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Why is voting important to me?

According to the Census’ Current Population survey, only 59% of black citizens voted in the 2016 Presidential Election. Now, you may hear your aunties, cousins or parents say “My vote won’t count anyway, I’m a minority”, but this is not true. It may be hard to believe but, everyone’s vote counts. Voting is important to me because, it is determining my economic, financial and medical future, especially as a student.

As a young black female in the United States, I face more challenges and obstacles than the average American. According to the AAUW, black women are typically paid 63 cents for every dollar the average white man is paid. In Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign she voiced that she would help to end the Gender Inequality Pay Gap for all Americans. Due to my age back in 2016, I was unable to vote in that election. However, it has encouraged me to make sure I vote in the 2020 election for the person that I feel supports my views. We all have the right to voice our opinions even if our elected individual does not win, its all in the principle that you have tried to make a change for yourself. When you are not apart of that 1% class, you must find a nominated official that will do their very best to support those in the 99%.

Many times near election day, questions arise, “My vote does not count, why should I waste my vote?” “The election is rigged, why should I waste my time?’. Well, if you voted for the losing official you may feel as if your vote did not make any difference. Yet, you must think of how electoral votes have much more power than the popular vote. For example, Trump won the election through electoral votes although Hillary had the popular vote by 3 million. Do not assume your vote has no value because it does! Get out there and vote for yourself and those in your community!

As a full-time college student, finances are a huge part of my life. My economic standing determines the amount of financial aid I receive each academic year. The president and congressional delegates decide on how our federal aid programs are shaped for students in need. Now, if you may be on the side that thinks voting is unimportant you may wish to reconsider. Also, the Affordable Care Act has a few advantages for those under 26 and enrolled into college. The way we have acts/bills like these are because they were voted on.

To sum up, I am young, my peers and I are the future of this country and we must choose what we feel is best for OUR future. Being a minority in the U.S. is definitely a struggle considering it is rare that we have the upper hand in popular situations. Voting is extremely important because it determines our economic, financial and medical futures. My vote will count, your vote will count, OUR vote will count. Let’s help make the U.S. a better place!