Fourth, the president should have a basic understanding of the economy and have experience studying economics to help better everyone in the country. Economics is the study of

scarcity and choice, so it plays well when becoming a president of the United States. The president should have a good background in this field as well because it is important to keep the economy stable. Having this skill works together with good decision-making skills, and every president needs to have this. Having an economic plan is very important for becoming president, and the person should have a good understanding of how to create more jobs and pump more money into the economy. This needs to be done without the harm of people and the economy should always be on a steady incline. A president who cannot manage a crisis and fails to take control can result in the economy crashing, a huge poverty and unemployment level, and an overall increase in the crime rate. One of the presidents with the best economic plans was Ronald Reagan, who had a good economic plan for the recession between 1981 and 1982. "Reaganomics is President Ronald Reagan's conservative economic policy that attacked the 1981-1982 recession and stagflation. Stagflation is an economic contraction combined with double-digit inflation." (Amadeo, June 26, 2020). His clear plan to reduce inflation helped create a stronger economy and ranked him one of the best presidents in United States history. One of his major achievements was "Reagan cut tax rates enough to stimulate consumer demand. By Reagan's last year in office, the top income tax rate was 28% for single people making \$18,550 or more. Anyone making less paid no taxes at all. That was much less than the 1980 top tax rate of 70% for individuals earning \$108,300 or more. Reagan indexed the tax brackets for inflation." (Amadeo, June 26, 2020). He cut taxes to help businesses create more jobs for the people, which helps raise the economy out of the recession. Reagan had very good economic experience, which is very important for becoming president. This should be required, and someone with no background in this should not be qualified.

Finally, the president should have the ability to see into the future of the United States and have good ideas to help better the people. A person with good and original ideas that help

people can make the person stand out in history and have a good chance of becoming president. The best example of a president with a good idea was President Barack Obama, who created the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. This was to give people access to cheaper medical care, which is a problem in the United States known for being extremely expensive. "On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The law is a step in the right direction, doing exactly what its name states: making health care more affordable for all Americans." (Ho, 2011). This was an original idea that no other president thought of before him and made Obama more likeable as a president. This action is probably the reason that he got elected a second term. It is described that "The ACA helps to make health care more affordable in two ways: by providing insurance coverage for approximately 50 million people who are currently uninsured and by striving to control health care costs by changing how medical services are paid for. " (Ho, 2011). It is said that the Affordable Care Act still needs mending, as there are problems where it cuts into taxes, which makes sure that everyone has healthcare. But it is still a great achievement, and therefore Barack Obama is ranked higher in the best presidents of all time. Having good ideas for the people is important as a leader, and every president should have one because it is a purpose in becoming the president. This needs to be required to run, and if a person has no purpose that is approved, they should be disqualified from the race.

The president is one of the greatest achievements a person can make, and that is why there should be more work towards getting to that stage. This is because someone that is reckless and has no ability to control that role should not be president. Becoming the president is also called one of the hardest jobs on the planet. Someone with good skills should have a better chance, or someone that has worked hard. That is why there should be another amendment signed to have stricter qualifications to becoming president of the United States. These should

include a background in a political field for at least ten years and a background in a field of economics. These should have written proof of completion, whether it is a degree or it is written on a resume. These skills should also be proven to a group of people who then decide whether the person is eligible to run. The person should also be able to demonstrate their good communication and decision-making skills to this group to prove that they indeed acquired their skills over a lifetime of work and are dedicated to becoming the president. The fact that anybody that is a certain age, and a citizen of the United States should not be the only factor in determining a leader. Also, a person should not be able to become president just because they have a lot of money. Someone who understands people, makes good decisions, has good political and economic background, and their own original plans and reasons why they want the position should be required. By having more restrictions, the United States could see a series of great leaders and become a greater nation on the planet.

Works Cited

- Tai. "What Are Intrapersonal Skills: Why Are They Important?: Matter." *Let's Grow Together | The Matter Blog*, Let's Grow Together | The Matter Blog, 6 Dec. 2020, matterapp.com/blog/what-are-intrapersonal-skills-and-why-are-they-important/.
- "Presidents and the Media: Herbert Hoover- The Not So Great Communicator." *LiveJournal*, 13 Dec. 2016, potus-geeks.livejournal.com/793344.html.
- Fieldstadt, Elisha. "Presidents Ranked from Worst to Best." *CBS News*, CBS Interactive, 6 Apr. 2018, www.cbsnews.com/pictures/presidents-ranked-from-worst-to-best-presidential-historians-survey-2017/9/.
- Coleman, John. "How A President Makes A Decision That Matters." *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 18 Aug. 2018, www.forbes.com/sites/johncoleman/2018/07/06/howapresidentmakesadecisionthatmatters/?sh=3223f95718ae.
- Coulter, Shannon. "How Much Does Experience Matter for the President of the United States?" *Medium*, Medium, 26 Jan. 2020, medium.com/@shannoncoulter/how-much-does-experience-matter-for-the-president-of-the-united-states-980fae4f8ff3.
- Amadeo, Kimberly. "Would Reaganomics Work Today?" *The Balance*, www.thebalance.com/reaganomics-did-it-work-would-it-today-3305569.
- Ho, Vivian. "The Affordable Care Act: A New Way Forward." *Journal of Ethics | American Medical Association*, American Medical Association, 1 Nov. 2011, journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/affordable-care-act-new-way-forward/2011-11.