

Sienna Frederic
6th Grade
Plaza Middle School
Virginia Beach

Suffragists like Houston believed that all voters should be informed about issues. When you are of voting age, how will you make sure that you can cast an informed vote? How can you ensure that others make informed decisions? I'm excited about voting when I am 18 years old. I can't wait until I enter my voting booth and pull the lever for my favorite candidate and laws for the first time. I am grateful for everything the suffragists fought for so women could vote. The women in my life—my mom, my two grandmothers, my great-grandmother, and my aunts—always tell me about women's rights, and how proud I should be for women "standing up" for what is right. I am lucky that I am bicultural; my mother is American and my father is French, two great countries known for their strong democracies. Both my grandmothers have marched in demonstrations and believe in the right to a good education and the right to vote, just like Nora Houston, the famous Virginia suffragette who fought for laws to improve conditions for working women and children, and for our right to vote. However, a right to education is very important to voting. Going to the polls without knowing what is important to your candidate, your family, and your community is like making a cake without knowing the ingredients. This is called informed voting. An informed voter is an educated citizen, someone who is knowledgeable about important world, national, and local issues. I believe I am already on the path to becoming an informed voter. I attend school regularly and work hard to learn new things. I listen to the teachers and ask questions all the time. While the news is sometimes complicated, I try to watch a little with my parents and ask them questions. Knowing three languages and having the experience of living in France helps me understand two different points of view of the news and makes me more open to all types of experiences. When I get older, I would like to work with children who do not have the same opportunities as me and tell them about what's happening in the world. I would like to give them a voice in the world of voting too.