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Election Day

On Tuesday November 6, 2018, elections all around the U.S. are taking place, reminding everyone of the true meaning of being a U.S. citizen. The fundamental principle for democracy is rooted in voting. With so many controversial topics right now in the US, this election is weighing heavy over the minds of all Americans across the country. The endless implications that come with filling all of these open slots have people staying up, examining the many topics and candidates, and concerned regarding the best choices for our future. These questions can go far past the question of Democrat or Republican; in some cases it is a question of morals and in others it's the quality of American lives.

The privilege of voting is often overlooked. For most, it is just a situation that, once you meet the qualifications, you decide who you think the best candidate is and cast your vote. For others, like Longwood freshman Diego Suffentees, this is just a concept. Diego is a current citizen of Peru and has lived in the United States since he was 5. As a result of not being born here, though, this keeps him from voting in all elections. Each year Diego says it is "frustrating" to be a participant in all the actions of normal civic life, but he doesn't get to have a say in politics of the United States. Diego, who has started the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, says, "Growing up seeing my parents become citizens, and how much pride they take in voting, really inspires me to become one myself."

That is the spirit that is driving more Americans to be involved and interested this Election Day. Following the surprise of the last Presidential election, when many experts had picked former Secretary of State and Senator Hillary Clinton to defeat now-President Donald Trump, the feeling is that anything could happen, and everyone can make a difference with their votes. These possibilities mean that, as exciting as November 6 could be, the real excitement and impacts for our future begin November 7 and in January, once the winning candidates take office.