

Mock the Vote

Every two years in America – especially during presidential elections – many folks become fixated on the show that is elections. The same is true for those living in other countries under various other government apparatuses. The “us” versus “them” mentality takes hold, talking heads spout mindless nonsense, and resources are wasted on campaigning. It’s clear that Bureaucrash doesn’t believe voting is all it’s cracked up to be. We believe we don’t need someone to tell us how to live our lives, to tell us what we can and cannot do with our body and our money. Check out our rationale below and think for yourself.

Why we mock the vote:

Voting is force. You would not walk up to a stranger, brandish a gun, and demand their money under the auspices of knowing how to spend it better than they do. It is no more legitimate that 50 percent + one of voters grant a candidate the “authority” to control the actions of all. Each of us who votes to elect a politician is culpable for the actions perpetrated by that elected official, which by their nature violate the rights of others. In that sense we are like the getaway driver of a bank robbery who may not have pointed guns at people in the bank but still acted wrongly and facilitated the crime.

Voting violates self-ownership. We each own ourselves. We have the right to act as we please so long as we do not harm others. When an individual casts a vote, it is an illegitimate act because it grants “authority” to another person to control the life of another. And besides, what type of person wants to govern the life of another? As Lysander Spooner penned, “No man can delegate, or give to another, any right of arbitrary dominion over a third person; for that would imply a right in the first person, not only to make the third person his slave, but also a right to dispose of him as a slave to still other persons.” And we all know that slavery sucks. Big time.

Voting merely legitimizes State power. Governments have found it much easier to control those over which they claim authority through elections rather than through brute force. It is much easier for them to maintain their supposed legitimacy by claiming that through voting people can exercise a check on what the government does. Yet, as history has proven, this is not the case. Is it any wonder that the governments of some countries even mandate by law that individuals vote? That doesn’t sound too free to me.

Voting only expresses a preference for the least-worst of candidates. When you go into a grocery store you are able to put the exact items you want into your basket. However, when you vote, it’s akin to entering a grocery store and having to select from among baskets already assembled. Similarly, if you walk into the voting booth you are not allowed to choose exactly what you want but only voice a preference for the least-worst of options – not much of a choice at all. Instead, a better decision is to choose to make others aware of this arrangement, of the harms inherent in this structure.

Voting has no real impact. Most folks will admit that government today is not accountable and is operating outside its bounds. Yet they still believe the best way to counter this is to get their slate of candidates elected. As Benjamin Tucker noted, one could no more attack government by electing politicians than one could prevent crime by becoming a criminal. And, as Public Choice economists have shown, it’s the structure of government itself that cause its shortcomings (i.e. no profit/loss mechanism). The nature of government is for it to keep growing, which means that the freedom to live your life as you see fit continues to shrink.

