

Living It; Let's Vote

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We are over halfway through 2024, and it has been a strange year, to say the least. The number of unforeseen events and overflow of events from 2020 to now has made for a complex climate, in more ways than one. From the environment to the economy, to politics and education, we have seen some major steps forward, and what many would consider major steps backward. Across many different identities and backgrounds, people are feeling discouraged, and being in an election year, this feeling is having an impact on those who plan on showing up to the polls in November.

Every election is important, regardless of the candidates and agendas being proposed. With the dramatic changes in our society since 2020, people are recognizing more direct impacts of political policies, and voicing their opinions on the consequences of those. As many have become more involved, there is also a large population that has decided to back away from these issues. The feeling that there is no right answer is lingering across our nation, pushing many people to turn their heads to current events, and discouraging others from planning on heading to the polls in November.

When it comes to indulging in political news daily, we all need days off from hearing what's new. The nonstop feed of events can be traumatizing, and unhealthy to consistently consume. However, finding balance is vital, and gathering the necessary facts to make a decision does not have to be overwhelming.

After all of the discouraging news, people do not want to vote to avoid 'wasting' their time. Although it may save the amount of time it takes to fill out a ballot, not voting

is 'wasting' our voices. An election can feel much bigger than us as individuals, but WE make up this country. We may not have the opportunity to get up on a stage and voice our opinions to thousands, so voting is our outlet.

Whether you're a recent college graduate still figuring out your way, or a retired professional with experience in the world, your voice NEEDS to be heard. We need people of all ages, races, economic statuses, political backgrounds, and educational levels to show up and speak out. We can't fight for representation and increased opportunities without showing support for those who will make it happen and get them in office. Not every candidate will completely align with every belief we have, but we need to find the ones who will take our communities in the direction that will foster the change we want to see.

Keep up with current news, find nonbiased news outlets to read, attend events in your community, start conversations with friends and family, sign up for newsletters, ask questions, get informed, and vote!