

Elections have consequences. There is always a cost. In the last election your vote or your failure to vote has given us today's situation – locally and nationally. If you are happy ... great! If not, *you must change for a change.* That change could be choosing your candidates more carefully before you go to the polls and pull that lever.

For others, it may be as simple as deciding to get registered and care enough to exercise your right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been called the single most effective piece of civic rights legislation ever passed by Congress. It was effective because it removed barriers to the ballot box. But many of us have placed barriers in our own way. Failure to vote has a cost.

In Australia the law says it is every voter's duty to vote. If a voter fails to vote, without a valid and sufficient reason, they will be fined. The first offense is \$20, and subsequent offense is \$50. Electors who do not pay the fine could lose their driver's license. **What is your cost for failing to vote?**

Dr. J Thomas Smith

Majic 102.1

Sunday Morning Live

October 15, 2017