

CULTURE TALK

VOICES OF VOTING



A SELECTION OF PIECES THAT DELVE
INTO THE MEANING OF CULTURE

VOLUME 1:
VOICES OF VOTING

COVER ARTIST : MICHAEL MOODIE



FIND HIS ART AT:
[@MICHAEL_MOODIE](#) ON INSTAGRAM

Michael Moodie

Michael Moodie is an artist who showcases his artwork on Instagram-- primarily lettering, calligraphy, and branding. He is the co-founder and creative director of @nightshift.to which is a design and artist agency that is based in Seattle, Washington and Toronto, Canada. He has created a VOD (available on Adobe) where he discusses the fundamentals of color, brand images, and how technology weaves into brand identity. Some of his clients include Coca-Cola, Warner Brothers, DreamWorks, Starbucks, Amazon Video, and many more recognizable brands. He has prior experience in visual design, game design, and many other avenues of artistic skill that manifest within his work. He continues to showcase his abilities in lettering, honing in on his focus on the music and entertainment industry. His piece "Vote Now" encourages voters-- young and old to express their opinions and have their voice be heard.

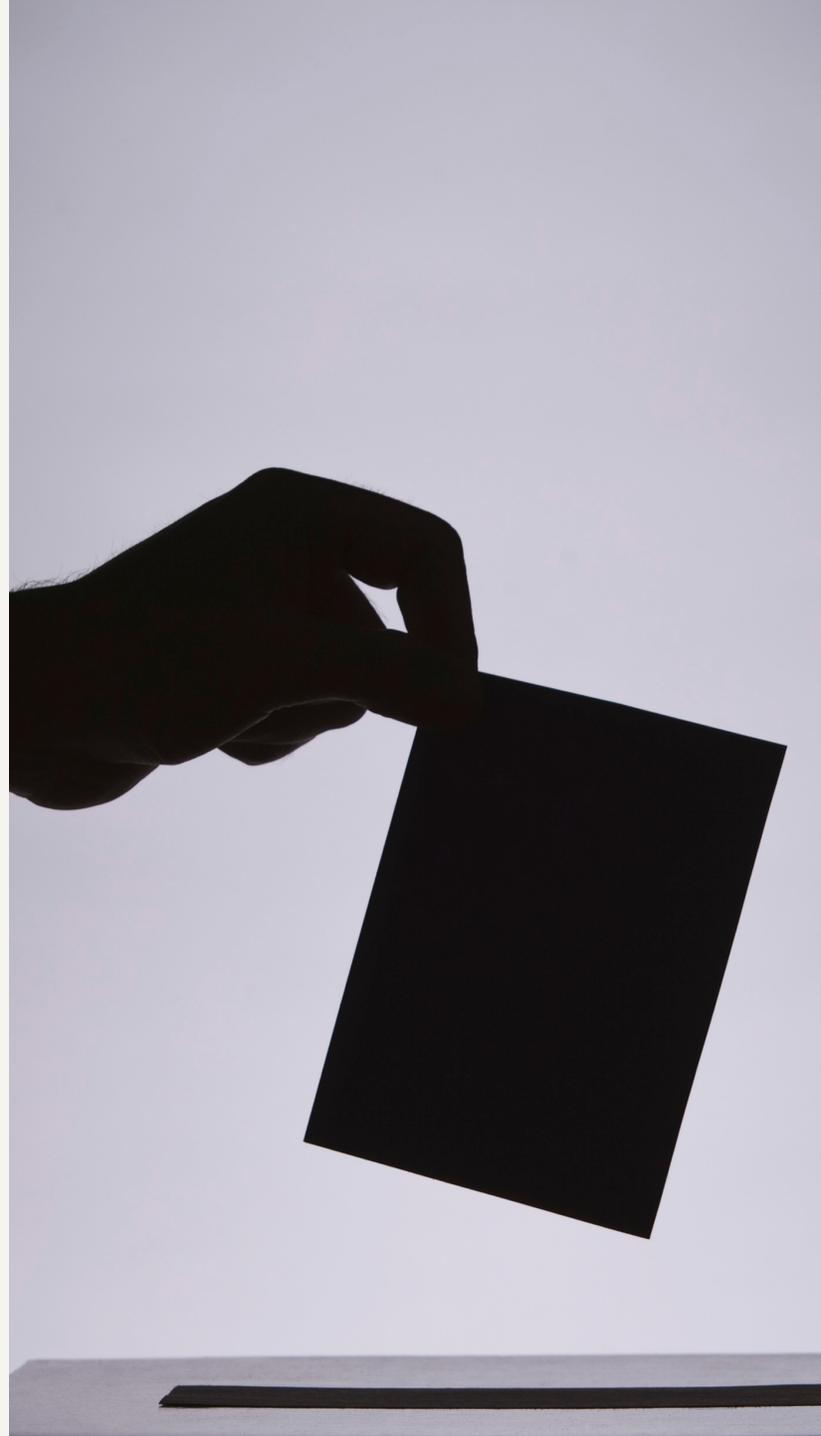
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Voices of Voting

October 2020

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the October issue of Culture Talk!

It's voting season in the United States.

As with all elections, questions arise of where the course of the country should go and the value of your vote. But this year particularly has drawn a lot of debate. Unprecedented factors surround this particular election—a global pandemic, social protests, a Supreme Court nomination, economic crisis, climate-change-driven natural disasters. In the face of everything, some have called this the most important election everyone eligible to vote needs to vote in; some have called this election the most arbitrary.

Milla Nguyen interviews different individuals about their views on voting and how their stories intertwine with the vast, ever-changing world.

Megan Nelson discusses another relatively-new phenomenon impacting elections: social media.

Ananyaa Mahajan and Anusha Natarajan craft a historical timeline that takes a look at the women's suffrage movement and how it continues to trickle down to today's conversations.

Anusha Natarajan explains the electoral college, a prevalent point of confusion for many about how America's "democracy" is organized, and also a system other countries have implemented in different ways.

After the articles, we have created a Voter's Guide for our readers in the U.S. to exercise their right to vote and become more aware of international election processes.

Finally, we have curated a resource hub for reads to take away informational pages, links, and organizations for reference.

America is very much focused on the upcoming election, but other governments around the world also face the same questions and debates. This edition is a look into the systems behind our votes and what our votes - around the world - mean. We also don't want to get tunnel-vision within elections either; the current U.S. election is also for senators, house representatives, state and local leadership.

--- Katherine Chou, Anusha Natarajan, & Milla Nguyen

SO.. WHAT ACTUALLY IS THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE?

BY: ANUSHA NATARAJAN



The Electoral College has been an important piece of the voting process since the beginning of American elections. In the U.S. Constitution (Article II Section 1), it was established that the electoral college would decide who would consist the American presidential ticket for the next set of terms (the ticket includes both the president and vice president). These terms would consist in twos, four years in each term.

The main reason that this system was created was to make sure that educated individuals would select the next president.

The Electoral College in the United States is based on the number of senators and representatives from each state, making it a total of 538 electoral votes. Let's take the state of California for an example. California has currently 55 electoral votes because there are 2 senators and 53 representatives, which add up to make up 55 electoral votes. These 55 electors will then cast their vote for the next President. In order to become president, 270 votes need to be reached in order to be declared the winner.

The Foundation

The Electoral College first came to light when the Founders of the United States were crafting the Constitution in 1776. The founders did not want Congress to choose the president, so the Electoral College served as the solution in order to prevent the legislative branch from becoming too powerful. To note during this time, only white men who held a certain amount of land were allowed to vote. No women, poor white men, or slaves could vote during elections.

When Andrew Jackson became president in 1824, he granted universal male suffrage, meaning that all white men regardless of their socioeconomic status, were granted the right to vote. Jackson made this decision because he came from a non-college educated family who settled in the rural areas of present day North and South Carolina.

After the Civil War in 1865, slaves gained their right to be independent. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were added to the Constitution shortly after in order to provide equal protection and rights for all Americans, regardless of their gender. Despite such a decree, women were still not allowed to vote.

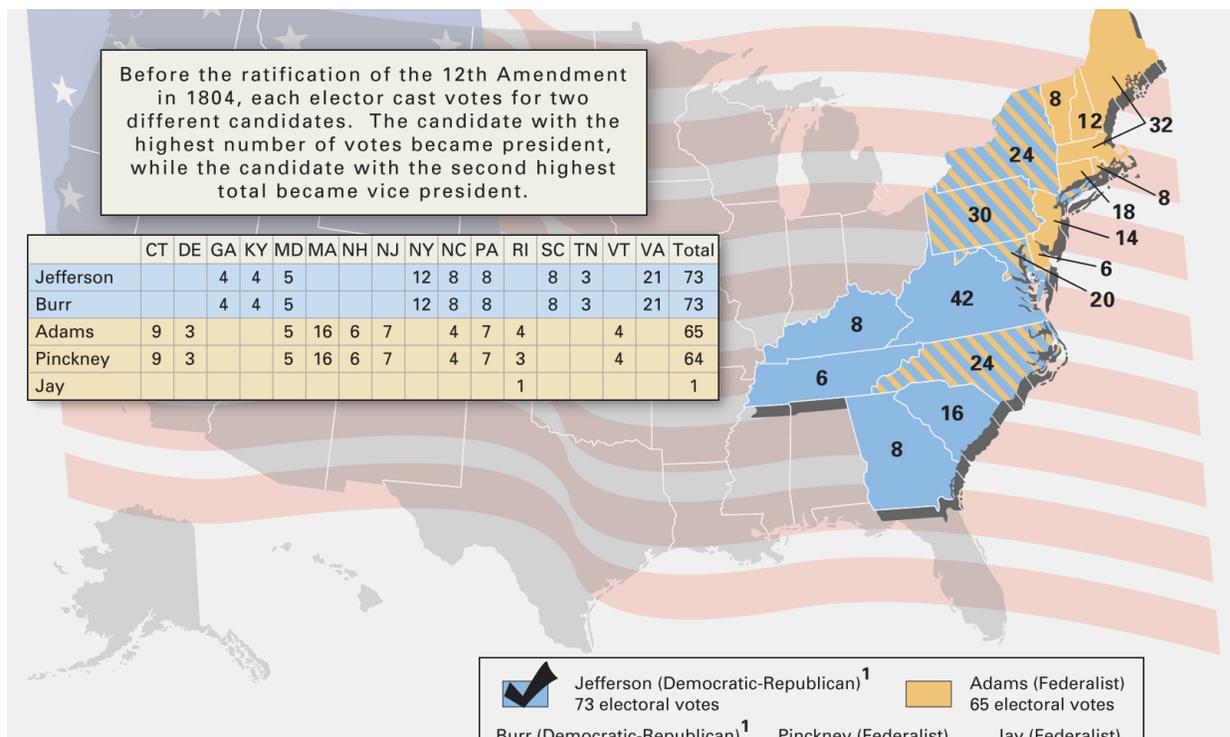
This outraged women, as they began to champion and advocate for women's suffrage and equality for all. Going into the 20th century, Americans were met with a large global challenge, which was World War I. When America was brought in fighting in the war in 1917, women supported the men on the field by becoming nurses and creating life-saving supplies, such as making surgical gowns, and cooking food. Women played a pivotal role in the war, and this led to the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. Finally, after many years, this amendment gave the women the right to vote.

Thanks to the passage of these amendments, we had the first female presidential candidate from a major party ticket as many women began to enter the medical, legal, and business field. In today's world, the racial and gender diversity has progressed within Congress, campaign opportunities, and the voting system itself.

How does the electoral college work?

The electoral college is made up of electors who deliberate in December who the next President should be. When the citizens vote for the respective candidates for president, the electorates are chosen. Based on how the state voted, in this case Democrat or Republican, then the electors will cast either vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate. The number of electors usually stays the same unless the population has increased or decreased in that state because the state would have added or removed a legislative district. Here's how it would apply: If a Republican candidate wins a majority of the vote in Florida, then the Republican candidate will receive all 29 electoral votes for the road to the presidency.

Only the 50 U.S. states take part in the electoral college as U.S. territories can only vote in the primary election. However, if there is a tie in the electoral vote, then the election will go back to the House of Representatives, and each state in the House will get a vote. This has happened only once in American history in the 1800 election between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. Both men were both tied at 73 votes¹, which led the House to decide who would be the victor, which ended up being Thomas Jefferson.



One thing to note that the Constitution does not explicitly say that the states should make sure that the electors follow the state's popular vote. However, states have taken that detail into attention and passed laws to make sure that electors follow and consider the popular vote when casting their vote in December.

'Electoral Colleges' Around the World

Electoral Colleges are not just unique in the U.S. They are present in other countries, such as Madagascar, Pakistan, and Estonia. However, the electoral college does serve a different role in other countries. For example, in Estonia, the Electoral College is used when the Parliament cannot reach $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to vote for the next chief executive. Then, it will go to the Electoral College, which is made up of members from a local council and the Parliament, and they will decide who will win the election.

Similar to the United States, the Pakistan government picks their next President through the electoral college, which is made up of members of the Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies. The electoral college will elect the next President, who will serve a five year term and can serve up to two terms.

The Nitty Gritty: Electoral College versus Popular Vote

In the United States, there are two types of data to look for in elections: the electoral college and popular vote. The popular vote is how the American people voted versus the electoral college is basing the popular vote data to choose electors to select the President.

One important note to make is that even if one candidate wins the popular vote and the other person wins the electoral college vote, the person who wins the electoral college vote will be declared the winner to the presidency.

There have been instances throughout American history where this has happened.

Take a look at the 2016 election, in which Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton could not secure enough votes for the electoral college, but surpassed the Republican nominee, Donald Trump for the popular vote.

Thus, the popular vote shows how the candidates bode well with the public and the satisfaction of one's policies and persona.

The Electoral College is the more favored method that the Founders wanted to use because it was important to have a middle body decide who would be the next president. The Founders did not want solely the rich and common citizens to decide the next president because one would lead to a monarchy or another would lead to anarchy. They also wanted all states to be involved in the election process, not just the large and populous states.

While the electoral college might have its flaws, it is still a crucial part of our presidential elections as well as the history that goes behind our governmental system. It plays a large role in selecting a leader who would represent the people, serving them with policies and experience that will affect future presidencies to come. With that being said, there's only one thing left to do: Vote now, if you are eligible. While your voice may seem like a speck in millions, a million specks make up the big picture as a whole. Imagine a domino effect. One vote can influence the people around you, encouraging them to vote. When it spreads to more people through connections, the votes are what determine the conditions we live in. It's time to get your voice heard.

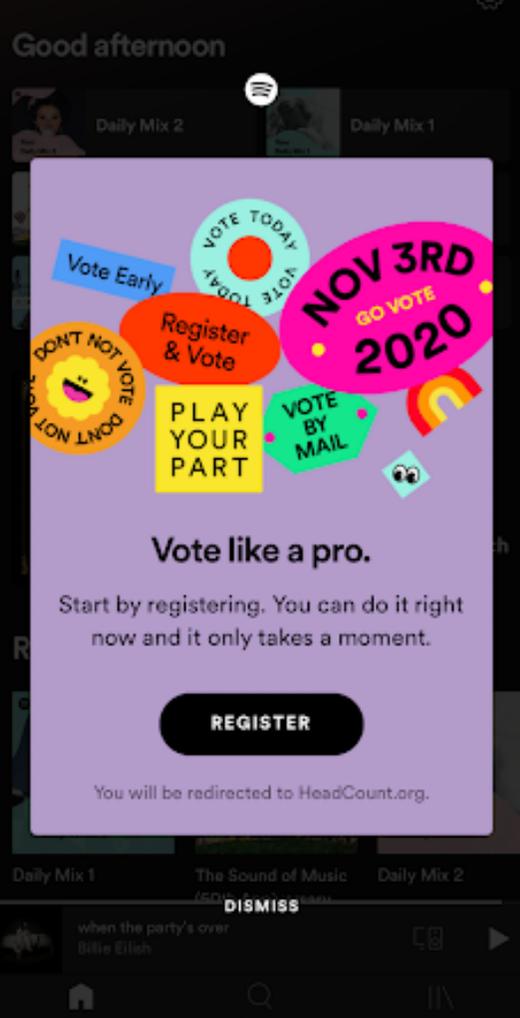
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*https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/the_national_assembly_of_pakistan.pdf



SOCIAL MEDIA AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BY: MEGAN NELSON

On multiple social media accounts, I have been presented with ads and notifications reminding me of the upcoming election.

Social media platforms are encouraging voter participation, especially for first-time voters. The images below are from Spotify. By making voting appear as fun, engaging, and exciting, these platforms hope to influence a younger voter turnout.

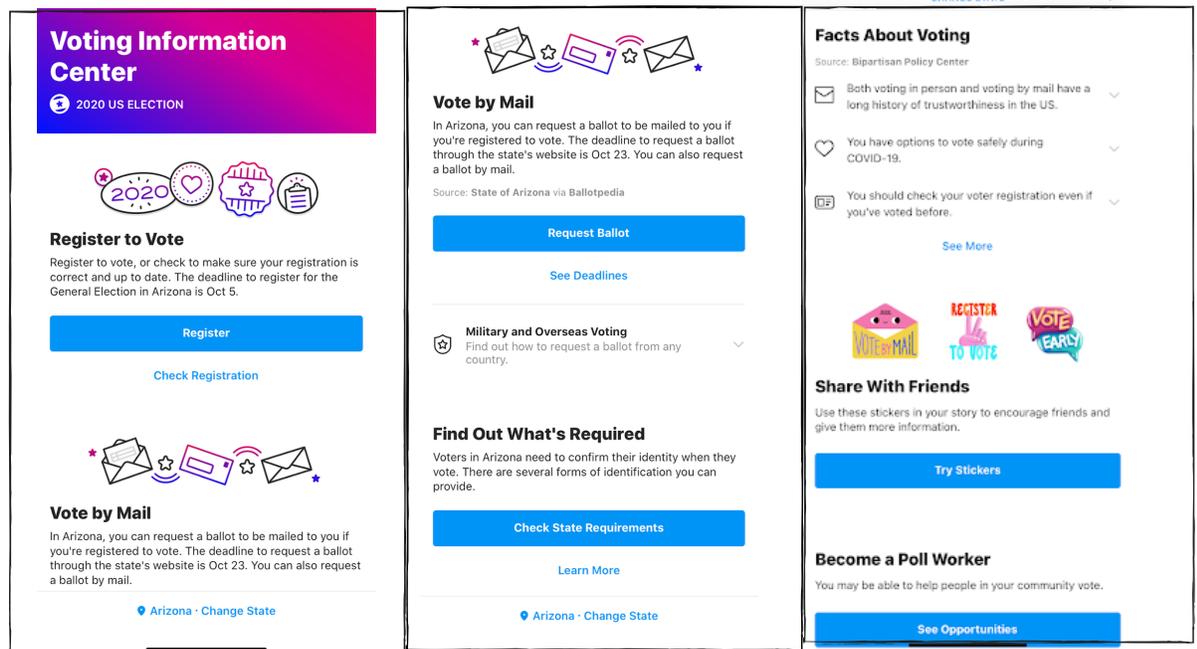
You might have also seen this Bitmoji story on Snapchat, with your own personal Bitmoji in it to add visual representation.

Aside from encouraging people to register to vote, some social media platforms are providing additional resources so that

people can be confident and excited about the upcoming election. Multiple social media platforms, such as Instagram, are informing voters how to request mail-in ballots and get involved in the election process through the Instagram Voting Information Center.

Instagram has its own voting resources tab that appears at the top of the homepage. There, one can register to vote, request a mail-in ballot, and find a location to cast a ballot if they choose to vote in person. Additional sections provide information on how to become a poll worker and quick facts about voting by mail and checking your voter registration. Some digital stickers are also provided for one to add to their Instagram story to encourage others to vote.

The Voting Information Center even knows the state you reside in, so all the dates for voter registration and requesting a mail-in ballot are accurate.



All of these ads, notifications, and sources have one goal: to have as many people participate in the election as possible. If you are still able to register to vote or request a mail-in ballot in your state, make sure you do so if you have not done so already!



A TIMELINE:

THE WOMENS SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

BY: ANANYAA MAHAJAN AND ANUSHA NATARAJAN

The women's suffrage movement is an international and on-going force that aims to propel women forward in a patriarchal society. In the United States, women's suffrage can be dated back to the pre-Civil War Era. Globally, the movement attempts to break the boundaries for women that are set in society and while the progress throughout history has been slow, the results have certainly paved the way for women of all generations to this day.



As mentioned before, the first movement of women's suffrage can be dated back to around the 1820s and 30s. Around this time, women were starting to question their roles in society and the definition of a true woman. A few women formed the "Cult of True Womanhood" which served to redefine the social, economic, and cultural boundaries that women were restricted with.

WOMAN'S JOURNAL AND SUFFRAGE NEWS

IV. NO. 10 SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1913 FIVE CENTS

MADE STRUGGLES TO VICTORY SPITE DISGRACEFUL SCENES

Aroused by Open Insults to Women—Cause Wins Popular Sympathy—Congress Orders Investigation—Striking Object Lesson

on has been disgraced. Equal suffrage has scored a great triumph and indifferent women have been aroused. Influential men and the United States Senate demands an investigation into the suffrage at the National Capital on Monday.

and women from all over had planned a magnificent and peaceful to take place on March 3. Artists, designers, women of renown were ready to work to the beautiful place to the public that the National Capital for the first time.

read for the marchers, the whole procession down Pennsylvania Avenue, the police protection, the women, the men, the children, the old and the young, the whole scene followed. They marched into the space which had been reserved for the marchers, the whole procession down Pennsylvania Avenue, the police protection, the women, the men, the children, the old and the young, the whole scene followed.

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AMENDMENT WINS IN NEW JERSEY

Easy Victory in Assembly 46 to 5—Equal Suffrage Enthusiasm Runs High



The New Jersey Legislature passed the woman suffrage amendment in the Assembly last week by a vote of 46 to 5. The Senate had already voted favorably 14 to 5. A large delegation of suffragists crowded the galleries, and when the overwhelming vote was announced there was a scene of great enthusiasm. Women stood in their seats and waved handkerchiefs and "votes for women" flags and cheered them twelve hours.

Dr. Jekyll Becomes Mr. Hyde Opposition was confined exclusively to the old sentimental arguments.

(Continued on Page 7)

MICHIGAN AGAIN CAMPAIGN STATE

Senate Passes Suffrage Amendment 26 to 5 and Battle Is Now On



Michigan is again a campaign State after a short lapse of four months. The amendment will go to the voters on April 7. The State-wide feeling that the women were defeated of victory last fall will help the suffragists.

The final action of the Legislature was taken last week, when the Senate, by a vote of 26 to 5, passed the suffrage amendment, with a slight amendment to make the requirements for foreign-born women the same as those for male immigrants.

Governor Watches Debate The debate in the Senate lasted an hour and a quarter, and was characterized by the persistent efforts of Senator Woodcock and a few others to talk on crippling amendments. Several suggestions, including the disabling of women for holding office or serving on juries, were voted down in quick succession.

Gov. Parke was among the visitors who crowded the chamber and gallery. Mrs. Clara B. Arthur, Mrs. Thomas B. Henderson and Mrs. William Brotherton, of Detroit; Mrs. Jennie Law Harty, of Fremont, and other State leaders were present, and

At the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, a group of abolitionist activists agreed that women should be considered as their own political identities. It was this convention that started the path for women who wanted their voices heard as voting became their targeted goal. Another notable milestone towards women's suffrage is the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. It is reported that over 8 million women voted in the 1920 election after the right was granted that August.

That timeline presented above are key moments in U.S. history, but women's suffrage is a universal movement so it is important to understand it's perspectives and ideologies. In South Australia in 1895, the government decreed that their women could run for the election and thus became some of the first few women in the world to do so. In 1905, South Australia also granted women the right to vote, making it 15 years before the United States did.

As decades passed, these laws and amendments granted rights to women, though universal women's suffrage wasn't reached until the 20th and 21st century. The first country to grant women's suffrage was New Zealand in 1893. Later on, European countries picked up on this trend, granting the right for women to vote in elections.

The United States passed the 19th amendment shortly after World War I. Shortly after the independence movements in Africa, women were granted the right to vote too. In the 21st century, countries, such as the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, gave women the right to vote. In 2005, Kuwait also modified its law to permit women to run for office.

Analyzing the ways in which women were progressively breaking out of a stereotypical sphere, it shows how the role of culture defines gender roles in society. One factor as that countries only allowed women to vote due to religious and cultural reasons. Those countries' societies were ultimately based on patriarchal ideas often caused by religious influences. For example, in Saudi Arabia, women were not allowed to drive on their own until 2018. Only in 2015, women were given the right to vote in elections. In some examples, this goes to show that countries with a strong religious and strict cultural identity can create barriers for women to vote or serve in the government.

Fast forwarding through time, we finally arrive at the window of 2020. The year 2020 marks the official 100th anniversary in the passage of the 19th amendment. This year, women are championing this right by voting and serving in their political office whether

that is nationally or locally. As time goes by, it is a given that society manifests change. Specifically now, this is the time where history will make a turning point, given all challenges that the world will continue to battle, such as a global pandemic along with racial injustices. And these are only two of the many obstacles we have yet to face. The one thing that we hold in our power-- is the privilege to vote. We are lucky to live in a society that allows us to exercise our identities in voting and politics, causing our democracy to evolve within many lifetimes. Project your voice out there, show up and vote!

*Sources

*<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/10/05/key-facts-about-womens-suffrage-around-the-world-a-century-after-u-s-ratified-19th-amendment/>

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"WITH THE INSIDERS: VOTING, VIEWS & VEST JACKETS"

BY: MILLA NGUYEN

2020. A year filled with unexpected events. As I wrote this article, I asked what purpose it would serve. By the time this is published, the United States will be on the brink of a very crucial election. And while on the surface it might seem like a war between political parties and twitter debate memes, I assure you that it is more important, more essential than that. Still, one thing remains the same. **Voices.** Sure, many of us have seen politicians, teachers, and even our own parents preach about the importance of our voices yet I don't think people will believe it until they see it on paper. That's where I come in. As you skim this article, I have selected a handful of people that have answered my questions in sworn, utmost honesty. They come from all diverse generations, stories, and backgrounds. Voices is about being heard but it's also about listening—a balance that must be upheld by all of us, otherwise we let the divide widen. It's inevitable that there will be a difference in opinions yet the key is to know that starting the conversation is better than sitting idle.

(A grateful thank you to the interviewees: (under their full and complete permission))

1. Cindy Furukawa (high school student)

Age/ Generation: 17/ Z

School: Casteel High School

2. Alyssa Le (high school student)

Age/ Generation: 17/ Z

School: Casteel High School

3. Gabriel Béatrix (high school student)

Age/ Generation: 18/ Z

School: Franklin High School (16th dis.)

Location: Paris, France

4. Anupama Rao (high school student)

Age/Generation: 17/ Z

School: Treamis World Trade School

Location: Bengaluru, India

5. Roxanne Holder-Kumer (college student)**Political Science Major****Age/ Generation: 19/ Z****School: Arizona State University****6. Ronan Doss (college student)****Film major****Age/ Generation: 21/ Millennial****School: Arizona State University****7. Lena Nguyen (author)****Age/ Generation: 28/ Millennial****8. Jeremy Conigliari (financial services)****Age/ Generation: 27/ Millennial****9. Brett Stachler (Arizona State University****Coordinator of Student Engagement)****Generation: Millennial/ X****10. Anonymous (Arizona State University****Faculty, The College)****Generation: X**

others, I've noticed that professionalism, in fact, represents something different based upon the environment people work, live, and communicate in.

Question 1: What does professionalism mean to you?

[Cindy Furukawa (high school student / Z):

"Professionalism is about being responsible and knowing what your strengths are. At the same time, it's equally important to remain humble rather than entitled. **There's always room for improvement.**"

[Alyssa Le (high school student / Z):

adds onto this as she comments on the importance of innovation and creativity- an element that cannot be lost within the storm of politics, "Personally, it depends. In general, being professional is the ability to adapt—to be versatile in any kind of environment. The leaders are the ones that can be creative and innovative during any difficult time. In relation to our government., people should be professionally understanding. Before becoming politicians or presidential candidates, they are normal people. **They are picked out of the masses to represent people; they should be understanding to the general public.**"

As I've observed in my life, professionalism is something that trickles down on an international, federal, and local level whether it is connected to politics or not. Professionalism may seem like a framework that can be easily googled, something that might look the same in people's minds. Yet, after interviewing

[Jeremy Conigliari (loan officer/ Millennial)]:

Jeremy Conigliari is a 27 year old working as a loan officer. Because he works in a field that requires attentiveness and trust, professionalism is one of the most important functions to him, "Professionalism is taking into consideration the needs of who I work with- especially in the context with finance. There's a misconception that loans, financial services are self-motivating. People who work in this business are often thought to take advantage of others. **Professionalism means considering the client as a human being, treating them with respect-- they are not products,** Serving the community and getting to know its members is essentially a deeper understanding of finance. Ethics—is really important. A lot of businesses imagine it, but I'd like to challenge moral standards in terms of business not just customer service."

[Gabriel Béatrix (high school student) /

location: Paris/ ZI]: Gabriel Béatrix is a high school student who is in his senior year, living and attending school in Paris, France. To him, professionalism is intimately linked with many levels of visibility, "Professionalism is often described as the competence and the skills expected from a professional. It's the warranty of a factual and informed work which is the necessary foundation of any

[continued] serious structure, whether the structure that is a school project, a public administration or even a paper supply company (as hilarious as Michael Scott is). **Public administrations, which are the pillars of a State, must be professional in order to secure freedom for their citizens. When it comes to public and democratic matters, professionalism is not optional.** I personally share Jean-Jacques Rousseau's morale, a French philosopher from the XVIIIth century, who essentially says that mankind formed political systems using their intuition. Furthermore, I would say professionalism is ultimately what will save us from falling into misinformed opinions."

[Brett Stachler is Arizona State University's student engagement senior coordinator, also a

Millennial]: as he offers his stance on professionalism in a workplace environment, especially one that takes place within an educational institution, He says, "Professionalism is a loaded word for me, for a variety of reasons. **I try to view everything in a lens that encompasses equity. And being aware of the privileged social identities that I have,** I know that I'm not a perfect person. When professionalism is Googled, images of one- piece (men) or two-piece (women) attire come up. In more ways than just professional attire,

[continued] professionalism is rooted in heterosexism and gender dynamics. How you show up in a given space is your choice. I more or less conform what cis males wear in the workplace. I have queer cis males colleagues who wear heels and it's part of their gender expression. You start to ask: What do I bring to an authentic workspace? When I was working for the University of Chicago, I was able to help develop a community of practice that grew in a tough environment. It was about sustaining each other.

[Lena Nguyen is the author of the upcoming novel, "We Have Always Been Here" (set to release in 2021)]: as she offers her view of professional standards which is complimentary to Brett Stachler's point of view, "Professionalism is appropriate in civil conduct in the workplace. Professionalism as an artist or author is different from a lawyer or doctor. It is the way you act so that people have the respect to believe in your work and your skills. Speaking honestly, I believe that certain standards of professionalism are outdated. For example, Millennial attorneys in New York City have varied appearances but that doesn't impede their ability to do work. **While our society's standards are changing, it's important to maintain personal expression-- especially from those who are in an artistic field.**"

With all this talk of professionalism, dressing to part is an integral part of first impressions. As a fashion major, I have explored how fashion in a political environment/ work space makes all the difference.

Question 2: What are your go-tos when dressing professionally? What do you recommend to others?

[Roxanne Holder-Kumer (college student) / Z]:

Roxanne Holder-Kumer adds her advice on balancing patterns to prints, "Dressing to impress means two things—knowing what the occasion is and fitting your style. Aesthetic is essential. It means expressing yourself but wearing work- appropriate clothes. If you're working in an office, dressing conservatively is good but that doesn't mean you have to be boring. My go-to is black dress pants, a pink blazer, and my loafers. **You can't go wrong with formal wear especially in a professional setting—just make sure styling patterns/ prints is toned down! For example, ladies: wear a solid-colored blouse with a patterned/ print blazer.**"

[Alyssa Le (high school student) / Z]: on her recommendations of color matching and sophistication, "In the context of a formal event, I'd recommend pantsuits or form-fitting dresses.

[continued] Many of them allow you to be comfortable but also accentuate your body in a flattering way. Personally, I think off the shoulder cuts can add sophistication but this depends on the structure of the garment itself.

For those who have amore tanner skin tone, I recommend warm tones: mustard yellows, blacks, and oranges—colors that bring out the undertones in your skin w/o washing you out."

[Lena Nguyen (author) / Millennial]: on the balance of letting your professionalism shine through but not overdoing it, "Not being overly formal is important—it could come off as trying too hard. Be yourself, but don't be too casual either. Finding the right balance between looking like a smart professional is about making a good impression. My go-to outfits include a variety of pencil skirts that define my waistline, white blouses, and women's jackets. I'm not a fan of skinny stilettos, they don't necessarily equal professionalism. (refer to Japanese breaking heels movement) so I'd opt for flats, booties, or dressy sneakers. **Style tip: dark palettes are nice in autumn/winter seasons, pale whites pair well with navy blues outerwear."**

[Brett Stachler (ASU student engagement coordinator)/ Millennial]: on accessibility, education, and identity, "For me, I try to be mind

[continued] -ful of having my dress reflect my accessibility. I like to wear really loud pants, it reflects my queerness. I diversify my patterns and prints but I try not to dress in a way to where I don't look inaccessible to students. On normal days, floral printed ties elevate my look and add detail. **Style tip: try something new once in a while. I tend to wear salmons, corals, and pinks- don't be afraid of experimenting with color away from the usual blacks, whites, etc."**

Anonymous (Arizona State University Faculty, The College)/ Generation XI: "Personally, I don't dress to impress. I dress to express." Colors are essential to my wardrobe. It's a way to express my personality. I always make sure to wear a chunky necklace, funky stockings, or statement pieces to make my outfits pop. My house is full of color, it livens up the place. **Style Tip: choose a bright statement piece in your outfit to juxtapose the more solid shades. If you're wearing dark colors, wear bright accessories for flare."**

Your appearance and fashion intersect with your professionalism. Whether that is a work environment or a political setting, formal wear is key.

Here are some of my personal brand recommendations:

*UNIQLO

*OAK + FORT

*Kohl's

*H&M

*TOP SHOP

*TOP MAN

Being professional and dressing well are just a couple of the minimal standards that are asked of government officials. Here, I have asked about not only the professional accountability but also the ethics of our government. Voting is closely linked with this. Voting dictates who steps into the sphere of political influence and policy-making.

Question 3: How has your idea of voting affected your generation and why is it important now?

[Alyssa Le (high school student) / Z]: discusses how the uprising of generation Z will be the ones living through the future, "Voting for my peer group is something that I realize has more impact that I originally thought. We should care more than older generations because we will be believing in what we make of it. It's our future. Whoever we put in office, those are the politicians who will dictate the state of our country and how it operates. This means we will

[continued] bear the consequences that come with them. **There's a preconceived idea that that our vote won't matter because of the electoral college. In reality, contributing to voting will matter in the long run no matter who the victor is.** While I am not of age to vote yet, it still means a lot to me to be aware. Whether it's browsing through informational posts or communicating with the people around me, I realize what I can do when I get to that point."

[Jeremy Conigliari/ Millennial]: explores the differences between the behavior and trends between generation Z and Millennials. "Remembering the 2016 election, many people didn't take it seriously. The truth is if you took everyone as an individual,-- specifically, millennials, they are upheld to confront politics in a whole new light. It's not about electing a president anymore. It's about the people, the communities. Recognizing the power of learning about government is important. There's a shift—people are realizing how important voting is. With that, it weaves into education. **Realizing how you are still a part of local/ state governments and how that serves a greater purpose, heightens our self-awareness. Self-education is powerful in that we're confronting the dire times that we're living in.**"

[Roxanne Holder-Kumer, (college student) / Z]: speaks on how voting is closely tied with social media, "One thing that scares me is my generation won't take the time to understand why voting is important. Social media creates sensationalism, like, people will change political opinions based on non-facts. We need to understand why. Whichever party you like, one or the other isn't a one-way street. Things aren't as simple and plain-sighted. Assuming won't do any good. You're allowed to agree with values of both parties or neither. **We have to remember to breathe, research, and find the decisions within ourselves—we can make a difference even if it's a small one. The power is important and we shouldn't let that be taken away from us.**"

[Ronan Doss, (college student)/ Millennial]: realizes how self-motivation goes a long way, "My generation, myself included, seems to be very invested in voting. This will be the first election I'm able to vote in, and I'm 100% certain of which candidate I want to elect. **I plan to vote with an unbroken sense of conviction, largely in hopes of being self-aware and voting who I believe is right for the country.** It's about the people who can't vote, those who are restricted, those who rely on others' voices to determine what happens to them."

Gaining International Perspective, it's not just about the United States: Question 4: Why do you think global awareness of voting rights in other countries is important? What can you learn from people in other countries in terms of culture, government, etc.?

Anupama Rao, (high school student), location: Bengaluru, India : speaks on her views as a resident of Bengaluru and how that's shaped her personal experience and self-awareness, "**It is important to know about the law and governments of other countries , just so you have the knowledge to stand up for what's right. It's about urging the people of that country to take matters into their hands and act upon it.** Not only is this helpful if someone decides to relocate to another country, it brings the world a little more closer and it helps a lot on the diplomatic front (eg: if you were to speak at the UN, you could bring up issues that affect your home country/another country and urge the ambassador[s] to act upon that issue). The most important issues in my city are the environmental factors. and Youth In Politics (it isn't a big thing in India and I would love to see more organizations promoting YIP in schools and colleges."

[Gabriel Béatrix (high school student), location: Paris, France] speaks on how he believes that learning about the culture and societal frameworks of other countries benefits him in different ways "I do believe that global awareness of voting rights in other countries is important. Since the Athenian democracy, voting is what saves us from anarchy tyranny and social violence. Today, we tend to forget the principle of voting is what we contribute to any society. **It is elevation of the people—a journey towards moral ideals. One way we can spread this idea is by education and global awareness.** Why do we educate ourselves? To understand. Because without understanding, there is only blind opinions, which deprives us from education, expression, and in some ways—freedom. And that starts by voting. "

Discussion about change: Question 5:
Why do you think it's essential to hold local and national governments accountable? What societal, economic, and social issues are most important to you personally?

Cindy Furukawa, (high school student)/Z] tokens her experiences as living as a Japanese American, "I think we can hold both governments accountable to a certain degree. There's not one way but, Gen z can start it. With

[continued] education, reaching out to teachers and bringing the issues out in the curriculum while addressing it to the class is a useful way. Issues with racial injustice are crucial to me because I have been affected in my day to day life. Like, being Japanese American, I have grown up being more cautious at what I do more than my peers. In some situations, I have been treated differently—my family has been treated horribly because they are unable to speak English fluently. I've grown up translating for them, checking bills, doing things that young kids aren't expected to learn and do. **Honestly, I wish there was more sympathy and less judgement that's tied to race. Stereotypes in the work force has been something that's personally affected me and it's not easy to say one job is easier than the other."**

[Ronan Doss, (college student)/ Millennial] talks about his support for women empowerment and how his experience as a film major weaves into future opportunities to telling such stories. "It's essential to hold governments accountable so they don't abuse their power. **I'd say my chief principle is allowing women to do as they see fit, in the context if working industries,**

[continued] **respect, marriage rights, childbirth, etc. Another issue I'd like to see change is positive representation in the media.** Recently, there's been a beautiful upheaval in strong black characters. We've finally reached a point where people are seeing positive role models on television or films that look like them. Now that the precedent is set, I want to see this for other communities that have been marginalized in the past. I look forward to seeing well-written, three-dimensional Asian characters, Indian characters, etcetera. As a film major, I have an interest in seeing how these stories will unfold, especially with strong, female characters too. Films tell stories and allows people to see the potential that life is what we make out of it."

[Lena Nguyen, (author) / Millennial]: brings her perspective of moral crusading and its limitations, "As for issues important for me, the rights of POC and indigenous people specifically. A lot of times, we forget that indigenous people are overshadowed by other voices and sometimes, larger bodies of government. In our society, making people be aware of what they say circles around education, self-reflection, and effort. Moral crusades aren't a good way to bring light to these issues -- it's a bit counter-

[continued] -productive for me. For instance, there is so much stigma surrounding the idea of feminism. Over time, the term has been twisted into personal narratives and it gets lost in the fray so that now people don't actually know what it means. **Being aware and creating dialogue against misogyny, rape culture, and women's equality in a respectful way that doesn't put men down. Understanding historical context and social devices will take time.**"

[Alyssa Le, (high school student)/Z] speaks about the misconceptions of generation Z and the gender roles that don't necessarily apply to women all together, "Generation Z believes that they are the most "woke" and most aware. We must all be willing to learn and to be educated ultimately, whether we were to be labelled as generation Z or not. As for issues that are important to cultural awareness is a big one. Personally, when I was younger—society geared my mind to think that bringing my own culture didn't fit with the norm. People shouldn't ridicule other people's cultures just because they are different from their own. This includes the act of gender stereotyping. **As someone who is a female and Asian American, I want to change the way that people perceive women as frail and emotionally fragile.** Women are typically subjected to dangerous situations and it takes

[continued] away the moments where women can feel can feel comfortable. I'd like to really show that women have the ability to be versatile, empowered, and a driving force for the generations after us. We are equals, not objects."

[Jeremy Conigliari (loan officer)/

Millennial] discusses communication and self-identity, "Social media is an echo chamber of ideas. Millennials are the middle ground, a hybrid relationship to social media and there's a slightly critical take on it. In person discussions are more effective because Millennials aren't always fully trusting to social media. **As for things that matter to me, environmentalism, period.** On a global, national, and local level. There are so many important laws that are impacted by administration and businesses are not an exception just because they make profit. **When it comes to taking care of earth, all people should be held accountable.** Locally, as an Arizonian, many people from California migrate due to overcrowding. Yet, this puts stress on Colorado River and like a butterfly effect, this affects **sustainability.** One thing that I want to bring up is the idea of living in an online-savvy world. The fact is, privacy is compromised through the selling

[continued] of data collection to internet service providers, cellphone companies, etc. The more public surveillance, the more dangerous it can become. The importance of speaking out is extremely important, especially for family members/ friends who aren't aware of these issues. People have let this go on too long without speaking up. For me, I have talked to my relatives in the intentions to educate them.

[Roxanne Holder-Kumer, (college student)/ Z]

discusses her concerns regarding performative activism and its power to form peoples' opinions whether it is based on true information or not. Roxanne says, "It's important to hold both accountable because at the end of the day, they are representing people and their beliefs. If they're not upholding that, you should know. Local governments affect day to day life. Our national government represent the US to the world. People don't think it's important. As for what I want to see be done, **I want to get in touch with younger voters. One thing I want to see in politics is reaching across the aisle.** Party tribalism is creating problems for legislation, tickets being passed, and creates a larger divide within the nation. The way we talk about politics needs to change—I'm concerned, we need to have real conversations rather than "if you don't agree with me, I think you're a terrible person."— We need to find common ground."

[Brett Stachler, (Student Engagement coordinator at Arizona State University)/ Millennial], "Education policy matters to me. Obviously, it's tangible because it's the industry I work in. It's policy that's not talked about often. **A lot of the people who don't have a background in education are the ones that impact our education and funding. For example, in Arizona, (a lot of states) must provide public universities for funding to allow it to be affordable for students. Particularly, for example, Proposition 208 is a tax structure system in order to provide more funding in the classroom, career readiness, and faculty salaries. We make such little money. Federally, it impacts no child left behind act and the idea of receiving money based on test scores. A lot of people don't vote in off-year elections but those elections are important. **We're electing people to the house and the senate which also affects the supreme court. That's why: The idea that the closer we are to people, the more influential we are.** My family are people who were living in Chicago during the second migration. The Black community was escaping dynamics of red-lining and the result of the Jim Crow laws. There was a systemic dynamic that Black people were left in generational poverty and racism, it just**

[continued] looked different than it does now, I've talked with my family about implicit bias and self education. There's a lot of bi-poc people who have to step away from the emotionality of talking about their hardships, voter suppression, etc. because people don't acknowledge their struggles. We need to have influential conversations and facilitate personal conversations. even if it takes a long time."

Anonymous (Arizona State University Faculty, The College)/ Generation X]: "Public speaking should be a mandatory skill that has the ability to improve students' communication, It about social discourse. A lot of European countries call it civic engagement, a required class that is taken by students as young as elementary. It exposes young children to politics and upcoming elections, it is very common in Norway (where some of my family members are from). As an education professional, I recommend students (ASU) to participate in humanities labs so that they can expand their cultural knowledge and utilize research methods. **Communication between faculty to students, students to each other, and among faculty is essential within any institution.**"

The Voter's Guide

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A curated guide on how to vote, candidates, misconceptions, international elections, and the importance of voting

The Voter's Guide

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Section I: Introduction

We know what you're thinking. You're unsure of where to start. It seems like there is so much conflicting information swirling around this election. There is not only the pressure to make your vote count but also the uncertainty of whether or not it will matter. We felt this way too at first, so that's why we're here to offer you insight and advice on how to navigate the world of voting. You'll find that it's not as intimidating as it seems. First and foremost, this is a guide curated by Culture Talk's Government and Law branches to walk you through your read. The guide covers common misconceptions, who is eligible to vote, research, how to vote, and world elections. The idea of voting and understanding government is about communication. It's about listening and self-reflecting, skills that everyone needs to have regardless if you're eligible to vote or not. We hope that you find this information useful because your vote, and your voice, count!



**DIVERSITY &
INCLUSION**

Section II: Common Misconceptions

What are some misconceptions about voting?

Many people believe that their vote doesn't matter. According to NPR, there have been "more than a dozen races over the last two decades determined by a single vote or ending in a tie"

Not every citizen is guaranteed the right to vote.

People assume that because someone is a citizen, they automatically have voting rights. In many states, there can be obstacles such as voter ID laws and registration restrictions that can prevent some individuals from voting.

Even if someone is registered to vote, they still may have to update their voter registration status if they have moved, changed their name, or are changing their political party affiliation. Individuals are also more and more concerned with voter fraud, but this is actually a rare occurrence. According to a study by Columbia University political scientist tracked voter fraud incidence rates and found that *"the rare fraud that was reported generally could be traced to false claims by the loser of a close race, mischief, and administrative error"* (Brenan Center)

Section III: Who is eligible to vote?

Voting in the U.S.:

You can vote!...if you:

- **Are a U.S. citizen**
- **Meet your state's residency requirements**
- **If you are homeless, you can still vote!** It is recommended homeless registrants list a shelter address as their voting address where they could receive mail. Alternatively, homeless registrants may denote a street corner or a park as their residence, in lieu of a traditional home address. The federal voter registration form and many state forms provide a space for this purpose. Remember, the best source of information about these issues is your state or county election officials.
- **Are 18 years old on or before Election Day**
- In almost every state, you can register to vote before you turn 18 if you will be 18 by Election Day: See a table of [voter registration age requirements by state](#).
- **Are registered to vote by your state's voter registration deadline**

Who is not eligible to vote?:

- **Non-citizens, including permanent and legal residents**
- **Some people with felony convictions. Rules vary by state. Check with your state's election office about the laws in your state.**

Section III: Who is eligible to vote? (Continued)

- **Some people who are mentally incapacitated. Rules vary by state.**
- **For president in the general election: U.S. citizens residing in U.S. territories.**
- **Particularly with this year's election allowing large amounts of online voting:**

1. Make sure your vote is eligible to be counted
2. Fill your ballot properly (no stray marks, no coffee stains,...)
3. Make sure to sign the envelope you put the ballot in
4. When you sign, it must be the same signature as what your state has on file
5. Submit the additional documentation your state requires
6. Send your ballot early!

Section IV: How do I Vote?

Register!

(If you are eligible to vote you must first register!)

1. If you have a driver's license or state ID number, you can register online in 40 states plus District of Columbia (can list if needed) <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/electronic-or-online-voter-registration.aspx#Table%20of%20states%20w/ovr>
2. you can use the link above to see if your state has online voting and it will direct you to the state's website!
3. must have signature on file with motor vehicle agency (you do if you have a driver's license).

Voting in a pandemic

- Mail-In/Absentee Voting: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, New Jersey, Utah, Vermont, and Washington are sending in a mail-in ballot to every voter
- Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas—require a justification for mail-in voting and will not accept fear of COVID-19 as adequate (<https://www.consumerreports.org/voting/guide-to-voting-during-the-pandemic/>).
- In the remaining 35 states, you can request a mail in ballot by updating your registration

Section IV: How do I Vote?

(Continued)

Citizens Abroad

- Some states allow you to vote abroad (this is based on your last residence in the U.S)
- Must submit Federal Post Card Application (call federal voting assistance program or visit U.S Embassy/Consulate)Local election officials will send an absentee ballot electronically or by mail
- Then send your ballot back via local mail/express courier service, email (some states permit electronic transmission), or drop off at a U.S Embassy
- Don't forget to address your local election officials and use appropriate postage for overseas!
- If you have never resided in the U.S, you may be able to vote as well.
- Check state guidelines based on where your parent/guardian resided. <https://www.fvap.gov/citizen-voter/reside>
- What if I don't have a driver's license?
<https://www.vote.org/voter-id-laws/>

Is voting safe/ reliable?

- Oregon, the first state to adopt a universal vote-by-mail system, had 15 identifiable cases of voter fraud in 15 million ballots cast over 19 years. Colorado has uncovered 14 cases of fraud out of a similar total since 2013, Utah has seen just one case of fraud in the past 970,000 ballots. (*Per* <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/09/the-democrats-vote-by-mail-conundrum/616535/>)

Section IV: Tips!

- **Vote early if you can!**

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Make sure to use black ink when filling the ballot out
- Do not use a pencil or sharpie
- Sign the envelope
- Do not take photo of ballot
- Make sure to use the signature that you used when you registered to vote!
- Make sure to send your ballot on time!

Section V: Picking Candidates

Picking a candidate to vote for is a process that one should not take lightly. Here are some easy steps that first time voters should consider before casting their vote.

1) Think about the issues that matter most to you, and write a list of top priority goals you would like the candidate to address

2) Research the candidate. It doesn't need to be extremely thorough but this is a good way to understand their views. (look at their campaign websites and click issues/priorities)

3) After researching, it is important to see which of your values connect /align with the running candidates.

Here are some questions to ask yourself which can be helpful for the process:

- *Which candidates view on issues do you agree with most?*
- *Did the candidate run a fair campaign?*
- *Does the candidate demonstrate knowledge on issues?*
- *Which of the candidates has leadership qualities that you are looking for?*

While these steps may sound mundane or overzealous, it is important to choose your candidate wisely. This is a chance to make your voice heard!

Section VI: World Elections

Case Study: Ethiopian Election

- Ethiopia delayed presidential elections to 2021 because of COVID-19. Opposition leaders are worried that this delay could cause a strain in the pandemic response. In 2018, Ethiopia elected a new president Abiy Ahmed, the regime became more authoritarian. **Recently, some of the local governments within Ethiopia are still holding elections despite the postponement of the elections to the next year.** The Tigray region will be holding elections due to the poor communication and handling of the pandemic by the national government.

Case Study: Belarus

- The presidential election took place on August 30th. The race was between five term president Alexander Lukashenko, who is running for his sixth term. He has been president since Belarus gained independence in 1991 from the Soviet Union. He ran against Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. The election results showed that Lukashenko won by 80% over Tikhanovskaya's 10%. Many human rights and international organizations were watching this election because it was not known to be a "free and fair election". Lukashenko's rival did not accept the results and called for a meeting with Lukashenko to focus on the transferral of power because she claimed to have won the majority of votes. Lukashenko denied that request and began to make moves on his inauguration. **This election also gained international attention from countries around Europe and North America, such as the United Kingdom and Canada. As a result, protests began to break out throughout the country because of how corrupt this election was.**

Section VI: World Elections

(Continued)

- **Case Study: New Zealand**

New Zealand holds a general election every three years with the last one being in 2017. **Just this October, current Prime Minister Jacinda Arden was elected to serve as the prime minister again by a landslide victory.** In addition in voting for members of the Parliament, people are also voting on a series of ballot measures, such as legalizing weed and euthanasia for terminally ill patients. The Labor Party (Arden's party) won 64 out of the 120 legislative seats in the unicameral Parliament.

- **Case Study: Kyrgyzstan**

In the 2020 Kyrgyzstan parliamentary elections, there have been problems with rigged voting, leading for the results to be annulled. As a result, there have been protests occurring due to the lack of transparency in election results. **This has led to the resignation of the prime minister, Kubatbek Boronov, and leading for the parliament to nominate the opposition leader, Sadyr Zhaparov.** This situation has garnered attention and concern from other countries, such as Russia and China.

- **Case Study: Compulsory voting in Australia**

The voting system in Australia, unlike the United States, has a compulsory voting system. Compulsory voting has showcased its positive implications of voter turnout-96.5 percent of the population are enrolled voters and even more surprisingly, 90% of those voters actually vote! Of course, in the name of compulsory voting, not voting in this system renders consequential impacts.

Section VI: World Elections (Continued)

- (continued) If an Australian citizen does not vote, they are fined or an intense regulatory penalty. At first, citizens are fined approximated 20 dollars; however, if they have a sufficient reason as to why they did not vote, the fine is lifted. If these Australian voters consistently do not vote, there are more regulations in place to keep everyone in check. **Failure to comply results in a series of forms and applications: Form 33, Form 34, Final Demand, Fines Enforcement Registry Referral. While this system encourages voter turnout, there are critics to this system. One critique of the compulsory system discerns that a citizen has the right to choose whether or not to vote. Another argument of the compulsory system argues that a high voter turnout does not necessarily equate to a knowledgeable voter turnout. As Jason Brennan, assistant professor of public policy at Georgetown University asserts, "Voters have noble intentions. Yet they have systematically false beliefs about basic economics, political science and foreign policy." . This demonstrates that different voting systems have diverse issues and complications, one is not necessarily better than the other.**

Section VII: Electoral Fraud and Voter Suppression

Electoral fraud means that there was an illegal interference with the process of an election.

- **This can take many forms:**
- people who are ineligible to vote, who vote.-absentee ballot fraud: obtaining absentee voter ballots and filing it out without the knowledge of a voter.
- Voter impersonation: It is important to note that this is uncommon and does not occur often.
- One example of this occurring in the United States was the 2016 election by which social media accounts were linked to a Russian Internet Research Agency. These were programmed to provide false information and were responsible for attempting to sway the election.

Voter suppression is defined as “Voter suppression is any effort, either legal or illegal, by way of laws, administrative rules, and/or tactics that prevents eligible voters from registering to vote or voting”

Some of these tactics include: enforcing Voter I.D. laws, closing neighborhood polling places, restricting hours for early voting, making mail-in ballots harder to obtain, etc... These tactics undermine voter’s rights in order to sway the election. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was crucial in order to end voter suppression that was discriminatory.

Section VII: Electoral Fraud and Voter Suppression (Continued)

However in *Shelby County v. Holder* 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that section 5 of this act was no longer within the jurisdiction of the 14th and 15th amendment. This unfortunately resulted in states passing laws that suppressed voters rights, many of these states passing restrictions on voting. Many U.S. citizens are frightened that with the COVID-19 pandemic going on, there will be an increase in voter fraud and suppression. Voter fraud is very rare and is not the concern to stress over. What one should be cautious about are laws that enforce restrictions and to find ways to ensure your vote will count. Please refer to Section IV on how to ensure the safety of your ballot.

Section VIII : Conclusion

Soon, 2020 will be coming to a close. Though it has been a long and tiresome year, the events that have occurred will shape the history that will be encapsulated in the books. One thing is true. People have a right to speak up and discuss the changes we want to see in our society. Despite our diversity in stories, experiences, or culture, it is our hope that binds us together in uncertainty. And while there are many ways to communicate your voice, like art or music or academically, voting carves our sphere of influence. When you choose to speak out, the people around you will either choose to listen or they ignore you. Still, it doesn't matter. The act of speaking up is more courageous than being silent will ever be and that makes all the difference. **As Culture Talk, we urge you to speak out and raise your voice.**

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**" VOTING IS NOT ONLY OUR
RIGHT-- IT IS OUR POWER."**

-LOUNG UNG



RESOURCES

PRESENTED BY: CULTURE TALK

EDUCATION:

Creative Capital / Black Lives Matter:
<https://creative-capital.org/2020/06/03/resources-ways-to-support-black-lives-matter/>

*This resource highlights ways for people to support BLM in a constructive manner at home / day to day life. Explore book lists and educational resources.

XQ:

What role can schools play in celebrating and preserving Hispanic/Latinx heritage?

- Incorporating Hispanic/Latinx history and culture into the curriculum (history, government/politics, literature, the arts)
- Supporting bilingual education
- Hosting culture events for the student body and families
- Funding and promoting Hispanic/Latinx extracurricular activities and groups
- Providing resources and services for immigrant students and families

AFT:

What's the deal with bilingual education?

Researchers from Johns Hopkins University "studied data from Spanish-speaking students in Texas's Rio Grande Valley" and "found that bilingual education can help promote bilingualism without significantly sacrificing English proficiency"

ORGANIZATIONS:

Black Lives Matter:

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/resources/>

*This is a page that provides a variety of topics such as "Healing Actions", "Conflict Resolution", and information on stories within the Black community (ie. Breonna Taylor, protesting, and more).

Rock the Vote:

<https://www.rockthevote.org/>

*"Rock the Vote taps into the power of young people to build their political power through voter registration efforts, providing information about elections, and reducing barriers to vote."

When We All Vote:

<https://www.whenweallvote.org/>

*They have texting teams, and programs such as "Fuel the Vote" and "My School Votes" to register people to vote during food drives as well as educate young people on voting respectively.

Poder in Action:

<https://www.poderinaction.org/>

*Phoenix-based organization that strengthens the local social justice movement by promoting leadership development, systemic change, and public policy. Areas of focus include immigration, criminal justice, and education. Programs include:

- Barrios al Poder: Focuses on family and neighborhood units.
- Youth Poder: Focuses on empowering the youth.

LUCHA (Living United for Change in Arizona):

<https://luchaaz.org/>

*Phoenix-based organization that aims to empower working families in the realms of social, economic, and racial justice -Immigration → Offers services to help families renew their DACA or residency; offers free citizenship and English classes

- **#VOTERIAAZ** with Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE) Registering voters of color and making sure that elected officials are representative of the community
- **"#MiAZ** is a grassroots effort to increase civic engagement in communities of color across Arizona by going directly to voters, connecting with them on the issues they care about, and activating them to reclaim their political voice."
- **Community Schools Project** with ACE's Education Justice Campaign

-Aims to make public schools accessible in terms of "academics, health and social services, and youth and community development"

EDUCATION (CONTINUED):

Si Se Puede:

<https://www.sisepuedefoundation.org/>

*An Arizona-based organization that provides community educational programs with a focus in STEM for children from underserved and underrepresented communities

-Programs that help foster interest in STEM for girls ("She Se Puede") Motivates students to attend higher education institutions ("Destination College") and provides role-model mentors for the kids

Miss Tohono O'odham Nation Pageant:

<http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/>

*The Tohono O'odham Nation is the second largest reservation in Arizona with 28,000 members. They run many programs such as "Miss Tohono O'odham Nation," which helps female members of the Nation with "personal growth, self-esteem, and communications skills"

Environmentalism:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/11658/a-brief-history-of-environmentalism/>

*This webpage briefly shows the impact of humans on the planet and includes various anecdotes of environmental activists from around the world.

<https://www.explainthatstuff.com/introduction-to-environmentalism.html>

*This webpage is divided into two sections (Problems, Solutions) and gives detailed information about each problem and how we can apply the solutions to protect the environment of the world.

<https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/importance-types-examples-environmental-activism.php>

*Blogpost that lists the types and importance of environmental activism

RESOURCES

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ORGANIZATIONS (CONTINUED)

Color of Change:

<https://colorofchange.org/>

*Organization that helps educate people and encourages them to take action on injustice in the world around us. Consisting of 7 million members, they strive to drive corporations and the government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people, and marginalized groups. Until justice is real.

Do Something:

<https://www.dosomething.org/us>

*Youth-led platform that empowers others to volunteer, and partake in social change and civic action campaigns to make real-world impact on causes they care about.

MEDIA:

- **"A Small Place" by Jamaica Kincaid**
- Tells the story of Antigua before and after English colonization while also critiquing the tourism industry in third world tropical countries.
- **"Jasmine" by Bharati Mukherjee**
- This novel is about its titular character and her journey from India to America and life as an immigrant in America
- **"The Border Patrol State" by Leslie Marmon Silko**
- Silko's experience with the border patrol in Tucson and how Native Americans cannot travel freely between states. Deals with how the patrol is aggressive and violent to people.
- **"How to Be Antiracist" by Ibram X Kendi**
- **"Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe** (celebrating black lives)

RESOURCES

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- **"The Wretched of The Earth" by Franz Fanon**
 - Discusses decolonization efforts, how it should happen and why
- **"Why We're Polarized" by Ezra Klein**
 - Discusses role of American citizens and how that role in itself is the cause for a polarized society
- **"Farewell to Manzanar" by Jeanie Wakatsuki Houston**
 - A first hand account of how anti-Asian sentiments brought about the use of internment camps and how it affected the Asian community as well as Asian-Americans.
- **Hamilton (Broadway musical):** This musical tells the story of America's founding fathers in a hip-hop style. The original Broadway cast had individuals from varying backgrounds -- the title character Alexander Hamilton is played by Puerto-Rican-American composer/actor Lin-Manuel Miranda.
- **The Color Purple (Broadway musical):** This musical is the Broadway adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer-prize winning novel. The musical follows a young African-American woman named Celie through her life.
- Streaming platforms such as Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, etc have added the group "Black Stories" as a section, where watchers can view films, TV shows, and documentaries by Black artists. This is essential for understanding stories by Black creators. **Some of my favorites are "Becoming," the documentary by Michelle Obama, and "HOMECOMING: A film by Beyoncé."**
- **"Wild Karnataka":** an amazing documentary about the rich biodiversity of the southern state of Karnataka, India. Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, the famous British broadcaster and natural historian.
- **"The Breadwinner" (based on novel by Deborah Ellis):** available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc. An animated film that shares the story of Parvana, the youngest daughter of a family living in Afghanistan during the Taliban rule and how her painful struggles blossom into courage and sacrifice.

For more resources/ materials:

Culture Talk Website:

<https://www.theculturetalk.net/>

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UNITED: EMPOWERING VOICES THROUGH THE VOTES

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THANK YOU.

BY: MILLA NGUYEN

2020 is a year that will be marked down in history, within the lines of a school textbook for the future generations after us. People, old and young, have seen things. We have experienced things. The tides have changed this October. Whether that's socially, economically, or politically, our world is changing. It's difficult. It is hard to witness the events have occurred, especially the losses that have stemmed from such events. It's like navigating the rocky ocean with a canoe that has a hole in it, rowing endlessly towards a destination that might seem impossible to reach. It is safe to say that there is one thing that remains the same. It's something that's all encompassing and powerful, unique to each and every individual. It's our right to have an identity. It's about your personhood, whether that be your race, your gender, your sexuality. It's about your stories and your experiences, and above all, your privilege of deciding what your government does. Oh yes, we're going there. The majority of people might be under the impression that their voices don't matter but what will it take for them to realize that it does? There's that phrase that seeing is believing. But people aren't looking hard enough. To see that your voice matters, you have to take a look around at the people around you. Do your ideas and stories influence them? Does your school listen to it's students? Can like-minded people hold conversations with you? Can you incorporate your voice into music? speech? art forms? The answers to all these questions is yes. And while not all choose to listen, your voice is still consumed by the people around you, even if it's just one. Culture Talk urges you to show up and vote, for yourself. For those around you. For those who can't. No matter who you choose.

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CULTURE TALK

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