

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Need a reason to vote?

The ballots have arrived at most homes by now. Are you going to vote? That's the only way to have any control over the decisions that politicians make that affect all of us.

If you're upset that politicians are making the same promises every year, are you voting for someone else this time around?

Don't like career politicians? You have absolute control over term limits, don't vote for anyone who is not still in tune with the needs of their incumbents.

On the other hand, if you support your elected officials, then say so. Don't complain about all elected officials, be specific and make your vote count.

Don't feel you know enough to vote? Or, do you always vote for the woman (or the man, or the familiar name)? It can be difficult to become truly knowledgeable on issues and candidates, but that's the way to make your vote be truly meaningful to your values. There are resources, online or in newspapers and magazines. Don't rely on only one source, as you may get biased or inadequate information. Work to find sources of information you trust, and use them to help you make your voting decisions.

Never registered to vote? Don't believe you can make a difference? It's true, it sometimes seems like voting one way, or the other, for one candidate doesn't have much impact in the long run. By not voting, you have NO impact and aren't even participating in the form of government that many have given their lives to gain and maintain.

If these words don't persuade you to vote, and vote responsibly, maybe the following quotes will:

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

— George Jean Nathan

Lower voter participation is a silent threat to our democracy...it under-represents young people, the poor, the disabled, those with little education, minorities, and you and me.

— Nancy Neuman

Let Your Voice Be Heard
Get Out And

VOTE!!

I'VE BEEN READING THESE
SAME OL' PROMISES FOR
CHANGE FOR YEARS....



REMEMBER CITIZENS
IT'S OUR VOTE
THAT MAKES THE
CHANGE!

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Ike Says...

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League



Let's talk once more about conserving water. Whether it was intentional or not, the Vernonia City Council enacted a conservation water consumption rate. At \$4.25 per thousand gallons after your first two thousand used, this is in the

range of consumption rates found only in severely water restricted areas, like southern California or the desert west. Using the national average indoor consumption rate of 6.8 thousand gallons of water per month, Vernonia (\$56.40) will rank second to only San Diego, California (\$71.43). Atlanta, Georgia (\$49.50), is said to have one of the highest rates in the nation, but that is only when you add in their sewer charges, which have been mandated by recent court rulings. We will be far higher than Dallas, Texas (\$21.89), or Las Vegas, Nevada (\$19.48), even though they have to support far more extensive reservoir and pipeline projects.

Well, the decision has been made; time to quit crying in our milk. So what can you, as a consumer, do to keep your bill down to the lowest it can be at \$36? Conservation! The only way to keep from paying the absorbent consumption fee is to use no more than two thousand gallons of water per month. So how do we do that? Let's look at where we use water in our lives. Indoors, toilets are the number one user of water at

26.7%. Clothes washing is second at 21.7%, showers are third at 16.8%, faucets are at 15.7% and leaks are the last major component of use at 13.7%.

Toilets can use a lot of water, and they are usually the major source of water leaks in a household, as well. Most likely, your home will have an older style toilet that consumes far more water than is necessary to flush away wastes. I started investigating my home's toilets and found this interesting fact. They are designed to flush only 1.6 gallons of water, yet they have a storage tank that holds up to six gallons of water. Searching on the web, I found that, in 1992, Congress passed a law that required all toilets to meet the 1.6 gallon flush criteria by 1994. Well, the manufacturers continued to make the large capacity tanks, but used a different flapper (non-buoyant) to close the flush valve off prematurely so it used only 1.6 gallons of water. So, what do you get when you go down to the local hardware store to replace your flapper? A buoyant flapper, and now your toilet is back to the 1980s standard of 4-7 gallons of water per flush. Both of my toilets tested out at 4.5 gallons per flush. The fix is to install a new water intake valve that is adjustable. My toilets are now at around 2.5 gallons per flush. Make sure to do a dye test by adding some food coloring into your reservoir tank and see if the dyed water shows up in your toilet bowl within a couple of hours, if so the flapper valve is leaking and needs to be cleaned or replaced. If you really want to get serious about your toilets, you can buy new ones that flush

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