

Okay, I sort of don't think anybody should be president, and definitely not me, but I'll answer your question. Actually, I'll answer it twice.

When our political system is working, power is thoughtfully allotted among the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of government. Great, awesome, good plan, nice work everyone. In reality, entrenched beliefs and positive feedback loops often keep government at a standstill. I know this answer is of-the-moment, but sue me- it's what's on my mind right now. In our country, today, there is a *huge* opportunity to put a young progressive judge on the supreme court. This action stays within the vested power of the president, and could have far-reaching impacts on policy in our country. So I would withdraw the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh and replace it with someone like Michelle Friedland (ALSO I totally don't know that much about judges, but she seems cool). If I was actually only going to be president for one day, I might have to strategically choose the day such that the nomination had any chance of being confirmed. Don't make me do all that research. I'm an ecologist, not a political scientist. But I'd do my damn best to put someone progressive on the bench. I think that's a reasonable task for 24 hours. Do that, and send an army of staffers (I do get to bring my army of staffers, right? Right??) To ensure the votes come in if at all possible. Make crazy promises to make sure the votes come through. Yeah. It's just tough, since *just* being the president allots only certain powers that wouldn't be reversed by a majority congress. Checks and balances!

If you're asking what I'd do if I were, like, ruler of the US, which again, I don't believe should be a job title anybody holds, the question becomes much, much more difficult. Paralyzed by choice, like I said before. Okay, I get a whole day as ruler? Let me prioritize: In my estimation the toughest problems we have to contend with right now are:

- Community fragmentation and entrenched beliefs
- Climate change

I don't know, I don't know! I don't know the answers to these questions. How can I overhaul an agricultural system to provide local nutritious food without starving millions of people? How can I put strict, *LOW* limits on industry carbon emissions without catastrophizing millions of lives? How can I require multidisciplinary, non-coercive environmental education replace our current system of schooling in one fell swoop (without training teachers and mollifying parents)? How can I ask Americans to trust each other again all in one day? I told you, I don't want this job. I'm not qualified, and neither is anyone else! So here's what I'd do as supreme ruler of the US, for one day:

I'd set up a system of government which is, in the long run, doomed to fall into corruption and stagnation, but in the short run, would be populated with intelligent and dedicated experts in many fields, working together in committees to create policy to affect change in our country. Social scientists, researchers, and experienced professionals, from a diversity of ages and backgrounds, would be given the responsibility of plan-making, prioritizing quick and dramatic responses to climate change, resource management, and education. Once I've set up the new departments (one of which would be responsible for drafting our new system of democratic elections and appointments), I would hastily decree the job of "ruler" to be destroyed and defunct, and disappear in a puff of smoke, never to be seen again as at the sun sets orange over Washington. And that would help, maybe, for a little while.

Where's my army of staffers? They are all smarter than I am!

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