Actions That Keep Us Involved In the Democratic Process

One of the unique characteristics and basic tenants of a democracy is that its citizens get to vote – both figuratively and literally - and that each citizen is able to live the life of their choosing - to be able to say and do what they want - within the law.

We are a democracy. A democracy is a form of government that is "of, by and for" the people. *Of the People* means the government is comprised of *regular* citizens; *by the people* means the government is elected by its citizens; and *for the people* means that the sole purpose of the government is for the benefit of all its citizens.

The democratic process is the way we make that happen. We make the "of the people" part happen by running for public office; we make the "by the people" part happen by doing the things needed to elect *our best* to public office; and we make the "for the people" part happen by doing those things that keep us educated on important issues, that keep elected officials aware of our points of view, and which enforce our laws. The democratic process is not a methodology, but a lifelong way of thinking and acting.

When we invest time, energy and money in something, we tend to care more about that something. So actions that keep us involved in the democratic process help us care about and appreciate our democracy and freedoms. They are the actions most closely associated with citizenship.

Citizen Actions

1.   [Ask a friend how they feel about a specific issue](#).

2.   [Email the address of this website to a friend](#).

3.   [Encourage others to vote](#).

4.   [Express your opinion to an elected official, to a radio station, to a publication or to a company](#) .

5.   [Pay the taxes you owe](#).

6.   [Place a link to www.goodcitizen.org on your personal website](#).

7.   [Protest over something you feel strongly about](#).

8.   [Pursue injustices, even at personal inconvenience](#).

9.   Serve on a jury, if asked.

10.   Sign an initiative or petition you agree with.

11.   Talk about current events at dinner with your family.

12.   Tell someone when you don't approve of their actions.

13.   Vote.

14.   Watch or listen to a debate between candidates for elected office.

15.   Work at a polling location.

Reader Submitted Actions