

Top Ten Qualities Needed To Be POTUS by Aurelio O'Brien

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TOP TEN QUALITIES needed to be a President of the United States and why I'm backing Obama.

- **You must be easy to caricature.** Let's face it; it's all about your face. A good president need not be good-looking, just easy to draw. Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon were huge successes. Kennedy and George Bush, Sr., not so much. Both of our current candidates show promise here, but Obama's ears give him an advantage.
- **You must have troubled relationships with food.** Clinton had his Big Mac attacks and Krispy Kreme addictions. Bush, Sr. hated broccoli, and Japanese food made him barf. The current president had a run-in with an angry pretzel, and JFK looked at Germans and saw jam donuts. The jury is out on this one, but Cindy's cookie recipe flap gives McCain the early advantage.
- **You must possess odd or embarrassing relatives with even odder names.** FDR's nephew, Tadd, married a Hungarian prostitute, but LBJ had this requirement down in spades with his family full of "Birds." Carter's brother, Billy, had his beer, and Ron, Jr. gave the Reagan's a moment of pause when he took up ballet. Clinton had brother Roger, and the current president has brother Neil, and his own wild twins. Barack Obama's own name is about as wacky as they come, although I'm not sure how to gauge who has the real advantage here with the addition of Palin and her family on the Republican ticket. We'll call it a draw.
- **You must look good in hats.** This one is a deal-breaker. Dukakis learned the hard way that you have to own your hat or you can't be president. Lincoln and his stovepipe will be forever joined in our collective memory, and who could resist the Gipper in a cowboy hat. Both of the current candidates have avoided hats, and although Obama looked good in that African head wrap, it may have been a fashion faux pas. No clear winner here.
- **You must be able to throw a baseball.** This one is not a deal-breaker but every president since Taft has thrown an opening pitch. You don't have to be Roger Clemens, but if you only throw underhand or your toss is too wimpy to make it to the plate, don't expect a second term. McCain has a definite disadvantage here due to his war injuries, but seeing Bema bowl gives him only a slight advantage at best.
- **You must have a book agent.** Whether you write the book yourself or use a ghost, you've got to have an agent. With all the books pouring out of the last few presidents and first families, no wonder each of them needs their own library. McCain has two book credits. Obama has four. Advantage: Obama.
- **You must have imaginary enemies.** When we were kids we had imaginary friends but as president, you need imaginary enemies. Whether they are nazis, commies, hippies, or terrorists, you need something that keeps you from turning out the lights when you go to sleep. Nixon had so many he kept a list. McCain calls everyone "my friends," and Obama is known for reaching across the aisle. Fighting with each other doesn't count, so this one looks like a draw.

- **You must have kooky kids.** Well or ill-behaved, doesn't matter, as long as they're kooky. Some ex-presidents have gotten by with kooky pets, but America especially loves to watch the kooky ones grow up and blossom, like an episode of "The Swan." Tricia Nixon, Amy Carter, Chelsea Clinton all did their bit. McCain's kids are all too old to be kooky. Obama's girls delivered a major dose of kooky at the convention, and were met with ovations. Definite advantage to Obama.
- **Your GPA must be a C average or lower.** This requirement is George W. Bush's legacy. We Americans are far more comfortable knowing our president isn't going to out-smart even the dumbest of us. A quick web search revealed no definitive figures on either of the current candidates, but McCain admitted to being at the bottom of his class in the Naval Academy, so we'll give the advantage to McCain.
- **You must have super-rich friends or relatives.** This one is extremely tough to gauge. McCain drinks beer and Obama prefers wine, but the more beer McCain drinks the more money Cindy makes. However, Obama's BFF, Oprah, is one of the richest women in the world. But then, McCain, thanks to Cindy, can't even remember how many mansions they own. They both qualify, with perhaps a slight advantage to McCain for having more direct access to funds.

There you have it: My Top Ten. It looks like 4 to 3, advantage: Obama, but there's still time. If McCain comes up with some solid imaginary enemies (Iranians, anyone?), dons a dapper derby, or adopts Urkel, the race could change. Stranger things have happened in the name of politics.



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