

## What My Vote Will Mean To Me

I am a student in the 9th grade. When I eventually vote for someone, it will mean that I trust and believe in that person to represent me in state or national legislative assemblies and to fight for me, my values, and the people who think like me. My vote will go to someone who not only agrees with my opinions but will more broadly represent my community and its interests. I want to know that my rights will be protected from those who aim to remove or diminish them. I expect that my representative will be ethical and moral in the decisions that he or she makes for my community. My vote means that I will have a loud voice in this country and that voice will make a huge impact on the direction our country goes. In our democratic country, it is the majority that turns the tide and changes the course of the future. That is what voting means to me.

Voting rights have had to change over the years because of discrimination. Congress and former presidents have agreed to make constitutional amendments to make voting a privilege for everyone. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 ensures there is no discrimination against anyone from voting. This is important because we often see that elections are won by the slimmest of margins, meaning every single vote counts. The presidential election of 2000 is a great example of a very close race. President Bush eventually won the presidency but only after multiple recounts in Florida and a court decision. In recent years, we see more and more recounts, which emphasizes just how important each vote is in any election. Voting gives the common people the collective power to change the future and I intend to be a part of that future. I sincerely hope that everybody will want to vote, will want to have their voices heard, and to be part of a democratic process that is so important to our country's great future.