

When you know little to nothing about politics that is when you are swayed by politicians and biased media corporations who will twist and pervert the truth to fall in line with their own beliefs and ideas. The whole point of living is having free will to make our own choices, and think for ourselves. This is impossible when one doesn't arm himself with the best weapon in the universe, knowledge.

That being said, I as a teenager technically have no say in government (i.e. voting) but there are other ways I, and others who fall into the same category as me, can still have our voices be heard and take a stand on issues we feel strongly about.

Now let's say, hypothetically speaking of course, that a Senator from Maryland is lobbying to have a national law pass that will have all dogs be dyed blue. I myself am not a dog owner, but I still feel strongly that dog owners should have a choice in the colors of their dogs. I could then start a petition against the bill, at the same time raising awareness.

Using the newfound power of social media, I could create a Facebook Page about the unjustness that Senator from Maryland wanted to thrust upon the American people. I could raise even more awareness by creating a Reddit page, then a Twitter, and even a Myspace. I would be very involved in the legislation of this law, without even voting.

In conclusion it is extremely important to be as involved as possible in the political process that runs essentially our whole lives as Americans.

CONGRATULATIONS CHAIRMAN JAMES G. REBHOLZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate James G. Rebholz, Chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR. James is serving his second and final term with the ESGR and I am very grateful for his service.

Chairman James Rebholz has demonstrated great leadership throughout his tenure with the ESGR by helping the Department of Defense agency fulfill its mission developing and promoting a culture of employer support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Throughout his 31 years of service in the United States Air Force Reserve, his long history of community service, and his success as a small business owner, James has proven his dedication to our great nation. His programs have been extremely beneficial in working with John Green, Chairman of the South Carolina ESGR, and Major General Bob Livingston, the South Carolina Adjutant General.

As Chairman James Rebholz's service with the ESGR comes to an end, I would like to wish him and his wife Jean Boser best wishes in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN AHART

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Lauren Ahart is a senior at Stephen F. Austin High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

It is crucial for everyone in the United States to be involved with the political process because every vote counts and you have the right to represent what you believe. In my opinion, if someone does not vote they should not complain about anything that goes on in the country. Therefore if someone wants something to be different or to make a change, they must put their voice out there to be heard. This concept of speaking out for what one believes is held sacred throughout society and should be maintained during political times.

If someone votes, they have expressed their thoughts and have helped the tally. The number of people that vote conclude the winner. So, obviously it would be smart if everyone marked their ballot for the people they want to rule so we will get a reliable source of votes. The number of people that did not vote was terribly low, during the 2012 presidential election, which makes me frustrated. The right of freedom to vote is something that we should take advantage of and without it our country would not be how it is today.

People that fight for the freedom everyday and give up their lives so we can have all the rights we do today, would find it disrespectful if they knew that someone was simply staying home and not voting. If the right causes are not supported and the issues of the times are not addressed, our society are at risk for a less secure and overall quality of living. As a citizen, everyone should be able to participate and take one hour from your day to stand up and pay your respect for our country and its governing bodies.

From my point of view, when someone votes they are speaking their values and beliefs, and showing what they would like to see in this country. It's the participant rate that helps guide our country for the greatest good of all. If you want to live the life you dream of, you must help the cause of a healthy political process. The decision to vote should be a given, but because the people have not cared as much about what happens this leads to our country not reaching the full potential of a fair democracy. So please take part in putting your ideas and your wants for America out there, be knowledgeable at election time and ultimately go vote your ballot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for a vote on Thursday, May 23. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 181.

HONORING MEGAN EMILIANI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2013

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Megan Emiliani is a sophomore at Travis High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

DESEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed. Civil rights issues in our nation have a long history dating back to the Civil War but this legislation came at a critical time during the 1960's civil rights movement. The 1964 Civil Rights Act, introduced by President Kennedy and signed by President Johnson, opened the door to providing more opportunities and limiting discrimination for all minorities. The legislation dealt with voting rights of minorities, prohibited segregation in public places, and addressed desegregation in public schools. While the 1954 Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. the Board of Education had already began the process of desegregating schools, the Civil Rights Act continues to enforce equality in schools. It encouraged desegregation in public schools to help give minorities more rights in education.

Not long ago, schools were separated by color. Since the Civil Rights Act, schools claim that race is not important and should not affect the way a student is viewed. However, my experience has been that students, while not separated by schools, are still classified by race. When we take PSAT, TAKS, or STAAR test, why do we have to check a box with our race? Why is race a factor looked upon when reviewing test scores? Students and their test scores are being categorized by race. Additionally in our society today, there are many multiracial people, including myself, but on those tests you only get to choose one box. I am Mexican, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Irish and I am sure a few other things. What box should I pick? On some forms mixed is an option, but that does not seem accurate either. I am the American Melting Pot.

America is a group of immigrants and to separate us by such limited race designations does not help to end segregation. The

purpose of the Civil Rights Act was to help check off a box, it only emphasizes the dif- not think classifying me by this really says
create equality, and every time we have to ferences. I am proud of my heritage, but I do who I am as a student. I am an American.