**Sabrina Epstein** (00:00): Hi, I'm Sabrina Epstein. I live in Baltimore, Maryland right now, but I'm originally from San Antonio, Texas. And I'm a student at Johns Hopkins University.

**Sabrina Epstein** (00:12): If someone were to come up to me and say that their vote didn't count, I would try to encourage people by saying how easy it is to go vote. It doesn't take very long, especially if you go to early voting. During COVID, unfortunately it's been a little bit more complicated to vote and the options have changed, but voting is the start of the process for political engagement in my mind. *And it does count.* I mean, in my congressional district two years ago, the race came down to less than a thousand votes. So if that is so few people, and I know for local elections, it comes down to even fewer so often. So it really does count and it should be so simple to vote. Unfortunately, it isn't always, but it should be. So that would be the way I try to encourage people.

**Sabrina Epstein** (01:17): I definitely grew up with a sense of civic engagement around me. Both of my parents would always go to vote, for local elections also. And for a time, my mom was working as a political organizer on some state issues. So, we were a very civically engaged family, and I'm proud of that. But, even if you're not from a family like that, it might seem intimidating. Like I know I'm privileged to have that background and that my parents encouraged and expected me to vote, but everyone should. You don't have to come from a specific background.