

Why Vote?

To Honor Their Sacrifice

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Many Americans act as though the right to vote is a God-given right when they fail to see that the right to vote is given to the people today by the blood of courageous fighters who wanted representation.

There are countries around the world that are run by monarchies, dictatorships, and oligarchies. Some of these countries like Saddam's Iraq and Mubarak's Egypt claim to have free elections where voting for any candidate is allowed, but in reality, the elections are rigged and the votes are not counted.

We have power to make change. That is the keyword: Power. It is said that the people are the fourth check on government along with the Legislative, Executive, and Legislative branches so why not actually use this power? One way we can do this is by voting in a politician that represents our issues. This is not a game or anything; this is our future that fifty year old or so politicians are playing with. Lives are at stake today in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are spending more money on college education. Where are our voices? They are virtually non-existent since we have no voting bloc to actually implement change. We as the youth can be a real threat or a big blessing to a candidate. We have this potential and we have to develop this potential, so that we can address issues that affect us and make positive changes to them.

The point of this message is not to give a history lesson on voting, but to give a reality check that the right to vote was not given to us freely. It was fought for and blood spilled in order to get the right to vote. First, it started with the Colonists wanting representation in the British Parliament, which ultimately resulted in revolution, African-Americans, with the result of the Civil War at the cost of more than six hundred thousand soldiers, and lastly women, who got the right to vote recently! It hasn't even been a century since they have been given the right to vote. We are represented by the people we vote for. Failure to do so makes us, the younger generation become represented by politicians who will curry favor to the older folks for the simple reason that they got into office because of their vote and not ours. With college tuition rising and the prospect of having a draft, it is time for the youth of America to finally stand up and raise their voice by voting and getting involved in the issues. Our future is affected by what happens today and not voting will be a slap in the face to those that are currently fighting for freedom and liberty around the world. We have to be vigilant and keep our politicians responsible for their actions. This right did not come to us cheap; let's respect those that have died for this right and VOTE!

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

Abraham Lincoln