

# The Right to Vote

Community Comment

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Some two hundred and thirty six years ago, an incredible experiment in the governing of a people, a country began. The American saga started with a group of people so dedicated to establishing a different and better way of creating a social order and an economic model that they risked their very lives for the opportunity. History would suggest that most of these men seriously attempted to work within the framework of a Monarchy. They considered themselves English, after all, but were born in the New World. They were, in fact, American but the concept took time to take root. Some wanted to stay with the King, others wanted the clean break. Many attempts were made to negotiate with the English Crown but it proved to be one sided. Like a parent disciplining his children, the King would give no ground.

Those Americans who wanted a separation finally won over those who were more anxious to create a new government. This didn't happen quickly or without harsh words and endless discussion. But once they committed to breaking the ties to the Old World, they had the daunting task of creating a government and a governing document. They declared their independence with well crafted reasoning. They created their new government with words that were more revolutionary than the War; We, the people.

Educated people knew about the idea of democracy. The founders of this nation had to write a manual for how to actually do a democratic form of government. The idea was as old as the Greeks but what was put down in practical form in the late 1770's was all new. Because these men put their names to these documents they were traitors while still under British rule. They were quite aware that they would be hung if captured or if the war was lost. They truly risked everything to form a more perfect union.

In 1860 we were once again engaged in war. This time, many issues including whether slavery should be the law of the land caused the conflict. In some cases, father fought son and brother fought brother. It's easy to say, separated by 150 plus years, that the war settled that question and the survival of the union. But there is nothing simple about a civil war. The Southern States were nearly destroyed and cities were burned. A generation of young men was interrupted in the most awful way. ~~To this day there is a certain Southern pride~~ SP

World War One, the war to end all wars, was won at a great cost on the European landscape. The battles were nothing short of horrific. The war to end all wars led to World War Two. The winning of these two wars and the rebuilding of Europe and Japan gave way to a description of an entire century; The American Century. To a large degree, this started with a simple but elegant phrase; We the people.

And you may ask, "What is the point"? In early November we will choose a President. Only the 44<sup>th</sup> or 45<sup>th</sup>. We will choose. I should say, those of us who bother to vote will choose. With all of our flaws, we still seek a more perfect union.

Get informed, think for yourself, and vote. Too much thought and risk and loss of life has transpired to not vote. It is your right and I think it is your duty.

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment and we are all in this together.