

## **How to take action and be involved in US elections?**

2020 is certainly going to be remembered as a turbulent and exciting year in American politics. Stakes and tensions are growing ever higher on the national stage. Meanwhile, local and state elections are becoming increasingly heated and consequential as well. If you want to see your candidates victorious this November, don't count on them to do all the work. Help them out by taking action and getting involved! And if you're not sure how, here are three good ways to participate:

### **1.) Do your homework**

Every responsible citizen should, at the very least, be aware of current events, understand key political issues, and know the basics of government. This is the starting point for everyone interested in participating in the system. Once you have this foundation of knowledge, consider digging a little deeper. Research the candidates, at every level, that are vying to represent *you*. Be familiar with their positions, experience, and qualifications before deciding who you vote for. Finally, if you still have a desire to go even deeper, find a book or audiobook on American history and give it a read or a listen. Only good can come from a better understanding of the great country you live in, and the more context you have, the better you can pass judgements on our nation's problems and proposed solutions.

### **2.) Volunteer your time**

Are you registered with a political party? If not, perhaps consider it! It's a great way to be connected to people who share your values. Local party organizations will also often have opportunities for those looking for a way to take action in the political season. There are also political campaigns that are always looking for volunteers to help spread their message, so go poke your head in at a campaign headquarters and see if they need your help working phones, managing events, or distributing materials. Volunteers are needed on Election Day as well! If you would like to be on the front lines of democracy, be sure to find your local Election Assistance Committee and sign up to be an election worker!

### **3.) Get social!**

Encouraging your friends and family to vote is a great way to promote the spirit of democracy. Engage in the discourse, participate in positive debates, and communicate with the people around you about the pros and cons about political candidates and ideas. Positivity is the key, not just to keeping your relationships healthy, but also to promoting civilized discourse in society, something we are short of these days. Reach out to those you know and encourage them to vote and participate in our great system!

As you go about promoting the American tradition this year, be sure to remember these two things: first, we live in an incredible country that we can all participate in, and it is our responsibility to make the wisest and most informed choices as a society. Second, no effort you make is too small. Whether it's simply deepening your own understanding, volunteering your time, or helping deepen the understanding of others, *you* can make a difference in your sphere of influence. Everyone's vote matters, so be sure to make yours count, and help others make theirs count as well!