**Jalen shares his thoughts on the importance of voting and using your voice**

Um, I feel like for me it's, it's a privilege to be able to have a voice um in this country now. Um it's also very important because of the climate that we're in um with you know these things happening to us as Black people and we're going through this voter suppression um having to battle that and getting a little taste of what it was like back when, you know, you had the leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King having to lead the Freedom Walk and fighting for the right to vote. So they fought that much and that hard for us to get to this moment.

So it's special to me because I know that I can't not vote. Every voice needs to be heard. Every voice matters. But the Black voice matters most of all. That's what I would definitely say um that it means to me. It's definitely important that all of you all get out to vote. Your voices matter. Um, your perspectives matter.

And also educate yourself. Know more about who the candidates are, you know what they support, what they're going to bring into office. That's always the best thing to do right before you usually start to get into that voting habit is better understanding who you're voting for and not just voting blindly. So that would be my advice and that would be my perspective on voting.