

Hashtags

Why do I see them all the time on Twitter?

Hashtag (#)...You probably wonder why you see so many of them on Twitter. The early adopters of Twitter came up with the idea of putting a hashtag (#) in front of topics to add contexts to their tweets. Journalist in St. Louis started using “#vpdebate” to help organize their tweets about the Vice Presidential debate in September 2008. Now this is used by many people to help search through tweets and discover what others are saying about the same topic they are talking about. Think about so many tweets with 140 characters....so much information, but not an easy way to search through it. Hashtags resolve it!

Now you might be asking, “How do I know if someone is already talking about this topic and a hashtag has been established for the topic?” One specific sight to review is hashtags.org. The website allows you to browse the current hashtags in live time by clicking on the hashtags listed to determine who created it and for what reason. Once you find an active hashtag, you can immediately become involved in the conversation. After you have been involved in the conversation, you can research, save and continue it by searching and entering the hashtag used. You can review the conversation and learn others views even if you were not available at the time the original tweets started.

This can be used in so many ways in Republican politics. We know that in our changing society politicians and both political groups are following the many social medias that are available. By using hashtags, tweets can be organized and help get out our views to politicians. I have even seen this being used on Facebook meaning this could become the new rave here also.

Don't forget to include your hashtag the next time you are having a major discussion on Twitter and want to get the topic organized for others to view!

By Terri Flow

