

Politics Unusual: HOLD YOUR NOSE AND VOTE

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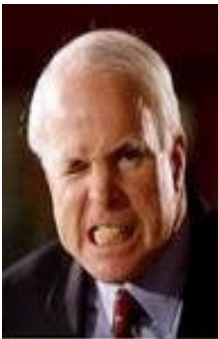
Ever since the day Barack Obama announced his candidacy, I was reluctant to jump on his bandwagon. Frankly, I was bothered by his candidacy. He's just too risky, even with 70% of Americans dissatisfied with the President.

The rise of Sarah Palin proves the risk. Many voters would embrace Kermit the Frog before they help a black man hold the highest office.

In a poll recently made public, nearly 1/3 of all registered white Democrats harbor negative views toward blacks. Add in an even larger number of likeminded white Republicans and you will get a landslide in November.

Also troubling to me about the Obama candidacy is the absolute refusal by liberals to acknowledge the simmering prejudices that can and will play a large role in the election. They seem to think if this and related issues are not openly discussed, they will just go away. I disagree and feel strongly that the issue should be on the table. In fact, it's time.

Until a month ago, I, like many, turned my attention to John McCain – a complete hot-head but also an independent maverick who was neither afraid of bucking the system nor the President. Something happened, though, to John McCain along the campaign trail. His independent voice was silenced by the most rabid of the rightwing. McCain became another corporate tool used to continue the failed



"trickle down" economic policies of the previous Republican Administration. (FACT: Trickle down economics theorizes that is you give the very top income producers – people and corporations – even more, excess will "trickle down" to the general public. This theory has, in the past, had some merit. However, as outsourcing labor and manufacturing to China, India, etc... became prevalent, few Americans saw any benefit. Instead, the trickle down helped build China, India, Pakistan, and other nations who, one day, may well be our enemies.)

Through it all, I reasoned McCain, a 72 year old cancer victim, might veer to the middle and restore honor to the Office. He can't. He won't. His honor has been muffled by his lies about his record and the fact that he was one of the primary architects of the very deregulation that has resulted in \$1 trillion in bailouts, thus far. McCain is in such debt to the most extreme of the Republican Party that he has lost him-

self.

self.

Both Obama and McCain, in my opinion and for totally different reasons, have short life expectancies. For McCain, each year of the four year term puts 10 years on a man's life. After year one of the term, McCain's age would be equivalent to 82. Chances are, he just won't make it. For Obama, I believe some nut job will see to it he doesn't finish his term.

Given the above, I have chosen not to vote for either Presidential candidate. Instead, I have turned my attention to the Vice Presidential candidates and will cast my vote for the one I believe to be the best qualified.



Many of you may feel the same about the top of the respective Democratic and Republican tickets and may even consider sitting this one out.

I encourage you to hold your nose and vote. Carefully consider the Vice Presidential



candidates and know that either Joe Biden or Sarah Palin is a heartbeat away from having to take the oath of office of the President of the United States of America and will be responsible for an economy spiraling downwards, fighting terrorists and solving the many other serious issues we face as a nation. In my humble opinion, Sarah Palin is just not ready for the assignment and I am just not sure if America can withstand another four years of Bush economics.

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