Do You Want This Job?
I happen to think you’d be damn good at it. And hey, it might even be fun!

As you read this, America is all about the election. But let me ask you: Would you ever consider running for office? If you said, “Hell, no,” you’re not alone. In a recent *Glamour* survey, only one in five women said they would consider public service as a career. (“Too much butt-kissing,” explained one. OK!) In fact, only 17 percent of Congress is female—pretty lame when you consider we’re 51 percent of the population. So what’s up?

“The problem is not the voters,” explains Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University. “When women run, they fare just as well as men. The problem is that women aren’t recruited to run.”

Well, can I recruit you? First of all, you might do the world good: Some evidence shows women in office do a better job of being bipartisan than do men (and God knows there’s a shortage of that these days). Besides, even with gridlock, being a woman in government can be incredibly rewarding, says Senator Olympia Snowe, R-Me., who joined Congress at age 31 and is retiring this fall, at 65. “We’ve literally changed laws and lives when it comes to women’s medical research, child support, pensions, and equitable pay,” Snowe tells *Glamour*. Her colleague Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY., puts it this way: “If we had 51 percent of women in Congress, do you think we’d be debating birth control? No, we’d be debating the economy and jobs and national security…and everything that matters.”

But here’s the most shocking idea of all: You might actually enjoy an elected-official gig. “As a member of Congress, I work with amazing people,” says Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash. “To sit down with Bono to hear about his work in Africa, or the director of the NIH, Francis Collins, who cracked the human genome—that’s exciting!”

As we put together this issue, I had the privilege of talking to President Barack Obama (see page 70 for our election coverage). That was great, but you know what would be even better? Someday sitting down with a candidate for the state legislature, or Congress, or the Oval Office—and having it be you.

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**GIVEBACK**

Want to help a girl who dreams of leading? Then here’s an idea for your act of generosity this month: Running Start teaches young women ages 14 to 27 about politics—and encourages them to run for office young. (“I want to bring more civility to D.C.,” says one alum, Brianne Nadeau, who plans to run for city council there.) Visit runningstartonline.org; $50 puts two women through the Elect Her training program. Or sign up yourself!