

Why We Should Vote!



VOTING IS THE LANGUAGE OF DEMOCRACY

When you vote, you're not just electing government officials. You and your fellow voters are expressing your needs, preferences, satisfaction, and dissatisfaction as an electorate. Voting is the primary language of a democracy. It's one of the main tools people have to communicate how they wish to be governed. Who voters decide to put in office reflects the issues they care about, their commitment to developing solutions for pressing societal problems, and how they would like their tax dollars spent. This is why voting is important in our democracy.

DOWN-BALLOT RACES AND BALLOT MEASURES ARE FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

It's estimated that **over 30% of voters** don't complete their entire ballot, but there are so many opportunities for individuals to substantially change their everyday lives at the bottom of their ballots. Races for local roles like city council members, county commissioners, sheriffs, and school board members are found toward the end of the ballot — though their location certainly isn't a reflection of their importance. For example, how police engage with a community, whether public transportation is affordable, and the accessibility of clean, affordable water are just a few critical issues shaped by **down-ballot races**.

YOUR VOTE CAN CREATE LONG-LASTING IMPLICATIONS

Why is voting so important? Presidential elections typically garner the highest turnout from voters and attention from the media, which can lead to the false perception that electoral issues are only relevant on a four-year cycle. But elections happen every single year, and their results have enduring effects that can last for years or even lifetimes.

STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS SHAPE OUR COMMUNITIES

State and local government elections impact our lives every day. From how police engage with the community to whether public transportation is affordable, safe, and clean, to whether affordable housing is being built, local elections shape our communities. Leaving no power on the table means using your vote in every race in every election because it matters.

VOTERS HOLD ELECTED OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE AT THE BALLOT BOX

Voters have the power to hold elected officials accountable and ensure the representatives they elect represent them and advocate for the needs and interests of their communities.

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS SHAPE OUR LEGAL SYSTEM

In many states and jurisdictions, judges are elected by voters. From local trial courts to appellate courts, and the State Supreme Court, electing judges who are committed to justice and equity helps ensure that the legal system operates fairly and without bias, upholding the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

OUR RIGHTS ARE ON THE BALLOT

Systemic change starts at the ballot box. Voters have the power to elect candidates committed to civil rights and racial justice to advance our multi-racial democracy.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE! YOUR VOTE IS YOUR POWER!

