



Ignore them, and they will ignore you. It is you who could bear undesired consequences. Politicians seeking public office gravitate toward people and organizations that share a common philosophy of issues and governance. If their campaigns are successful, they will support those constituents who helped them get elected or reelected. Some people advocate for abolishment of the Department of Education. Alabama and Arizona enacted laws that would make it very difficult for undocumented immigrants to remain in their States. Many of those immigrants relocated to more lenient States and sanctuary cities. The U.S. prison population exceeds one million, and many of those released seek to regain their voting rights. Cities have filed bankruptcy petitions because of heavy debt burdens, costing their citizens millions of tax dollars and reduced pension benefits. These are just a few examples of issues that affect you, and your fellow citizens.

An educated and participatory citizenry increases good governance. American civil society rests upon the ideals of its citizens who have a vested interest in how their government operates; respects diverse views; and holds people accountable for their actions. It is also based upon a belief that all citizens should contribute to society as a means of ensuring that it continues. The challenges this Nation faces in the 21st Century are daunting, but achievable. A civil society takes a holistic view of the roles and functions of government. Arguments over “small” versus “large” government are necessary ideological debates, but when they are reduced to just the “haves” and “have nots” the principle of common good becomes diluted.