



NEW MEXICO FIRST

People. Ideas. Progress.

Why I Vote

October 12, 2020

My name is Julian Cardenas, and I am a freshman Emergency Medical Services and Psychology student at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Originally from Los Angeles, California, I am a Registered Emergency Medical Technician and Lifeguard. Throughout my career in education and the workforce, I have been exposed to varying political viewpoints, although, of course, Los Angeles County is an extraordinarily blue county. From a young age, I have felt troubled by the rhetoric, history, and ideology of the two mainstream political parties in the United States. Since the Republican Party replaced the Whig Party in the 1850s to become the major opposition to the Democratic Party, Americans have only had two real options in Presidential elections and most representative elections. Nonetheless, polls and surveys show that the majority of Americans do not agree with either party platform. I am frankly scared by the Republican's stubbornness, and perhaps more worried about the Democratic Party being increasingly controlled by leftist radicals, many calling themselves socialists or Marxists. For these reasons and more, I do not vote exclusively with one party or the other. I vote for the individual, or for the initiative, which I believe will best serve the people while remaining on track with constitutional doctrine, regardless of party affiliation.

Nonetheless, I VOTE! I vote because my little brother and sister are not yet old enough to do so themselves. I vote for my patients I've transported in the ambulance who can no longer vote. I vote for all the Americans who, for whatever reason, cannot vote for themselves. I believe that while it is a beautiful right to hire and fire our representatives in government as we see fit, it is also a duty and responsibility. One of the oldest principles of a constitutional republic is that the government serves the people (not the other way around), and the responsibility of the people, therefore, is to institute a new government if the state ceases to represent our values or begins to encroach on our rights. Thankfully, in America, an overthrow of the system is not needed since we can elect people to alter and better the system on our behalf. If you are unsure about who to vote for, or whether to vote, I feel your toil. Nonetheless, I believe it is of the utmost importance that we all educate ourselves on the candidate's policies, history, competence, and temperament. Then, we should vote for the individual who we believe will best serve and represent our values, our families, our safety, and our communities.