

Political Politeness Pledge



I, _____ pledge to uphold the following principles of political politeness:

1. **Passion, to a Point:** It's okay to have a passion for politics, but in front of your children, watch your words and your tone. Stay away from comments that are derisive and mean-spirited.

2. **Elect to Talk:** Discuss the election with your child, calmly, and in an age-appropriate way. If they show an interest, let them know who you support, and why. Keep your message positive: "Mommy and daddy are voting for _____ because we think he/she has some great ideas for making our country even better."

3. **Address the Opposition:** If your child asks about an opposing candidate, or mentions that a friend's parents have different views, make sure to present this in a positive light. "We are so blessed to live in a country where we have the privilege to vote, and where everyone can vote for the person they think is best for the job."

4. **Debate Issues, Not People:** Remember, little ears overhear everything.. "He's a liar and a cheat" is unacceptable. "I think his fiscal policy is flawed" is more appropriate. Let your children know that you have chosen one candidate over the other because you believe that he/she has the best ideas and suggestions and is the most qualified person for the position at this time.

5. **Keep it Kind:** Kindness is the basic, overarching virtue that we want to instill in our kids. Kindness is a countercultural act and an almost revolutionary stand in an increasingly callous world.

I pledge to always speak kindly and respectfully about politics... especially in front of my children!

Signature