About Your Vote

by Phil Rasmussen

In two days, our nation will compete its mid-term voting period.

This is the most crucial voting period that our nation has ever experienced. Because of its seriousness, it is important that you treat your vote with respect, dignity, and the seriousness that it deserves.

Essentially, we are standing at the edge of whether our democracy continues to flourish or if we fall into the dystopia perpetuated by socialists and socialism.

I don't care if you are Democrat, Independent, Republican, or any other party member. Party affiliations are not important. However, what is important is to take the time to reflect what your nation has provided you over your lifetime. Do an in-depth and honest comparison between democracy and socialism, and ask yourself, which form of government provides you the freedoms you currently enjoy.

Put aside your anger, hatred, disgust with the current administration. Don't pay any attention to:

- what is said at rallies and during political speeches,
- how the media interprets what candidates say,
- the half truths presented in mailings or what other say,
- what the candidates say they will do.

Instead, look at the qualifications and experience of candidates on both sides and make an honest decision as to who is best for the position they are running for. Remember actions speak louder than words.

Your vote is a precious freedom that people in many other countries do not have. Don't waste it on your emotions, misinformation, groupthink, bandwagon rhetoric or confirmation bias.

You should take as much care with your votes as you do with planning your finances, estate and wills. Elections dictate critical, everyday realities including taxation, healthcare, judicial appointments, and education. A casual or unexamined vote can result in policies that actively run counter to your own long-term interests or values.

> When a large portion of the electorate votes without careful deliberation, the political system becomes highly vulnerable to populism and emotional manipulation. Leaders can win power based on rhetoric and fear rather than sound, practical policy.