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Can we move on from this voting fad?

You might be surprised to learn that if you water your garden with motor oil you might end up with dead plants. You may also be surprised to learn that 2008 presidential hopeful John McCain is falling quickly in the polls. This, according to news analysts, comes after people figured out he's connected to an unpopular president. Being labeled as a buddy of the current president can't be good for any candidate but it made me realize a few things about the upcoming presidential race. First, we're starting off with this campaign way too early. These people have been campaigning for months and I still don't know what Barrack Obama's health care plan is. Second, half of everything in life is luck and McCain doesn't have any. He's been to Vietnam, tortured, held prisoner and now can't get a break at the polls. Thus, I'm convinced most politicians win elections out of dumb luck. That's led me to believe our system of voting is broken and it's time for a new idea.

First, you might have noticed that a lot of Americans just don't vote. For one, there's too much work involved. You've got to find your polling place, drive to it and then pretend to be an informed citizen about issues you've never heard or cared about. That's why all the hot-button issues can be recited in one word: "Mexicans", "liberals", "gays" and "Iraq". Everyone knows what those things mean. Ask someone what "habeas corpus" means and you'll get a blank stare.

That's why we can't rely on voters to make good decisions anymore. Most of us would rather watch racecars continually turn left on a racetrack because that sure beats watching CSPAN. We can't rely on the news media to provide us with real analysis of an issue, either. That's why I propose we eliminate voting and go straight to casino gambling.

If we get rid of voting we'll save millions of dollars on voting booths, ballots, poll workers and all the other expenses. They already televise poker championships, who wouldn't want to see Hillary Clinton take on Mitt Romney at a game of Russian roulette? We'd be entertaining the masses that in turn would get people interested in the election – and we'd see the candidates performing work duties in a real world situation. If we can get all the people who want to be president in a Las Vegas casino we'll get the luckiest, smartest and most capable leader out of the bunch.

Let's say Fred Thompson is at the blackjack table and he has to decide to hit or stay at 19. If he says, "hit me" within a few seconds we know he's daring and decisive. If he says, "hit me" and still loses we know he's unlucky and careless. We can safely pass on him. If John Edwards is playing a game of poker against three other challengers and he has a nervous tell-all that lets everyone know he's holding a lousy hand we know he's not good

on defense. If Joe Biden hits it big on the slot machine time after time we know we'll have a good economy for the next four years.

We'll not only get to see their skills on the job, we'll get to see their character, too. We'll know which candidates have gambling and alcohol addictions and we can safely determine they shouldn't be the guys with their shaky finger on the button. They probably won't do much good for healthcare, either. If Rudy Giuliani shows up to the casino in a dress we'll know he's lost the support of religious Americans. Sam Brownback shows up to the casino in a golden helicopter? Now we know he's too detached from mainstream America.

We can take this a step further and name the Vice President, too. Whoever comes in second at the poker table and doesn't spend all their money on shrimp cocktails can be second in command. We'll even get to know the wives and husbands of the candidates, too. We'll see all the reasons why Bill Clinton got impeached all over again when he starts talking to the waitresses.

This argument may sound absurd to you now but just think how we've been the last few elections. Do we really want to deal with hanging chads, malfunctioning voting machines and long lines at the polls? Remember, the house always wins.