

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

BY JAKE WILSTED

HOW TO VOTE RESPONSIBLY



RESEARCH

Perhaps the most crucial element of voting is researching the candidates on a local, state, and federal level. One of the greatest dangers to democracy is straight-ticket voting, which is a pattern of voting solely ticking off candidates from a particular political party. When researching candidates, understand the policies they wish to enact, their endorsements and, if applicable, how they have voted on previous legislation.

Use reliable sources! Social media and biased news networks present a narrative. Be aware of this narrative and what an author of a news piece may be trying to convince you. The most reliable information can be found reading off of campaign websites, watching debates, and attending candidates' events throughout the political scope.



CRITICAL THINKING

Now that you have thoroughly researched candidates, you must decide who to vote for! Ask yourself the following questions: Which candidate do I want to represent my values and beliefs? Has this candidate proven they will represent me?

It is essential to have an open mind. The political candidates that will best represent you will not always be from the political party you typically identify with.



VOTE

On November 8th, 2022, go and exercise your right to vote! In Iowa, voters can vote in person, by absentee ballot or request a ballot by mail. It is crucial in our Nation's democracy to exercise the civil duty of voting.



SIX VOTES



DETERMINED THE WINNER OF IOWA'S SECOND DISTRICT IN THE 2020 ELECTION

RESULTS OF THE 2020 ELECTION:
IOWA'S SECOND DISTRICT

 **MILLER-MEEKS**
196,964 VOTES

HART
196,958 VOTES

DOES MY VOICE MATTER?

YES! Unfortunately, when presidential elections reach over 155 million votes and local elections such as Iowa's second district almost reach 200,000 votes, many think, "what impact could my vote really have...?" The answer is simple: a lot more than you realize. If fewer people had this attitude, the results of elections throughout the nation would be different.

VOTING IN IOWA

51% OF VOTERS BETWEEN AGES 18 AND 19 VOTED IN THE 2020 ELECTION

55% OF VOTERS BETWEEN AGES 18 AND 29 VOTED IN THE 2020 ELECTION

IS OUR GOVERNMENT TRULY REPRESENTING US?

If only half of the new voters are voting in elections, can we, the people, confidently say we are represented? Representation happens at all levels of government: federal, state, and local. It is a crucial element to the United States' democracy to vote as soon as eligible--18 years old.

62% OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION VOTED IN 2020

