

Vote

Essay by Alexandra Waxler

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Can you imagine not having any say in anything your government ever did? Being forced to do specific things you didn't get any say about? In North Korea voting is mandatory but only one person appears on the ballot. Out of the 1.3 billion people in China only 2,300 people are allowed to vote. Those 2,300 people are members of Congress. Many countries around the world give their citizens the ability to "vote" but in reality the decision has already been made for them. Thankfully in the United States we actually get a voice about what happens in our lives.

When our country was established, only white men, who owned land and attended a church, were allowed to vote. Over the years, thousands of people have fought hard for equality in voting. Both people of color and white women fought especially hard, and finally earned their rights in amendments 15 and 19, respectively. Colorado was a very progressive state. In 1893, nearly 20 years before the amendment was passed, Colorado allowed women to vote. When passing amendment 19, Tennessee was the last deciding factor on whether or not the amendment would be ratified. In the end, it all came down to one man because the vote was tied. Originally, Harry T. Burn was on the side against women but a last minute letter from his mother persuaded him to change his mind. Women were excited that they could finally voice their opinions and have a say with what happened with the government.

Voting is incredibly important because it gives us a voice. If we didn't have the right to vote then the government could do whatever it wanted. Since we have the right to vote we have a voice. If we don't vote, we are throwing this voice away. All the people in office were voted in by us, we chose for them to be there. Significantly less people vote in local elections, even though that is where they can make the most difference. If we didn't vote then our priorities and needs wouldn't be known. The great thing about this country is we can show what we need and believe by voting.

Voting is the only way to voice my opinion on something. It's my only way to change our city, state, and/or country. If I don't vote then all of what I believe in and what I think should happen just goes to waste. If I don't vote how are our representatives supposed to know what I need? They can't. Go vote!