

# 22 REASONS TO VOTE

1. **Earlier generations fought and died for this right** - It took the eventual passage of three constitutional amendments, the 14th, 15th and 24th, before all Black Americans could freely vote in the U.S.
2. **Ferguson** - If we want progress in bringing about more police accountability to happen, Black voters must use their vote to elect officials who will act.
3. **Everything to gain, and much to lose** - If Black voters don't express their needs to elected officials, their needs most likely will not be addressed.
4. **Fighting against embedded apathy** - We as African Americans need to vote and show that our vote is just as important."
5. **To effect change in our community** - It is imperative that African Americans vote this election cycle in order to challenge long-time incumbents who haven't benefited the African American community during their time in office.
6. **For accountability** - We need to show them that we take our votes very seriously by showing up. We need to hold our elected officials accountable.
7. **To cancel out someone's vote** - In disagreement with your parents on certain issues? Cancel them out.
8. **If you don't, someone else will** - Why would you want someone else deciding what's best for you?
9. **Every vote counts** - Remember the 2000 Election controversy
10. **It's your duty** - "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." - John F. Kennedy.
11. **More federal money** - For higher education funding, youth programs, the environment, HIV/AIDS or breast cancer research, whatever your cause.
12. **It's your health care** - Actions by the governor, legislature and Congress as well as their decisions on Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance laws determine your access to health care
13. **It's your neighborhood** - The elected officials and judges you vote to retain make daily decisions about crime prevention, laws and law enforcement, safe and affordable homes, traffic patterns, where to put schools and parks
14. **Control** - If you don't vote, you're putting control of your world into the hands of someone else...and you have no idea where those hands have been.
15. **Don't Complain** - If you don't exercise the right to vote, you'll be a hypocrite when you complain about politics (this includes healthcare and financial aid).
16. **Politicians decide our financial future** - how much government support we'll get for college tuition, how many jobs will be available, and who will pay more taxes.
17. **Democracy** - The only way democracy works is if citizens, young and old, are active participants.
18. **Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too!** - Because our children can't vote, we have to do it for them.
19. **Vote to effect change!** - It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights.
20. **Voting is a way of honoring our history!** - preserve the honor of those who went before us.
21. **Voting changes communities** - we can get results that we can actually see.
22. **Last but not least, because it gives you credibility!** - Make your concerns a top priority for legislators.