

# College Campus ó Voter Registration

Every member of the campus community can become a part of the UCC Our Faith Our Vote campaign. We suggest that you try working with the college presidents, dean of students, student leaders, chaplains, registrar, and employee groups in developing creative and effective ways to both encourage voter registration and increase voter participation. The campaign can serve as a focal point for common discourse, promote the vital responsibility of citizenship and enhance the role of the campus as a setting where ideas and issues are openly and vigorously debated.

There will be many organizations, including Democratic and Republican Party organizations, registering voters, holding events and rallies, and making phone calls to get out the student vote. If you have a critical mass of UCC students or students of faith, we suggest you work as a group within a larger effort óunless of course your group is the only one or large enough to run a campus program of your own.

## Ideas for Voter Registration

ÉAttach a voter registration form to each course registration form or set up a voter registration table during course registration. If your institution has telephone registration, add a message encouraging all students to register and informing them where they can obtain a form. Be sure to coordinate with the registrar.

ÉInclude voter registration information in paychecks, with student loan disbursements, and course catalogs.

ÉWork with the dean of students or the person who organizes orientation sessions. Make a presentation to the students, distribute voter registration cards, and help them complete the forms.

ÉMail voter registration forms to all students

ÉEncourage faculty to discuss and distribute voter registration materials in class

ÉHost a gathering around a particular campus event and register all your guests.

ÉSet up a registration table outside your campus cafeteria, sporting events, concerts, plays, etc.

ÉGo door-to-door in the dorms. Take along clipboards loaded with voter registration cards and start walking the halls.

## Things to Remember

ÉIt is important that you have both federal and state voter registration forms on hand. Some people may register to voter locally, others may prefer using their home address.

ÉEncourage people to register locally ó students live in the area a minimum of nine months out of the year for four years, students can establish residency, and graduates tend to stay close to their schools after graduation.

ÉInclude absentee ballot information with all voter registration material (refer to the absentee ballot page in the organizer's tool kit)

ÉEven if you have made voter registration forms available to every student and staff member on your campus, your work isn't done. You need to establish a system to collect all the completed forms. Set up secure drop boxes in front of every building on campus, especially in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

## Completed Voter Registration Forms

The most important step of all is to mail in the completed forms within 7-10 days of collecting them. To save time and postage, just bundle up all the cards, put them in an envelope or box, and mail them to the elections office in your state or local jurisdiction. Or better yet, hand-deliver all the cards to the elections office yourself.

*Candidates often make campaign appearances on college campuses. Encourage your friends to attend, and prepare questions for the candidates. To find out more about the issues and candidate positions check the web links located on the Our Faith Our Vote home page.*

Some of this information is excerpted from National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities's handbook. For more information, log on to: [www.naicu.edu/VoteVoice2002/02yourVoteYourVoice.pdf](http://www.naicu.edu/VoteVoice2002/02yourVoteYourVoice.pdf)