

# **YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

**The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dec 10, 1948**

*The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government*

*This shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections*

**Voting is a 'civic duty'**

**The same as taxation or jury duty**

***Everyone must embrace their responsibility to participate in the political process as an opportunity to be part of building the environment in which they live and work.***

**Thomas Jefferson said, "We do not have a government by a majority of the people, we have a government by a majority of *the people who participate.*"**

**Despite all of the U.S. media's coverage of Elections, a majority of eligible voters will likely duck their civic duty on Election Day.**

**22 nations around the world make voting mandatory for its citizens, often starting at age 18. Several of these countries are in Latin America, and the others in the remaining continents.**

**For example, in Australia the failure to vote can result in a \$20 fine. In the event of court proceedings being required, the fine can be increased to \$50 and the non-voter is liable for court costs. On some occasions, if the fine is still not paid, defaulters have been imprisoned as being in contempt of court.**

**President Obama in a March 19, 2015 made arguments hinting that maybe, we should have mandatory voting in this country.**

**The three world most revered men of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela each fought non-violent battles to secure voting rights for their people.**

**In the last two hundred plus years, millions of people have given their lives so that their countrymen could exercise "the right of fair representation". George Washington fought England for the same reasons.**

**We need to change public attitude on voting. I appeal to you to become advocates among your peers, your friends, your family and anyone you know to convince them that their civic duty, their obligation, their responsibility is to "Register and VOTE at all local, state and national elections".**

**School Boards, City Councils, County Commissions, Courts, State Offices, State Senate and State House all directly impact our lives more than presidential elections do.**

**THANK YOU!**

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