

2016

Underrepresented

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UNDERREPRESENTED

By Courtney Carstens

Each generation comes with obstacles. Society now faces a challenge of proper social security funding with the baby boomer's growing age. The self-reliant generation X rejects rules and mistrusts institutions. And millennials seem to have a problem with political inactivity.

The millennial generation has brought forth a reputation of lack of voter participation. With the 2016 general election coming to an end, America cannot say their president was chosen by the majority when, in fact, a large percentage of people ages 18 to 30 don't participate in the voting process.

Whether you vote Clinton, Trump, or third party, the issue still stands; a democratic republic cannot be effective when a majority do not participate. The real question at hand? Why doesn't this influential group of people vote.

"The idea whether it is the millennials themselves, or just their age that determine why they don't vote, is unknown," said David Anderson, political science assistant professor. "This election will show that. Traditionally young people are reluctant to show up at the polls. A big reason for that is because we have not taught millennials to vote and the other main reason is that young people don't believe that they are qualified to vote."

Anderson said that a possible solution to this side of the issue

“I BELIEVE THAT COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE BECOME MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE DURING THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL RACE.”

Rabia Otry,

Senior in political science and international studies

could be solved by reintroducing civics classes and teaching the youth how to vote.

Anderson also said there is a political theory that suggests that every 30 years there is a realignment within the parties, and that time could be now. The last realignment of political issues was around President Reagan's time and could explain why some millennials are not voting.

Millennials are tired of hearing the same things in political dialogue, Anderson said. This newer generation wants to talk about different things, like the cost of higher education, which was only addressed by one out of the 20 presidential candidates.

Rabia Otry, senior in political science and international studies, shared her input on how she feels our generation currently stands with political inactivity.

"I feel that college students tend to be more politically active than those of similar age who are not in a college environment," Otry said. "I believe that college students have become more politically active during the 2016 presidential race. However, this increase in activity appears very superficial and not actually about researching political candidates, policies, or gaining enough information to engage in meaningful discussion about the current candidates and the government as a whole."

“IF 100 PERCENT OF ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS VOTED THE SAME WAY, WE COULD SWAY AN ELECTION.”

John Kitten,
Junior in political science

Otry's definition of superficial is something as simple as posting a political meme on Facebook. Although this is political activity, it isn't necessarily the kind of activity that our age group should be participating in, Otry said. Instead we should be researching candidates and policies.

John Kitten, junior in political science, disagrees with Otry.

“I think we are politically inactive mostly because our age group is so disenfranchised with politics in general,” Kitten said. “Anyone who tries to run on a college base loses because the college students don't believe them, and then they just don't show up to vote. I also believe that people don't feel educated enough to vote. If 100 percent of all college students voted the same way, we could sway an election. It's our age, not our generation, and if you look back it seems that our age group is really underrepresented.”

The truth behind this phenomenon isn't known yet, but students seem to think that millennial voter inactivity is present in our generation. The 2016 presidential race will not only decide the next leader of the free world, but how active millennials were on Election Day.



VOTING 101

WHEN IS THE ELECTION?

NOVEMBER 8TH

CAN I DO SAME-DAY REGISTRATION?

**YES, JUST MAKE SURE TO
BRING AN I.D. WITH YOU**

ACCEPTED FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION:

- ★ DRIVERS LICENSE
- ★ PASSPORT
- ★ STUDENT I.D.
- ★ WORK I.D.
- ★ CURRENT PAYCHECK
- ★ LEASE
- ★ MOST RECENT BANK STATEMENT

WHEN YOU MAY NEED TO SHOW YOUR I.D.

- ★ IF YOU ARE A NEW VOTER
- ★ IF YOUR REGISTRATION IS INACTIVE
- ★ IF YOU HAVE MOVED

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO VOTE:

OPTICAL SCANNING:

You will receive a card or sheet of paper to take to a private booth. The card lists instructions and candidates. You will fill in the box between the two arrows. In some places, you can check the card at the polling place by feeding it into card-reading machines to make sure you have voted the way you want to. When you are finished, bring the cards to the ballot box where poll workers will help you if you need it. When Election Day is over, the computer counts how many votes were cast for each presidential candidate.

PAPER BALLOT:

When you go to the polling place, you will be handed a paper ballot from the poll worker. You will take the ballot to the voting booth, use a writing utensil to mark a box next to your candidate, and then drop the ballot in a sealed ballot box. At the end of the day, ballots are counted.

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHERE I CAN VOTE?

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY CLERK OR VISIT THE WEBSITE:

<https://sos.iowa.gov/>

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM

7AM

UNTIL

9PM

WHAT IF I HAVE TO WORK ON ELECTION DAY?

MAKE A REQUEST BEFORE ELECTION DAY FOR TIME OFF TO VOTE. YOUR EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED TO ALLOW THREE HOURS OFF FOR YOU TO VOTE.

HOW DO I VOTE IF I AM DISABLED?

- ★ If you need help marking your ballot, any person you choose may help you except an employer, their agent, or an agent of your union.
- ★ If you want help from the precinct workers, one person from each party will help you.
- ★ If you need help you need to sign a form indicating you asked for help.
- ★ If you cannot get to a polling place, two precinct workers will bring a ballot to your vehicle. You do not need to prepare ahead of time to make these arrangements, but you may call ahead if you like.

WHEN CAN I PRE-REGISTER?

PRE-REGISTRATION OCCURS UNTIL **OCTOBER 29TH AT 5 PM** AND CAN BE DONE BY GETTING A REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE, REQUESTING A FORM VIA MAIL, OR IN PERSON FROM A COUNTY AUDITOR

VOTING ABSENTEE PROCESS

Applications can be obtained online or mailed from the Secretary of State or county auditor by 5 PM Friday before the election. After the county auditor receives a request form, he or she will mail the voter a ballot as soon as they are ready. Absentee ballots are returned by mail the Monday before the election (they cannot be delivered to a polling place on Election Day) or delivered to a county auditor's office before polls close.

EARLY VOTING

ABSENTEE VOTING IS AVAILABLE
40 DAYS
BEFORE AN ELECTION AND TAKES PLACE IN THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE. YOU MAY VOTE IN-PERSON UNTIL 11 AM ON ELECTION DAY