

WHY NOT Vote?

People have lots of reasons for not voting. ● But before you make that choice, here are some things you should know about **the 8 most common excuses.**

	<i>excuse</i>	<i>fact</i>
1	MY ONE VOTE DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.	It does make a difference, and here's an example: In 2006, the State Representative from District 72 (Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth) was elected by TEN votes. Not only is that close, it's evidence that one vote DOES make a difference. One vote has the potential to affect the lives of your family and your community.
2	I'M BUSY TAKING CARE OF MY KIDS; I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO VOTE.	On November 4, Rhode Islanders across the state will vote for General Assembly members. The funding your community gets is set each year by the General Assembly – shouldn't you decide who represents your children's interests in that discussion?
3	I WORK TWO JOBS, AND I CAN'T TAKE TIME OUT OF WORK TO GO VOTE.	In today's economy, a lot of people are worried about getting by. But economic policy is set by the people you elect – by voting, you can choose who makes those decisions.
4	I'M CARING FOR MY AGING PARENTS; THAT TAKES A LOT OF TIME. I DOUBT I WILL MAKE IT TO THE POLLS THIS YEAR.	The rising cost of health care is at the top of everybody's policy agenda this year. The President, Senator, and Representative you elect will make important decisions about health care in America – and you can be the person to make that choice for yourself and your family.
5	KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE ELECTION AND HAVE NO TIME TO LEARN ABOUT IT. I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO VOTE.	Want to get up to speed? It won't take long. These days candidates make it easy: go to their websites, check out their ads in the paper, sort through all the mail that clutters your mailbox this time of year. In half an hour you can read up on the issues and the candidates. Also check out the RI Secretary of State's Voters Guide.
6	I AM SO SICK OF POLITICIANS! THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT WHAT CONCERNS ME OR MY FAMILY.	How do you feel about affordable homes? Voting rights? Open space? These were just some of the issues on the 2006 ballot, along with local questions in many Rhode Island cities and towns. If you want, you can skip the candidates and just vote for the issue! The 2008 ballot initiatives are not yet final, but you'll hear more about local and statewide issues as Election Day gets closer.
7	I VOLUNTEER, AND I THINK COMMUNITY SERVICE IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN VOTING; AT LEAST I CAN REALLY SEE THE DIFFERENCE I'M MAKING.	Voting is an important part of serving the community, and it takes a lot less time than volunteering. It's also a way to voice your opinion about important issues, not only for your country and your state, but for your city or town.
8	I CAN'T VOTE. I'M NOT REGISTERED.	There's still time! Register by October 4 by visiting the Secretary of State's website, printing the form and mailing it in, and you'll be set to go for November 4. And to vote only in the Presidential election, you can even walk in and register on Election Day. To find your polling place, you can call your City or Town Hall, or visit www.sec.state.ri.us/vic/ .

