NEWSLETTER

WebParenTip, Volume 9, #10 for 10-1-08

DON'T YOU DARE NOT VOTE!

Thirty-five days from today is Election Day. Finally! It's been a long slog through the overly long primaries. Even a political junkie like me gets bored once in a while listening to the pundits and the pollster pontificate. And I get angry at the media for playing "Gotcha!"or focusing on positive or negative sound bites instead of dealing with the issues.

This is the most important election of my life (and I'm old enough to have voted in many elections!). Our nation has so many problems facing it that it is scary. Will we have the leaders, the resources, and the will to tackle multiple problems simultaneously? Where do we start: the economy, health care, energy independence, the environment, education?

Without getting too partisan let me urge you to think of your children, and all the children of this great nation, when you go to the polls. Vote for candidates that are pro-children and families. Study what candidates say about the ISSUES not how good or bad their sound bites are. Spend some time on candidates' websites. Think about our problems and how best to solve them.

But the most important political task you must do on November 4 is VOTE! If you haven't already done so, begin to involve your children NOW!

Talk about the election and the issues. Remind your kids how important it is to be informed and to vote. If you intend that your children grow up to be good citizens (every parent should consider this part of their job description) be political and teach them about political issues. Do you want your grandchildren to be good citizens? Be sure to involve your

kids in the political process as a significant variable in whether people vote is whether their parents voted. You are key.

Take your children to the polls if possible or let them help you fill out a mail-in ballot. If even your preschooler doesn't know the name, party, and your thoughts about the presidential candidates by Halloween I'll flunk you in Parenting Politics 101!