October 12, 2018: VOTE on November 6

The Issue

The Constitution of the United States grants the power of the vote to most citizens of this country over the age of 18. This power to choose our government officials in free and open elections is one of the key defining elements of our democracy. One consistent message from our political parties is to vote. We can protest, write letters and op-eds, have discussions, and that is all good work to make changes in our great land; but if we don’t vote all that good work will come to naught.

Voting is a responsibility, and in this year of political division, tension and strife it is a critical responsibility. Do not think your vote does not matter. Do not think that “everyone else” will show up so you don’t have to. You are the ONLY person who can cast your ballot; that is what it means to have a free and fair election. No one can choose who you will vote for, that is why you go into a private place to cast your ballot.

Voting is not just about who will represent us in Washington. Voting for our state and local representatives is just as important. In fact, our state and local governments also have impact on our daily lives and the lives of those we love than Washington does. Think carefully about the community you live in, your vote will protect it and change it.

What Does the Episcopal Church Say?

“Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life and that is a Christian obligation.” -Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

For more information on voting the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) has a lot of great information on their website: https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/?0

Where Can I Find Reliable Information about issues and candidates?

We recommend the following sources of information as factually reliable and balanced in their discussions of this issue:

WITF has launched a non partisan website that addresses many news stories and issues in Central PA, and you can subscribe to their daily email newsletter to get information about candidates and stories on the issues:
www.papost.org

The League of Women Voters publishes Voter guides nationally and locally:
www.vote411.org
If you want to learn more about Voting Rights this website might be helpful: www.votespa.com/Your-Rights/Pages/Voting-Rights-and-the-law.aspx

**Prayer for an Election**

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Book of Common Prayer, p. 822)

*If you decide to respond, please let us know...*

Email our team at socialjustice@gettysburgepiscopal.org and tell us your experience. We would love to hear about it. We are also very interested to hear your opinions and to answer any questions you may have.

And, if you wish to be removed from the mailing list for future communications from the Social Justice Response Team, write to us at the same address and we will do so.