



What If You Can't Vote?

Even if you can't vote, you can still be involved in the political process. Here are some suggestions:



Find out about the issues and candidates, and pick your candidate or issue:

- Investigate: Check out the campaign websites. Watch TV debates. Read newspaper. Share information and opinions with your friends, family, neighbors, classmates, etc.
- Don't be afraid to ask tough questions at candidate meetings, at rallies, and when a campaign worker rings your doorbell.
- Support your candidate or issue. If you convince even two voters to support your candidate or issue, you've had twice the impact of someone who just votes once.
- Talk to your friends and family about your candidate or issue. Think together of ways to support candidates or issues you believe in.
- Be a letter writer. Tell candidates, newspapers, and party leaders how you feel about the issues or the campaigns.
- Call TV and radio stations to praise or criticize campaign issues.
- Volunteer to work on a campaign.



Support the elections:

- Encourage and assist others in registering to vote and getting to the polls on Election Day.
- Volunteer to promote fair elections. Some non-partisan organizations include Election Protection 365 and the National Campaign for Fair Elections. Volunteers are trained to assist voters and record problems on Election Day.
- When you turn 18 or become eligible, register to vote. And then on Election Day, VOTE!



Turn up the heat in between elections:

- Organize direct action, such as rallies, pickets, boycotts, and sit-ins. Anything that disrupts business-as-usual can put pressure on politicians to pay attention.
- Find creative ways to make your voice heard.

Adapted from the March 2004 issue of *The Change Agent* by Ami Magisos.