

# RESPECT OUR SERVICE, RESPECT THE VOTE



September 21, 2010

Dear Ms. Whitman,

As veterans who fought to keep our country safe and to protect the liberty of our fellow Americans, we cherish the right to vote. We vote to honor thousands of our fellow soldiers who cannot exercise this fundamental right because they gave their lives in the pursuit of democracy in Vietnam, in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

You have said that “voting is a precious gift handed down by generations of Americans” and this fall, you are asking millions of Californians to use their right to vote in order to propel you to the State’s highest public office. Yet by failing to vote for most of your adult life, you have shunned the Democratic process generations of our military service members have fought to ensure.

Your failure to vote has been well documented in the news media. You have said your voting record is “unacceptable” but you have failed to provide meaningful answers as to why you didn’t even register to vote for much of your adult life, and voted only sporadically in the last decade.

You frequently criticize our government, and yet you have shirked your American duty to participate in the process of representative government. You did not vote in the 2003 recall election, or in the 2004 or 2006 primary elections in which your party selected its nominees for President and Governor.

Now, after spending your career as a corporate CEO and Wall Street insider you’re spending more than \$100 million to buy the Governor’s office. That’s not the democracy we fought to protect.

California’s veterans deserve to know how you believe you can earn our vote when you have devalued our service by shirking your fundamental duty as an American citizen. We invite you to have an honest discussion with veterans about these issues and your economic plans for our state. We hope that you take this request more seriously than you’ve taken participating in the democracy we fought to protect.

Sincerely,