

## MAKE ELECTION DAY A FAMILY TRADITION



If you've never thought about how influential your voting stories and experiences might be to your children and their friends, your nieces, nephews, cousins and all the young people you care about, it's not too late to start. Who might you influence by sharing your own story about a voting experience or tradition?

Martin and Elianna Goldman share their family tradition for Election Day –

*“Martin and I wanted to raise Aaron as a civic-minded and volunteer-oriented individual. Anytime that Martin and I vote, we take Aaron with us. It could be school board elections, primaries, gubernatorial, presidential... we capture Aaron's participation with a photo. In the earliest photo (2008) Aaron had just turned 1 yr old! He hadn't even gotten his first haircut yet!*



*Speaking of long hair, one of the photos is from 2020...when we voted by mail at our Town Hall during the height of the pandemic (even if Aaron couldn't get a haircut during Covid, he wouldn't miss an opportunity to help us vote). Charmingly, some of the poll workers at our local polling site have seen Aaron grow from a baby. They are excited by the semi-annual photos which we always take.*



*“Our voting experience is the product of strong family values from generations of immigrants who came before us. About the time our great-grandparents emigrated to this country, women were given the right to vote. Leaving a country where you had limited rights, arriving in a country where there was free speech and the right to vote, it is no wonder they treasured voting as a gift and encouraged it in each subsequent generation.”*

If you've never thought of taking your young children with you to the voting booth or drop box, why not start now? Begin a tradition of voting as a family. It's never too early to model a sense of civic engagement and civic responsibility for your children.

Harriet Warner shares her family tradition for inspiring voters -

*“My son and daughter were raised with an understanding of how important voting was to our family. As each of their friends turned eighteen they knew they would be*

*invited to our home where I would register them to vote. These young people are now in their fifties and sixties, raising young new voters of their own. When they reminisce with my son and daughter they always remember that the start of their voting life began in my kitchen, on or about their eighteenth birthday, with the gift of a completed voter registration form and a cookie."*

If you've never thought about ways you can reach out to help others start on the road to civic engagement, why not start now? Work with the League of Women Voters or other non-profit, non-partisan community organizations to help with voter registration. Data shows that first-time voters tend to stay voters. It's never too early to instill a sense of civic engagement and civic responsibility in a young person.

Reggie Musolf shares her Election Day tradition –

*"My husband Bill and I voted together for almost fifty years. We never missed a single election! Prior to his passing last year, and prior to Covid, we always walked to our polling location. As we signed the polling book, we commented on how many times our signatures appeared. We'd chat with the poll workers and ask how the turnout was going. At dinnertime we ordered Chinese take out and sat in front of the TV watching election results until we couldn't keep our eyes open, hoping to hear that our candidate(s) had won. Now, I vote via Mail-In-Ballot. As I fill out my ballot and drive to my local secure drop box to deposit it, my husband and all the memories we gladly shared performing our civic duty and this sacred right are with me."*



Help make voting more than just an obligation or a responsibility ... make voting part of a tradition. Attach voting to a happy, fun experience. Think about ways you can get family and friends together at the polls, around the local drop box, or celebrate with a gathering at home. Then share your story with us.

[LWVNJGNBA@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNJGNBA@gmail.com)

Primary Day is June 7, 2022. Early voting dates are June 3<sup>rd</sup> -June 5<sup>th</sup>. Be there with bells on! That would make a great photo!