The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

Making a date

Campus organizations work on deadline to get out the vote

Matt Rocheleau, Collegian Staff

Issue date: 10/15/08 **Section:** News

Media Credit: John Chou / Collegian
[Click to enlarge]

The five-campus University of Massachusetts System hopes to register 8,000 students to vote in the upcoming presidential election by today's deadline.

At UMass Amherst, several groups are making a final push to reach the specific campus' goal of registering 5,000 students.

The Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG), University Democrats, and Cannabis Reform Coalition have combined to register 1,500 students as of Tuesday night with a goal of 3,000 by the end of today, said Tracie Konopski, MASSPIRG campus organizer.

The Student Government Association had registered 1,000 students as of last night and hopes to total 1,200 by the deadline, said SGA president Malcolm Chu.

"We've been registering a lot of freshman and students who weren't registered two years ago," said Yasmin Abbyad, vice chair of MASSPIRG. "We will definitely get close to our goal."

MASSPIRG will continue to hand out voter registration cards today across campus, especially at bus stops along North Pleasant Street. Members can be spotted wearing bright yellow t-shirts displaying the web address www.studentvote.org, where students can register online, said Abbyad.

The SGA has been visiting classrooms and lecture halls to hand out registration cards, provide information and answer students' questions, said Chu.

The University Democrats have also been visited classrooms where they were invited, said club president Emma Einhorn. The group has registered about 550 students and handed out over 600 absentee ballots, she said.

"We are not just focused on getting students registered, we want to give students the opportunity to vote," said Einhorn.

MASSPIRG, the SGA and UMass Democrats plan to organize a bussing service to bring students from campus to several polling stations in Amherst so they can vote on November 4. Unlike past elections, there will not be a place for students to vote on campus this year. Instead, students will be directed to one of three locations based on where they live on campus.

The New Voters Project, a nonpartisan effort to register young people and get them to the polls on Election Day, has focused on "dorm storms," or knocking on doors in residence halls and reminding students to register, said Katie Perry, the project's campaign coordinator.

Continued...

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.

Submit Vote
View Results

24 Hour News

The Massachusetts Daily Collegian has an 'open door' policy with regards to reader comments. In the interest of facilitating an open discourse, comments are not screened or edited for spelling, mechanics or content. Comments on our website cannot be verified by The Collegian and in no way represent the opinions of The Massachusetts Daily Collegian or its staff.

Be the first to comment on this story

Name: (required)

Email: (required)

NOTE: Email address will not be published

Website:

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

I am not posting spam. I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

Post

News

Making a date
Sisters to hold domestic violence vigil
New head for UM Med
Economist Pollin headlines UMass faculty lecture series
Fall River woman dies on way to watch Lipizzaner Stallions

Arts & Living

Humans, Zombies rise again - again
UMass undergrad crafts comedic musical
'Blindness' falters under critical eye
Western delivers beautiful cinematics, artful direction

Editorial / Opinion

Two parties, two ideas, nothing done
Technology gone bad
Putting some punch behind the insanity plea

Sports

Football: Nelson, Cruz thriving on offense
Hockey: Mixed results during opening weekend
Men's Soccer: Scoring-drought reaches four games
UMass Notebook: Kellogg adds two more recruits
A-10 Men's Soccer: Fordham, Dayton impressing

National College Advertising and Marketing | Privacy Policy (8/15/07) | Terms of Use (4/28/08)
Content Submission Agreement (8/23/07) | Copyright Compliance Policy (8/25/07) | RSS Terms of Use

© The Daily Collegian

Powered by **College Publisher**

College Publisher powered by and NETWORKS