

There are a lot of ways citizens can participate in government and let their voices be heard. Serving on juries, being an informed voter, paying taxes, obeying laws and defending the nation are some of the important responsibilities of a good citizen, and voting is the best way to have a say in the government.

It is important to have citizens serve on juries because if there is a corrupt judge, he might favor one person. It could be less likely that there are corrupt juries because the courts pick random people from the city and county to be on jury duty. It is important for citizens to be on juries so the defendant can have a fair trial. It is also important to have juries because the people get a say in the judicial branch of government.

Another way to have a say in government is by being an informed voter. It is important to know who you are voting for and why so you know what kind of man or woman they will be if they get elected for the position. It is also important to know what kinds of ideas they support that you might not like. You should know what their record is because if they are new to politics they might not have enough political knowledge, and if they are known for supporting ideas you do not like, you might not trust them to be a politician. Once you know all about the candidates, you should vote so your voice can be heard.

Citizens also have a responsibility to pay taxes to keep our cities, states and country a nice, safe and fun place to live. Some good things taxes do are provide schools to educate children. Taxes also provide a police department to protect us from harmful people and a fire department to stop fires. Some fun things taxes provide are public libraries to check out books.

It is important for citizens to obey laws to keep our communities and country orderly and to protect our country. Traffic laws like don't drive through red lights are important because if everyone were driving through red lights, then it would be difficult to get anywhere with cars coming sideways into other cars! If people are not obeying laws then they would get hurt in more than one way. Not setting off fireworks in the city limits is a very important law to obey because if nobody obeyed that law, then there would be so many people setting off fireworks that the city might become ashes!

It is also vital for citizens to defend the nation. Men over the age of eighteen register for the draft so when America needs soldiers, the country can get them and stop others from trying to attack our country. If there were not a draft, then America would not have the soldiers it needs and might not be a country anymore. Without a country, you would not be able to have a say in government any more.

By serving on juries, defending the nation, paying taxes, being an informed voter and obeying laws, citizens can participate in government, and by voting, everyone can have a say in the government.