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Why Vote?

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52.23 percent. In baseball, this would be a very high batting average, considering Ty Cobb holds the record for highest career batting average in Major League Baseball at 36.6 percent. [1] In hockey, it would be an even more impressive shooting percentage, with Craig Simpson's 23.66 percent on top of the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association all time shooting percentage list. [2] Basketball would frown upon a free throw percentage that low, as Mark Price has the highest career free throw percentage at 90.4 percent. [3] In education, however, this percentage would receive a failing grade on an assignment. 52.23 percent happens to be the national voting turnout average since 1960. [4] With the American people deciding who best represents their interests in the government, this result seems more akin to a school assignment grade than a successful sports statistic. Decisions that are being voted on could affect each individual for years, depending on the specific office or issue being voted on.

Most sobering about this figure is that it is only for the presidential election years. Every four years, barely more than half the population of voting age citizens trundle out and cast a vote for the most important and influential office in the United States. In midterm elections, turnout hovers around forty percent. Though each office individually may not be as powerful as the president, combined these officials are responsible for overseeing the president. Further still, election ballots every year have important local officials and ballot proposals that may impact individual lives and communities more than any presidential election ever could. Ballot proposals are a way of amending the constitution of a local, state or federal government in one swift movement by popular vote, regardless of how any legislator feels about the situation. Take, for instance, the recent proposal that allowed for medicinal marijuana in Michigan. What are the specifics contained in the bill? How does the bill account for the adapting of the current system with this new law? What are the standards for enrollment? What are the long-term social implications? These are all very important questions that impact daily life of every Michigan citizen. Who has the answers? Where would one go to find these answers? Would one be able to find such answers with sufficient explanation before the vote would take place? This is just one small issue, but it is by far not

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