

Young Voters

Take Action for Your Future



Our Nation's biggest decision is being made primarily by those who won't be around to see the consequences of their decisions 30 years from now, and that needs to change. More young people must become involved in the political process, including the most basic action of all: voting.

In the 2016 presidential election, the voter turnout for ages 18-29 was a mere 46.1 percent and for ages 30-45, it was only 58.7 percent compared to 66.6 percent for ages 45-64 and 70.9 percent for ages 65 and above.

This is much more than a statistic. This is extremely problematic for young Americans as the future is theirs to make and they and their children and grandchildren are the ones who will live with the consequences decades from now.

Lawmakers are responsible for the future of our country: their response to climate change, racial inequality, LGBTQ discrimination, among countless other issues will determine the future for generations to come. But, because young voters have remained silent for so long, our nation has developed a reactive government catering to older voters, rather than a proactive government that legitimately fights for the issues of tomorrow.

Not only is Generation Z responsible for the future of America, Millennials and Generation X

are inheriting the system of government we have today. Because of this, it is imperative that we raise the turnouts of voters ages 18-45.

The Coronavirus Pandemic

This all became ever more evident as the coronavirus pandemic has struck. The denials by President Trump and his inept response with absolutely no preparation has taken a tragic toll of more than 200,000 deaths in the U.S. and counting.

Initially, we were told that young people were not susceptible to contracting COVID 19, and so many ignored the necessary precautions that should have been mandatory. More than 15,000 people under age 54 have lost their lives because of this pandemic.

What about the future? Aside from the health aspects of this deadly virus, generations to come will bear the economic burden resulting from the massive federal expenditures that have been required, piling on additional debt, forcing long-term changes in employment, impacting education, and much more.

Climate Change

Another major truth as America looks to the future is the Trump administration's refusal to acknowledge the impact of climate change. Supported by Republicans in Congress, Donald Trump has rolled back years of progress and, thus, has jeopardized the future of the world.

Trump's instance that America continues to rely on fossil fuels, including his precious coal, exacerbates the problem and his refusal to take action to lessen the emission of greenhouse gases, will only make matters worse.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the effects that scientists predicted in the past from global climate change are already occurring, including loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise, and longer, more intense heat waves. NASA says that global climate will continue to change over this century and beyond.

Among the consequences, NASA scientists say, will be more precipitation in the northern states and less in the already hot and dry Southwest. There will be increased “heavy precipitation events,” not good news for South Carolina and Horry County, where flooding from storms is already a critical concern. Hurricane-associated storm intensity and rainfall rates will increase as the climate continues to warm.

Racial Inequality

Meanwhile, as much of America recognizes the tragic consequences of our country’s racial history, Donald Trump with his rhetoric and racist actions, and his Republican supporters in Congress, have worked to divide our nation to their own perceived political advantage.

As the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) points out, “Deep-seated systemic racism and inequities that disadvantaged communities of color are still woven into the fabric of our institutions today— from education and housing to our criminal legal system.

“Systemic racism permeates the starkly segregated world of housing. In our public schools, students of color are too often confined to racially isolated, underfunded, and inferior programs.

“Our criminal justice system disproportionately targets and subjects people of color to police brutality, incarcerates them and imposes numerous collateral consequences, and criminalizes poverty. The dream of equal justice remains an elusive one.”

Trump’s “law and order” policies in response to the demonstrations resulting from police killings of Black Americans have only served to deepen the divisions within our country.

Who will bear the brunt of all of this? The answer is obvious: those who are young enough today to be confronted with the consequences of these actions in the years ahead.

Take Action

Thus, we must elect officials who will care about the issues of young people and who understand the implications for the future. The only way for this to happen is for young voters to participate in elections.

It has become a tragic misconception that the votes of young people won’t matter. This falsification has allowed conservative lawmakers to stay in power for far too long. Without young voters, the issues of tomorrow will continue to be ignored in favor of dated right-wing politics designed to benefit those in power today.

Sources:

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2017/05/voting_in_america.html

<https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>



HORRY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

311c Beaty Street, Conway, SC 29526

(843) 488-HCDP(4237)