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MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

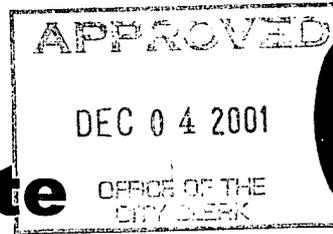
FROM: CITY CLERK *vb*

DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2001

SUBJECT: YOUTH VOTE

On Tuesday November 27, 2001, Ms. Alyssa Ferree, representing Youth Vote spoke at the afternoon council meeting requesting a resolution of support.

Ms. Ferree was advised to forward the information to the city clerk for the preparation of a supporting resolution. That resolution is attached for your adoption. Also attached is the material provided by Ms. Ferree on Youth Vote.



california youthvote

Youth Vote Statement of Principles

The young people of this country care deeply about the future. Survey after survey shows that young people are more involved than ever in efforts to help improve our local communities through community service and charity work.

Unfortunately, however, youth participation in the political process is the lowest among any age group – in the 1996 elections, only 32% of 18-24 year olds voted. These numbers are part of a twenty-year decrease in the numbers of young people voting.

A key to a healthy, functioning democracy is the active participation of its citizens. If people do not participate in the political process while they are young, it is unlikely they will do so as they grow older. The current trend, therefore, is a dangerous one for this country's future.

Young people do believe that voting is important – 88% said so in a recent survey. However, young people from across the political spectrum consistently report that the single biggest reason they do not vote is because they believe politicians do not address the issues young people are concerned about.

As a leader in my community, I believe it is of utmost importance to take immediate action to re-engage young people in the political process. Therefore, I support the California Youth Vote Platform, which includes:

- Inclusion of a televised, youth-oriented debate in next year's Gubernatorial elections, in which young people write the questions in which the candidates answer.
- Support for a statewide policy that would allow Californian's to register and vote on Election Day.
- Aggressive and creative implementation of the Federal Higher Education Act, which requires publicly funded colleges and universities to make a "good faith effort" to supply incoming students with voter registration forms.
- Greater inclusion of hands-on civic participation opportunities in the curriculum of high schools and colleges in California.

NAME	TITLE	PHONE	EMAIL	DATE
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california youthvote

A project of: The Tides Center, CALPIRG Charitable Trust, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, UC Student Association, Rock the Vote, APIA Vote!, California State Student Association (CSSA), ACORN, Organization of Chinese Americans, and Black Youth Vote

About Youth Vote



Young people are helping to improve their communities in record numbers. A recent survey found that nearly three-fourths of college students say they have done volunteer work for an organization or cause they believe in over the last few months.

Unfortunately, voting rates among young people have been declining for the last twenty years - in the last few election cycles, only 20% of young people between the ages of 18 and 24 voted in national elections and only 5% for local elections, less than half that of older voters.

When asked why this is the case, young people overwhelmingly respond that they do not believe politicians address the issues young people care about and feel that voting is not an effective tool to make change.

Youth Vote is a youth-led effort made up of youth-oriented organizations representing 500,000 young people based on over 35 California college campuses and communities, set up to get more young people involved in the political process by both making politicians address young people's concerns and making participation in politics more accessible to young people.

Voter Registration Project

In 1998, Congress reauthorized the Federal Higher Education Act, and included a requirement that higher education institutions "make a good faith effort to distribute a mail voter registration form, requested and received from the State, to each student enrolled in a degree or certificate program and physically in attendance at the institution, and to make such forms widely available to students at the institution".



The Act deliberately gives Universities a great deal of flexibility in implementing the law, and most Universities have already taken steps to comply. We see the spirit of this law as an integral part of what needs to be done in order to reengage young people in the political process.

On most campuses today, it is easier for a student to apply for a credit card than to register to vote. However, by taking a few simple steps and allocating a modest amount of resources, Universities can make registering to vote an integrated part of the University educational experience and boost existing efforts by student leaders to involve their fellow students in the political process.

We are working with institutions of higher education in California to embrace the spirit of the Federal Higher Education Act requirements, go beyond mere "compliance" and, instead, develop a plan to integrate the process of registering to vote into the University experience.

What Universities Can Do

Set a benchmark for student election participation

Setting a benchmark for student participation in this country's democratic system is a powerful way for a university to indicate its commitment to this end. There are many ways to set these benchmarks - some universities may opt for a general commitment to increase participation, others may wish to set numerical goals based on existing student registration and voting rates.

Implement methods that make the option of registering to vote an integrated part of the university experience

The Youth Vote coalition has designed a list of items that Universities can implement in order to achieve the above objectives. Many of the ideas on this list come from items that Universities in California have already implemented. Most of these items involve minimal additional resources, either because they would simply "piggyback" on existing University operations or be a vendor requirement. Some items would require some additional resource commitment from the University, but a small one that would serve an extremely valuable purpose. We've divided the list into four categories: items that can be incorporated into existing University operations, items that the University can require to be a part of the operations of campus vendors, items that the University can encourage faculty and other academic programs to adopt, and items that are specifically designed to assist and bolster non-partisan voter registration efforts by Student Governments and other organizations. We encourage Universities to adopt at least one or more items from each category, as a well-rounded strategy is essential to make this program work.

Track the success of the methods implemented

Over the next 2-3 years, we would like to statistically determine which methods are most effective. The Youth Vote Coalition is working to link universities with research teams willing to do such studies - a team of Yale University researchers with extensive experience in such research has already offered to help and we are looking for a few California universities willing to collaborate with the Yale team.



www.youthvote.org

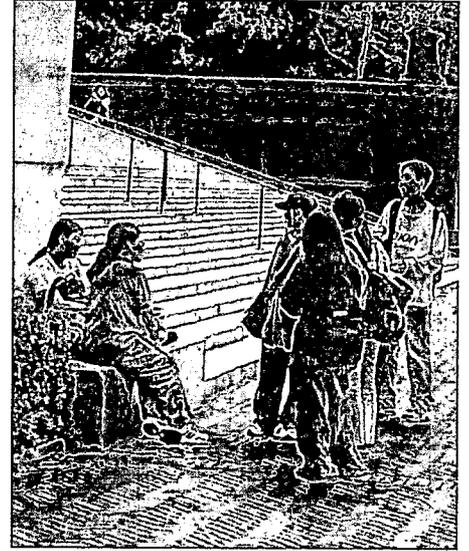
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - Nick Galasso, c/o UCSA, 385 Grand Ave., Suite 302, Oakland, CA 94610, p. 510-834-8272, norcal@youthvote.org
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - Merriah Fairchild, c/o CALPIRG, 3435 Wilshire Blvd. #380, Los Angeles, CA 90010, p. 213-251-3680 x303, socal@youthvote.org

Things Universities Can Do to Encourage Student Voter Registration

This list is by no means exhaustive, but we do think it represents some of the best possible ways with which universities can make registering to vote an integrated part of the educational experience.

1. Items that can be incorporated into existing University operations. These suggestions focus on ways that students can be given the option to register to vote when they come in contact with official University operations, such as websites, registration lines and campus mailings.

- ♦ Voter registration cards are available in all University offices where students regularly go to conduct some form of University business – obvious places include: registration and cashier's offices, financial aid offices, student activities offices, departments, student union, dining halls, etc.
- ♦ Voter registration cards are available in all packets, mailings and other materials sent to all incoming students over the summer, during orientations and the first week of school.
- ♦ The University puts a voter registration form in every student's mailbox 2-3 times a year.
- ♦ A voter registration form is put in each quarterly/semester tuition bill mailing.
- ♦ Links to on-line registration on all official University web pages, especially the ones most used by students, such as class registration, bill payment, and university record pages. Provide, simple, two-step method for faculty to put link on their web pages as well.
- ♦ Send a mass e-mail to students from University President/Chancellor 2-3 times a year reminding them to register and to vote, providing the appropriate web page link.
- ♦ Do the same with a campus wide phone message to all students, announcement at sports games on billboards, etc.
- ♦ Have the housing department provide have voter registration forms for move in and move out and make sure a voter registration form is on the bed of every dorm room on move-in day (or in the supplied packet) with a drop box located conveniently – this is important so that students can do automatic change of addresses.
- ♦ Have it be a clear University policy that a student may be excused from a class, or exam (the student must make up the exam, of course), in order to vote on Election Day, provided he or she displays proof of voting to the faculty member.



2. Items that the University can require to be a part of the operations of campus vendors. These suggestions focus on ways that students can be given the option to register to vote when they come in contact with University-related vendors, such as the campus bookstore, credit card vendors, etc. In these cases, any costs can be borne by vendors, either through a slight increase in the vendor fee or on a cost-by-cost basis.

- ♦ The University bookstore, other campus commercial operations puts voter registration cards in all shopping bags (where the credit card applications are).
- ♦ All campus vendors must provide voter registration forms at their tables and turn in filled out forms to a central office each day.

3. Items that the University cannot require per se, but can encourage faculty and other academic programs to adopt. These suggestions focus on things that the University, in the spirit of academic freedom, cannot (and should not) require, but can encourage faculty and other academic programs to incorporate into their curriculum, such as providing extra credit for students who participate in a voter registration drive.

- ♦ Service learning or others forms of extra credit provided to students who participate in a non-partisan, campus-wide voter registration effort.

4. Items that are specifically designed to assist and bolster non-partisan voter registration efforts by Student Governments and other organizations. These include ways the University can assist existing efforts to involve students in the political process, such as providing resources that allow student leaders to organize shuttles to off-campus polling places, etc.

- ♦ Provide resources that pay for visibility, such as "Register to Vote" t-shirts, buttons, stickers, etc.
- ♦ Pay for an ad in the student newspaper, or a voter registration form insert once or twice a year in conjunction with a student-led effort.
- ♦ Endorse and provide assistance for student efforts to establish on-campus polling places, ensure fair districting, etc.
- ♦ Provide funding for shuttles to take students to the polls on Election Day

To Find Out More

Contact your campus student government association, CALPIRG chapter or the main office for the Youth Vote Campaign:

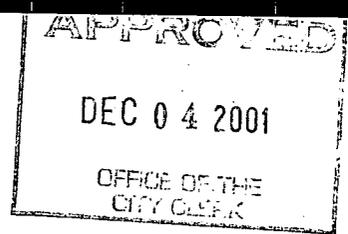
California Youth Vote Coalition

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social@youthvote.org
www.youthvote.org
attn: Merriah Fairchild

california
youthvote

A project of: The Tides Center, CALPIRG Charitable Trust, the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, UC Student Association, Rock the Vote, APIA Vote!, California State Student Association (CSSA), ACORN, Organization of Chinese Americans, and Black Youth Vote

www.youthvote.org



RESOLUTION NO. 2001.902

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, PLEDGING SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM KNOWN AS "CALIFORNIA YOUTH VOTE" AND ADOPTING THE YOUTH VOTE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the young people of this country care deeply about the future, and appear to be more involved than ever in efforts to help improve our local communities through community service and charity work;

WHEREAS, it unfortunately appears that youth participation in the political process is the lowest among any age group - in the 1996 elections, only 32% of 18-24 year olds voted; these numbers being a part of a twenty-year decrease in the numbers of young people voting;

WHEREAS, a key to a healthy, functioning democracy is the active participation of its citizens;

WHEREAS, young people do believe that voting is important as found in a recent survey but do not vote because they believe politicians do not address the issues young people are concerned about;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. To support the California Youth Vote Platform which includes: (a) inclusion of a televised, youth-oriented debate in next year's elections, in which young people would write

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RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

the questions for candidates to address; (b) lend support for a statewide policy that would allow Californian's to register and vote on Election Day; ©) aggressive and creative implementation of the Federal Higher Education Act, which requires publicly funded colleges and universities to make a "good faith effort" to supply incoming students with voter registration forms; and (d) great inclusion of hands-on civic participation opportunities in the curriculum of high schools and colleges in California.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

Valerie Burrowes

From: Alyssa Ferree <aferree7@yahoo.com>
To: <vburrowes@cityofsacramento.org>
Date: 11/28/2001 4:25 PM

Dear Valerie Burrowes,

Thank you for writing a resolution for the Sacramento City Coucil supporting Youth Vote. I have attached files including the statement of principles and some more information about the campaign. You can also go to www.youthvote.org for further information. Could you tell me when we will be on the agenda? Will it be in the morning or evening session? If you have any further questions or concerns please contact me. Thank you.

Alyssa Ferree
Youth Vote UC Davis

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University of California, Davis
Experimental College
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(530) 752-3205

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