

\*I am not eligible to register to vote due to age\*

### **What will I do to improve participation in this year's election?**

November 4th, 2022 is when I will be of age to register to vote. However, although I am not eligible to register to vote due to age at this moment, I do believe that participating in the elections is a very important thing. The right to vote and to represent democracy is a new thing when looking at the history of humanity. The fact that we, the people of the United States, have any say in the people who govern us is something really incredible. Although it is not a perfect system, it is definitely better than any other alternative. I am aware that there is no single candidate or a party that will represent me or my beliefs to complete entirety however, there will be someone who has beliefs and plans that will be close enough to the opinions of mine. Upon knowing this, I believe that if I trust a candidate with my vote in the future, they will do the right thing and represent my beliefs as best as possible. Although this does sound like a simple and easy process, it is rather a difficult one as it will take work on my end to choose a person that I believe would benefit not only me, but society as a whole. This is where research comes in to hand. Multiple factors will have to be looked into on my end. I will have to look at what the candidate stands for, what they plan for the future, how they conduct themselves in a public and private setting, how they work in a team, and if they provide any evidence of leadership qualities. However, if I were to vote based off of a candidates campaign rather than doing research about them, that would not benefit me or the people in anyway. The thing is, competitive candidates must work with, and at times against, their own party, leaders and organizations. A candidates message often

centers on common themes of decency, loyalty, and hard work. If the candidate can hit all of these with no problem, then most voters will vote for them as they make their decisions based on limited information with only a small amount of considerations. However, knowing that campaigns organizations and strategies affect election processes, it is a goal of mine to research candidates and their plans before giving that candidate a vote that may not be well deserved.

### **What will I do to encourage my communities participation in this year's election?**

In order to encourage my community to participate in this year's election, I plan to educate them on the way that political parties work. Each political party has its core demographic groups and continually attempts to broaden its appeal to gain more voters. Different demographic coalitions have different views on issues, and party members will shape their policy positions in part to attack the demographic groups they believe they will need to win elections while working for their ideological principles. In order to gain insight on what their voters would like, political parties will heavily uphold and mining databases, so they must quickly adapt to change and technologies. With this, as I am a minority and my communities are composed of minorities as well, this is where research would come into play. I would encourage them to research the candidates and to talk it over with other people in our community. Being able to see past any possible lies, fake promises, and image that candidates uphold is such an important skill to be harnessed. This determines whether or not the voter turnout is sufficient enough to bring upon change in our community. The thing is, with voter turnout, it is not just individual choice that affects the turnout, it is also state laws. individual choice and state laws go hand-in-

hand. Some state laws create structural barriers that make it more difficult to vote, or in some cases, makes it easier to vote. I plan to educate my community about these laws and requirements that our state may have when it comes down to voting. Something that can make voting harder would be that registering voters must provide a drivers license, or the last four digits of a Social Security number that they must verify at the polling place on the date of election. Those that do not have a license or have access to their Social Security may find it hard to go. However, this also seems to serve as a rally cry against voter suppression and helps increase voter turnout. While a pro, the con would be that there's a voter suppression mechanism in place in which there are long lines. Although long lines do not seem like much of a problem, it greatly affects minorities. My community is composed of many minorities, and minority voters are six times more likely than whites to wait more than an hour to vote. Studies estimate that for every hour spent in line, a voter is 1% less likely to vote in the next election, thus acting as a voter suppression mechanism. With this, I would remind my community that while the lines may be long and tiring, the treatment we receive will not change unless we have the means to go out and vote. Change only happens when we as a community decide it will, and the first step is voting.