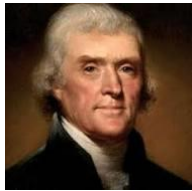


## Participating - It Does It Make a Difference



**Thomas Jefferson** - "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate... All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent"

**The Larger Picture - Community** - Before listing some practical ways to be directly involved in government it is good to remind ourselves that government is only one part of a healthy community. Some of the other parts include:

- **Family** - [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#): The collective body of persons who live in one house and under one head or manager; a household, including parents, children and servants, and as the case may be, lodgers or boarders.
- **Local Churches** - Traditionally, we were encouraged to be self-governing individuals who conformed to a standard of morality based on biblical standards. Regular church attendance was regarded as the norm where we were taught such things as not to steal and to love our neighbor.
- **Schools** - [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#): A place or house in which persons are instructed in arts, science, languages or any species of learning; or the pupils assembled for instruction. In American usage, *school* more generally denotes the collective body of pupils in any place of instruction, and under the direction and discipline of one or more teachers. Thus we say, a *school* consists of fifty pupils. The preceptor (a teacher or instructor) has a large *school* or a small *school*. His discipline keeps the *school* well regulated and quiet.



The three (3) areas above are important because, as we know, the family, the church and the schools is primarily where a child's worldview is developed. And also, as we all know, worldview is important because we all make decisions based on our worldview, including how we vote.

**Government** - The governing body of a nation, state, or community.



Our government will look like the majority of those who participate in the election process. For example, if the majority of those who participate have a liberal worldview then those elected to public office, whether it be city, county or state, will probably be, for the most part, liberals. Liberals being defined here as those who look to government for the solution to a communities problems which invariably leads to a larger government which in turn leads to higher taxes in order to pay for the increased size of government.

The opposite of liberal is conservative with conservative being defined as those who believe that a government solution is usually not the answer but is instead often the problem. The conservative would look to the private sector and volunteer organizations for solutions to community needs.

Less government translates into less tax dollars needed to fund government. A smaller tax bill for businesses and families, wow, that is a worthy goal.

### **Being Involved By:**

1. Becoming informed by getting to know who are our elected office holders are and whether or not they share our values. That is going to be done by:
  - a. Attending and or joining a local political club
  - b. Internet search to find our elected officials' office address followed by a visit to their office
2. Supporting those candidates who share my values through:
  - a. Campaign contributions
  - b. Volunteering time prior to election time. The most valuable is precinct walks.
  - c. Voting - Obviously we all know that the candidate with the most votes wins which brings us to the third way of being involved which is by informing others
3. Informing Others

Sometimes candidates who share our values do not receive our vote simply because we don't know about them..

Churches need a person, or persons, who will head up a ministry which in some churches is called Salt and Light. In others it is called Watchmen. Whatever it is called the function of this group is to keep the church body informed of current legislation that has the potential to impact families in a negative way but even more importantly, to provide unbiased voter information for their church voters prior to elections.



Few churches have this in place so very often our voters go to the voting booth well-intentioned but uninformed, especially in the area of judges. So, while voting is admirable, only an informed vote is going to effectively make an impact in the direction of our community's governing bodies.