



I don't know about you, {{FirstName or 'bestie'}}, but sometimes I just need a break from everything happening in politics. But when your entire job is politics, what do you do?

If you're me, you scroll through TikTok – find out how to do that new lip liner trend, listen to weird music mashups, and add all of the books people are talking about to your TBR list.

But politics has a way of seeping into every facet of our lives, even on TikTok – because it affects every facet of our lives.

John Green, one of my favorite authors, [shared a story](#) the other day about a librarian who had called to tell him that they had to pull dozens of books – including his – from the shelves of their high school library because their publicly elected school board members used their power to ban them.

Elections, no matter how small, have consequences.

Elections decide which books get to stay on the shelves. Elections decide which potholes get filled in which neighborhoods. Elections decide if, and who, will have access to birth control and abortion care.

I know how much it can feel like your one vote won't change anything – and a lot of time and money has gone into making us feel that way.

But six votes (that's a full minivan) changed the course of a Congressional seat here in Iowa and one vote can change it back.

We are not helpless. Our vote is our voice and there is too much at stake to be silent right now.

Today is the first day to vote early – [let's get out there, bring our friends, and make our voices heard.](#)

– Lauren McElmeel, Digital Director