



“Washington Vote Summit Funding Request”

Proposed Motion: *Approve a NTE amount of \$150 from Operational Enhancement (FXXENH) to fund AS staff participation in the Washington Youth Vote Summit*

Sponsor: *AS VP for Governmental Affairs, Sarah Kohout*

Persons of Contact: *AS VP for Governmental Affairs, Sarah Kohout
AS REP Director, Patrick Eckroth*

Guest Speaker: *Patrick Eckroth*

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Background & Context

Over the last four years, a collaboration between the Washington Student Association (WSA), the Washington BUS, WinWin, and WashPIRG has created a productive and passionate *Youth Vote Coalition*. This coalition works to organize, train, and assist college campuses across the state as a means to create a state-wide network of voter registration drives focused on encouraging students and youths to vote and participate in our political process. Because of this coalition, the higher education institutions of this state have had consistent growth in their voter registration programs—meaning that many more students have the access to representation and their voice in the decision making process.

Every year since its founding, the *Youth Vote Coalition* has hosted a Youth Vote Summit, in which representatives from each member campus attend a day-long training on how to register voters legally, inclusively, and respectfully. This summit is hosted every June so that campus representatives have time to incorporate new knowledge into their voter registration plans and spread the trainings to other staff and volunteers and therefore is the basis of how the REP learns to do voter registration and improve its efforts.

Summary of Proposal

The AS REP is requesting a NTE amount of \$150 to provide transportation to this year’s Youth Vote Summit for the AS REP staff and Western Votes! Volunteers who organize Western’s voter registration drive. Since there is not yet a motor pool accessible on weekends, we have reserved and will need funding for a vehicle from Enterprise and gasoline to get attendees to UW-Seattle, where the training is hosted.

Fiscal Impacts

~\$70.00- Enterprise Rental Car

~\$30.00- Gas

~\$100.00 total

We anticipate costs near \$100, but are requesting an **NTE of \$150** for any unanticipated expenses (variable gas prices, taxes on rental car, etc.)

Rationale

The actual attendees for this summit will vary depending on hiring and Western Votes elections, but it is critical to our voter registration efforts and our volunteer recruitment and retention efforts that we send several members of Western Votes as well as the AS REP Director, the AS Vote Coordinator, the AS VP for Governmental Affairs, and the AS President for the 2015-16 year to this summit. This allows these representatives to become experts on voter registration tactics, laws, and system organization. Then, attendance at this summit is also a good chance to network with other campus representatives to build connections between our AS organizations, share ideas and tactics for voter registration and engagement, and provides a better perspective for why voter registration is so important to students and student success.