

Voting is one of the great privileges we have as Americans. I believe that we should take this responsibility seriously and we should educate ourselves and understand who and what we are voting for. Having basic quantitative skills is crucial in understanding the information provided to us.

Every day in the paper or on the news is data explaining some important issue. Often the figures are related to the economy, and more specifically, housing. We see the mean value of homes in our area and comparisons to other areas as well as past years. The dropping interest rates are charted and compared almost weekly. There are often stories concerning unemployment and locations where jobs are picking up. Recently there was an article on poverty with statistics and charts comparing numbers with earlier times. All of this information provides me with an idea of how things are improving or declining. With these facts I am able to analyze and evaluate what our government might be doing or not doing to help fix the issues.

Also with the Presidential election a year away we are seeing a lot of polls and projections for the Republican primary. While I think it might be a little early, these numbers and statistics are discussed every night on TV. The data provided impacts how the campaigns are handled as well as influences voters' decisions.

I love the statistics and tables provided in the newspaper. I find the information logical and enlightening. The education numbers are always interesting to me. Right now, like most Americans, I am primarily worried about the economy. The unemployment rate, the rising costs of food and gas and potential tax increases that are displayed in charts, tables and in comparisons are going to play a big part in the decisions I make when I vote. I will scrutinize and evaluate the information using my quantitative skills to make the right choice.