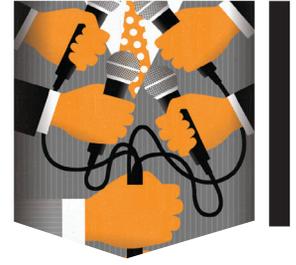


NEWS & VIEWS



From Jim's Desk

Vote!

A woman was running for a local office and her best friend was her campaign manager. The election results came back with a decision not in her favor. The candidate was very disappointed but said to her friend and campaign manager: "At least you voted for me, as did many people." To which her friend did not immediately respond. "You did vote for me, didn't you?" She asked. "You never asked me to," replied her friend and campaign manager.

**Vote like your life
or at least
"way of life"
depends upon it.**

Having been a candidate for public office three times, and a candidate for association office before, I learned

the lesson of never taking anyone's vote for granted. Always ask!

This fall is an important time for our nation and for our association. Both the U.S. and ACA have upcoming elections that are important to our future. Sadly, many Americans do not exercise their sacred right at the ballot box. I wish I could say something different for our association, but I cannot. Fewer than 25% of our members vote in our ACA elections.

You hear this every year in national elections: "This is the most important election our country has ever faced!" The fact is every election is the most important election our country has ever faced! The consequences of "nonimportance" in an election is to not have an election.

It does not go unnoticed that our nation is divided on many, many issues. Racial issues, the justice system, our COVID-19 response, taxes, health care, international relations and many other issues have divided us. As one person, I certainly do not have an answer to how to unite us.



I can only pray that our president, our Congress, and our state and local governments figure out solutions to our challenges that unite us, not divide us.

But the one thing I can say is that if you're on the sidelines, not voting, it's pretty hypocritical to criticize when the voting is over and the decisions on these issues are being made.

So, here's the deal: VOTE!

Vote like your life or at least "way of life" depends upon it.

Vote for the USA, and vote for ACA!!

James A. Gondles Jr., CAE
ACA Executive Director