

# One vote could make or break the decision

Not only teens, but the community as a whole needs to be aware of political issues.

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In this day and age, there are so many people who have no idea what is going on in the political world. Not only students at high school, but many adults have no clue when caucuses are, who the candidates in the next election are and what they represent, or even simpler things like when the next voting takes place. This is one of the biggest problems with society: people not caring enough about the world around them and what is going on in politics.

Although many may claim politics doesn't affect them, or if they don't vote in the next election it won't make a difference, these people couldn't be more wrong. Politics affects the entire country. Who gets voted in the office, not only as president, but as senators, representatives, etc. Is so important because of all the big decisions they make which affect our country.

Voting is such an important right of passage, and the fact that some people in high school are even getting the chance to vote so young is amazing. Although some people may think that this is such a young age to vote at, it really is amazing to be able to cast a vote and participate

in society by sharing an opinion.

The Iowa caucus is also another huge opportunity to get out there and share an opinion with others who may even feel the same on issues. Everyone gets together and decides to support a certain candidate who they think would lead our nation better than the other candidates would. The Iowa caucus is not only a huge event for Iowans, but an enormous event for all of America. The presidential candidates depend on this caucus because Iowa is a swing state, so whoever does the best here will probably do the best in the real election.

Something that people don't understand a lot is that every vote counts. Although one vote out of millions may sound like a long shot from making a difference, if every person had that same mindset of their vote not counting, who would vote then? Even if one vote doesn't make a difference in an election, the process of going to vote and making someone feel part of something is a huge factor. When more people get involved with the community and pay attention to what's going on around them, things will be more true to what Americans think and believe.

Although many students, or even adults, claim they don't want to participate in politics because it has nothing to do with them and it is childish, participating in America and what goes on in the political life is extremely important because there are so many things that apply to the people of America. No matter if it's rights for certain groups and gaining social justice, or how we manage money, it's important.

Going out and participating in society is a great way to be involved and make a difference in a city. Whether it's just a city council vote, or a presidential vote, it's very important for people to get the word out there. Although not everyone may be interested in the dirty details of politics and what it really boils down to, there is no excuse for someone who is able to vote and simply chooses not to because they don't think their voice matters.



*"I think it's important to vote because it is our duty as Americans and we can't be leaderless."*  
-Ryan Draeger, '17



*"I think that if people are going to vote they should do their research and vote ideologically."*  
-Morgan Swanger, '17



*"One vote doesn't matter in elections."*  
-Michael Butler, '19



*"Voting is important because if you don't you won't have the right to complain about the president. Every vote counts!"*  
-Ellie Beghtol, '16

# Indian mascot

Sophia Kabance  
@SophLynnBance00

A mascot is a person, animal, or object that stands as a symbol to represent a school or group. Sounds simple enough, right? Well it can be.

Even though mascots are often looked at as prediction of how their school's football team plays or a first impression of what the students act like, it's usually totally non-related. It's only a short and sweet symbol to throw into chants or picture as a logo. Going into the basketball season, a typical high school student might be thinking the game against the Mighty Minnesota Midgets is going to be the easiest win of the season until a team of players no shorter than 6 foot tall steps onto the court. A school's mascot could be a saint, but those students might be involved in some suspect activity, you never can judge a book by its cover. Bottom line is, mascots stand no purpose besides symbolizing something to cheer for.

Conflict is created when a mascot becomes personal, carrying sentimental value, and more specifically acting as a culture or race. When a mascot is something as irrelevant as the Southpaw of the Chicago White Sox, it can't possibly arouse controversy because a character that is cross between a tennis ball and Barney doesn't have a deeper meaning for anyone.

Other mascots, such as the Washington Redskins and our very own Marion Indians are found offensive to people of that specific culture. Many who aren't of the culture being used aren't aware of the impression it leaves. Terms such as redskins and savages are racial slurs and mock them. It's in no way right to use these terms. Even though the mascots are irrelevant to some, it means something deeper for others.

Most schools have not recently chosen their mascot but have carried them on from when the school was first brought up. As times change, perspective changes. For what once might've been a name chosen to represent our nation's founders, is now looked at as mockery. It's not wrong for people to take offense of this, for it is racist.

When choosing a mascot you should pick one that represents the fighting spirit of your team, identified with a characteristic of your religion or represents a human character that expresses power. Mascots are overrated so changing it wouldn't hurt, but help everyone in the long run.

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