

Get Off Your Butts and Vote!

A few weeks after the British left Boston in the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress appointed a committee to write a declaration, or formal statement of independence. The task of drafting the Declaration of Independence went to Thomas Jefferson, the youngest member. His ideas based on the principle of natural rights, the idea that all people were created equal, and therefore everyone is entitled to the same basic rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We include voting as a basic human right, and people fought very hard for that right.

All of us grew up in a society where everyone could vote. Both women and men of all different races with that little “I Voted” sticker were seen around every corner. Life was not always like that though; people had to fight for their right to be part of a democracy. This was the reason for the Revolutionary war. Very few ordinary people with very little resources won against a big army with endless resources just so our country could have freedom. Still, women didn’t have the right to vote until the 1920s, and the war ended in the 1780s. According to History.com, “In 1848, Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Jane Hunt, sent out a call for a women’s conference to be held at Seneca Falls. Women convened at the Wesleyan Chapel, and Stanton, read the ‘Declaration of Sentiments and Grievances.’” The “Declaration of Sentiments and Grievances” described the women's grievances and demands. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the primary writer, and it called on women to fight for their Constitutionally guaranteed right to equality as U.S. citizens. These citizens fought for our right to vote, and still, some people would rather sit out voting when given the opportunity to influence the course of American history.

Paramountly, the government gets its power from us. As John Locke asserted, “People are by nature, free. Voting is the natural right of the self-governed.” The government gets power from the people, and we are the ones that choose how government’s representatives. Someone who can lead us through struggles like global warming, war, and other critical times and events, is crucial to survive these days. If you want to make your voice heard, vote. According to Kathryn Bullington, “People power is the only thing that can keep tyranny at bay, though it is no assurance.” A president who will be arrogant enough to drop a nuclear bomb on North Korea and start a war just because he can is not what we need. We need a president who will unite our country and support global peace. Voting can impact this outcome.

Voting is very important when contributing to our freedom. Voting is also a basic human right, that people fought hard to win. So instead of scrolling through a mountain of lies on Facebook, do your research and find time to go to a voting booth today!