Presidential, Federal, State, and Local office elections have a direct impact on a student’s community, jobs, and future. Officials make decisions on topics like student debt, funding for higher education, healthcare, climate change, the economy, and more. Using your right to vote has an impact on what our country, states, cities, and towns will look like in the future.

When you go to the polls or vote by mail, it is about so much more than just the candidates you are voting for, it is about being one of the people who show up and voice their expectations and hopes for the future.
Reasons Why You Should Vote

It is your right.
Voting is an important right we have and our responsibility to exercise. Many governments around the world allow citizens no part in electing officials. So, use your opportunity to help select government leaders!

Your vote matters.
Many students do not believe their vote will make any difference, but recent history has shown that elections can be decided by a handful of votes.

Shape the social agenda.
Are you passionate about a particular social issue? Gay marriage, capital punishment and the separation of church and state are only a few of many contentious topics that dominate the political discourse. Learn about candidates' views that are important to you, and vote in support of your beliefs.

Economic policies will affect your future.
Most expect social security benefits to be gone or greatly diminished by the time college-aged individuals reach retirement age which will be higher than it is now. Politicians continually make decisions about the costs of higher education and student loan policies. These and other issues prove you have an important economic interest in every election.

Help shape foreign policy.
National leaders are continually making foreign policy decisions, including when to intervene militarily in world affairs. It is not the President or Congressional Members who deploy to other countries to risk their lives, it is young people. Use your vote to support foreign policies you believe in.

Have your say on environmental issues.
The environment stands to be among the biggest political topics of this generation. Many climate experts warn of serious, potentially irreversible weather changes that may drastically alter life on our planet.

You are part of an important voting bloc.
There are more than 75 million Millennials, and Generation-Z is expected to make up 20.2% of the US population by 2022. These groups rival the number of Baby Boomers and create a very important voting bloc, but younger groups typically vote in much smaller numbers. Millennials and Generation-Z represent a powerful political force if they use their right to vote.

Politicians will not address student need without student votes.
Politicians know who votes each election, and they are more likely to support initiatives that are popular among groups with the highest voter turnout. For college students to have significant political influence, they must vote!

Demonstrate concern for the next generation.
By voting you are not only doing your part to influence the present, you are also affecting the future. Demonstrating this point well is the fact that the President selects U.S. Supreme Court Justices for lifetime positions, having influence for decades to come.

Voting affects your job.
When you vote for a member of Congress, the President, the Governor, and your legislators, they make decisions that affect minimum wage, fairness in hiring, pay equity, job security, workplace safety, and health insurance provided by your employer. Vote wisely!

Direct Effects on College Students

Financial Aid
Student Loans, Pell Grants, and Work Study are all federal programs. This means that the next President and Congressional Delegates will have a say in how those programs are shaped for years to come. It does not end there. Your vote for Governor and State Representatives will affect state aid to you and to your school. State universities and colleges rely on taxpayer funding to support the services they give students. These are not cheap. If they matter to you then voice your opinion.

College Life
Laws are the same on-campus and off-campus and it’s your state representatives that are actively involved in setting many of these laws. Local elections are more frequent, so vote this year and then every chance you get. College is also a good place to start forming opinions of your ideal society. While in college, explore issues that really matter to you and find other topics that are important, both locally and nationally. Take the time to research political issues and how they might impact you. Engage in discussions with other students and adults to further your knowledge.

Life After College
Politics discuss and decide the economy, how to create jobs, minimum wage, free college, and student loan refinancing. Do you need any more reasons to vote? These issues have a direct impact on every student who is in college, will be attending college, or who has recently graduated.

“7 Reasons Every College Student Should Vote.” Medium, 22 Apr. 2019, medium.com/@iFlipd/7-reasons-every-college-student-should-vote-3551c06bb687
Every Vote Counts!

In a country of more than 300 million people, it can sometimes seem like one vote does not matter. This could not be further from the truth.

Your vote is your voice, which makes it powerful.

By utilizing your chance to vote, you are using your voice to stand up for your community. Your vote clearly states what you believe in, what you want to happen after the election and makes sure the consequences of these elections turn into progress for issues you care about. Voting is how you can share your hopes for the nation, and it is the first step to becoming an engaged citizen.

Young people have historically voted at lower rates than older generations, but we can change that this year. Millennials and Generation-Z will be the largest eligible block of voters in current and future elections. This means that our generation could have the largest say in the future of our country.

If youth turnout is even higher during this election cycle, it sends a message to politicians that they cannot ignore the youth vote and the values of our generation. Our elected officials work for us, so it is important that we hold them accountable. Accountability starts with voting.

Registering To Vote

To vote in the United States in any state you must be 18 years old and be a United States citizen. Every state has different requirements, which can include not being convicted of a felony, not being declared mentally incompetent, not being registered to vote in another state, residency requirements, and more. These requirements are different for every state and it's important you meet the requirements for the state you are registering for.

Scan here to find out:
• How to register to vote
• Where your polling place is
• Registration deadlines
• Check your voter registration

www.vote.gov
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