

RESOLUTION 0016
STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
University of Pittsburgh
9 November 2012
Introduced by Board Member Julie Hallinan

WHEREAS the full participation of young voters in the political process is essential to a truly representative, vibrant democracy;

WHEREAS the youth vote has been on the rise in the United States for the past several election cycles, surging nine percent between 2000 and 2004 and increasing by two million votes between 2000 and 2006;

WHEREAS in 2008, the number of voters under 30 who showed up at the polls increased by approximately 11 percent, while the number of older voters who cast a ballot increased by only 3 percent;

WHEREAS a major reason for this increased turnout is that politicians are paying more attention to young people;

WHEREAS if politicians ramp up their efforts to engage young people directly on issues important to us and talk to us as much as they do to older voters, then young people will continue to turn out in bigger numbers, ensuring a stronger democracy in the United States.

WHEREAS the Student Public Interest Research Groups are independent state-based student organizations that advocate to mobilize young voters, reduce student debt, make textbooks more affordable, and for other public interest issues; and

WHEREAS, the Student PIRGs have been pioneers in nonpartisan student voter registration and mobilization, launching the National Student Campaign for Voter Registration in 1983, registering millions of new voters;

WHEREAS the Student PIRGs launched the New Voters Project in 2003, a nonpartisan effort to increase new voter registration and turnout on college campuses across America and has since registered over 700,000 young voters and made more than a million get-out-the vote contacts;

WHEREAS, by the November elections the New Voters Project will be at work on more than 80 college campuses in 19 states, with thousands of student volunteers;

WHEREAS, the New Voters Project aims to form coalitions with Student Government, faculty and administration;

WHEREAS the New Voters Project trains interns, providing excellent leadership and political experience while interns contribute to their campus community and the public good; and

WHEREAS, the heightened civic engagement the New Voters Project will provide will benefit the university, community, state and nation for years to come; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the students of the University of Pittsburgh support the efforts and welcome the work of the Student PIRGs to mobilize young people in the 2012 election.

Julie Hallinan