

Do NOT Vote — Unless You Cast an Informed Ballot

According to conventional wisdom, the more people who register to vote, the better; and the larger the turnout, the better. But does increasing the number of voters actually result in better governance?

What if the increase is comprised primarily of low-information voters? Would such an increase really be beneficial?

According to former First Lady Michelle Obama, the answer is an unequivocal yes. Addressing a “When We All Vote” event in Las Vegas on September 23, Obama stated:



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Voting does not require any kind of special expertise. You know, you don't need to ... have some fancy degree to be qualified to vote. You don't have to read every news article to be qualified to vote. You know what you need to be qualified to vote? You need to be a citizen. You know. You need to be a part of this country. You need to have opinions about the issues in your community — that's what qualifies you to vote. Caring about your kids' future qualifies you to be a voter. Wanting a say in what happens in this country qualifies you to be a voter.

Granted, the franchise should not be limited to those who “have some fancy degree” or “read every news article” — an impossible task, to be sure. So, to make crystal clear just how little information she believes voters need to possess before casting a ballot, Obama added:

I've been voting since I was 18 years old — and trust me, I didn't know nothing about nothing at 18 years old — right? But what you do know is what you care about. For all the young people, you do know you have a voice. You do have opinions about what goes on — that qualifies you to vote. And it is not that hard.

No, “it is not that hard” to vote — or to know “nothing about nothing” when voting. Much harder is to take the responsibilities of citizenship seriously — and that includes *knowing something about something when voting*.

Obama also noted that “our vote matters.” Of course it does. In fact, a ballot cast by a no- or low-information voter carries as much weight as a ballot cast by a well-informed voter.

The problem with uninformed voters casting ballots is that

they can easily be beguiled into voting away their freedoms without even realizing it. Consider the rise of Nazi (National Socialist) Germany. By 1932, the Nazi Party had achieved a plurality of seats in the German Reichstag, setting the stage for Hitler's appointment as chancellor on January 30 of 1933. The imposition of totalitarian controls under the one-party Nazi state soon followed.

But how were the Nazis able to become the most powerful party in the Reichstag to begin with? The German

people gave them that power via the ballot box! And they did so, not because they understood what they were voting for, but because they did not understand.

On the other hand, if the German people had been better informed, they would not have been beguiled, the Nazis would not have come to power, and the history of the 20th century would have turned out very differently.

Communism, another totalitarian “ism” that ravaged the 20th century and continues to haunt the world to this day, has also successfully and deceptively exploited and manipulated uninformed voters — in places such as Poland and Czechoslovakia after the end of World War II — for the purpose of consolidating power. In fact, this stratagem comes right out of the totalitarian playbook *The Communist Manifesto*, which states that “the first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to *win the battle of democracy*.” (Emphasis added.)

And in our own America, too many no- and low-information voters have been and are being manipulated into supporting government-provided healthcare, housing, education, and more, and their votes will supplant our constitutional Republic with the Total State unless the trend is reversed. Obviously, not enough Americans understand today that the largess promised by government must be taken from the American people to begin with, and that socialism (or whatever the Total State might be called) is not a share-the-wealth program but a control-the-wealth scheme.

If Michelle Obama were truly interested in a better America, she would not advocate voting even when you “know nothing about nothing.” She would instead challenge Americans to become informed before voting. And she would embrace our headline above: “Do NOT Vote — Unless You Cast an Informed Ballot.” ■