

EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS

What Does the Right to Vote Mean to You?

Each week, Rock the Vote asks this question of its featured artist. Here are some recent responses. For more, visit www.rockthevote.com/music.

“ A stake in our future, I am an avid believer in the community and think it is very important to be aware of the issues that are directly affecting us! Go out and vote for your local officials! ”

—TARYN MANNING

“ THOMAS: The right to vote represents what our country is all about. To me, each vote is like a building block that helps shape the country we live in. ”

ANTHONY: For me I just turned 18 so I feel more important and I feel like that one vote that I put in can make change. I feel like I'm being heard with the right to vote.

COLTON: We are allowed to have our voices heard and able to choose the people who will represent our wants and needs.

ERIC: It means that even though I have a small voice, I still have one to be heard and all these little voices come together and make one huge voice. So every vote does count!

JOEY: The right to vote, in my opinion, means that an individual is allowed to voice their opinion freely and allows one to feel a sense of contribution to a certain cause.

—MIDNIGHT RED

“ Miles: -...that is a difficult question for me. i hold the right to vote and the privilege to participate in our democracy extremely close to my heart. i recognize the sacrifice that was made for us to live in the best country in the world with the most open and free democratic society humankind has ever known. That being said, i think the actual voting process needs some help ... ”

—SLIGHTLY STOOPID

“ It's an amazing thing! I worked for the Obama campaign in 2008. That is where I really saw the power of every individual vote. ”

—HARLAN

“ The true meaning of equality. There are a lot of ways people are still unequal in this country. Lot of discrimination and junk, racism, xenophobia, etc. But your vote and my vote and his vote and her vote all have the same power. The power to change. That sounded tight how I worded that. ”

—WALLPAPER

“ Voting is the most simplistic way in the American political construct to get involved.... The west has a way of excluding the people (i.e., not the politicians and law-makers) from the political process. This has created an atmosphere of disinterest and distraction. Unfortunately the youth, like myself, get the most sidetracked. They raise us to feel empty and helpless. I believe in the power of youth. It is so important for each and everyone of us to invest ourselves in the processes that positively effect the world around us. Something as simple and powerful as our right to vote should never be taken for granted. ”

—WHITE WIVES