

**"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote."**

**- George Jean Nathan**

## **How Not to be one of THOSE Citizens**

Elections are rolling around again, although to many it may seem to be a never-ending event. The NC primary election is coming up on March 15 (Elections are always on Tuesdays). If you want to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter by February 19th, and starting this year, you must show a photo ID. These are acceptable IDs: NC driver's license, passport, Veteran's ID cards, US Military IDs, Tribal enrollment cards, and an unexpired driver's license or non-operators ID card issued by another state, District of Columbia, or US territory/commonwealth, but only if the person registered to vote within 90 days of the election. There are exceptions such as declaration of reasonable impediment, voters over the age of 70, natural disasters, religious objections, subsequent presentation of acceptable ID, or voters who qualify for curbside voting due to age or disability. One can see all the details at <http://voterid.nc.gov/exceptions.html>, or you can vote absentee by-mail (again, check the website for details).

In North Carolina, Unaffiliated voters may vote in a primary, with the understanding that you must choose a party to vote in primary. If there happens to be a runoff election, you will still have to vote in the party you chose for the primary.

The general election (or as some people call it, the presidential election) is on November 8th, with a registration deadline of October 14th. As a poll worker, I cannot stress this enough - know your precinct and your polling place! It breaks my heart to have to tell people they are at the wrong place when they come to vote, because I know their time is important. Check online with your county or state Board

of Elections website or call the local BOE office to verify where you need to vote at and that there are no unexpected problems with your registration.

You should have received a voter registration card (call BOE if you didn't!), which will tell you the various offices and districts you can vote for. Your neighbor across the street from you might be in an entirely different district due to the capricious way the lines are drawn, so don't rely on that.

Don't think your vote doesn't matter - it does, as one can see by the forces out there trying to either influence your vote with mind-boggling amounts of money, or by keeping you from voting in the first place. Even the races most people overlook, like judges or school board members affect us on a personal level. People have died for the right to vote. Don't let those deaths be in vain.