

Why I Plan to Vote This November

by Starhawk

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I've often called myself an anarchist, yet I have voted in just about every election since I was old enough. Here are some of my reasons:

Out of respect for the work of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Alice Paul and all the suffragists who struggled so long and hard to win women's right to vote. Also out of respect for Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, and the civil rights workers who gave their lives in Voters' Rights struggles.

Because you don't gather power by throwing away the power you do have, even when it doesn't seem like enough.

Because more than thirty years of political activism have taught me that the lesser of two evils can still be a hell of a lot better than the worser of two evils.

This year's elections are especially crucial. Whatever we think of Clinton and his behavior, the extreme right is using his indiscretions to mount a vicious campaign that will remove any obstacles to their concentration of wealth and power. If we all stay home from the polls, they will succeed and we will be well on our way to the frightening aspects of the future I envisioned in *The Fifth Sacred Thing*. If we stop them, they may learn that campaigns of titillation and humiliation don't work.

So I urge you all this year to put aside disgust and despair, and vote. Right now it's one of the most powerful acts we can take.

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