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A Snapshot of Democracy

Salado High School

Salado

As a young American, I believe in the power of voting and the ability to express our beliefs. As a young woman coming of age in a politically charged world, I am aware of the stakes involved and the importance of defending our democratic rights. Whether it's concerning climate change, social injustice or education reform, I am inspired by the promise of democracy and the potential it holds for positive change.

The opportunity to vote is a fundamental right that should be available to all citizens. This right is a chance to have a say in the direction of our country and gives us an opportunity to participate in shaping the future. As a young adult preparing for college, I am familiar with the challenges many people have faced throughout history in securing the right to vote, as well as the sacrifices that were made in their endeavors.

By engaging, speaking out and advocating for our voting rights, we become a starting point to culminate a more inclusive and equitable future for generations to come. Democracy isn't just one entity. It is richly layered with diverse perspectives and multiple beliefs. Some say, "Democracy is the voice of the people, where every person has a say." This viewpoint believes in the power of elections and the protection of individual rights. Other's view democracy as a skeptic, quick to point out deficiencies and flaws which can lead to corruption and tyranny. And then there are those who see democracy as an evolving work in progress. Democracy is a complex and ever-changing concept, shaped by diverse concepts and real experiences.

Throughout history, the court system has played a vital role in protecting the right of voters. One being the right to vote without discrimination, regardless of race, gender, age, or any other factor. From landmark cases such as Reynolds v. Sims in 1964, which established the principle of "one person, one vote," to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, considered the Crown

Jewel of the Civil Rights Movement, and the most effective piece of civil rights legislation in United States history.

Our court system also safeguards the right to access polling stations and receive assistance, if needed, creating an accessible voting environment for all. Additionally, it oversees the integrity of elections by enforcing rules regarding fraud, illegal activity and voter intimidation. Court decisions have broadened voter's rights over the years and continues to uphold the necessary measures required to ensure unbiased representation. It helps solidify the foundation of our democracy, allowing all voices to resonate.

As I prepare to navigate the adult complexities of the world, I appreciate the richness of democratic ideals as well as the significance of diversified viewpoints. Although not perfect, Democracy mirrors our hopes, dreams and challenges.