
A NEW ELECTION STRATEGY FOR THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The following article introduces an idea for a new election strategy. Please share your thoughts and suggestions in the Curiosity Zone comment section at the end of the article so we can improve this concept and present it to political leadership. Thank you!

On Thursday, June 27, 2024, we witnessed a presidential debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump that made a compelling argument for an alternative election process for our Executive Branch.

I urge political parties aiming for executive branch control to present their top three candidates for all cabinet positions in addition to those running for President and Vice President. While this process will be more challenging, requiring political parties to spend more time and energy planning what to do before taking office, it could provide voters with the following benefits:

- **Increased Transparency**
Naming multiple candidates for cabinet posts gives voters insight into an administration's potential direction.
- **Enhanced Confidence**
Providing early information about proposed candidates could help voters feel confident that they are making informed decisions.

- **Stronger Candidate Vetting**
Giving the public and media time to examine a candidate's credentials could improve the vetting process and help the administration choose the best-qualified candidates.
- **Clearly Defined Policy**
Understanding who might lead key departments could help clarify the administration's policies and implementation plans.
- **Demonstrated Readiness**
Identifying prospective candidates could speed up the confirmation process, ensuring the administration is fully functional from its first days in office.

Increasing transparency in our election process might improve voter engagement and lead to more effective governance. These changes could enhance our democracy, improve our standard of living, and increase our levels of personal and community contentment.

The following outlines each party's responsibilities and roles and the steps needed to implement this new election strategy for the executive branch.

THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY

Each political party would submit its policy positions on the eight issues most important to citizens, as follows:

- A. **The Economy:** Strategies to manage inflation/deflation, create jobs, raise government revenue, and ensure economic stability.
- B. **Healthcare:** Plans to improve healthcare access, affordability, and quality.
- C. **Immigration:** Policies on border security, asylum, and immigration reform.
- D. **National Security:** Approaches to ensure domestic and international security.
- E. **Reproductive Rights:** Stances on reproductive rights and related legal frameworks.
- F. **Climate Change:** Initiatives to address environmental issues and climate change.
- G. **Crime and Public Safety:** Measures to reduce crime and enhance public safety.
- H. **Role of the US in Global Affairs:** Policies for how we will interact with other countries.

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Policy statements would incorporate the following steps for problem-solving and project management:

- A. Name the policy. This step creates a common language, which increases productivity.
- B. Determine and document the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) goals to achieve.
- C. Create a start and end date (specify when the policies take effect and for how long).
- D. Envision and document the policy's desired results. This reminds the team and the citizens **why** this policy is worth pursuing.
- E. List the obstacles the policy will have to overcome to be effective.
- F. Prioritize the obstacles through a citizen impact lens; strive for administrative simplicity.
- G. Develop strategies that will overcome the obstacles.
- H. Determine the resources that will be needed to implement the policies.
- I. Assign the right person to the right job when implementing the policy.

Create a matrix summarizing each party's policy positions to help citizens understand and compare party platforms. This activity will determine who is ready to lead from their first day in office.

THE SECOND RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY

Determine (and publicize) the leadership team members.

This team is defined as:

A group of key officials who hold significant responsibilities in various sectors of government administration. These officials work under the President (Visionary) and Vice President (Integrator), collectively managing the execution of federal laws, implementation of public policy, and administration of national affairs.

This is the cabinet.

KEY POSITIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT (Visionary): The Visionary's role is to set long-term strategic direction, inspire and unify the government and the populace, and ensure policies align with the vision for the country's future. This role is crucial for fostering innovation, guiding major initiatives, and adapting to changing circumstances while remaining focused on overarching goals.



Key Responsibilities:

1. Strategic Planning:

- The Visionary is responsible for developing a comprehensive and forward-thinking plan that outlines the goals and priorities for the nation. This involves assessing current trends, identifying potential challenges and opportunities, and crafting a sustainable development and progress roadmap.

2. Inspiration and Motivation:

- A Visionary leader inspires and motivates government officials and citizens by articulating a clear and compelling future vision. This involves effective communication skills and rallying support for key initiatives and policies.

3. Innovation and Adaptability:

- The Visionary promotes a culture of innovation within the government and encourages the exploration of new ideas, technologies, and approaches. They must also be adaptable and ready to adjust strategies in response to new information or changing circumstances.

4. Policy Alignment:

- Ensuring that all government policies and actions align with the long-term vision is a critical function. The Visionary works closely with other executive leaders to integrate the vision into practical policies and legislative agendas.

5. Unifying Leadership:

- The Visionary serves as a unifying figure, bridging divides and fostering collaboration among government branches, political parties, and societal groups. This role requires diplomacy and the ability to build consensus.

Characteristics of a Visionary Leader

1. **Forward-Thinking:** Anticipates future trends and challenges and plans accordingly.
2. **Inspirational:** Energizes and motivates others towards common goals.
3. **Innovative:** Open to new ideas and willing to take calculated risks to achieve progress.
4. **Communicative:** Expertly articulates the vision, ensuring all stakeholders understand and embrace it.
5. **Resilient:** Persistent in the face of setbacks and able to navigate complex challenges.

Examples in Practice

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt:** Through his New Deal policies, Roosevelt developed a strategic plan for economic recovery and reform during the Great Depression, demonstrating strategic planning and inspirational leadership.
- **John F. Kennedy:** Kennedy's vision of space exploration, encapsulated in his goal to land a man on the moon, inspired a generation and drove significant advancements in science and technology.

Impact on Governance

A visionary leader in the executive branch significantly impacts governance by:

- Setting clear priorities and goals that guide the nation's trajectory.
- Inspiring public trust and confidence in government actions.
- Driving innovation and ensuring the government remains dynamic and responsive.
- Promoting a unified approach to tackling national and global challenges.

By focusing on the long-term and inspiring collective effort, the visionary leader ensures that the executive branch effectively navigates the complexities of governance while striving toward a better future for all citizens.

VICE PRESIDENT (Integrator): The Integrator's role is to ensure that the various elements of government work cohesively and efficiently towards common goals. The Integrator acts as a coordinator, communicator, and facilitator, bridging gaps between different departments, aligning their efforts with the overall strategic vision, and fostering collaboration across the executive branch.

Key Responsibilities

1. **Coordination:**

- The integrator ensures that all government departments and agencies work harmoniously. This involves coordinating policies, programs, and initiatives to avoid redundancy and ensure that efforts are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

2. **Communication:**

- Effective communication is vital for an Integrator. They must facilitate clear and consistent communication between different parts of the government, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and aligned with the executive branch's objectives.

3. **Policy Implementation:**

- The Integrator translates the visionary's strategic plans into actionable policies and programs. This includes overseeing the implementation process, monitoring progress, and addressing obstacles.

4. **Conflict Resolution:**

- Conflicts and disagreements are inevitable in any large organization. The Integrator acts as a mediator, resolving disputes and fostering a collaborative environment where different departments can work together effectively.

5. **Efficiency Improvement:**

- The Integrator identifies inefficiencies within the government and implements strategies to streamline operations. This may involve reorganizing processes, reallocating resources, or introducing new technologies and methodologies.

6. **Feedback Loop:**

- Establishing a feedback loop is essential for continuous improvement. The Integrator gathers input from various departments, evaluates the effectiveness of policies, and makes necessary adjustments to enhance performance.



Characteristics of an Effective Integrator

1. **Organizational Skills:** Manages multiple tasks, prioritizes effectively, and ensures that all parts of the government are synchronized.
2. **Interpersonal Skills:** Possesses communication and mediation skills to facilitate cooperation and resolve conflicts.
3. **Analytical Skills:** Assesses complex situations, identifies problems, and develops effective solutions.

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4. **Diplomacy:** Navigates political sensitivities and builds consensus among diverse stakeholders.
 5. **Adaptability:** Pivots to adjust plans and respond to changing circumstances.

Examples in Practice

- **Lyndon B. Johnson:** As Vice President under Kennedy, Johnson played a significant role in legislative integration, using his political acumen to pass key legislation such as the Civil Rights Act.
- **Dick Cheney:** As Vice President, Cheney was known for his role in coordinating national security policies and integrating the efforts of various defense and intelligence agencies.

Impact on Governance

An Integrator enhances the effectiveness of the executive branch by:

- Ensuring coherent and unified government action.
- Facilitating the implementation of strategic initiatives.
- Reducing inefficiencies and improving government responsiveness.
- Enhancing collaboration and morale within the executive branch.

The Integrator plays a critical role in the success of the executive branch's governance by fostering an environment of cooperation and ensuring that all parts of the government are working towards common goals.

THE REST OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

This proposed new election process for the U.S. executive branch requires political parties to change how they present and market their candidates. In addition to naming candidates for the top two leadership positions, each party would suggest three possible candidates for each of the following cabinet positions:

1. **Secretary of State:** Oversees foreign affairs and relations, representing the U.S. internationally.
2. **Secretary of the Treasury:** Manages national finances, economic policy, and fiscal matters.
3. **Secretary of Defense:** Responsible for military policy and the Department of Defense, ensuring national security.
4. **Attorney General:** Heads the Department of Justice, overseeing law enforcement and legal affairs and ensuring the administration of justice.
5. **Secretary of Homeland Security:** Focuses on protecting the U.S. from domestic threats, including terrorism, natural disasters, and border security.

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6. **Secretary of Health and Human Services:** Oversees public health, welfare programs, and the implementation of health policies.
 7. **Secretary of Education:** Manages national education policies and programs to improve educational standards and access.
 8. **Secretary of Energy:** Responsible for energy policy, including developing renewable energy sources and maintaining the country's nuclear arsenal.
 9. **Secretary of Transportation:** Oversees transportation infrastructure and policy, including highways, railroads, and aviation.
 10. **Secretary of Commerce:** Promotes economic growth, trade, and technological advancement.
 11. **Secretary of Labor:** Manages labor laws, workplace safety, and employment standards.
 12. **Secretary of Housing and Urban Development:** Addresses national housing needs, urban development, and affordable housing policies.
 13. **Secretary of Veterans Affairs:** Provides services and support to military veterans.

Considerations for the Leadership Team

1. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Ensures that the leadership team reflects the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of the American populace.
2. **Transparency and Accountability:**
Establishes clear roles and responsibilities to foster accountability and transparency in decision-making processes.
3. **Policy Expertise:** Chooses leaders with expertise in their respective fields to ensure informed and effective governance.

The leadership team is crucial for the effective functioning of the federal government. It ensures that diverse aspects of national governance are managed efficiently and that the executive branch operates cohesively. This team's collective expertise and coordination are vital for addressing complex issues, from economic policy and national security to public health and infrastructure development.



References

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- [U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)
- [U.S. Department of Defense](#)
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- [U.S. Department of Commerce](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Each political party would need to take the following measures to implement this new election strategy effectively:

- **Define the candidate selection criteria:** Identify the qualifications and experience needed for each cabinet position.
- **Communicate the reasons why each candidate was selected:** Explain how each candidate specifically meets the criteria.
- **Engage with key stakeholders:** Talk to party members, political analysts, and interest groups to build consensus on the proposed candidates.
- **Maintain the ability to pivot:** Allow the final decisions to be based on the domestic and global situations when the candidates take office.

Issues to Consider

To fully implement this new election strategy, the following are a few of the many questions to answer:

- How often does the leadership team meet, and what might the agenda look like?
- What support positions are needed for the 15 executive branch leaders?
- What is the process for removing a leadership team member?
- Who is responsible for creating and maintaining an accountability chart for the executive branch of our government?
- Are citizens sufficiently engaged and educated to participate in this new election process?