

And the dilemma remains ‘To vote or not to vote?’

How are Americans deciding who to cast their vote for this election, if they’re voting at all?

Distrust, corruption, disappointment, and failure to lead are some of the few ways citizens described the presidential candidates and their reasons for straying away from voting this year. With the general elections coming up this fall, there is predicament about what to do this fall; some plan to sit on their hands when others are voting for one candidate to keep the other one from making it to office.

Citizens are deciding not to cast a ballot due to them not supporting the candidates, being doubtful of any change taking place or simply feeling that their votes won’t make much of a difference.

Southeast resident Malik Berry-Clark is one of those who feels his vote won’t really bring change to the table. “Where I am from and the communities I’ve lived in, I’ve never seen change,” he indicated. He added; “Regardless of who wins the elections, especially now with the candidates running, situations will remain the same. There will still be struggling people in the urban communities that need help and guidance and my vote in particular won’t change that.”

Washingtonian Nico Perry, 26, shares a similar view about how change won’t be executed by either party nor his vote. “I won’t vote because both candidates are full of it. To pick one would be to ignore my own conscience,” he shared.

Eighty-three-year-old retired veteran, Eugene Townes, is a long time elector and has been voting every election since 1954. This year he’s doing things a little differently. “I just don’t see who to vote for, one is a hypocrite and the other one is a psycho,” he voiced.

He explained another issue that emerges and keeps constituents from voting is finding a way to get to polling locations. This is especially the case for seniors, disabled and ill individuals. “I won’t inconvenience myself to go endure the long lines with my cane in hand and vote for a fool to take over. Not worth the trouble.”

Independent voter Kevon Smith said he’s ready to vote when the time comes even though he doesn’t think any change will take place regardless of who gets elected. “I don’t believe my vote really counts because the system is rigged, but I plan to vote to simply exercise my right,” he explained. He connected; “America isn’t a democracy it’s a republic.”

Production Assistant at Radio One Gaybrielle Holbert expressed her concerns about both the Democratic and Republican candidates, but most importantly her fear of having Republican nominee Donald Trump as the next president of the United States. Holbert admitted that she really wasn’t considering on voting until she saw Trump’s numbers rising. “From the looks of this election, we might be doomed as a country with Trump standing a chance. Seriously it’s frightening to think,” she said.

Holbert has been voting since she was 18 and had always cast her vote for a Democrat party. This year, she feels that her right to vote isn't really a choice she wants to make, but rather a must. "If I'm forced to pick I'll pick a democrat." She is not a Hillary Clinton supporter, but her fear of Trump possibly running the country doesn't put her at ease. "The way I see it 'no vote' is a vote for Trump and I don't want that," she expressed.

"Who's to say celebrity stars and comedians won't try next. I'm eager to see what the next election will hold after this one," she joked.

Pleaded by her father, Beatrice Thomas, a sophomore at Devry University is in the process of registering to vote. "If it were up to me I wouldn't vote, but I guess I should do my part as a citizen," she expressed. She added; "Honestly the whole election just seems like a joke to me."

Krupa Patel, a Biology major at the University of Maryland, on the other hand, was excited at the very idea of voting. But, she says that that excitement has perished now because she is doubtful of both candidates. "It's the first year I'm going to vote, although I'm not sure who to vote for anymore," she expressed. She continued; "Both Hillary and Trump are not fit like President Obama has been for this country."

Comparably, high school senior, Trayon Walters describes himself as a citizen who's quite involved in the political life. He like Patel was excited to register to vote for the primaries, but is no longer interested in the general elections. He was a Bernie Sanders supporter, but since Sanders is not in the race anymore Walters doesn't see the point in voting this fall. "I believed Bernie would have made a difference for this country, but the two candidates that are running now are no good to our country," he said.

Solomon Desta first immigrated from Ethiopia in 1991 and has been living in the US ever since. He gained his citizenship in 1996, but has never been a part of the political life. This November he'll cast his vote for the first time. What prompted Desta to suddenly vote? "I'm just doing my part so Trump doesn't win."

He emphasized; "Hilary has more experience in office, she's definitely much better than the businessman although she's not completely honest."

He said that he would like to encourage others to put their personal feelings about the candidates aside and think of America first. "We need a leader, chose one that is better," he urged.