

Pulling the lever. It seems simple enough. If you are a member of this family and have received at least 18 calendars from Insurance companies, you qualify to pull the lever. If you are an engineer from MIT, or some guy who relates well to the 'Far Side' comics ... you can pull the lever.

If your idea of a bad day is when your stocks drop 1/4 point, or when your food money has just been spent buying medicine for one of your children... you can still pull the lever.

They don't check the color of your skin ... they don't check your IQ ... they don't check your checking account ... they don't care what you wear, who you pray to or ask if you want smoking or non-smoking.

If you're a member of this family and have had at least 18 candles on your birthday cake, you can pull the lever.

Sometimes it almost seems silly. You go to the designated location, sign their book, walk through a curtain, and in a most private, uneventful manner, you pull the lever. No one claps for you when you step out from the curtain. There are no bands playing, celebrating your efforts. No fireworks. No confetti. No pomp or circumstances.

You just quietly walk out with a sigh of satisfaction for having done your part for the family.

It's called voting. A rather simple act that represents so much of what makes this the greatest country in this ever-changing world we live in.

Most people in the world never get a chance to pull the lever. So many people in the world go through their life without ever having any say in what goes on in the world they live in.

But we do. Every other year we get to go behind the curtain and pull the lever. And for over two hundred years, there have always been the same two candidates for us to choose between.

Choice #1 - Stay the course

Choice #2 - Let's change directions

Certainly the names and faces have changed over the years, but every time we step behind the curtain, our choice is always the same... do we want to stay the course or change directions?

Everybody has an equal voice in the matter. Everybody gets to pull the lever one time.

Whether they burn the flag, belong to the KKK, a preppie country club, or a conservative, right-wing church. Each person gets to pull the lever one time. An equal voice no matter where you stand on life's ladder.

It's a pretty good system that was created for us by our forefathers. It's certainly not a perfect system by any stretch, but it's clearly the best system devised for a government 'by the people'... if we all do our part ... if we all use our voice ... if we all pull the lever just once.

It's a simple act that doesn't come with a lot of pomp or circumstance. However, when we pull the lever, we are telling the whole world that our voice is a voice to be heard.

Just A Thought