

Opinion: Want a revolution? It's easy — go vote

By Russell Glass, Chicago Tribune, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.21.20

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A surge at the polls would be a revolution because it's assumed many won't show up on Election Day. Image: VectorMine/Shutterstock

People have the power to make big changes. I think we can start a revolution.

I do not mean the kind of revolution that puts you in danger. This revolution would be safe. It would be simple, too. You just have to vote.

There is one catch: Everyone has to vote.

If everyone voted, it really would be like a revolution. A rise in voting would be a huge change. Many Americans today do not vote.

People Who Don't Vote Have No Voice

More than 60 million Americans who can vote have not signed up. That is a huge number. It is almost as many people as voted for each candidate for president in 2016.

Are you a nonvoter? If so, you are invisible to politicians. They do not have to worry about you. So they don't consider your opinion. They have counted you out.

Imagine if that changed. Think of those 60 million people. What if they all vote on November 3?

You might say voting is pointless. Maybe you think democracy is broken. I say it is only broken because you are not participating. Taking part in voting will help fix it.

Voting Leads To Changes

Too many Americans do not vote. That means they are not getting a say.

If the whole country voted, many things would change. The candidate most of us think is best would win. Changes Americans say they want will start to happen.

The best part of this revolution? It is easy. We just need to check a box. If we all go vote, we will all win.

Change can happen before the election, too. It begins when we all sign up to vote. This increases the number of registered voters. Candidates will notice this. This will change their narratives. They will have to look out for more kinds of people.

This is how we gain power. This is how we win the easiest revolution ever. With a vote!

Russell Glass helps run Rock the Vote. This group encourages young Americans to vote. The views and opinions expressed in this article belong to the author. They do not necessarily represent the views of Newsela or its editors.