

## Gigolo

What's a gigolo, an unscrupulous person who preys on the weakness or vanity of others to seduce and ultimately swindle them. Let's transfer that logic to our next election season and see if it could possibly apply to any our candidates or elected officials. This is going to be fun because I have been feeling a little jilted, like I've been betrayed or used, and now I want some justice.

So how does this stuff work, ok our federal government has their presidential election every four year. Every two years we have our congressional elections for all 435, members of the house. These are held during the presidential elections and again at the two-year mid-terms for each four year cycle. Oh boy, so we can "clean house" every two years! I mean take a good look at our elected representatives and decide whether their intentions have been completely honorable. Please don't cry because we have had two full years to Google the crap out of our local representatives, and their policies are well known. I know they look good and say such nice things but if they have been running around on our dime chasing the big bucks, it's time for a divorce. Two years, call me a fool but I can handle it.

With the senators it's more serious, six years can be a freaking life time for if you married to a creep. Funny thing about the senators is how they divide up the elections. They still hit the same two-year election cycle but these occur on every third congressional election. The senators are then broken up into three groups, with 1/3<sup>rd</sup> being voted on in every two-year cycle. Depending on who your senators are, you will see them feathered into the voting ballot once every 3 congressional elections, like a prize in every 3<sup>rd</sup>. box of crackerjacks. These are the trouble makers who can outlive the presidency and have a serious effect on the political debate. There are only 100 senators, two per state, so we can afford to be extra careful before we get near any of these guys. The senators are well aware of this, so let's all hope we are not electing the class bully who will keep repeating the same grade level, for six long years.

These are the 535 people entrusted with our national direction and wellbeing. Local and state politics may be just as important but the federal elections are easier to understand. (However, it's the state primary elections that are the most critical, since these are the only candidates we see on election day.)! When it comes to keeping good political leaders in office it comes down to the people who are willing to make politics their business and many of these guys will have to support themselves and their families on this salary. For Washington politicians, it could mean being the poorest family in the neighborhood, when they are relying solely on their government salaries. That does not mean they are poor by any stretch, only that everyone they know will probably be better off.

Interesting dynamics to say the least. So why would anyone put themselves in this position, public attention, scrutiny, relocation, high cost of living, it would be a nightmare for a lot of us. Of course, if you are financially well off it's no big deal and you can live anywhere comfortably with an extra 175K a year coming in. They say that contract law is as endless as the imagination, and that can also apply to political aspirations. Some enter office with all the best intentions and other not so much, either way economic reality and rationalization can begin to chip away our character. I have heard that there is a sickness in Washington that is hard to avoid but it's the same sickness we all face every day, only a lot more of it. Therefore, it's our job to give these guys their directives, support and oversight through the electoral process, no need to demonstrate or riot just get out the vote, "*and verify the numbers*"!