

“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

By Sophia Rosin

My dear citizens. The greatest attributes of our Democracy are free and fair elections, independent branches of government with separation of powers, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. As I read about events happening around the world from Gaza, Iran, Russia, and China, it reminds me of how fortunate we are as Americans.

Beginning with the fifteenth amendment to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, our democracy has empowered all citizens to have the right to choose their leaders. As a result, this empowerment brings us closer to the ideal society where our elected officials represent the will of all the people and not just the powerful or violent few. A society that is more equitable and united, one that respects and protects its citizen rights.

The independence of our branches of government ensures the separation of powers, facilitates and creates an environment that allows for our democracy to respect our society as a whole and establish a safety net of checks and balances. It creates a system of government that makes its best effort to protect its citizens against being marginalized. Unlike the Islamic Republic of Iran, where its autocratic Islamic theocracy attempts to dominate all political groups and religions, and in some cases persecutes them, our great Democracy allows and encourages innumerable political views and religions to coexist.

Our democracy respects the individual and their right to freedom of speech, movement and belief. We tolerate differences and opposing ideas, and value all people. Our democracy allows individual to reach their full potential and this is just one factor that has contributed to the success of this great nation. Our republic has been fortunate in that we have been from our beginnings a melting pot of different cultures and people. Americans are German, Russian, Japanese, Iranian, Korean, Israeli, Palestinian,

and Indian. We are Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hinduist, and Sikhs. We are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, female, male, and non-binary. Our democracy not only allows us but encourages us to be who we are and to accept others for who they are. This embrace of equality goes back to Plato's time, when he said “Democracy... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike.” At the core of our success is the ability to bring

together people from different cultures, races, genders, and religions and give them the opportunity to peacefully coexist. It is this amalgamation of different experiences and perspectives that allows our democracy to be innovative in business, social sciences, art, and individual growth. It is the reason that our democracy is one of a kind. This democracy is certainly not perfect, but it is the sincerest attempt at building a cohesive, empathic, and responsible society.