Reasons to Vote

MASS Voting Club

Appreciatively,
Chris and Sarita
Before we start, we need to ask:

Why should you vote?
Oh Jonathan, there are so many reasons to vote.

I know everyone’s excited about voting, but I’m only one person. What can one vote really do?
It’s your right. People have died in the pursuit for voting rights. All so that you could make your voice heard. Honor them by going to the polls.

It’s your responsibility. Democracy only works if we all participate.

It’s how we make change. The people we vote for are the people who make the laws. If we don’t vote for the right people, we will not get the right laws.

Ballot Questions
When you vote, you’re not just electing a candidate. You’re often voting on ballot questions - questions that have the power to influence and change laws.
It's easy to think of voting as making a choice between candidates.

But when you vote, you choose who makes your laws. And when you make your voice heard, those lawmakers will start to listen.

For example, the ADA.
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Signed into law by President George H. W. Bush.
Employment
Companies with more than 15 employees cannot discriminate against an applicant or employee who has a disability.

Transportation
Cities that have public transportation must also have paratransit.

Public Buildings
New construction must comply with the ADA and public accommodation (like a school) must be accessible.
Here are the top political moments of the decade. If you like what you see, then vote to keep that going. If you don’t like what you see, then vote to fix it.

The only way you’ll make change is if you get out and vote.
I know, man. Our system is flawed and it can feel like two steps forward, one step back. But at the end of the day, this is *our* system. We have the power to change it, but only if we get out and make our voices heard. Voting is one of the most important, and one of the easiest, ways to do that.

But what about the electoral college? Two of our last three presidents lost the popular vote but won the electoral college and therefore won the presidency. And what about gerrymandering? And voter suppression?
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Margaret Mead was a cultural anthropologist and writer best known for her studies and publications on the subject.

via https://www.biography.com/scholar/margaret-mead
Reasons to Vote - Recap

What we’ve covered in our Reasons to Vote section:
- Americans have been fighting since 1789 for the right to vote
- It wasn’t until 1965 that discriminatory measures like literacy tests were removed and voting rights were expanded to all
- The ADA passed in 1991, which guaranteed accessibility in voting on voters with disabilities
- American are still fighting to the right to fair and free elections

What’s next:
- Registering to vote

Any questions?
The first step in participating in our democracy is registering to vote.
For more information on voting:

**Voting**

- With a license or MA ID
  - [https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/Pages/CheckEligibility.aspx?&Action=Register](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/Pages/CheckEligibility.aspx?&Action=Register)
  - [https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf)

- Without a license or MA ID
  - [https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf)

- MA Voter Registration Rules
  - [https://www.vote.org/](https://www.vote.org/)

- MA Voters’ Bill of Rights
  - [https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elerights/rightsidx.htm](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elerights/rightsidx.htm)

- MASS Voting Club
  - [https://www.ma-advocates.org/voting](https://www.ma-advocates.org/voting)

**Ballot Questions**

- Ballotpedia
  - [https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_2020_ballot_measures](https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_2020_ballot_measures)
Thank you for watching and participating!
Enjoy voting!