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Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

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Editorial

Let your voice be heard

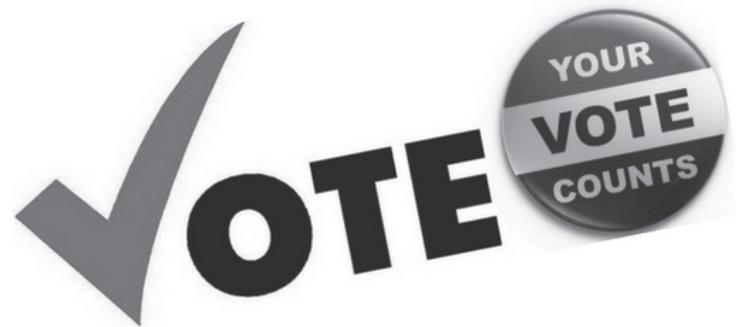
By Taylor Forrest
Staff reporter

In 2011, Mohammed Bouazizi, a Tunisian fruit vendor, set himself on fire in front of the governor's office, sacrificing himself in a defying manner in order to make a political statement against the long-held, oppressive Tunisian regime. This martyrdom incited riots throughout Tunisia, causing then-president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to resign after 23 years in power. Through his extreme actions, Mohammed Bouazizi created change in Tunisia. He incited a change of executive power and created a spring board for a new founded regime to emerge.

Fortunately, we as American citizens do not have to resort to such extremes in order to bring about change. Instead, we are born with an inherent and constitutional right to exercise our electoral power. We often take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us just for being a U.S. citizen. This causes

us to not think about the freedoms and liberties that are inherently ours. Unlike Bouazizi, we are privileged in the fact that we were born in the United States where all we have to do is show up at the polls and let our voice be heard to impact our government.

Not only are you enriching your own life by performing your civic duty, but you are being an active member of society. In order to have a properly functioning democracy, citizens need to do their part as constituents. You and I (considering you aren't a minor and don't have any prior felonies) have an awesome responsibility and opportunity to have a say in the election process. It seems absolutely ludicrous that individuals can't find the time to register to vote or show up at the polls, especially since registering to vote can now be done



Voter Registration

Reminder:

Kansas Voter Registration Deadline:

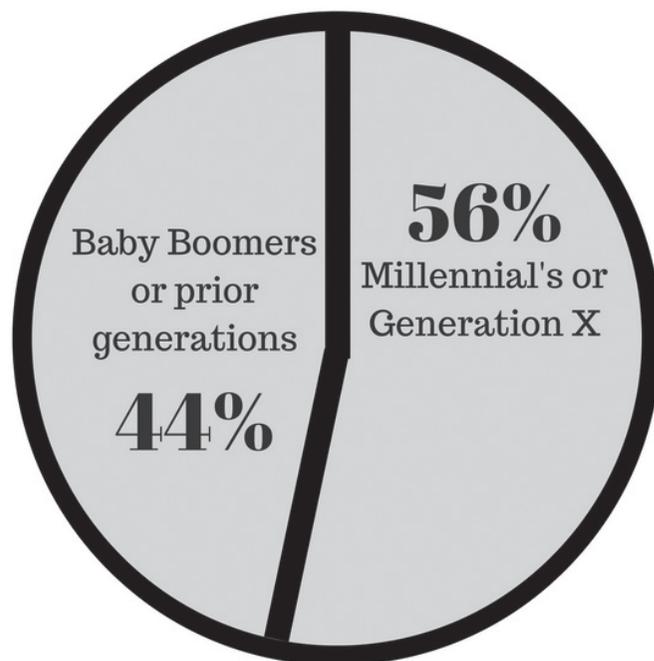
October 18

Oklahoma Voter Registration Deadline:

October 14

Texas Voter Registration Deadline:

October 11



Eligible voters by generation

■ 56%: 126 million Millennials and Generation X's

■ 44%: 98 million Baby Boomers & prior generations

Pew Research Center

online, on the phone, by mail or in person.

Also, don't write off voting by trying to convince yourself that your vote doesn't matter. You are just one small, young voice, and the Electoral College isn't fair anyways. Wrong.

We, as college students, are on the precipice of true adulthood. In the next four years we will be entering the work field, paying off student loans, purchasing a house, searching for our own health insurance provider, etc., and all of these things are affected by the choices our governmental representatives make. Millennials are not a small group, we have a voice and if we exercise it in the correct way, we too can make a difference. I cannot stress this enough; your vote

matters.

Regardless of whether you like the candidates in this election, you should still vote because either way someone will win and be elected the next president of the United States. Why not have a say in that? This election has been caustic, toxic and altogether polarizing we have a duty as American citizens to look past all of the negativity and cast our vote on November 8.

Don't deprive yourself the right to vote. As former president Franklin Roosevelt once said, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

Taylor Forrest is a senior majoring in communication. You may email her at taylor.forrest@sckans.edu.