

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC District Stewardship Director

GOVERNMENT CARETAKERS



As God's caretakers, Christian stewards should care about the government God has entrusted to them. The Scriptures encourage Christians to be

responsible citizens, respect government authority, obey laws, pay taxes and be influential in the promotion of good government. (Mt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13) When government leaders step out of line, Christians should step in. Vote them out of office. Our democratic form of government affords Christian citizen stewards the privilege to correct what is amiss and support what is good. Speaking out on moral issues is especially important.

ONE VOTE COUNTS!

Some people believe the myth that one person can't make a difference in a vast, complex world. However, one doesn't have to be a "Big Gun" to make some political noise. Remember: "It's the squeaky wheel which gets the grease." Someone put together a series of "One Vote Decisions" that underscore the power of just one person:

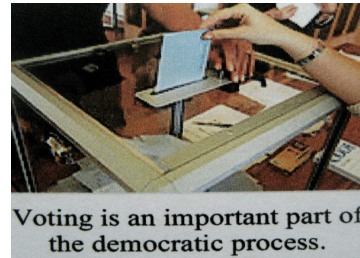
- * In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- * In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- * In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- * In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- * In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.
- * In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.
- * In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- * In 1941, one vote put the draft into effect

in the United States.

- * In 1960, one vote per precinct in four states gave John F. Kennedy the presidency.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

The next time you think your thoughts or ideas can't make a difference, remember: "One Vote Counts!" "Your Vote Counts!" Exercise your right to be heard.



Voting is an important part of the democratic process.

A CHRISTIAN IMPERATIVE

For Christian citizenship stewards, voting is not only a democratic privilege; it is also a Christian imperative. Vote intelligently. Scrutinize the political contenders. Cut through the smoke screen of "political correctness". Support candidates who uphold and reflect Christian values. This may entail crossing party lines to support the right candidate and proper issues. In addition to political, economic matters, there are ethical issues which can be influenced through the democratic process of voting. Some current ones demand our attention:

- * Abortion
- * Same sex marriage
- * Human cloning
- * Stem cell research
- * Gambling
- * One sided evolution education in schools

MAKE WAVES!

The smallest pebble thrown into a pond makes waves. Cast your Christian Cornerstone into the political stream. Exert your Christian citizen stewardship via the ballot. Accent the positive! Negate the negative! Vote!