

## WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

*by:*  
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We must keep in mind that, while our votes help politicians win, they also serve to keep our democratic system intact. We are not just electing certain candidates, but also endorsing our country's political structure. Votes decide victory, and voter turnout determines the legitimacy of a democratic system. As members of the state, at the very least as tax payers, citizens have the capacity to influence the state's survival, development, or extinction.

Through the electoral process, a political system can achieve quantitative legitimacy. Though this is insufficient to assure near-absolute legitimacy it is adequate to allow a system to establish internal and to legitimize its existence as a power center in our society. As citizens-voters, we must acknowledge that our political system is founded on the majority's ability to perpetuate it – at least in terms of ideas and validity – through the act of voting.

If we vote for leaders, we tend to leave public affairs to the winners and return to and remain mostly in our private lives, occasionally reappearing in the public sphere through direct means such as public acts of protest or indirect means such as social media and everyday conversations about public affairs. If we are voting for public officials, we must recognize the need of ongoing political participation. Public officials must regard the general public in the same way as servants treat their masters' orders.

It is time to recognize that our decision must be based on civic ideas that we believe must support and regulate the behavior of everyone in our society rather than judgement of an individual candidate or party. By asking "why vote," we shift our focus away from

particular candidates and toward the system as a whole, as well as the ideas that underpin it.

*References:*

<https://insidemanila.ph/article/509/we-need-to-talk-about-the-importance-of-voting>