

## **So you don't plan to vote? THINK AGAIN!**

In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln called democracy "government of the people, by the people and for the people." This means that our government is here to serve us — and we have the right to decide who will represent us and how we want to be represented.

Voting is a right that many have fought for throughout history and that millions of people throughout the world still do not enjoy. As Americans, we have the great privilege to live in a free society and voting is the right that makes us free.

### **Why Should I Vote?**

***With all the millions of people who vote in any given election, does my vote really count?***

**It does!** Your vote holds your local and national leaders responsible for the decisions they make. Your vote sends a message about the issues you think are important. Your vote affirms our rights as free citizens to elect our government and take part in democracy.

***Does what happens in the government really affect me?***

**It does!** The President and Congress you elect will decide whether to raise or lower taxes, make economic policies that could affect your job and decide when or if to use military force. There are also local elections, which can have an even more immediate and personal effect on you, your lifestyle and your community.

- Vote because you care about your community.
- Vote because you believe in free government and want to add your voice.
- Vote because it's the right thing to do!

### **One Vote Makes a Difference!**

BY **ONE VOTE** in 1776 English was chosen over German as our official language.

BY **ONE VOTE** in 1801 Thomas Jefferson won the American presidency over Aaron Burr when the election was thrown into the House of Representatives.

BY **ONE VOTE** in 1920 women won the right to vote when Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment--because one Tennessee legislator, 24-year old Harry Burn, changed his vote at the insistence of his elderly mother.

BY **ONE VOTE** in 1923 Adolph Hitler gained leadership of the German Nazi Party.

**IF ONE MORE PERSON** in ten Cook County (Illinois) precincts had voted for Richard M. Nixon in 1960, John F. Kennedy would not have been elected president.

***Exercise your right to vote – it could make the difference!***