

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. A solid blue horizontal bar is overlaid across the center of the image.

GET OUT AND VOTE!

# *THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING*

While it may seem pointless or unnecessary to many, there are many reasons to get out to vote this November, especially for seniors. Many people don't consider voting because they think that the government doesn't care about them and that their vote doesn't matter. If you have that mindset, that gives you a HUGE reason to vote. You have the power to get these people that you don't like out of our government and get people who you'd want in charge in. On the other hand, if you've never paid attention to politics and simply have never given it any thought, here are some reasons that the 2020 Election is the most important election in Modern American History.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IN MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

I know, I know... that phrase has been brought up in probably every election in the history of elections. But there are some major things that make the 2020 election stand out. First of all, it's obvious that the only thing in the news right now is the Coronavirus Pandemic. It has drastically changed everybody's lives and will have everlasting effects. The job that President Trump, his team, and the entirety of congress have been doing is up for debate. Some people think they're doing a fine job, and others think they're not doing enough.

Regardless of how you feel, this is your time to vote. If you feel that they're doing a good job, it's up to you to make sure they stay in office. If you feel the opposite, you have to get out to vote right away to get other people in charge.



# THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IN MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

Another one of the extremely pressing matters is the climate change crisis. As a result of human activity, the air is becoming more polluted, global temperature is increasing, and sea levels are rising. This the proven truth, despite constant claims that it's a hoax and being over exaggerated. Another truth is that we're quickly running out of time. If we don't act soon, the effects might be irreversible and it could be too late for our planet. It's important to vote for people who both believe in climate change and will take measures to better the environment.



# GENERAL ELECTION

First, let's look at the general election. The two major candidates are shaping up to be Incumbent President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden. These two candidates have strong disagreements which will result in interesting debates this fall. Here's a bit of background information on both of these candidates.



# PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Trump became the 45th president of the United States after beating Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election. Many of his supporters appreciate his differences from a “normal politician” as he is the only president to have never previously served in public office or the military. Some notable things he’s done in office include:

- Maintaining a strong economy
- Creating thousands of new jobs and reducing unemployment (Pre-COVID-19)
- Growing the median household income



# FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Challenging Trump is former vice president under Barack Obama, Joe Biden. His supporters praise his long political history, spanning roughly 50 years. He has served in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and of course, Vice President. Notable things Biden has done in his political career include:

- Getting elected to seven senate terms
- Being in charge of the oversight role on President Obama's 2009 Stimulus Package
- Introducing the Violence Against Women Act, which helped decrease rates of domestic violence

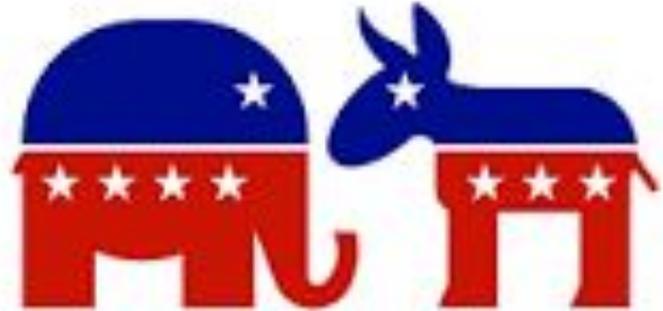


# LOCAL ELECTIONS

While the general election is important, local elections are just as crucial, if not more important than the general election. These can determine things that can directly affect you in Heights, like roads and town projects. While there isn't much talk or information now in the spring (especially because of COVID-19), it's important to stay updated on local news sources like [TAPinto](#) for updates. In addition, different offices are up for election on different years, so you can see what's on the ballot from these local sources as the election approaches. Beforehand, you can also educate yourself on the coming election by looking at a [sample ballot](#), which shows the different candidates and is almost exactly the same as a real ballot that you'd see on election day.

# REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT?

And if you're feeling confused on the differences between a Republican and Democrat, don't be. When picking a candidate, you should judge them based on their character as a human being as well as their ideas that they plan to pass in office. It's great to read up on the different parties and their ideals, but it shouldn't be the primary factor in your decision. And for learning about the candidates and issues, try to find the best unbiased news sources where you have the total control to make your decision on your own. For example, [ProCon.org](https://www.procon.org) has both sides to an issue next to each other where you can easily read the positives and negatives.



## SO WHY VOTE?

With all this information, why is it still worth the effort to go out and vote? The answer is that it truly makes up what our country stands for as a democracy. Without voting, we would have the same people in office over and over again. And for the seniors, I'm sure you're all tired of hearing that you're just kids and your opinion doesn't matter. It does, and you can make it matter by voting. Because we have the power to vote and affect the people who make these laws that we live by, it truly makes the country a better place where everyone has a say in who our leaders are.