



Chapter 3: Why We Vote

What is the significance of voting? Let's talk about why voting is useful, and how it is part of an ecosystem of ways to get involved.

Conversation Questions

1. For which offices or positions do we typically elect candidates? Which are appointed by someone else?
2. What does being informed and engaged about your community have to do with being civic-minded?
3. How do you plan to stay involved following election season?
4. Voting is not mandatory in the United States. Would it be useful to consider legislation to require it? If so, how might it affect how civically engaged people are?

Read

“How Civil Society Can Combat Misinformation and Hate Speech without Making It Worse” by Joan Donovan for *Medium*

<https://bit.ly/3n1V7pJ>

This article by media literacy expert Joan Donovan examines how people can cover, debunk, and counter media disinformation campaigns, and how these actions play a larger role in being a civically engaged person.

“11 Female Voices, from Age 13 to 110, on Why the Vote Matters” by Jennifer Harlan and Alisha Haridasani Gupta for *The New York Times*

<https://nyti.ms/2G3BjRY>

This article asks women from various generations and backgrounds to talk about why voting matters to them, 100 years after women's right to vote was formally ratified as a constitutional amendment.





“Reimagining Civic Education for the Digital Age” by Frederick Hess for *Education Next*

<https://bit.ly/3mGAPSC>

This interview is with Louise Dubé, the executive director of iCivics, a digital collection of civic education resources for young people. It focuses on the need to build civic knowledge, and what can be done differently in our fast-paced digital environment.

“Why Voting Matters: 7 Facts That Should Get You and Your Friends to the Polls” by Leah Rodriguez for *Global Citizen*

<https://bit.ly/2G6ydgk>

This article explores how voting can be an impactful act for young people.

“Why Voting Is Important” from *National Geographic*

<https://bit.ly/3jq3QQJ>

This is a useful overview of how voting takes place historically in the United States, and how a person who is not yet 18 or a citizen can make their voice heard.

Watch

“Reimagining Civic Education for the 21st Century” from SXSWEU

<https://bit.ly/3mM3EwV>

This SXSWEU panel focuses on policy and civic engagement. Speakers discuss ways for educators and civic organizers to connect with people of different ages in digital spaces.

Listen

“Why Local Elections Matter” from *MacroSW Podcast*

<https://bit.ly/2FYiXSp>

This podcast hosted by Alyssa Lotmore explores the importance of voting in local elections. This one part of a series of talks for social workers to connect about macro practice.

