

Y-Vote? Because you can

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The following article is written by a first-time voter. It will be part of a special section in tomorrow's Star produced by and geared to Tucson's youth vote. We address the issues and answer the questions that face sub-30-year-olds in the upcoming presidential election, such as what are the candidates' stances on health insurance and social security, how do I register to vote and, most importantly, where can I get "I Voted" tights whiteys online?

With the upcoming election approaching quickly, I have started thinking about why people my age don't vote. I am 20 and most of my friends are not registered to vote. This saddens me because I don't think that people realize the importance of voting and that their vote can make a difference.

Voting can make a difference because you are able to express your opinion on topics that you feel are important. I registered to vote when I turned 18.

It was very exciting because I felt a sense of independence, which I still feel every time I vote. I was able to take part in something that really mattered in life.

Even though I do the mail-in ballot, I still know that I am making a difference. When I wear the "I voted" sticker to school, I feel that I have done my part by voting as a registered independent.

I also feel that I make a difference by voting because I am a woman, a minority and a young person. These three traits impact my vote because all three cultures are under-represented when it comes to voting.

The more we vote, the stronger our society can become.

If I could speak to people in my age group, I would ask them why they aren't registered to vote. Whether it's because they don't feel educated enough about the candidates, think their vote won't make a difference or feel pressure from family members to vote a certain way, their voice won't count if they don't use it.

Voting is something exciting, and we should feel proud as Americans to do it. When people vote, they are shaping our society and taking part in important decisions that affect everyone. If someone doesn't vote, how can they complain when taxes are raised or if they disagree with our president?

I think that every young person should vote because my generation is the one that will have to live with the way our society is formed.