



Voter Registration Online Access Proposal

Proposed Motion: Support efforts to increase the accessibility of online voter registration.

Sponsor: Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Persons of Contact: Graham Marmion, AS REP Associate Director

Guest Speaker: Graham Marmion

Date: April 17, 2014

Background & Context

Currently, students have the option to register to vote through their MyWestern Web4U under Student Registration. The link can be found third from the bottom titled “Do You Wish To Register To Vote” and links to this page: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/Print-Voter-Registration-Forms.aspx>. Having online voter registration is mandated by [RCW 29A.08.310 \(4\)](#) which reads: “Each institution of higher education shall put in place an active prompt on its course registration web site, or similar web site that students actively and regularly use, that, if selected, will link the student to the secretary of state's voter registration web site. The prompt must ask the student if he or she wishes to register to vote.” It is important to have the online voter registration option be accessible to all students. Our 2013 Vote Coordinator identified the online voter registration as a primary weakness in our current voter registration efforts because the current location is not noticeable and the link is outdated. Graham met with David Brunner, the Registrar, to discuss this issue. Brunner was open to changing the location, formatting, and link, but wanted AS Board approval.

Summary of Proposal

Graham is seeking board support and approval to make online voter registration more accessible by:

1. Advocating for additional university programs to provide the voter registration link on websites including, but not limited to, MyWestern, Web4U, Registrar, and ResLife. Students benefit from having the link made widely available and easily accessible.
2. Improving the current Web4U voter registration link by:
 - Changing the location: We would like the “Do You Wish To Register To Vote” link to be the top option under the Web4U Student Registration tab.
 - Changing the font color: We would like the “Do You Wish To Register To Vote” link to be in bold red font as opposed to the standard blue.
 - Changing the link: We would like the “Do You Wish To Register To Vote” to link to www.registerinwa.org/western. This is a link that is provided to WWU by the Washington Bus. When students register using this link, it allows us to track the number of students registered as well as provide students with the opportunity to give us their contact information for get out the vote purposes.

Fiscally: There are no fiscal implications.

Rationale: Voter registration is an imperative component to student representation, which is a core AS value. Increased accessibility benefits all students and their ability to participate in civic engagement.