



Minnesota State College Student Association

MSCSA Announces New Scholarship being provided by

Mark M. Welter
“The Power of One Vote”

Five (5) - \$500 Scholarships

The Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA) is seeking applications from current Minnesota State college and university students for “The Power of One Vote” Scholarship. This program is sponsored through the generosity of Mark M. Welter, Ph.D. Five (5) \$500 scholarships (maximum of one (1) per institution) will be given to current Minnesota State Colleges and Universities students and for those continuing their education within the Minnesota State system. PSEO students are not eligible for the scholarship.

The five (5) recipients will be selected based on their understanding of The Activity and responses to six (6) essay questions, double-spaced and numbered appropriately.

To submit your application for one of the five (5) \$500 scholarships, email the completed essay questions to MSCSA at ed@mcsca.org by Friday, October 28, 2016.

If you are selected to receive a \$500 scholarship you will be asked permission to allow MSCSA to publicize your essay online and in print format. Not granting permission for publication will in no way impact your current scholarship or opportunity to receive future scholarships.

Timeline:

- September 15, 2016 - Announcement all MnSCU institutions
- October 28, 2016, end of day – Application deadline
- November 7, 2016 – Five (5) scholarship recipients announced
- November 18, 2016 – Scholarship checks sent to appropriate Minnesota State college or university

THE ACTIVITY

“The Power of One Vote”

1649 – One vote in Parliament convicted Charles I, King of England, and he was executed on January 30. This forever ended “divine right” of English kings, and assured the place of representative government via Parliament. From this time on, England led the world in the gradual adoption of democracy. By 2003, over 70% of the world’s nations had parliamentary (representative) governments.

1776 – By one vote, in a meeting of the Continental Congress, English (vs. German) became the nation’s language.

1845 – One vote in Congress brought Texas into the Union. Texas had been an independent nation that had separated from Mexico by way of the Alamo, etc.

1868 – One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from being removed from office at his impeachment trial. This preserved the power of the President. Otherwise, we would have likely had a government run by a cumbersome 435-person committee.

1876 – One electoral vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency and ended Reconstruction. His rival, Samuel Tilden, had roughly 1 million more popular votes, a situation very similar to our 2000 Bush/Gore election.

1920 – With the change of a single vote, the Tennessee Legislature became the 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment allowing women to vote in all elections.

1923 – By one vote, Adolph Hitler was elected leader of the Nazi Party.

1941 – The Selective Service Act (draft) passed Congress by one vote in August. This was just ten weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked and WWII began.

2000 – A single Supreme Court vote (5-4) gave Florida’s electoral votes to George W. Bush, making him president even though Al Gore, his opponent, had 500,000 more votes in the popular election.

Important: The Bush decision preserved what many deem our most vital American tradition: making decisions with ballots, not bullets. Many other nations throughout history have descended into riots, rebellions, even civil war over similar disputes.

“The Power of One Vote” Worksheet

Instructions: Read the activity and answer below questions. You must use information from The Activity or traditional research in the case of the Magna Carta.

1. In what principal way was the execution of Charles I of Scotland a “game changer” for government in the Western World? (50-100 words)
2. What type of government did almost all nations keep for almost 400 years after the executive of Charles I? Name two nations that still have monarchs. (50 words)
3. King John I of England reluctantly signed the Magna Carta on June 15, 1215. Use Google to explain how the Magna Carta affected the following (50 words each part):
 - a. The principles of taxation.
 - b. Jury trials.
 - c. The resignation of President Nixon, August 9, 1974.
4. How did the one vote for Selective Service in August 1941 help make WWII victory possible for the United States? (50 words)
5. What vital principle concerning succession of power did the 2000 Supreme Court Bush decision uphold? (50 words)
6. Combine five facts from the above and a student’s summer registration experience (either your own experience or an interview of a participant) and convince a hypothetical person to vote for Clinton or Trump. (200 words)

For example:

- a. “You should vote for _____ because history’s experience (give specific examples from above) tells us that and/or
- b. The following tactics (yours and/or participants’) worked this summer.

Submissions: Send completed essay, double-spaced, identifying which question you are answering, in MS Word as a file attachment to ed@mscsa.org.

Questions: Call MSCSA 651.203.9464.