Precious & Almost Sacred: 
The Power of the Vote

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February 7, 2020
Hi!

I’m Dr. Gleason

- I’m a political science professor, I teach U.S. Government & Texas Government in the learning communities
- In 2008 I worked in politics & people said.... “why should I bother voting?!”
"THE VOTE IS PRECIOUS. IT IS ALMOST SACRED. IT’S THE MOST POWERFUL NON-VIOLENT TOOL WE HAVE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND WE’VE GOT TO USE IT."

JOHN LEWIS
AUGUST 24, 2013
When We Vote...

- Things can change
  - Which is better or worse... well that’s up to you
Ultimately a Politician Wants....

- To get reelected
  - To get reelected you need people to vote for you

**Important: Who Votes?!**
Voters Are….

- Older
- Whiter
- More educated
- More female (slightly)
If Only Men Voted

What if only men voted?
Projected results for the 2018 midterms based on polling patterns and FiveThirtyEight’s Lite forecast on Oct. 24

186 projected Democratic districts
249 projected Republican districts

FiveThirtyEight
SOURCE: VARIOUS POLLSTERS
If Only Women Voted

What if only women voted?
Projected results for the 2018 midterms based on polling patterns and FiveThirtyEight’s Lite forecast on Oct. 24

275
projected
Democratic
districts

160
projected
Republican
districts

SOURCE: VARIOUS POLLSTERS
If Only Those With a College Degree Voted

What if only college-educated white people voted?
Projected results for the 2018 midterms based on polling patterns and FiveThirtyEight's Lite forecast on Oct. 24

233
projected Democratic districts

202
projected Republican districts

Source: Various Pollsters
If Only Those With HS or Less Are Less Voted

What if only white people without a college degree voted?
Projected results for the 2018 midterms based on polling patterns and FiveThirtyEight’s Lite forecast on Oct. 24

167 projected Democratic districts

268 projected Republican districts

FiveThirtyEight

SOURCE: VARIOUS POLLSTERS
What if only nonwhite people voted?

Projected results for the 2018 midterms based on polling patterns and FiveThirtyEight’s Lite forecast on Oct. 24

388 projected Democratic districts

47 projected Republican districts

SOURCE: VARIOUS POLLSTERS
What Actually Went Down in 2018?

[Map of the United States with states colored in red and blue, indicating election results.]
Becoming “We the People”
- 100 years ago... women
- 55 years ago... African Americans (in practice)
- 52 years ago... Native Americans
- 49 years ago... 18 year olds
The Founders didn’t trust the common people to vote
   Hence the Electoral College
   Today a historical relic
Limiting the Vote

- The 15\textsuperscript{th} Amendment & voting rights for African Americans
  - BUT...
    - Literacy tests, poll taxes
    - Voter intimidation
Pushing Back Against the Status Quo

People were willing to put their bodies on the line for a greater cause
Congress felt itself confronted by an insidious and pervasive evil...
South Carolina v. Katzenbach (1966)
Fifty Years Later?

Island Harbor (TAMUCC) The Power of the Vote February 7, 2020 18 / 24
Voting Today

- ID requirements & fear of voter fraud
- Polling place locations/hours
- I just don’t know enough!
Voter Fraud?

From 2000 to 2014 there are 31 confirmed cases of voter fraud out of a billion votes cast.

*Donald J. Trump* 
@realDonaldTrump

*In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.*

RETTWEET 53,869  
LIKES 163,370

4:30 PM - 27 Nov 2016
Voter ID

- Disproportionately impacts minorities, low-income persons, and young people
- Texas has some of the strictest (drivers license/ID, voter registration card, TX handgun license, military ID, citizenship certificate, passport)
Other Barriers to Voting

- Time
- Information about candidates
- Where do I go vote?!
  - The League of Women Voters has voter guides as well as information on early voting
    - http://www.lwv-cc.org/
The Vote is Precious... Almost Sacred

- Mr. Ramirez from the LWV is here to help you register to vote
Want to Know More?!

- A graphic novel account of Bloody Sunday *March* by John Lewis
- A podcast about voting in Georgia “Who Gets to Vote?” by *Reveal*
- YouTube “John Lewis” & listen to him talk about voting