

My Right to Vote

I was born in north Portland in 1966 and got into drugs and trouble with the law at about age 14. After doing a couple of years as a juvenile I went on to a career as a drug dealer and convict, eventually going to prison 10 times, 6 times in Oregon and 4 times in Washington. We commonly just accept things that we hear and never really investigate for ourselves to find out whether or not we can do something about it. I always heard that once you went to prison you were just automatically denied the right to vote. And for many years that was the case, but thanks to a handful of people who cared enough to change the system my right to register and vote has been restored. I registered right here at Hands Across the Bridge and in the last election I voted for the very first time in 45 years. Just about everyone has an opinion about how to run things but very few actually let their voice be counted in the ballot box. I for one believe that each and every one of us has a duty as a citizen to stand up for our beliefs and cast our vote. So if you have not registered yet, please do so. It does not cost anything to vote but not voting may end up costing you a lot more in the long run. Thank you for coming out today, thank you for listening, God bless each of you and God bless America!

