

Bill 3002-N-083104

- A bill to develop a Rocket Vote Campaign that will encourage and aid students in voting in the upcoming election.

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I. Defining the Problem

1. Eighteen to twenty-five year olds are currently the lowest voting population and yet this demographic group has the potential to affect the outcome of the election. This demographic group is the next generation and their voices need to be heard because the current platform issues affect their future.
2. Currently, there is no procedure in place to mobilize students to the polls on Election Day (November 2).
3. Ohio is a battleground state/swing state.
4. There is a lack of campus-wide based incentives to encourage students to vote.
5. There is no effective campus-wide drive in place to get students to vote after they have registered to vote.
6. The current polling location for University of Toledo students is not convenient for on-campus students.

II. The Solution

1. Work with the University administration, state and local authorities, the national campaigns and other local groups to develop a comprehensive student voter mobilization effort with incentives to get out the vote.

III. Method of Solution

1. The Rocket Vote mobilization and incentive drive shall be in conjunction with any other voter registration events taking place on campus.
2. Create a "tracking" system for people who register to vote during the SG voter registration drive. Send out a mass e-mail reminding students to vote along with the bus information and incentives information.
3. Provide an internet link on the University of Toledo and Student Government homepages to provide access to election forms and related information.
4. Rent UT buses to transport on-campus students to the polls (Hope Lutheran Church at Bancroft and Secor) or any on-campus polling location. Create a bus route, similar to the Blue and Gold Loops, which shall run when polls are open.

5. Create an incentive program for voting by working with local businesses and AVI to give students discounts or free items when they show their "I Voted" stickers.
6. In exchange for local business support, Student Government will provide opportunities for those businesses to get their names out to the student body.
7. Have a daylong Rocket Vote Festival, with games, food, and music in the Courtyard of the Quad (because it is the closest on-campus location to the polls) in conjunction with Resident Student Association, Greek Life, Student Government, and Residence Life on election day. During the course of the event, project election results as they become available.
8. Create an informative display in effort to inform the students on the platform issues of National Campaigns in conjunction with College Democrats, College Republicans and other campus political parties.
9. Work with local authorities and University administration to get a polling location on campus.
10. In addition to the membership that is already proscribed by the Senate Constitution and Bylaws of the steering committee, the committee shall also consist of a co-chairperson (Ashley Nickel), the Chair of SSIPS, Chair of Finance Committee, Chair of Administrative Affairs, Senator Jake Hasselbach, and Representatives of Housing and Residence Life Committee, a Representative from the University of Toledo Democratic and Republican party, and other members the co-chairpersons (President Beeman and Senator Nickel) deem appropriate to appoint.
11. The steering committee shall be formed within a week of the passage of this bill.
12. A SWOT analysis shall be presented after elections for evaluation and planning purposes.
13. The Steering Committee and UT Student Government shall be responsible for funding or seeking funding for the Rocket Vote Campaign.