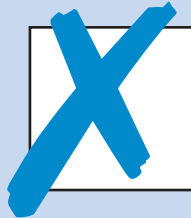




How to Raise a Future Voter



1. Always vote, without fail, even when your may not really like any candidate.
2. Take your kids to the polling place with you, and let them watch you vote. Let them put the ballot in the machine. Let them make the marks on the ballot if they are old enough.
3. Talk about the election at dinner. Who are you supporting and why?
4. If you vote absentee, be sure your children know you are making this extra effort and why. If possible, let them vote with you at the Village Hall or let them see the absentee ballot.
5. Have a yard sign if you support a candidate strongly enough.
6. Tell your kids that one of the greatest things about America is the right to disagree and still be friends. Point out that friends often do not think alike on politics, but that good discussion is part of American life.
7. Talk about the right to vote in America, especially the history of who could and could not vote during critical times in American history. Your kids will be amazed the first time they hear that only white, land-owning men could vote in early America.
8. Obtain a copy of the U.S. Constitution and see that voting is in Article One. It was one of the first items addressed by the framers of the Constitution. A printable version of the U.S. Constitution can be downloaded at:
<http://www.house.gov/Constitution/Constitution.html>
9. Obtain a copy of the Amendments to the Constitution and discuss the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote, not fully ratified until 1920. Point out that perhaps your child's great-great-grandmother was among the first women voters in America. A printable version of the amendments can be downloaded at:
<http://www.house.gov/Constitution/Amendments.html>.
10. On election night, color in a "Tim Russert" map of the United States, showing the presidential results state-by-state. A printable blank map can be downloaded from:
<http://geography.about.com/library/blank/usa3.jpg>.