

November 5, 2064. Washington, D.C. (Wastrel News Network) – Federal officials remain dumbfounded by the appearance of two internet cat personalities on the ballots for President in all 50 states.

"It looks like we've been 'paw'ned," said Priebus Rotundalo, chairman of the Federal Election Commission, trying to make light of the situation. "We didn't think that this was possible. Someone hacked all the voting machines in the country, and the names on the ballot for president were these two cats."

Rotundalo was unable to explain why the voter turnout, which was normal for a presidential election at the beginning of the day, grew to the largest turnout in years as the word spread. "Yes, we had a voter turnout, we estimate, of 73% of registered voters, maybe more. People waited in line until after midnight in some precincts to vote for their favorite cat."

"Perhaps unfortunately," he continued, "there is no provision in the Constitution or existing law for having another election. Also, after the 28th Amendment was added to the Constitution in 2034, electoral votes have been automatic, and there is no opportunity for electors to meet and ignore the result, and then elect one of the, uh, standard candidates. We still determine the outcome by electoral vote, though, as you know. Both Eyeroll, the winner, with 324 electoral votes, and Snooky, the loser, with 214, appear to meet all the requirements to serve as President, except one. It is not because they are cats. No court has ever decided this, of course, but the Constitution does not unambiguously require the president to be a human being. However, neither Eyeroll nor Snooky meet the age requirement to serve as President, and therefore it seems that the election must go into the House of Representatives."

The human candidates for president, William Jefferson Mezvinsky and Barron Trump, issued a joint statement saying that the result was invalid, that only humans can be president, and that there must be another election. They said they would file a petition in federal court in Washington, D. C., tomorrow to declare the election invalid and requesting an emergency election. They then issued separate statements claiming victory, although it seems that neither of them received any votes. Write-in votes and absentee votes are not yet counted. (Update: After discussing the matter with lawyers, Mezvinsky and Trump said that the legal issues were complicated but they said that they were determined to have a court declare the presidential election void. The petition will not be filed tomorrow, however.)

Reached at the house of his humans, the Keurig-Fabbro family of Muncie, Indiana, Eyeroll assembled a hasty but well-organized press conference and said he was certain that he had won the election. He denounced the joint Mezvinsky-Trump statement as "human-racist" and said, "I thought we were beyond that now. Our great country has demonstrated its inclusiveness towards cats for years." Moreover, he purred, "Even if the election goes into the House, I remain the people's choice. Cats and humans cannot be judged by the same standards. We will introduce scientific data, if needed, showing that my age of 9 cat years is at least equal to 35 human years, and that the genetic modifications made to my ancestors and my own electronic implants give me an intelligence higher than most people. I am superbly qualified, although, of course, I had no idea that I was on the ballot." The feline then demonstrated the eyeroll that made him an internet media star.

Snooky, on the other hand, expressed her exasperation and disgust in a series of tweets, saying that it was all a mistake and that human beings should run the country. The conservative cat said in one tweet, "You humans have screwed everything up, and we cats will survive anyway. We don't want the responsibility or the blame for your failures." Snooky said that Eyeroll's statements were "deplorable" and said that she was immediately ordering her humans, the Psrybyszchewsky family of Santa

Monica, California, to head for Washington and contest Eyeroll's "power grab." People posted tweets asking her if she conceded the election, and she only answered, "What for?"

Looks like a catfight in Washington, D.C., folks. So what else is new? This is Orotund Vowel of the WNN, signing off.