

The Election(?) of 1948

[\[The Day After Ragnarok\]](#)

First off: there *has* to be an election in 1948, in what's left of the United States. The emergency election in '46 was barely tolerated even on the West Coast, and half of the USA's current separatist issues stem from the voting and eligibility irregularities that occurred during it. If there is to be a functional American democratic republic, it's going to need to have a legitimate election.

Unfortunately, there's no guarantee that the country is capable of having one. And even if it is, the Election of 1948 is going to be extremely *messy*. The stakes are high, and far too many of the participants have gotten used to using two-fisted action to solve their problems.

Candidates:

- Earl Warren (Republican): current emergency President. Enjoys the support of General MacArthur. Moderate: simultaneously supports continuing reclaiming the rest of the country and keeping a watchful peace in the Pacific. Widely criticized by

large sections of the electorate for both emergency policies, and the general tenor of the 1946 election.

- Homer Bone (Democrat): Justice on the Ninth Circuit, and former Senator from Washington State. Reliable thorn in the side of both the MacArthur regime and the Warren administration since the Serpentfall.

Progressive: looks for formally ending war with Japanese, improving relations with USSR. Absolutely not trusted by the surviving military, from General MacArthur on down. Current Vice Presidential Candidate: former California Attorney General Robert Walker Kenny.

- Douglas McKay (Independent Republican): Simultaneously a Lt. Colonel in the US Army and the governor of Oregon. Conservative: has openly broken with both MacArthur and Warren, in a political sense (McKay remains loyal to the USA). Supports statehood for the Philippines.

Assuming that what's left of the United States actually has an election for President, here are the existing fault lines:

- Arizona (4 EV): Mildly Democratic. Heavily influenced by Texas.
- California (25 EV): Moderately Republican. Warren and MacArthur have organized the state's GOP to

bring in the votes. Plus, the head of the California Democratic party (SAG President Ronald Reagan) absolutely will not support Bone in any way whatsoever. Neither will Governor James Roosevelt (Col, UMSC Reserve), who is nominally a Democrat but was Earl Warren's anointed successor in the California gubernatorial election of 1946.

- Idaho (4 EV): Mildly Democratic. Influenced by Utah.
- Nevada (3 EV): Mildly Democratic. Influenced by Utah.
- Oregon (6 EV) Mildly Independent Republican. Governor McKay will either win this state, or keep Warren from winning it.
- Washington (8 EV): Solidly Democratic. Bone will absolutely win this state.

A lot of corners were cut in the 1946 special Presidential election, which most Constitutional scholars concede was legitimate primarily because General MacArthur said that it was. While not actively corrupt, neither was the election entirely clean; the estranged status of both Utah and Texas was merely the most obvious symptom of the damage done to electoral mechanisms. This is why most of the rest of the western states have shifted towards the Democrats, however temporarily, as a result of the shenanigans in 1946.

The problem here is that the US Constitution never contemplated the unique disaster that has befallen the country. If there's a new Census in 1950, the Electoral Vote count will be readjusted then; in the meantime, the courts have ruled that states must simply use their existing EVs. As a result, the likely EV results will be as follows:

- Earl Warren: 25 EVs.
- Homer Bone: 19 EVs.
- Douglas McKay: 6 EVs.

This is not enough to give Earl Warren a majority, unless one of the members of the Electoral College changes his vote. What will thus most likely happen would be the election getting thrown into the House of Representatives -- where no party has a majority. There are currently five parties with representatives in Congress, and while Warren enjoys a workable majority on day-to-day matters because of the emergency, that will immediately fly out the window when it comes to a Presidential election.

Wild Cards:

- Texas (23 EVs): The biggest of the wild cards. If Texas participates in the 1948 elections, the likelihood

of the election going to the House of Representatives effectively disappears. Unfortunately, the state's politicians either like the status quo, want independence, or would rather gargle alkali water than vote for Homer Bone. The price for Texian support of Bone -- along with many, many other things -- would probably be a high-ranking Texas Democrat as Vice President. Which, given current Texian politics, probably means Lyndon B. Johnson.

- Utah (4 EVs): Utah can also assure Warren's election (or throw it back into the House, if Texas comes in on Bone's side somehow, by getting Idaho and Nevada to go for Warren). Of course, Utah's politicians will likely loathe both major candidates. But if Utah could convince Texas to support McKay, and then use its influence on Idaho and Nevada to get McKay to win there, then McKay becomes the next President -- and Utah and Texas are effectively back in the USA.
- New Hampshire (4 EVs): Far, far to the east, New Hampshire survives as a state. Its governor is freely elected, it retains a republican form of government, and it even has enough of a population to qualify under the Constitution. New Hampshire's GOP will duly nominate President Earl Warren in *absentia* for the primary, and he will duly win the general election

in New Hampshire. The only problem is, how do they hand-deliver the results to California in time?

Long Shots:

- Alaska and Hawaii (3 EVs each): Technically, Alaska and Hawaii are territories. *However*, they both have high enough populations to justify statehood, assuming that in Alaska's case one is willing to include soldiers on military bases. Given that many of those soldiers come from states that don't exist any more, there's a legitimate argument that they should be so included. At any rate, admitting either would effectively give the US Army and/or Navy an actual say in the election. The idea of that alarms even some Warren voters.
- Arkansas (9 EVs): Arkansas has enough of a population to qualify as a state, but Governor Benjamin Laney would much rather ally with the Konfederacy. He certainly does not want to participate in the 1948 election; the odds of that ending with Laney and his cronies dangling from a noose for slave-mongering is simply too high. On the other hand, if Laney is **not** the governor, then the electoral calculus might change.

- Illinois (28 EVs): Chicago has almost two million 'voters;' unfortunately it does not control Springfield, which is one of the few former state capitals in the Mayoralities that survived the Serpentfall. It's unlikely to matter, but if Springfield could somehow get access to American (or Texian) troops in any number, it could tip the power balance in the Mayoralities permanently, and in the USA's favor. Or Texas's. Or possibly even just Springfield's.
- Iowa (10 EVs): The Iowa Soviet would be indifferent to what the capitalists would be up to in the West, except for one thing: Secretary Wallace. Except that Acting President Wallace is the correct title, yes? The odds of anyone else in the USA accepting this are currently low, but then the plan would not be to actually win the election; the plan would be to participate long enough to provide cover for seeding the People's Grain in as many places as possible. Then see what grows.
- Louisiana (10 EVs): Baton Rouge is a ruin, the last elected governor (James Davis) is in Californian exile, and the largest Mayorality in the state is Alexandria, under 'Governor' Earl Long. Long does not *quite* have the population needed for his territory to qualify as a state, but he does have regular contact with the Texas state government. One quick military campaign with

Texian support, and Long might indeed be able to bring in Louisiana's Electoral Votes for... well, now. That depends.

- New Mexico (4 EVs): New Mexico's state government collapsed under the twin pressures of monster attacks and the Evacuation of '46; most of the state is currently under Texian 'administration,' and the rest is administered by Arizona. But theoretically enough New Mexicans might survive to form enough of a government to qualify for the 1948 election. Especially if Vice Governor Johnson is the one doing the counting.
- Ohio (25 EVs): there are four Mayoralities that both claim to be the legitimate government of Ohio, *and* have enough force to back that claim up. Any attempt to bring in Ohio's Electoral Votes would first require that the state be reunified. Preferably not by the people who are actually secret renegade Konfederates and/or Serpent Cultists? And what happens if either group does the reunifying, and decides to join the election anyway?

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