



## Why HER Vote Counts

Because elections today frequently are won by tiny margins, the mobilization of students – especially young feminist women – has the potential to change the political landscape in many states and perhaps the country as a whole. Remember, in 2000 the presidential election was decided by only 537 votes.

Only 64% of the eligible voters in the United States voted in 2004. Worse yet, only 47% of 18-24 year olds voted—as compared to 71% of seniors 65 years and older. No wonder Social Security is the third rail of politics while young women's issues like reproductive rights, peace, affirmative action, and the environment take a back seat. Young people, especially young women, have enormous rights at stake in this election. Yet, we are the least registered and least voting population in the country. Among women, 18- to 24-years old vote less than any other age group. It's time to change these numbers!

### Women Are Under-Represented – It's Time for Equality!

Even though women are 51% of the population, women hold only 17% of the seats in the U.S. Congress – we are 76 of the 435 U.S. House of Representatives seats, and only 16 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats. Only 4.1% of the U.S. House seats are held by women of color. There are no women of color in the U.S. Senate.

The picture in our state legislatures is better, but still dismal. Women today hold only 23.6% of state legislative seats nationwide. At the current rate of gain for women in elective office, it will take over 200 years to achieve parity with men in Congress.

Young women need to register, vote, and run for government in record numbers. So Get Out HER Vote this fall! Remember, under-representation begins in student governments. If you are ready to change the gendered division of power, join our campaign, From Campus to Congress, to promote feminist leadership. Run for office on your campus in the Spring of 2008!!! Visit [www.feministcampus.org](http://www.feministcampus.org) for more information.

### The Gender Gap

Increasing voter participation among young women has the power to transform politics. Women vote differently than men; this measurable difference in the way women and men vote and view issues is called the "gender gap." This gap can be significant, and frequently (since 1980) has determined the outcome of elections. When feminists are mobilized, the face of power can change.

Consider this: A *Ms.* poll (Summer 2006) revealed that the clear majority, 53%, of *all* American women consider themselves **feminists** as compared to 35% of all men – a whopping 18-point gender gap. The same poll indicated that 55% of women wanted the U.S. to withdraw troops from Iraq immediately or within the year as compared to only 43% of men – a 12-point gender gap. When women vote, we make a difference!

### The Age Gap

Among women, younger women often vote differently than older women. In the 2004 presidential election, young women were more likely to believe that not enough attention was given to women's issues. Check out a few of these differences:

**Prevention of Violence against Women:** 69% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to violence against women while only 46% of older women agreed.

**Equal Pay:** 67% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to equal pay while only 55% of older women agreed.

**Women's Equality Under the Law:** 65% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to women's equality while only 56% of older women agreed.

**Your vote counts! Get to the polls and make the difference this November!**