



“The full and free exercise of our sacred right and duty to vote is more important in the long run than the personal hopes or ambitions of any candidate for any office in the land.”

**President Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, from a radio address broadcast from the White House on October 5, 1944

---

Serving as President of the United States in the midst of World War II, Roosevelt decided the country would best be served with consistency in the executive branch. Unlike in his third term election when the Democrats pressed him into service at the convention, F.D.R. openly campaigned for a fourth term in office with Harry Truman as his running mate.

In the same speech, President Roosevelt also addressed his concern for ‘the defects in voting laws’ by stating, “The right to vote must be open to our citizens irrespective of race, color or creed, without tax or artificial restriction of any kind. The sooner we get to that basis of political equality, the better it will be for the country as a whole.”

Look for modern examples of individuals running for office at the local, state and national level. Have these candidates expressed any views about the voting rights of the people?

---

This is one of 15 features created to educate and celebrate Law Day, May 1, 2020. Sponsored by the New York Bar Foundation, the New York Newspapers Foundation and produced by the NYNPA News Media Literacy/ Newspaper In Education Program. Copyright 2020. All rights reserved.

