



Have you ever been asked, “How important is this vote?” This question may be regarding a simple topic such as, should a team serve pizza or hamburgers at their banquet, or as significant as electing a President of the United States. Regardless, voting is a time tested method of reflecting the will of the people.

On the surface, one individual vote may not seem important. However, the cumulative result of individual votes is the most powerful tool in the world for effecting change. Change, for better or worse, is in the future and is determined by the results of our vote. The results of voting touches every aspect of our daily lives. From the taxes we pay to each level of government, to the benefits we receive from the same, the individual votes of the people have decided the costs and benefits received. Some we agree with, some we don't. If you don't agree with a law or an elected official, the only way to change the law or the official is through your vote.

This scenario has happened to everyone—a person is constantly complaining about an elected official or law. You ask them if they voted for that person or law. They answer “no”—they didn't have the time, it wouldn't do any good, or any other of a thousand other reasons. The bottom line is they didn't vote.

Once you hear that, what do you think? “Right—if you didn't vote—don't complain because you didn't exercise your basic right of casting a ballot.” Have you ever sat on a jury? One of your basic rights as a citizen, is to be tried in a court of law and judged by a jury of your peers. If the law requires a unanimous decision and one single juror votes for guilty, or not guilty, it vividly shows how powerful a single vote can be.

In 2018 the national voting theme is the “importance of voting.” So this year when an election is coming up in your State, take a moment and think about how you would feel if you didn't have the right to vote, study the issues and candidates, and exercise your right as a citizen of this great country-VOTE!

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