

## **My Voice in America's Democracy**

A Democracy is a government by the people and for the people. Which implies that everyone governed in the system has a voice in the decisions policies and laws under which they live.

America's government is based on the voting system. However, it hasn't ever been built to allow everyone a voice. America's government is also unfair because a person's vote varies depending on where they live, how much money they have, and the influence of media and culture.

Black Americans weren't granted the right to vote until 1870. Women were granted the right in 1920. Neither were really allowed to vote until the 1960's. I have no voice in America's democracy because I am under eighteen years old. I have to hope that my adult family members will vote in a way that represents my needs and values. Anyone who is eighteen years old should, in theory, have a voice in America's democracy through voting. However, not everyone's vote counts equally.

The structure of the electoral college shows inequity in our democracy. If a presidential candidate wins the electoral college vote but another candidate wins the popular vote, the person with the electoral college votes is declared the winner. In the State of California, which has 54 electoral votes, one electoral college vote represents the voice of over 732,000 actual people. While in Wyoming, which has 3 electoral votes, one electoral vote represents about 192,000 voices. If you happen to have a different viewpoint than the majority of voters in your immediate area your voice is drowned out by the electoral college.

America's democracy is a very complicated system that can be influenced by people trying to help their own candidate or cause. Today we have everyone from business/spiritual leaders to TikTok influencers attempting to have their voice amplified in the media to push voters to make decisions that align with their preferences. Wealthy people can fund media campaigns and have their agenda front and center in the minds of potential voters and we are all viewing the values and priorities of the wealthiest and most influential people in our country.

In conclusion, America's democracy doesn't seem to be one in which all people really are governed in a representative way. I don't believe that I have a voice in America's democracy because I'm under eighteen and not wealthy or influential. There are many influences that make our system unfair.