

Responsibilities of Citizens

Citizenship in a Democracy requires participation, civility, and patience



Time and Hard Work



- Serve on juries
- Give mandatory military or civilian national service for a period of time (such as Selective Service registration)

Respect for the Law

- Pay your fair share of taxes
- Accept the authority of the elected government
- Respect the rights of those with different points of view



Citizens must bear the burden of responsibility for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights



You get the government you deserve



Democracies require the attention of their citizens

- Run for office
- Serve as an appointed public official
- Use the free press to speak out on local and national issues
- Join labor unions, community groups, and business associations if you wish
- Join private voluntary organizations that share your interests
- More than an occasional vote
- Steady time, attention, and commitment to the “process” of electing representatives
- Join political parties
- Campaign for the candidates of your choice
- Accept the fact that your party may not always be in power

A democratic society carries with it responsibilities for its citizens

