

UNFUNNY JOKES



How do you make an elephant float? Take one elephant, two scoops of ice cream and one very large glass.

How do keep an elephant from charging? Take away its credit card. Ouch!

Know what else is painful besides these jokes? Telling people that their votes don't matter. Sure, in a national election one less vote may seem like removing one grain of sand from the beach. But the more local the contest the more impact one vote has.

Political decisions should be made at a local level when possible. Human affairs are best handled at the lowest possible level, closest to the affected persons. This is the definition of the Catholic principle of subsidiarity. The opportunity for citizens to participate in decisions that affect their lives is the foundation supporting subsidiarity.

Or to use the language of conventional wisdom, all politics is local.

All politics is local and it's personal. You may not know the names of the candidates for your local school board but today's policy and budget decisions by your local school board will affect the education of your neighborhood kids tomorrow and the wellbeing of society next decade.

The candidate you vote into your State Legislature today will redraw the congressional districts after the decennial census, which will change national politics for a decade.

All politics is local and your primaries are the most opportune moment to practice subsidiarity and participate. Registering people to vote is the simplest community organizing you can undertake.

Oregon's 2014 Primary Election is Tuesday May 20. The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation is Tuesday April 29.

How do you keep an elephant from voting? Convince it that its vote doesn't matter.



Office of Life, Justice, and Peace