

Opinion: When will the United States elect a president who is worth celebrating?

Today we celebrate 44 men. It's Presidents' Day.

Not that long ago Abraham Lincoln and George Washington were honored separately on their February birthdays. Instead of squabbling over which, if any, presidents were worthy of having a federal holiday dedicated in their honor, one day – the third Monday of February – is set aside to recognize all of the presidents of the United States.

This being a presidential election year *Lake Tahoe News* believes it is more important than other years to pause and reflect about these men who some say are the most important leader in the world.



Mount Rushmore
immortalizes
four
presidents.

Are any others
worthy of such
recognition?

Photo/LTN

What are the qualities we like in a leader?

Put aside party affiliation. Put aside gender. Put aside race. Put aside religion. Now answer that question.

It's time for a frank discussion about what leadership means. It's time to set priorities for this country. How are we supposed to pick a person to lead us if collectively we don't know where we want to be led?

Is picking the lesser of two evils really the choice we should be left with? In a country of millions are the people vying for the Republican nomination and the current president really the best either party can come up with?

How can we have hope when the powers that be rely on individuals and the "wisdom" of those who have led us into this oblivion? How can we believe in candidates who can't figure out what they stand for, equate homosexuality to bestiality or think cheating on a dying wife can be explained away?

Simply put, being president is a job. We, the people, are the bosses of the president. But instead it feels more like they are the boss of us – telling us what we need and want. Until the people take control, tell the president, Congress and other people in power what we want, we will be taken on a ride we may not want to be on.

We are the bosses of all politicians. One way to evaluate them is how we vote. But why wait every two, four or six years for that to happen. Performance evaluations are the norm in most lines of work. They should be told what is working and what isn't. But we have to tell them, not them telling us.

We all have choices. We can sit back and complain. We can point fingers. We can say one person alone cannot make a difference.

Or, we can make our opinions known, we can take responsibility, and we can be a voice for the change we want

in our communities, our states, and our country.

While it will always make sense to have one day to collectively celebrate the presidents of the United States, *Lake Tahoe News* would like to think all who have held and will hold that office would be worthy of having their individual day to be recognized. Maybe in 2017 after the 2016 election we can start on that path.