

EXCUSE #1

Why should I vote for a candidate that doesn't do anything for me as a voter?

Possible Responses

If you don't vote, the candidate will never do *anything* for you. Once you become a voter and stay involved and informed after the election, you can push for what you want. Your interest will keep your representative aware of what you do want.

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EXCUSE #2

I don't care that much. I am too lazy to vote.

Possible Responses

What is something you DO care about, e.g., the environment, gun control, cost of childcare, the abortion issue, cost of tuition, free school lunches? Let's find an issue you DO care about and then, let's find a candidate who supports your issue or concern. This is the way you can help make the change you would like to see regarding something you care about. Once you become a voter and stay involved and informed after the election, you can push your representative for what you want.

What can I say to help you see your vote is important?

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EXCUSE #3

I don't know where to go to vote in my town.

Possible Responses

We do not "go to the polls" in Washington. Rather, we vote entirely by mail in our State. You will receive your ballot in the mail approximately 3 weeks before each election.

You can go online to VOTEWA.GOV and register to vote.

No stamp is required when you mail the ballot. Mail early! Your ballot must be postmarked by 8:00pm election night.

If you want to be sure your County Elections office received your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the "ballot status" tab, or, you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

If you would like I can help you register to vote and sign up for the text alerts.

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EXCUSE #4

My vote is largely symbolic because of the Electoral College. I live in a "blue" state.

Possible Responses

The Electoral College applies only to Presidential elections. Your vote counts directly in mid-term, county, local, and board of education elections.

Many people think that's true, but if you show up to vote, your representative knows you care about how our government is run. Most politicians realize they have to pay attention to ALL those who live in their district, especially those who vote.

All of our friends are voting, so why don't you join the gang? We can have a party after.

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EXCUSE #5

I registered to vote at school, but I don't know how to vote, or the steps to voting, or what you have to do after you register. I feel in the dark.

Possible Responses

We vote entirely by mail in Washington State. No stamp is required on the ballot when you mail it. You will receive your ballot and also a voter's pamphlet describing candidates and issues on the ballot three weeks before the election. Study the pamphlet. Look at the bottom of each page for endorsements to find organizations that support the causes you support. Get opinions from adults you trust about candidates and issues.

Voting is not a test...you don't need to fill in every bubble. Who and what you voted for will still be counted. So, you only need to vote for candidates or issues you support.

If you want to be sure your County Elections office received your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the "ballot status" tab or you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

When you get the ballot, give me a call and I'll walk you through it.

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EXCUSE #6

Most people my age have zero need to go to the post office and may never have stepped inside one. Knowing how to navigate vote-by-mail is hard.

Possible Responses

Voting by mail is easy! You don't ever need to go to the post office. Fill your ballot out at home. You can mail your ballot at any mailbox...and **you don't even need a stamp!** Be sure to **mail early** so your vote is postmarked by 8:00pm election day or in an official election drop box by 8:00pm election night. You can locate the nearest drop box by googling your County Elections Drop Box Location or calling your County Elections office and giving them your address.

When you get the ballot, give me a call and I'll help you any way I can.

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EXCUSE #7

If the election is close, I'll vote.

Possible Responses

You might not even know that the election is close until it's too late to vote!

Your vote "counts" no matter whether the election is close or not. The number of people who come out to vote tells people running for office that they better pay attention to what those who voted want – or they will lose their jobs.

When they see that certain groups, like young people, are voting in force, they are more likely to support the positions those groups care about.

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EXCUSE #8

If somebody came along who excited me, I'd vote. But if the candidates are awful, I'll stay home.

Possible Responses

Someone is going to be elected no matter whether you vote or not. And this person will be in a position to make decisions that affect **your** life.

You may not like the candidates who are running, but there is probably one candidate who is closer to your positions. Your job as a voter is to choose the person who is a **closer** match, not a **perfect** match, so your voice/vote matters.

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EXCUSE #9

My faith in the system and fairness in voting is utterly crushed.

Possible Responses

Sometimes it does seem that the system is rigged. Faith in the system and fairness in voting are important in a democracy. The only way to ensure fairness is to vote for the people who will make the elections fair and secure. In a democracy, voting gives you the best shot at making democratic elections work. Giving up that right means democracy dies.

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EXCUSE #10

It's such a long process to register to vote. I don't have the time.

Possible Responses

Actually, registering to vote in Washington State is really simple and takes only a few minutes! Here, let me help you do it online right now.

Simply go to VOTEWA.GOV online and just follow the prompts!

If you want to be sure your County Elections office received your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the "ballot status" tab or you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

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EXCUSE #11

It's incredibly difficult for hourly workers or people who travel frequently to vote. I can't leave work for 4 hours to stand in a line to vote.

Possible Responses

In Washington State we vote by mail; there are **NO** lines to stand in. Simply, when at home, you fill your ballot out however you want. You can mail your ballot at any mailbox...**and you don't even need a stamp!** Mail early to be sure it arrives before 8:00pm on election day.

Your ballot and voter's pamphlet comes in the mail 3 weeks before each election, giving you plenty of time to get to know the issues.

Washington State has made voting very easy. Give me a call when your ballot arrives, and I can answer any other questions you might have.

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EXCUSE #12

Voting by mail is hard!

Possible Responses

Voting by mail is easy. You simply receive your ballot in the mail approximately 3 weeks before each election. You will also receive a voter's pamphlet describing candidates and issues on the ballot. Study the pamphlet to affirm what and who you want to vote for.

You can mail it from home or at any mailbox. **No stamp is required.** You can also drop it in an official Elections Drop Box located conveniently in your community. **Mail early** so your ballot is postmarked before 8:00pm on election day or drop it in the Drop Box by 8:00pm election day.

When you get the ballot and voter's pamphlet, give me a call and I'll walk you through it and help you locate the Drop Box if you want.

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EXCUSE #13

There are issues I care about, but mostly politicians talk about things my parents care about, not me.

Possible Responses

Politicians talk about what your parents care about because your parents are more likely to vote than young people.

If you and your friends vote, and if you encourage others to vote, the power of **your** vote increases. Politicians will start paying attention if they know the issues young people are concerned about *and* they know they have to win your vote to get elected.

You can email or call your representatives, and let them know what you really care about.

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EXCUSE #14

It doesn't matter who is elected. They all act the same once they are in office.

Possible Responses

Actually, there is often a very big difference in how elected officials deal with the issues you care about. At the national level, some people in office believe in climate change; some don't. Some don't want the government to offer healthcare; others do. Some politicians believe in supporting social services to help people in need, others do not.

Let's find out how the candidates differ on the issues that are important to us. We can look them up on VOTE411.org, or you can ask a trusted friend or study the Voter's Pamphlet, paying special attention to those organizations you like who endorse the candidate.

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EXCUSE #15

I'd rather be a nonvoter than make a choice I don't understand.

Possible Responses

If you take the time to become informed, you will feel comfortable with your choices.

If you aren't informed, you can find out about the candidates at VOTE411.org or at the candidates' websites or in the Voter's Pamphlet or watching a League of Women Voter's forum. Or, you can ask an adult or mentor you trust.

Remember, you don't have to fill in every bubble. Who and what YOU voted for are still counted. You can just vote for people and positions you believe in.

I'll follow up with you and we can talk about what we each know about the candidates running.

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EXCUSE #16

I can't vote because I am going to college in another state.

Possible Responses

You can still have a voice in Washington politics as well as the national elections even if you are going to college out-of-state. Your ballot will list the candidates and issues reflecting **your residential address** as you identified it when you registered to vote. If you want your ballot to reflect the candidates and issues in your home state, you simply change your mailing address to your college address through VOTEWA.GOV and leave your residential address the same. Your ballot will be mailed to the mailing address you have identified. I would be more than happy to show you.

If you go to college in another state, you might choose to reregister to vote in that state...especially if your vote there could make a greater difference in the outcome of a national election.

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EXCUSE #17

I never feel certain enough to vote. I don't want to help something that may wind up being wrong.

Possible Responses

Every decision you make in life is based on the **best information you have at the time**. Do some research on the candidates and questions, attend candidate forums, look at candidate websites, read reliable news sources and the voter's pamphlet...and select candidates that share your values and support your issues.

Know you do not have to fill in every bubble on the ballot. Who and what you did vote for still is counted. So, you can vote for just the candidates and issues you have some knowledge about.

VOTE411.org is the League of Women Voters' non-partisan website for election and candidate information.

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EXCUSE #18

Because of my schedule, I'm too busy to vote or I just forget!

Possible Responses

With mail-in voting, you can vote at your convenience any time, day or night, after you receive your ballot. Remember, you receive your ballot about three weeks before election day.

There is a great way to get a reminder to vote! If you want to be sure your County Elections office received your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the " ballot status" tab or, you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

Mail early so your vote arrives **before 8:00pm on election** day, or go to the nearest drop box before 8:00pm that night. You can locate the nearest drop box to you by googling your County Elections Office Drop Box Locations or calling your County Elections office and giving them your address.

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EXCUSE #19

I read everything online. If they could set voting up online, I'd do it. This way it is now, it's just a big bother.

Possible Responses

You can do almost everything online now – but you cannot vote. Washington State doesn't offer online voting to protect your vote against hacking. Voting by mail may be less convenient, but it is more secure and more likely to produce a fair result.

Vote-by-mail takes only a few minutes. You can drop it in any mailbox without a stamp or convenient drop box. Ballots must be postmarked by 8:00pm election day or picked up at a drop box by 8:00pm election night so **vote early!** You can locate the nearest drop box by googling your County Elections Drop Box Location or calling your county elections office and giving them your address.

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EXCUSE #20

The ballot is just too complicated!

Possible Responses

You know you don't have to fill in *every* bubble on the ballot! (It is not a test!) Skip who and what you don't know or understand and vote for who and what you do know...even if it is only one candidate! Who and what you DO vote for will be counted!

With each election that you vote in, the ballot will become more familiar and you will become more comfortable voting.

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EXCUSE #21

Why would I vote when that would give approval to a system I totally do not want to validate?

Possible Responses

Voting is the main way we have to change what we don't like in the system.

When you don't vote, you give up your POWER to shape or influence the system. Not voting doesn't get you anywhere.

You *vote* because your future depends on it. So do it for the futures of people you care about and other generations to come. Whether or not you like our system, it is the only way we currently have to influence the decisions that affect our lives.

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EXCUSE #22

I don't pay attention to politics so I don't know who to vote for or even the issues.

Possible Responses

I would be more than happy to help you if you wish or you could ask a friend, parent, or mentor you trust...just tell us what you wish was different in our community, state, or country now.

What is something you wish was different, e.g., the environment, gun safety regulations, cost of childcare, the abortion issue, cost of tuition, free school lunches? Find an issue you DO care about and then, let's find a candidate who supports that issue or concern. This is the only way you can help make the change you would like to see regarding something you care about.

Once you become a voter and stay involved and informed after the election, you can push your representatives for what you want.

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EXCUSE #23

I'm not a citizen, so I can't vote.

Possible Responses

I didn't realize that. If you want to become a citizen, I hope when you do, you will become a voter, BUT, it is important you do not vote before you are a citizen because it is a felony and you may lose your right to become a citizen.

That's important to know but now you live in a democracy. You have power! You especially have the power to persuade those around you who can vote why they *should* vote! You could even tell them how their choice to use their power to vote empowers others in their community who cannot!

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EXCUSE #24

I have a disability and cannot read the small print on the ballot.

Possible Responses

Please call our county elections office and tell them about your disability. They answer the phone almost immediately and are so helpful. Each county has Accessible Voting Units conveniently located and works hard at making voting easy and accessible for any disability, e.g., sight, mobility, dexterity. And, the County Elections office may even suggest another creative way to make voting easy and accessible for you!

After you find out, please let me know. I am curious how they solved your problem.

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EXCUSE #25

I don't trust the Post Office to deliver my ballot, and I don't know how to locate an election drop-box.

Possible Responses

You can locate the nearest drop box to you by googling your County Elections Office for Drop Box Locations or calling your County Elections Office and giving them your address. Be sure to get your ballot to the drop box before 8:00pm election night.

If you would like, we can call your County Elections together now.

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EXCUSE #26

I don't come from a voting family. My parents never voted, so I don't see why it's important. I'm just not interested.

Possible Responses

Start a new family tradition! Vote like your future depends on it...because it does, and vote to be an example for your friends or for your family. Break the cycle of non-voting in your family and have a voice in government!

Throughout history, lots of people were the first to vote in their families—non-landowners, African-Americans, women, Asians, Native Americans, disabled, and 18-year-olds!

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EXCUSE #27

This is such a crazy time. I'm too preoccupied to vote and I usually forget!

Possible Responses

Mail-in voting is the easiest way to vote! You have at least ten days to vote, so you don't have to complete the ballot at one sitting. In fact, you don't have to fill in every bubble. Who and what you vote for will count, even if the rest of the ballot is unmarked!

You can drop it in any mailbox. **No stamp is needed.** Please mail early because it has to be postmarked by 8:00pm on election day. No stamp is needed. Or you can drop it in the neighborhood election drop box by 8:00pm on election day.

If you want to be sure your County Elections office receives your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the "ballot status" tab or, you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

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EXCUSE #28

I am concerned that my mail-in ballot won't be counted. How can I know for sure!

Possible Responses

If you want to be sure your County Elections office received your ballot, you can go to VOTEWA.GOV and click on the "ballot status" tab or, you can go to your County Elections website or call your County Elections office.

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