

Happy Tuesday, $[UD:FIRST_NAME||]$!

A friend of mine ran for mayor of her town.

She lost by one vote.

Yes. ONE vote.

So when someone says, “My vote doesn’t matter,” I think about her.

I think about what that one vote meant.

And I think about the people who fought for the opportunity to do something we can sometimes take for granted.

Within living memory, Black Americans faced discriminatory barriers that prevented them from exercising their right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 confronted those barriers.

That history matters to me. I don’t take my right to vote lightly.

Today is Election Day. And showing up like I mean it includes using my voice at the ballot box.

I voted early. Proudly.

I know the political environment can feel toxic.

The arguing. The insults. The difficulty of having a conversation without it becoming a confrontation.

It can be exhausting.

I feel that, too. And I still believe participating matters.

Voting is a fundamental part of our democracy. Having a say in who represents us and makes decisions affecting our lives is something worth exercising and protecting.

I’m often encouraged when someone who hasn’t held political office decides to run because of what’s happening in their community.

Someone sees a need and decides to get involved.

We need people willing to take that step. And we need people willing to pay attention, ask questions, and cast a ballot.

You don’t have to run for office to participate.

If you’re eligible and haven’t voted, make your plan to vote today. Check your polling location and hours through your state or local election office.

If you’ve already voted, thank you for using your voice.

Everything begins and ends with communication. Our ballots are one way we communicate our choices about the future of our communities.

My friend’s election is a reminder I carry with me.

One vote.

I use my voice. I vote.

What will showing up like you mean it look like for you today?

Show Up. Do You.
Paula R Jenkins

Bring this commitment to using your voice into your organization.

Speaking up, listening through disagreement, and having difficult conversations are leadership skills we need throughout the year.

I’m booking 2027 keynotes, workshops, and leadership retreats that help leaders communicate clearly, lead with emotional intelligence, and show up like they mean it.

Planning an event for your leaders? Reply to book a conversation about bringing me in—or introduce me to the person organizing it.

Visual Reminder



I voted early. My voice matters—and so does yours.

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