

Making a difference is possible as one

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If I am just one person, how can I make a difference in the community? Believe in the Power of One.

It is especially important that we participate in community affairs. Our communities are only as strong as the people who take an active interest, especially in the election of our government officials.

We give them aid by participation in the decisions they must make.

It is election day and you say to yourself, do I want to get up early and go to the polls and vote? Or you might say, I have had a long day at work and do I want to take the extra time to vote? After all, I am just one person and how can one person make a difference? You can!

For example, in the presidential elections of 1960, if one person in every precinct in Illinois had voted differently, John F. Kennedy would have never been elected president.

If just one senator had voted differently, President Andrew Johnson would have been removed from office in 1857.

Government officials need your wisdom. That is the strength of a democracy when each and every one expresses their opinion on an issue that is before your city or county commissioners, state senators and representatives or Congress.

The more people in a community participate in civic life, the better the decisions that will be made at all levels of government.

Think of it like a supermarket where your government officials go shopping for ideas on how to solve community problems.

If there is a little participation by citizens in the community, then the supermarket shelves are fairly empty because there are few choices of ideas.

On the other hand, if there is great participation, the shelves are packed. There are numerous choices. And if your idea is on the supermarket shelf, then it is available. Your idea or solution, if it is packaged well, will attract attention and they just might pick it off the shelf. But it has to be there to be chosen.

In order for any community to be strong and prosper, democracy's supermarket must be kept well stocked with the fresh produce of ideas.

An elected official can't be all places in the forest all the time. Every one of us in our part of the forest has a duty to tell if a tree has fallen and the resulting impacts and ramifications as we see it.

There have been many instance when just one person, who has taken the time and the opportunity that democracy and the freedom it gives to all of us, has written to an elected official where the letter has served as a catalyst to change a law, regulation or ordinance that benefits the entire community.

You still say you can't make a difference? You can!

That's the Power of One.

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