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Voting in the United States has and will always be a controversial topic, but to me voting is a must as an American citizen. Franklin D. Roosevelt once stated,” Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” Many groups of people in the world would give anything to voice who they believe should be in public office to make the decisions, but are not given the opportunity. Some people across the country do not realize the effect not voting can have and therefore never give the topic much thought. Voting is a privilege and should be treated in such manner.

Since the first United States Presidential election on January 7th 1789 voting has been debated by many. One of the many reasons this country was founded was to eliminate the rule by monarchy. People were not given the opportunity to voice who they believe should lead them in the motherland which in part lead to this Republic. In many countries one could not even voice his opinion on certain topics without the fear of punishment. This was a big topic that the founders discussed back in 1787 and one although ratified over the years has stayed true. Amendments such as the 19th and 24th allowed groups such as women and African Americans the right to vote. Over the years as the population has grown people have slowly lost view to the importance in voting. If this is not changed Franklin D. Roosevelt may have been right about our ability to vote.

So what kind of effect does not voting have? Imagine for a second that there were two candidates running for public office. The first of which shared many ideas on topics you did not really care about and never truly stated anything that stood out to you. On the other hand the other candidate stated many facts that contradicted your personal beliefs and gave you an uneasy feeling. Failure to vote for the first candidate is the same as giving your vote to the one who contradicted what you believe in. An American cartoonist from the late 1800’s early 1900’s named Franklin Hubbard (Kin Hubbard) once stated, “ We would all like to vote for the best man but he is never a candidate.” Never allow the candidates be the reason you give up this beautiful freedom but rather use them as motivation to become more involved in your local government.

Many people believe voting is a right which in part is true. But if one considers the lives lost to give us this right does it not become more of a privilege? Over 4,400 soldiers lost their lives in the American Revolutionary war and countless more lives were changed forever. Since then thousands and thousands more have loss their lives to protect these rights. To many people have fought for the things we take for granted, which in part is why I believe in voting. If constantly treated as a right through time we slowly forget the sacrifices made by many to provide them. All these rights we have today were once just dreams by a bunch of founders who fought hard to make them a reality.

In conclusion I believe voting will continue to be argued in America. Although my opinion is voting is a necessity, others may not quite agree. That in and of itself is one of the most beautiful characteristics of America. We are a free nation and allowed to disagree with one another in a peaceful manner. No man can force another to believe what they believe which gives this country a vast range of opinions. Therefore giving us different candidates to potentially vote for.