Voting in America

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 Voting in America should be required by law. Every four years in November, people across the United States cast their votes for the President. But chances are that millions of people will choose not to vote on Election Day. In recent Presidential elections, only about 60% of Americans who were eligible to vote actually did.

 The best way to get more people to participate in voting to is require it by law. The point of electing leaders is that they represent the interests of all Americans. That, however, cannot happen if millions of Americans do not vote. Citizens have a responsibility to vote. “Voting isn’t just a right, it is a duty,” says Lisa Hill, a professor in Australia. Australia, in most elections, has around a 90% voter turnout. And the people who don’t vote? They pay a fine.

 Voting is what makes America a democracy. Women and African-Americans had to fight for years to gain the right to vote. In some countries, many citizens still don’t have the right to vote. In our country if you don’t like the job the leaders are doing, you can make your voice heard when you vote. Here, you can vote for any position in the government, including the President who runs the government.

 The opponents of making voting a requirement state that requiring a person to vote is not fair. That people that who don’t vote have a good reason not to. Some people may be working on the election day and taking the time off would mean losing their income. Others might just not like the candidates. Whatever their reason, it is their right to choose to vote or not to vote.

 One solution to the claim that people can’t vote because they are working would be to make election day a national holiday. This would ensure that more people would have the time to get to the polls on election day without having to miss work. Of course, a national holiday would not get everyone out of work, but employers could have extended scheduled breaks that would allow those still at work the time to vote.

A mandatory voting system would also reduce the effect that income inequality has on people actually voting. Alberto Chong and Mauricio Olivera of George Mason University report that nonvoters are, on average, poorer and more likely to be racial minorities. These non-voters are not less interested in politics, but often work or family needs take priority over voting.