

# Why Vote?

*In 1790, only white land-owning males had the right to vote. Our ancestors have fought since then for the right of minorities and women to vote. It is our obligation to practice and protect this right.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION...**



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## The Power of One Vote

- 1776: ONE VOTE made America's official language English instead of German
- 1845: ONE VOTE brought Texas into the Union
- 1960: John F. Kennedy beat Richard Nixon for the presidency by a margin of less than ONE VOTE per precinct
- 2016: Several precincts in the Iowa Democratic Caucus TIED and came down to a coin toss



## Voting in Ohio

- Ohio is a swing state, making it one of the most important states in a presidential election!
- Ohio has voted for the winning presidential candidate every year since 1964, the longest streak in the country
- Ohio is one of seven states (along with Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Virginia, and Florida) that is likely to be a battleground state in the 2016 election
- Despite 61% voter turnout in Ohio in the 2012 presidential election, only 36% of eligible Ohioan voters turned out in the 2014 non-presidential elections – that year, the Ohio Legislature passed 3 restrictive voting laws

## Voter Turnout Makes a Difference

*The United States has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the world.  
In 2012, 42% of eligible voters did not cast a ballot – We have the power to change this!*

- The reason affordable housing is not a top priority is that families with incomes below \$30,000/year vote at a rate of less than 50% - The reason that tax cuts for the wealthy are considered is because families with incomes above \$100,00/year vote at a rate of nearly 80%
- In 2012, only 48% of eligible Hispanic voters cast ballots – if a higher percentage of this population voted, we would probably see more positive immigration reform being a priority
- Despite voter turnout in African American communities being historically high in 2008 and 2012, it was still only around 65% - if a higher percentage of this population voted, we would probably see poverty among African Americans being addressed in Washington and Columbus
- We have a strong safety net for seniors (social security and Medicare) because 70% of seniors turn out to vote. High voter turnout → laws that protect minority and impoverished populations



*In an electoral democracy like the United States, voting is one of the best ways that we as citizens can make our voices heard.*