

## **Politics and Voting**

What is politics: some would say that politics is the organized system that sets or establishes public/ private policy. It is the method by which decisions are made that affect our lives. Some would say that it is the method by which resources are distributed.

Think about politics and voting when you drink a glass of water or flush the commode, because the water department of the city is controlled by city council members who are elected.

### **Politics and voting can determine:**

- whether you have adequate heat to keep you warm.
- if there will be decent affordable housing for each and every human being.
- if we all have affordable and accessible health care.
- if we will rely on alternative forms of energy, instead of relying on greedy oil companies.

Most of our children are educated in the public school system via out the country which is controlled by school board members who are elected.

Yes, politics and voting effect our day to day lives.

Politics and voting determine how your community is planned. Taking one's private property for example for economic development is now allowed in many states including Texas.

Politics and voting determine if we will face a police officer who is helpful or one that is abusive. When you call 911 you must think about politics and voting.

Politics and Voting determine if you will have a judge that is fair and just. Yes, politics and voting directly and indirectly affects our day to day lives.

Politics and voting determine how resources are distributed. We invest into the public sector. Even if you think you are not paying taxes – THINK AGAIN.

When you buy clothes you pay taxes, when you buy gasoline you pay taxes, when you ride mass transit you are investing in a public system that is controlled by politics.

How the public dollars are distributed is determined by politics and voting; if Social Security and Medicaid is going to be here tomorrow is a political decision.

When we talk to people we must make politics live for them. We must make it connect to their lives.

Yes, I am supporting Senator Obama for president because he is BLACK, and because I support most of his agenda.

We support candidates based on their agenda. I would not support Condoleeza Rice. You must know what your agenda is, what you believe in. The candidate if elected must be held accountable based on the agenda.

**What is the agenda? – For example:**

Affordable/Accessible health care for all  
No Expansionism into Iraq, etc.  
Full employment with a living wage  
Affordable-Decent housing for all  
Education-for all/ Teach our children to think not to take tests  
Establish a collective agenda (We must establish a collective agenda)

**\*We must finance our agenda\***

Electoral politics is not the solution, but it must be used as a tool to address the needs of our people. One thing Obama has lifted up as a part of his history is his role as a community organizer.

I know that power is gained via community organization. Many of our gains came because of community organization and thus our influence over policy, many of our gains came before the Voting Rights Act of 1964, because of community organization. (Malcolm, Martin, Rosa, Fannie Lou Hamer)

Community organizations promote power, and power promotes change. The fact that you are right has very little to do with whether or not you win.

People with power and privilege never give it away simply because it is the right thing to do. Those who are organized the most are respected the most, therefore receive the most.

The question is, are you part of an organization that promotes change within our community? Are you part of an organization that challenges oppression and injustice?

If we are to gain sufficient power to address our problems, if we are to gain sufficient power to control the direction of our communities, if we are to elect the first African-American President of the United States of America we must organize, organize, organize.