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Making a date

Campus organizations work on deadline to get out the vote

Matt Rocheleau, Collegian Staff

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The project registers students on college campuses across the U.S and plan to register about 25,000 in New England.

The group recognizes some students have already registered on their own, but others may need some help.

"We want to be there as a resource for students who do not have a connection on how to register to vote," said Perry.

The Cannabis Reform Coalition, Center for Education Policy Advocacy, UMass Labor Coalition, Civic Initiative, and the Women of Color Leadership Network are also among those encouraging students to register.

Some professors who did not have class on Tuesday due to the Monday schedule were asked to e-mail their students the link to a website with information on how to register, Perry said.

"It has definitely been a group effort," said Abbyad.

Beyond the support from numerous groups around campus, students are being motivated to register for other reasons.

For students from Massachusetts, ballot questions like the call to repeal the state income tax and the issue of decriminalizing marijuana have increased student interest to register for this election, said Perry.

"There are definitely things that are grabbing students' attention," she said, because the issues affect higher public education and people's lifestyle directly.

The groups hope today's last-minute efforts will help them reach their goals for student registration.

"When people are told there is a deadline they are much more responsive," said Perry.

After today's deadline, the New Voters Project will start another campaign urging students to get out and vote on Election Day.

Students who filled out registration cards on campus were asked to provide their name and phone number. Groups like the New Voters Project, UMass Democrats and MASSPIRG have said they will call students to remind them to vote and inform them of their polling location.

They will also follow up with students who are using absentee ballots to make sure the students received and submitted their ballot correctly, said Eihorn.

Students can also sign up for an e-mail or text message reminder to be sent on Election Day.

State voter registrations must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. on October 15. Online registration is also available at www.studentvote.org.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mrochele@student.umass.edu.

POLL

This month, UMass Chaplain Kent Higgins was reprimanded by the University for offering credits to students for their participation in the Obama campaign. Should a state university offer credits to students for partisan campaigning?

- Yes -- it encourages educated citizenship.
- No -- it compromises the University's ethic.
- It's all the same to me.

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24 Hour News

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