

# Suffrage: *Right or Obligation to Vote?*

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1. Who/ What do we vote for in Philippine Elections?
2. Can a citizen be forced to register?
3. Can a registered voter be penalized for not voting?
4. Can a voter be imprisoned for vote-buying and vote-selling?
5. Can the vote of one voter carry more weight than others?

- We vote for/ in 3 Ps
  1. Persons (*Natural and Juridical, Regular and and Special Elections – Vacancy in Congress, Recall, Postponement and Failure of Elections*)
  2. Policies (*Initiative and Referendum*)
  3. Plebiscites (*LGU creation, dissolution, upgrade/ downgrade, conversion*)
- Suffrage is now a **right**
  - Right to Register or not
  - Right to Vote or not
  - No longer an obligation
  - Prior to the 1987 Constitution, not voting was an election offense
- **Vote-buying and Vote-selling** are election offenses
- Vote of a voter has **same weight** as others