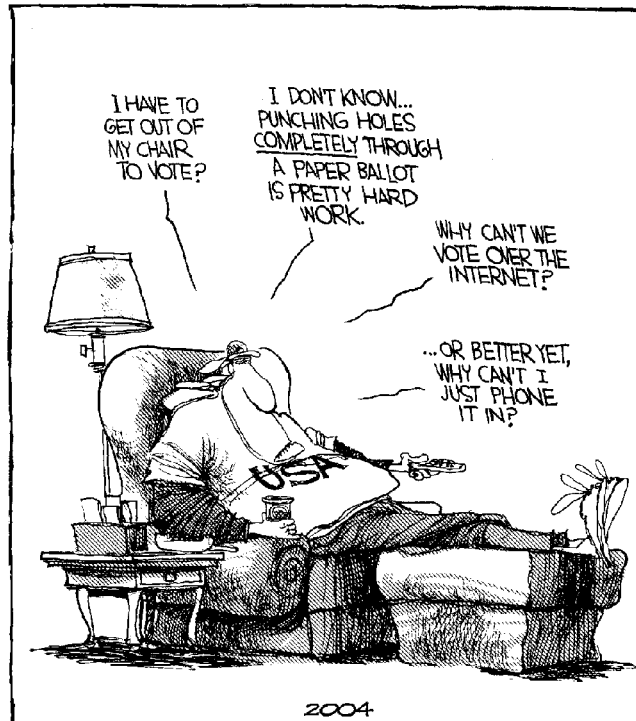


# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

RAMIREZ  
LOS ANGELES TIMES  
SYNDICATED BY NEWS SERVICE



## Tooning in the turnout

By American standards it's typical for half of all eligible voters to stay home on election day. Even with a record turnout for the tightly-contested race of 2004, there will still be a large number of Americans who fail to participate. Is voting a right or a responsibility? Should voting be made mandatory? Some countries, like Australia, do have compulsory voting laws. Would that work for us here?

Cartoons courtesy Mike Ramirez / Los Angeles Times

### Talking points

Cartoonist Mike Ramirez attacks American voter turnout from different directions with the toons presented here.

1. Who is the 1775 patriot demanding liberty or death? What was the context of the quote? Are people as passionate today?
2. Is the 2004 couch potato also a patriot? If you don't vote, can you consider yourself a patriot?
3. There is a concern that if Iraqis don't trust the election process, they won't participate in upcoming elections in that country. With that in mind, explain the Ramirez' toon at right. Hint: Read the headlines.
4. Both these toons deal with voter turnout but each is dealing with a different issue. Which statement is persuasive and which is simply commentary?

### Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Michael Ramirez  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-include-ramirez,1,2243700.sspage>

### Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and discuss the way cartoonists view the election aftermath. Are the cartoonists pleased with the outcome? Explain which party you think the cartoons favor.

