

“The Nineteenth Amendment – Women Won the Right to Vote”

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When this country was founded not everyone had equal rights. Women didn't have the same rights as men, so they had to fight for what they wanted. On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified giving women voting rights. Today, however, many women and men don't use that right to their advantage. Many don't value voting, or see the importance of voting and we need to change that.

There are many reasons why people don't value voting, even after what women went through to earn that right. According to Brookshire (2016), some people feel that registering to vote is difficult and takes too much work, therefore they don't even try. Additionally Brookshire mentions that those without an education don't value voting as much as those with an education. This may be because they don't understand the importance of voting. Another reason for not voting is that people don't feel that they fit into one of the two main voting parties or that their vote will make a difference so they choose to not participate. USHistory.org agreed with Brookshire (2016) that registration is difficult for many people. It went on to state that in some states it is hard to absentee vote, which may be the only way some people can vote since the polls are only open on weekdays. It may also be overwhelming to vote for so many offices and political parties have gotten weaker. These are just a few reasons why people don't value the privilege to vote even though it is important.

In an article *10 Reasons Why It Is Important To Vote*, (2018), it states that it is a privilege and a constitutional right to vote. Voting is a way to fight for what you believe in or want. It is also easier to learn about what you are voting on because the internet and social media have a lot of information. Elections always have outcomes and if people

want a certain one to possibly go their way, they need to vote on it (5 Reasons Why 2018). Another reason it is important to vote is if one doesn't vote they lose the chance to voice their opinion. In addition, people pay taxes that go to pay the salaries of the elected officials, so they have a right to vote. By not voting, it's like buying a gym membership but never going to the gym. Young people make up 50% of the registered voters, so older voters need to get out and vote because the younger population has a strong voice for their interests (10 Reasons Why 2018).

In a different article by Brookshire (2016), she states a few ways to increase voter turnout. One idea she stated was to educate upcoming voters early and inform them about the importance of voting. Another idea she had was to use peer pressure in a positive fashion by reminding people to vote and giving them a voting record. More people want to vote when the competition is close, so it's important that candidates are evenly matched and that propositions are game changing. If candidates want better voter turnout, they need to relate to the voters. They can do this by sharing their experiences and putting themselves out there. Lastly, the government could help the voter population by opening polls on weekends to allow hard working people the opportunity to vote for what they believe in without missing work.

Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucy Stone, all suffrage leaders, would be very disappointed because people aren't using what they fought for. Non-voters need to understand the importance of voting and why they should utilize this right. The United States is a democracy, which means we are the people who decide how our country is run and we do that by voting.

## Works Cited

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