

[★ Home](#)[★ About Us](#)[★ Issue of the Week](#)[★ Archived Issues](#)[★ Contact Us](#)

## Issue of the Week

### Issue:

With a few exceptions, our government has been largely controlled by a professional politician class for many decades. We have congressman and senators that have served for many successive terms, stretching over 20, 30 or even 40 years. Presidents have routinely served successive terms (of course, Roosevelt's 4 terms brought about the 2-term limit.). Sometimes, even multiple members of the same family have served as president. What are the implications of this.....good or bad

### Analysis:

**“Politicians are a lot like diapers. They should be changed frequently, and for the same reasons.”** A notable quotation from Benjamin Franklin provides his insight on this issue. Franklin believed that it is a natural human tendency that, as individuals become entrenched in positions of power, they slide into leveraging their power to their own benefit and the benefit of their friends. As we have seen, over time, this has been recognized and partially dealt with through the adoption of "term limits" legislation on a spotty basis.

George Washington saw the political parties as a key element in creating this political class. As George said, "However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion." Thus, in Washington's view, the parties provide the infrastructure and haven for the establishment of the professional political class, where the party's interest in preservation of power becomes more important than the interests of the People.

The harsh reality is that the cost of launching and running a campaign for election in today's world demand an infrastructure and organization that can raise funds necessary to be competitive. It is no longer feasible for a candidate to meet and talk to every voter. Awareness and understanding of a candidate's positions and proposed programs is created through traditional media advertising as well as well-thought-out use of technology-based "social media". All of this costs money and requires organizations, fundraising and, in fact, leads to politicians in power for long periods of time. So, we ask ourselves how we ensure that our founding fathers' warnings about subversion of power are not realized. I believe that Thomas Jefferson made the best point on this when he said, “When the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.” A free press, that "tells it like it is", is critical to preservation of our free society. Not only is our freedom threatened when the press becomes biased or subverted; but also, we, as individuals must actually read, analyze and draw our own conclusions about what is occurring.

We, as informed citizens, must hold our politicians accountable to the people, rather than to their parties or their own inner circles. While, in today's world, we cannot realistically restrict officeholders to not being "professional politicians", we can, by being informed hold them accountable to the people. Our biggest risk of losing our freedom is if the press becomes biased and our people lack attention to understanding the issues we must deal with. We welcome your opinion on these issues.

## Health Informatics Online

Pursue Your MHI at UC. 100% Online. No GRE or GMAT. No campus visits.



Copyright © 2015. All rights reserved.

