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Letter From America

It is ironic that pretty much the only time we respect and sometimes even admire politicians is in times of crisis, when they have to abandon politics in favour of statesmanship. Last week's cruel weather on the eastern seaboard of the United States must surely have helped Barack Obama to secure a second term in what has probably been the most hard fought, and definitely the most expensive, US election in living memory.

In election terms, it would seem that at the end of the day there were more Americans, (but only just, because this was not far off a dead heat), who preferred to give Obama a second chance than Romney a first one. The Republicans have now lost two elections in a row, and until the extreme right element of that party see sense, there is a distinct feeling in the United States that they could be runner-up yet again in another four years. It is a simple fact that the Republican party's extreme views on abortion, immigration, same sex marriage and a host of other key issues are completely at odds with many of the new generation of American voters, and a fair proportion of the older generation too, come to that. The Republicans need to work out what happened, and make sure it doesn't happen again in 2016.

But for now, the US needs to unite behind its president, and their president needs to work hard to justify the faith that has been shown in giving him a second term. He has a lot to do, and he must show that it can indeed be done.



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