

## *The Mayor's Corner*

October 30, 2015

### **Voting on Election Day: Both Your Right and Responsibility**

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Will you be part of the 25-35% that exercises your right and fulfills your responsibility? Or, will you represent the 65-75% that doesn't care?

Voting is usually characterized as a right, and it is. It is; however, much more than that.

The right to vote was not acquired easily or cheaply. We fought a war to obtain it. Over the years lives have been lost in order to preserve that right for us. It is for that reason that the right to vote comes with an obligation to exercise that right.

Yes, voting is an obligation (and one that we shouldn't think twice about fulfilling).

We've all heard excuses for not voting. Here are some of them:

**I hate politics.** Voting allows you to have a say in correcting any political ills.

**I don't like either candidate.** If you find both candidates distasteful, wouldn't you want to ensure that you ended up with the least distasteful one?

**My vote doesn't count.** We've all heard of elections won or lost by one vote.

**I only vote in "The Big Ones".** Local government impacts your daily life. It follows; therefore, that your vote has a greater impact in local elections.

In my Fourth of July speech in Weingartner Park I said that I'll never understand people who refuse to vote. It is how we say Thank-you to all those who fought and died to preserve that right for us. It is how we let them know that their sacrifices were not in vain.

We honor all veterans on Veterans Day and we honor those that died on Memorial Day. Election Day allows us to do both.

See you at the polls.

*Greg*