



Oklahoma | Campus Compact

TO: Student Affairs Vice Presidents and Deans
Student Activities Directors
Community Service Directors/Service-Learning Coordinators

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SUBJECT: 2008 CAMPUS VOTE INITIATIVE

The Oklahoma Campus Compact 2008 Campus Vote Initiative is a comprehensive package of materials and actions designed to take civic engagement to a new level on every campus.

Voting is Habit-Forming

Research shows that successful mobilization in one election raises people's propensity to vote in subsequent elections.

2008 Campus Vote Initiative Components

Voter Registration

- State Voter Registration Records on Electronic Media, for Analysis and Use in Identification of Non-Registered Students
- Voter Registration Contest, Sept. 15th-19th, with Winners in 3 Institutional Categories
- Registration Continuance through October 10th Deadline

Voter Education

- Assistance in Accessing Voter Education Sources

Early Voting and Election Day Voting

- iVote Promotional Materials and Tips on Fundraising to Pay for Stickers, etc.
- Direct Campus Involvement and Assistance with Absentee Balloting
- Direct Campus Assistance with Promotion of Early Voting
- Direct Campus Assistance with Promotion of Election Day Voting

A Trend is Underway for Youth Voting

It is estimated that the youth vote (ages 18-to-29-year-old citizens) for the 2008 Presidential Primary Elections doubled and tripled in most states over that of previous Presidential Primaries. This year represented the third election in a row, from 2004, through 2006, when the youth voting rate increased.

This increase in youth turnout continues a trend observed in other elections since 2000. In the 2006 congressional elections, the voter turnout rate among 18-to-29-year-olds increased by three percentage points compared to the previous congressional election of 2002.

In the 2004 presidential election, the national youth voter turnout rate rose 9 percentage points compared to 2000, reaching 49%. In 2004, under-30-year-olds were registered to vote at the highest rate in 30 years. (Source: The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement.)

You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no results.

Mahatma Gandhi
Indian political and spiritual leader (1869 - 1948)

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GUIDES AND MATERIALS

Voter Registration

- Voter Registration and Voter History Information - Compact Disc (7/15/08)
Provided by the Oklahoma State Election Board as Voter Outreach
- Information for Use of CD – Voter Registration Records on Electronic Media
Oklahoma State Election Board
- Voter Registration in Oklahoma <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/voterreg.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/faq.html>
- Campus Compact - Ideas and Links to Examples on Voter Registration Activities
<http://www.compact.org/vote/registration>

Voter Education

- Campus Compact - Organizing a Campus to Vote – A Concise Guide
http://www.compact.org/vote/campus_organizing_guide
- Campus Compact - Voter Education <http://www.compact.org/vote/education>
- Campus Compact – Campus Vote Initiative Links <http://www.compact.org/vote/links>
- American Democracy Project <http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp>
- CIRCLE <http://www.civicyouth.org>
- League of Women Voters <http://www.lwv.org>
- Mobilize.org <http://www.mobilize.org>
- New Voters Project <http://www.newvotersproject.org>
- Overseas Vote Foundation <http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org>
- Project Vote Smart <http://www.votesmart.org>
- Rock the Vote <http://www.rockthevote.com>
- Your Vote Your Voice <http://www.YourVoteYourVoice.org>

Early Voting and Election Day Voting

- Contact Information for All Oklahoma County Election Boards
<http://www.elections.state.ok.us/cebinfo.html>
- Absentee Voting in Oklahoma, Instructions to Voter - Oklahoma State Election Board
<http://www.elections.state.ok.us/absentee.html>
- Application for Absentee Ballots – Oklahoma State Election Board (see above)
- Where to Vote – Polling Place Locator Search <http://www.ok.gov/elections/ppl/index.php>
- Campus Compact - Election Season Activities and Last Minute Activities
<http://www.compact.org/vote/activities/election> or [/last-minute](http://www.compact.org/vote/activities/last-minute)

Campus Compact's Campus Vote Initiative 2008 Templates and Badges

- Materials Enclosed. Also see: <http://www.compact.org/vote/templates>

Oklahoma State Election Board



DATES AND DEADLINES FOR 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

Voter Registration

To Submit Voter Registration
(Must Go to County Election Board) Friday, October 10th, 5 p.m.

Absentee Voting

To Submit Application for Absentee Ballot Wednesday, October 29th, 5 p.m.

To Submit Absentee Ballot Tuesday, November 4th, 7 p.m.

To Vote In Person Early
(Must Be at County Election Board Office) Friday, October 31st, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, November 1st, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday, November 3rd, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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DATES & DEADLINES FOR 2008 OKLAHOMA CAMPUS COMPACT VOTER REGISTRATION CONTEST

Constitution Day Wednesday, September 17th

Voter Registration Contest Monday, September 15th –
Friday, September 19th

To Report Voter Registration Contest Totals Wednesday, September 24th



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FUNDRAISING TIPS

Some Resources for 2008 Campus Vote Initiative Your Campus May Want

- Campus Compact iVote logos on stickers and buttons, signs and flyers, and door hangers. The templates for this logo is enclosed in the mailing package; and
- Employment of extra staffers (students?) for temporary assistance in researching the state voter registration records (provided electronically by Oklahoma Campus Compact), getting students registered to vote, distributing materials on campus, getting out the vote on Election Day, etc.

Smaller amounts of funding for these civic engagement activities are often solicited successfully from within the community. Often a direct, personal approach for solicitation brings the best result.

Some Suggestions for Community Funding Resources

- Local managers of the community Wal Mart stores and Sonic restaurants – often these store managers have a budget of funds to be spent on community civic involvement, etc.
- Local insurance companies, banks and other merchants who are interested in the community and civic involvement.
- Your institution's SGA budget, if the SGA is supportive.



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VOTER REGISTRATION

A student must be a U.S. citizen and an Oklahoma resident in order to register to vote in Oklahoma.

A student may register with either his or her:

- College address, or
- Oklahoma hometown address.

If the student chooses to register with his or her hometown address, to vote the student must either:

- Return home for election day or early absentee in-person voting (see Absentee Ballots and Early Voting), or
- Obtain an absentee ballot (again, see Absentee Ballots).

If the student is from out-of-state, and chooses to register with his or her college address – BEWARE – this could affect the student’s residential status for other concerns. The student should contact his or her home state election board if the student wishes to register with his or her hometown address.

The student must fill out and file a registration form if s/he wants to change any of the following:

- Name
- Address
- Political affiliation (may not be changed between June 1 and August 31 in 2008).

If a student will become 18 during the 60 days before the November 4th, 2008 general election, the student may apply for voter registration between September 5th and October 10th, 2008.

Each campus is responsible for submitting completed registration applications to its County Election Board, which would very much like to have the applications submitted on as close to a daily basis as is possible. Most Financial Aid Offices on campuses carry a supply of the Voter Registration forms. Forms may also be ordered in bulk from the Oklahoma Election Board for free (call 405-521-2391). Shipping is UPS and will take a few days.

Voter registration forms must be filed by 5 p.m., Friday, October 10th with the County Election Board in order for the student to participate in the 2008 General Election. Information:

<http://www.elections.state.ok.us/voterreg.html>



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ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND EARLY VOTING

Absentee Balloting offers a much-needed avenue of participation in elections for college students.

By its nature, however, it can be especially prohibitive for them. Because the process of voting off-site necessitates additional secure steps, the required procedures can be roadblocks to student access.

APPLICATION

- Must be made in writing – by mail, fax, or in person at the County Election Board (see enclosed form).
- **Must be signed by the voter.**
- Must be received by no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, October 29th. A postmark will NOT suffice. **The application must be in the hands of the County Election Board by 5 p.m.**
- Must be sent to the County Election Board in the county in which the student is registered to vote.

The Absentee Ballot Application Form and Instructions are included in this packet. They can also be downloaded from <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/absentee.html>.

Campus Role

- Distribute the Absentee Ballot Application Form and Instructions, with the November 4th General Election marked.
- Make envelopes and stamps available to the voters for mailing. It is advisable to avoid mailing multiple requests, as federal law will apply if a signature is found to be fraudulent. Likewise, a voter cannot hand deliver to the County Election Board another voter's absentee ballot request. A list of the 77 County Election Boards' addresses and contact information is enclosed, and is also available at <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/ceinfo.html>

Absentee and Early Voting continued

VOTING AND SUBMITTING THE BALLOT

- Must be mailed in if obtained by mail.
- Must be NOTARIZED before mailing.
- Must be received by the County Election Board by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 4th (close of the polls). It is advised that the ballot be posted to the mail by the Wednesday preceding the election (October 29th).

Campus Role

- **Make a NOTARY available to the voters continuously in the weeks leading up to the November 4th General Election. Notaries may not charge a fee.**
- Make envelopes and stamps available to the voters for mailing. It is advisable to avoid mailing multiple ballots, as federal law will apply if a vote is found to be fraudulent. A list of the 77 County Election Boards' addresses and contact information is enclosed, and is also available at <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/cebinfo.html>

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING

Instead of obtaining an absentee ballot by mail, a voter may vote early in-person at the County Election Board site in the county in which the voter is registered by:

- Filling out an absentee ballot at the site and submitting it.
- Voting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, October 31st or Monday, November 3rd, or from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 1st.

Campus Role

- Advertising this opportunity, which does not require a request for an absentee ballot, notary services, or use of the mail.
- Providing information on locations of County Election Boards, included in this packet and available at <http://www.elections.state.ok.us/cebinfo.html>

Campuses committed to supporting their students' civic engagement should make every effort to facilitate the use of the absentee ballot by mail or in-person.



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GET OUT THE VOTE

Tools

Precinct Polling Place Locator

<http://www.elections/ppl/index.php>

When a last name, birth date, and residence zip code is entered in this program on the Oklahoma State Election Board website, the precinct polling place is given.

Campus Compact iVote Logos

<http://www.compact.org/vote/templates>

These logos are available for use on manufactured stickers, buttons, signs, flyers, and door hangers.

Transportation to the County Election Board and Precinct Polling Places

Campuses can provide a place and/or system for students to organize voluntary car pools for transportation to the County Election Board for in-person absentee voting on Friday, Saturday and Monday, October 31st, and November 1st and 3rd, and to various precinct polling sites on Tuesday, November 4th.

Reminders and Information

Put out reminders and information on voting dates and precinct polling locations.

Contact your County Election Board for this information at <http://www.elections.state.ok.us>