THE IMPACT OF STUDENT, NON-PARTISAN, POLITICAL GROUPS ON STUDENT VOTER PARTICIPATION: THE STUDENT V.O.T.E.S. MODEL

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)
Submitted to the Ball State Honors College
In Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Honors College Diploma

by

David W. Eppley

Advisor, Dr. Joseph A. Losco

Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
April, 1995

Graduating May 6, 1995
Purpose of Thesis

The purpose of this project is to ascertain specific reasons why traditional college-aged students stay away from the polls on election day and to test possible methods of how to increase student voter participation. After surveying both past and present literature on student activism, recent and local voting demographics, and other student voter initiatives, the project will examine a fledgling student organization at Ball State University. Student Voters Organized to Empower Students (Student V.O.T.E.S.) will be scrutinized for its methods and attempts at bringing Ball State to the polls in the November, 1994 elections. By analyzing four predominately student precincts over a span of eight years compared to the 1994 results, actual student voter turnout will be viewed as the measuring stick for ownership in the decision-making process. Student V.O.T.E.S. members will be compared to others within their precincts and Delaware County, Indiana.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. Joseph Losco for his help both as a mentor and as an advisor for both the Student V.O.T.E.S. organization and my honors thesis. His help was tremendous and cannot be adequately described.

Jen Nuckles, my right-hand woman, made an excellent co-founder, vice-president, and political ally from an opposite party. I consider her to be a great friend and hope to someday achieve her level of political savvy. Whether we were attending the Lead or Leave conference, flying on the plane, or calling every member of Student V.O.T.E.S. the night before the election, Jen was always there with a smile and a “go forward” attitude. For that, I am very grateful.

Joan Emshwiller and Marjorie Rees, officers of the Delaware County Voter Registration Office, provided me with just about anything I asked for. They were very accommodating as were the rest of the Voter Registration Office. Thank you very much! Special thanks to Joan for the extra forms for heavier registration times, specifically the mud volleyball tournament!

Thank you’s are also extended to Phil Nichols, Delaware County Democratic Party Chairman, and George Eastman, Delaware County Republican Party Chairman, for their generosity in assigning Student V.O.T.E.S. members as deputy registrars.

A special thanks to Dr. George Jones, our original sponsor, who helped the organization from the outset with great ideas, contact names, his time, and his energy. The same holds true for his dedication to me in writing this thesis.

Thank you to Student Government Association for their confidence in me and in Student V.O.T.E.S. SGA sponsored Jen Nuckles’ and my trip to Washington, DC. They paid for copying costs and postage for our non-partisan newsletter and provided us their office phones for the pre-election night phone bank.

Thank you’s also go out to the whole Student V.O.T.E.S. gang, past and present: Keith Stouder, Byron Ottman, Mark Stratton, E.L. “Doc” Hunter, Matt Stovcsik, Brad Gideon, Kerry Poiner, Shawn Erwin, “Cat” Lawrence, Courtney Snyder, Chris DuPont, Mark Ferguson, and many others.

Finally, thank you to the many people around the campus, community, and country that helped with criticism, information, and/or support: Donmichael Thompson; Tina Wonderly; Shane Windmeyer; Pat Eddy; Dr. Mike Corbett; Dr. Ray Scheele; Dr. Ralph Baker; innumerable friends and acquaintances; conference attendees at “Register Once” and from “Lead or Leave;” my roommates, Matt McKouen and Marc Pinchock; my family, Dale, Barbara, and Mike Eppley; and most importantly, the registered and voting Ball State student voters of Delaware County, Indiana. Without you, this thesis would have been impossible.
Table of Contents

Purpose of Thesis .................................................. 2
Acknowledgements .................................................. 2
Table of Contents .................................................. 3

I. Preliminary Research ............................................. 4
   A. Problem ...................................................... 5
   B. Review of Related Literature ................................ 5
   C. Why a non-partisan political organization? ................. 8

II. Original Research ............................................... 13
   A. Student V.O.T.E.S. Model ................................... 14
   B. Delaware County General Election, November, 1994 ........ 18

III. Conclusion .................................................... 23
    A. Evaluation .................................................. 24
    B. Post Election Day Student V.O.T.E.S. ....................... 25

IV. Bibliography .................................................. 27

V. Appendices ..................................................... 30
   A. Letter, September, 1994 .................................... 31
   B. Pamphlet Letter .............................................. 32
   C. Resignation Letter .......................................... 33
   D. Student V.O.T.E.S. Constitution .......................... 34
I. Preliminary Research
Problem

The purpose of this project is to ascertain specific reasons why traditional college-aged students stay away from the polls on election day and to test possible methods of how to increase student voter participation.

Students have either been the political targets of local communities or have been ignored as an important decision-making segment of society. Their distinctive points of view have been kept silent by their older peers through antiquated voter registration regulations and residency requirements. It was not until 1972 that citizens of the United States aged eighteen to twenty were granted their right of suffrage through the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The attitudes of students toward the American political process can be correctly attributed to the traditional conundrum plaguing the teenager and early ‘twenty-somethings,’ “Why should I do anything? How will I make a difference?”

It seems that only through organized, student-led, voter registration movements can students truly appreciate the right that was granted them only 23 years ago. Students, like their female and African-American predecessors, need to take control of their own political destinies. No one else will do it for them.

Review of Related Literature

Very little has been written on the problem of the lack of student voter participation, even less on the solution to the problem. Of what has been written, there are some basic themes permeating throughout the literature. The student is viewed as a “second-class” citizen, unentitled to basic civil rights, like suffrage. Also, students just do not vote under the current system. Finally, there is a growing interest in “grassroots” student lobbying groups with loose national ties.
The "Second-Class" Citizen

This is not the first exploration of the student voter here at Ball State University. Mr. Chris M. Condo wrote a graduate research paper in 1973 on Youth Participation in the 1967 Mayoral Election of Richard Gordon Hatcher. Condo looked at the similarities between the Black political power movement of the 1960s and a Gary, Indiana, mayoral election. Condo found that the youth movement was involved in politics for the purpose of social change. His thesis noted that in the Gary, Indiana, example, school administrators and political candidates got in the way of students exercising their rights to campaign and to vote in a few cases. The local Gary authorities were extremely suspicious of any political activity of the youth. How are the political activities of students any different from those of other groups? Even if they are different, why should their political rights be abridged by their older peers?

Dispelling the Kids-Don’t-Vote Myth

Contrary to popular belief, people vote if they are registered to vote. In an overall review of elections between 1964 and 1980, the Census Bureau determined clearly that the data showed that once people register, they overwhelmingly go to the polls. There is a distinct relationship between registration and voting. You vote if you are registered. The State Secretaries of State as well as the media would have you believe otherwise. Media reports gleaned directly from the offices of Secretaries of State chastise the general public for only achieving a fifty percent turnout. This is not true reporting. Most of those same lists of registered individuals include those who have moved from the area or are dead. They have not been purged from the lists.\(^1\)


Further, those who are registered to vote turn out in high numbers regardless of race, income, and education. The disparity in populations comes in when addressing who is registered and who is not registered. If registration were made easier for all people, they would show up at the polls. However, that is probably not the goal of many in political office. Targeted voter registration is much easier to the politician. He or she is then only answerable to those who placed him or her in office, rather than the entire population.³

Some pollsters contend that if students vote in large numbers they could sway an election.⁴ However, it could be for quite a different reason than these pollsters believe. Students, like any other population, want candidates who enact legislation which is of benefit to them. Students like their older counterparts are “middle-of-the-roaders.”⁵ They are more likely to vote like their parents than by any other reason. Neither Democrats nor Republicans benefit greatly by students registering to vote. However, students do get their views heard.⁶

**Grassroots Student Lobbying Groups**

According to “Lead or Leave,” a national student-oriented and student-led lobbying force based in Washington, DC, students do not vote because there are specific voter registration laws that are inherently anti-student.⁷ Therefore, this group has mounted a significant lobbying effort to change the way that state Secretaries of State approach the student vote. “Lead or Leave” wants to enact legislation at the individual state level to make it possible for college students to

---


⁶“Register Once” Student Voting Conference, sponsored by Lead or Leave, Washington, DC, October, 1994, seminar.

⁷“Register Once” Student Voting Conference, sponsored by Lead or Leave, Washington, DC, October, 1994, seminar.
register to vote when they register for classes. This organization is an umbrella group for the forming (or formed) state coalitions. The states of Kansas, Arizona, and Florida are the most mobile and organized. State universities are lobbying their own administrations and legislatures for voter registration at class registration.⁸

Within the state of Indiana, “Motor Voter” has been voted into effect as per federal mandate. Unfortunately a terrific opportunity was missed to tack on college students in the move toward greater suffrage. In this movement, however, we students have quite possibly lost sight of an immediate goal which is voter registration (under the current system) of as many students as possible. “Lead or Leave” does not seem too concerned with getting these kids to the polls -- today. Unfortunately, the literature on student voter activism is so sparse that it leaves one with few ideas. The only alternative, it seems, is to develop your own ideas. Start your own student-led, non-partisan, political organization.

Why a non-partisan, political organization?

Rationale/Preface

After a brief visit in Washington, DC, in August of 1994, I came away feeling empowered. I had witnessed democracy in action in the gallery of the United States Senate of the 103rd Congress. I had always enjoyed and participated in politics. Born in 1971, I was angry in the 1988 Presidential Race that I could not vote due to my age. In May, 1990, I participated in my first election, a closed primary election in an off-year congressional election in Waltz 1 Precinct in Wabash County, Indiana.

It was monumental for me. I had made my small but important voice heard in the politics of 1990. Since then, I haven’t missed an election: primary, general, presidential, congressional, municipal. You name it; I have voted in it. However, I

⁸Windmeyer, Shane. Kansas Student Votes, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, discussion.
could not understand why my peers did not share in my excitement. They felt
disaffected, uninformed, neglected. This democracy was something to cherish but
they did not know why.

Meanwhile, the entirety of my generation has been labeled, "Generation X,"
since the late 1980s. We are an apathetic, untalented waste of youth who would
rather spend their time watching MTV and consuming themselves into oblivion
rather than care about the society around them. While some within my
demographic may be justly defined as above, the vast majority are merely an
untapped resource -- a neglected wealth of talent and initiative. We care. We just
have not been equipped with the tools necessary as a group to change what needs to
be changed and to better what needs to be improved.* The power of the ballot is one
such area that has been overlooked as an effective means to include the younger
generation in the entirety of society. If you get the youth to the polls, you establish
responsibility, interest, and individual scrutiny.

Get the kid to the polls and the society is all the better for it. The obvious
question is, "how do you get the kid to the polls?" The answer is far more
complicated than the question.

**Voter Registration**

The student must be registered to vote and have accessibility to the polls. The
student must know where he or she votes. If he is registered at home, he must go
home the day of the election to vote or go through the appropriate absentee
procedure for his home precinct. If the student is registered at school, he generally
must reregister each school year as he moves quite frequently within the college
town from on-campus to an apartment to another apartment, etc. Even changing
dorm rooms can effect the student's voter registration, possibly keeping him from

* "Register Once" Student Voting Conference, sponsored by Lead or Leave, Washington, DC,
October, 1994, numerous discussions and packet information.
voting without the knowledge of voter registration guidelines.

Further, the student sometimes fails to realize that generally the laws and ordinances passed in his college town, county, and state affect him more directly than that of his home town. He typically lives in his college town at least 8 months out of the year. This would be a good reason for a student to choose to register to vote in his college town.

As soon as the student is registered, there is no guarantee that he will vote. The most common dialogue when informally asked the question, “why didn’t you vote in the last election?”

“I wasn’t registered;” or “I was registered at home.”
Why didn’t you vote at home?
“Because I forgot to get an absentee ballot.”
Why aren’t you registered here then?
“I don’t know any of the candidates or the races.”
Would you register here if you knew the candidates and races?
“Yeah, maybe, but how?”

Voter Education

You have possibly piqued the student’s interest. Now you have to come up with a way to inform the voter. Again, it gets tricky. You could take the straight party line of one ideology or party, but you alienate student voters in the process. Political parties serve one primary function -- to get as many of their candidates elected to public office as possible. To get them there, the parties need to use such devices as: selective voter registration, ignoring or focusing on specific populations of people, and propaganda, pointed literature toward or against certain candidates or parties. You have to come up with some way of amassing information on candidates of all parties without alienating voters in the process.

One way to accomplish this end is through the use of a non-partisan source of information. The press can be used here, although, one should be wary of any
periodicals, authors, and columnists. Each person has his or her own slant toward their own ideology. You will never accomplish total non-partisanship. However, if it is kept in mind from the beginning and if you have a diversity of sources, the likelihood of partisanship should be reduced.

Perhaps the best control over information is to collect it yourself to be screened by others around you who have different beliefs from you. Collect only quotations from the candidates and facts about the candidates, like “this senator voted for this bill and against this bill, while this person says she will work toward this end.” Stick to the facts.

Now the problem is how to relay the information to the prospective student voter. Put it together in one, unified newsletter or written account. Pit one candidate against another giving the same amount of type space to each.

The most precise way of getting the information to the constituent is through careful record keeping. The only way to keep track of those you have actually registered is to ask simultaneously if that student would like to join your non-partisan group. If they say, yes, add their name, address, precinct number, and phone number to your membership forms directly copied from the voter registration materials they just completed. Now you have a membership base. You have a written and verbal means of communication with each of your members. Now that you have people registered to vote and you have informed them, you still need to get them to the polls.

Get-Out-the-Vote Initiatives

One of the primary responsibilities of any party or political group is to get their membership to the polls on election day. A non-partisan group is no different. Your purpose is to get them there and participate, not for a specific cause, candidate, or issue.
When you register the individual to vote, mention when the next election will be and where that individual is to vote. If they decide to join your group, stress to them that by joining your group they are making a personal promise to vote in the next election. This promise can be a reason as to why they will vote. They do not want to let you, the group, or themselves down.

When writing the newsletter, mention the personal promise that each one of them had made when they decided to register to vote and to register for the group. Remind them of their polling site, its hours, and the date of the next election.

Keeping up to date on the candidates and the issues will also be an incentive for the student to go to the polls. Perhaps by mentioning student-related issues in your newsletter, you will pique the interest of your membership.

Finally, last minute get-out-the-vote techniques can help immensely. They remind the student where and when to vote. Phone banks, calling each of your members in the few days before an election, add a human touch. By talking to an individual and saying that you will vote in an election just a day away, you increase your chance of participating. Posters plastered across campus on election day specifying local polling sites; public service announcements in campus media and in campus mailboxes will all help your membership achieve that 100% turnout goal.
II. *Original Research*
The Student V.O.T.E.S. Model

Background

Ball State University is quite an untapped political body. Political groups on campus (College Republicans, University Democrats, College Libertarians) have typically small followings. Each party group adopts their national party platform with a few minor additions. Those within the groups tend to be active politically, i.e. high voter participation and active campaigning for their party’s candidates. However, the voter registration drives of these groups have left a vast majority of the campus either unregistered or registered in home counties.

The local community of Delaware County and Muncie, Indiana, has all but ignored the “visiting” campus community. Students are viewed by local party leaders and the community as a whole as transient residents. Voter registration of Ball State students is viewed by both major parties as a general waste of time for voter registration officers, adding more paper work for people who just don’t vote.

1986 was the only exception to the rule. Local candidates canvassed the Ball State community, courting the student vote. In that election, Democrat, Marc Carmichael defeated the sitting Republican, Indiana House Speaker, J. Roberts Dailey. This victory was credited in large part to the extensive student voter registration drive for the Carmichael campaign.¹⁰

Since then, Ball State has been neglected by the local parties, the local candidates, and the Ball State student political groups. Therefore, a new group was necessitated. Using the thoughts I derived from my first visit to Washington, DC, in the Summer of 1994, I amassed a group of individuals whom I thought would be interested in politically activating the Ball State student community.

¹⁰ Interview with Mrs. Patricia Eddy, 1986 Carmichael Campaign.
The First Meeting

I brought people together who I knew would bring ingenuity, experience, and spirit to a fledgling organization. The original people who helped make the organization what it is today were: Jen Nuckles, Byron Ottman, Matt Stovcsik, Mark Stratton, Keith Stouder, E. L. “Doc” Hunter, Brad Gideon, and Kerry Poynter. Two faculty who helped from day one of involvement with valuable insight were: Dr. George Jones and Dr. Joe Losco. Each of these people came from differing political parties, perspectives, and persuasions. We, therefore, were able to attract different people for the same goal: registering the Ball State campus to vote.

From day one, no one was asked their political affiliation. The first meeting was held in Bracken Library at 9:30 p.m. on August 23, 1994. At this meeting we established that our main goal was voter registration for the 1994 general election. Our group’s constitution and official recognition could wait. Since Dr. Jones was already the faculty advisor for University Democrats, the group decided that it would be better for the group to find another person to fill that role for our group. Dr. Joe Losco was a unanimous choice. He was known by all in the founding group as one who valued student opinion on other campus issues. As a political science professor, he could definitely assist the group in canvassing tactics. I was selected as the leader of the organization; Jen Nuckles was appointed as the vice-chair; Mark Stratton was picked as the secretary; Keith Stouder would head up all voter registration activities; and Matt Stovcsik chaired the public relations area.

After debate for a few weeks on a specific name for the group, Student V.O.T.E.S. was the choice. The name is an acronym for Student Voters Organized to Empower Students. The name said it all. The only way to make the student heard by the ‘powers that be’ was through our purpose:

*to empower students especially in local and state government by:* registering
them to vote, educating them on the stances and actions taken by candidates, and urging them to vote on election day -- all done without regard to political party.

We talked with the Delaware County Voter Registration Office on a weekly basis. We established contact early in the school year with them, knowing that the October 8th voter registration deadline was just around the corner.

**The Voter Registration Drive**

Working with Phil Nichols and George Eastman, the two county party chairs, Student V.O.T.E.S. established deputy registrar relationships with both major parties. Once deputized, our group set up a rigorous voter registration drive in the month of September. Aside from going to residence halls and different student organizations, Student V.O.T.E.S. established a voter registration week at the Student Center in September. During a major campus event, the Botsford/Swinford Mud Volleyball Tournament, Student V.O.T.E.S. was there with its new banner, registering students to vote.

As a student would register or transfer their voter registration, each would be asked if they would like to join an organization in which they would owe no dues, would not be required to attend any meetings, and would receive a free newsletter providing information on all local candidates and a reminder of where their individual polling sites were located. The vast majority said, yes. The only ‘catch’ for the new members of Student V.O.T.E.S. was to promise themselves and the group that they would vote in the upcoming election. Most saw that as little imposition.

**The Newsletter**

Once October 8th had passed, the focus of the group switched to that of educating those that we had just registered to vote. This required first hand
interaction with the local candidates and reporting that interaction with our new fellow members. After interviews with state house and senate candidates, Pat Eddy, Bruce Munson, Ally Craycraft, and Fred Wenger, there was little time to get questions answered by local county office candidates. Therefore, our organization went to the county party headquarters for information on the other candidates. We tried to stay away from party propaganda. However, when left with nothing else, we resorted to providing equal space and time. If we did not have information on one of the candidates, we left that race out of our newsletter entirely.

This newsletter went out to all members on our database. The postage and printing tab were picked up the Ball State Student Government Association. SGA had shown a lot of interest in getting the Ball State student body registered early in the year. With the many connections our group had with that organization, Student V.O.T.E.S.'s first venture was completely underwritten. Empowered Voters went to press and in the mail a week and half before the November 8th election, giving the constituents a chance to read about the candidates before they made up their minds. We hand-addressed each one and mailed only the ones going to off campus students. On campus newsletters were delivered to the residence halls by an active member.

**The Phone Bank**

The night of Monday, November 7th was a busy one for Student V.O.T.E.S. Each of the 186 members members of the organization was called and individually reminded that the election was the following day. We told them specifically where their individual poll site was located and the hours that the site was open. Most that were called seemed to appreciate the reminder and the useful information. We did receive one suggestion for improvement in the future. "You guys should pick up people from their homes and take them to the poll site, 'cause I don't have a
car.” I specifically noted to the individual that the distance to his poll site was much closer than the distance to class. We took the gentleman’s suggestion and assessed that transportation to the poll site is something we were not interested in pursuing.

_Election Day_

November 8th saw candidates and their supporters lobbying for any last minute support. At the Student Center where student-based precincts 26, 85, and 86 were located, there was quite a good turnout for an off-year election, according to the precinct committeemen. Also of note, many individuals were bringing in copies of _Empowered Voters_. Quite a few were in the trash at the door. Student V.O.T.E.S. had most definitely made some impact.

**Delaware County General Election, November, 1994**

_Method_

After the November election, I used information from the Delaware County Voter Registration Office and the Delaware County Elections Office as primary sources. The voter registration ledgers list individuals by precinct and indicate whether that particular individual picked up a ballot for the election. Using the current roster of Student V.O.T.E.S. members, I cross-checked these names against those listed as voting in the individual precincts. The following is a breakdown on individual Student V.O.T.E.S. members by precinct, denoting the number of members registered in that precinct as compared to those voting:

**Student V.O.T.E.S. Members by Precinct**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct #</th>
<th>#V</th>
<th>#R</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Totals: 134 186 72%

Notably, only 3 precincts out of 28 had a Student V.O.T.E.S. turnout level under fifty percent.

Next, I went to the Elections Office to find historical information on particular precincts as well as total numbers of registrants and voters in the past few elections. This was done to establish or eliminate any patterns in voting in those particular precincts. The following is a history of specific elections, including overall results and results of selected Ball State area precincts. Student V.O.T.E.S. results are listed first, followed by the total precinct totals (including Student V.O.T.E.S. members within those precincts):
Delaware County Election Results 1986-94

Key:  
# = Number of votes cast  
(#) = Number of voters registered  
n/a = Information not available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Year</th>
<th>Pct. 24</th>
<th>Pct. 26</th>
<th>Pct. 85</th>
<th>Pct. 86</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student VOTES '94</td>
<td>4 (7) 57%</td>
<td>41 (59) 69%</td>
<td>24 (30) 80%</td>
<td>4 (6) 67%</td>
<td>134 (186) 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '94</td>
<td>261 (964) 30%</td>
<td>303 (989) 31%</td>
<td>108 (954) 11%</td>
<td>300 (733) 41%</td>
<td>38191 (71291) 54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '94</td>
<td>186 (895) 22%</td>
<td>145 (974) 15%</td>
<td>50 (953) 05%</td>
<td>229 (730) 31%</td>
<td>26964 (69751) 39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '92</td>
<td>542 (718) 75%</td>
<td>659 (839) 74%</td>
<td>583 (1336) 44%</td>
<td>480 (644) 75%</td>
<td>51624 (85501) 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '92</td>
<td>205 (704) 29%</td>
<td>157 (829) 17%</td>
<td>49 (1339) 04%</td>
<td>233 (628) 37%</td>
<td>26004 (64131) 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '90</td>
<td>303 (664) 46%</td>
<td>300 (838) 36%</td>
<td>201 (1048) 19%</td>
<td>302 (470) 64%</td>
<td>36854 (61473) 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '90</td>
<td>206 (n/a) n/a</td>
<td>141 (n/a) n/a</td>
<td>53 (n/a) n/a</td>
<td>224 (n/a) n/a</td>
<td>25751 (n/a) n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '88</td>
<td>647 (838) 77%</td>
<td>1357 (2273) 60%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>49741 (65014) 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '88</td>
<td>286 (566) 51%</td>
<td>373 (1266) 29%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>29053 (59625) 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '86</td>
<td>383 (835) 46%</td>
<td>625 (1759) 36%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>38709 (63653) 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '86</td>
<td>248 (1067) 23%</td>
<td>309 (1667) 19%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>25475 (70942) 36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a history of specific student precincts including turnout percentages:

Specific Precincts in depth:

Key:  
#V = Number of those voting in that particular precinct  
#R = Number of those registered in that particular precinct  
% = Percentage of those voting in that particular precinct  
DC#V = Total number of those voting in Delaware County  
DC#R = Total number of those registered in Delaware County  
DC% = Percentage of those voting in Delaware County  
n/a = No information available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct 24</th>
<th>Election Year</th>
<th>#V</th>
<th>#R</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DC#V</th>
<th>DC#R</th>
<th>DC%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student VOTES '94</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '94</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38191</td>
<td>71291</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '94</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26964</td>
<td>69751</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '92</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>51624</td>
<td>65501</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '92</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26004</td>
<td>64131</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '90</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36524</td>
<td>61473</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '90</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>25751</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '88</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>49741</td>
<td>65014</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '88</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>29053</td>
<td>59525</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '86</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38709</td>
<td>63653</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '86</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>1067</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25475</td>
<td>70942</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Precinct 26</th>
<th>Election Year</th>
<th>#V</th>
<th>#R</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DC#V</th>
<th>DC#R</th>
<th>DC%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student VOTES '94</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '94</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38191</td>
<td>71291</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Precinct 85 (created in 1990)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Year</th>
<th>#V</th>
<th>#R</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DC#V</th>
<th>DC#R</th>
<th>DC%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student VOTES '94</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '94</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>38191</td>
<td>71291</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '94</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>26964</td>
<td>69751</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '92</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>1336</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>51624</td>
<td>65501</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '92</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>26004</td>
<td>64131</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '90</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>1048</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36524</td>
<td>61473</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '90</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>25751</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Precinct 86 (created in 1990)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Year</th>
<th>#V</th>
<th>#R</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>DC#V</th>
<th>DC#R</th>
<th>DC%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student VOTES '94</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '94</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38191</td>
<td>71291</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '94</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26964</td>
<td>69751</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '92</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>51624</td>
<td>65501</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '92</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>26004</td>
<td>64131</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General '90</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>36524</td>
<td>61473</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary '90</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>25751</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measurement

Precincts 24, 26, 85, and 86 are areas that surround the immediate area of Ball State University. Precincts 26 and 85 totally include students living in residence halls, while 24 and 86 are immediately off of the Ball State campus, consisting of student housing and Muncie permanent residential area.

The only way that I could feasibly determine "success" for the Student V.O.T.E.S. experiment is to measure actual student voter participation as a result of Student V.O.T.E.S.’ input as compared to their peers’, the community’s, and those from previous elections.

Student voter participation would be measured as those Student V.O.T.E.S. members voting as compared to members registered, but not voting. If turnout was
higher among our group as compared to these other groups, Student V.O.T.E.S. could be deemed a “success.” We would have registered new people into the political process, educated them, and encouraged and succeeded in getting these people to the polls.

The following factors need to be taken into consideration before assessing success or failure: the 1994 “Republican Revolution,” off-campus vs. on-campus, political activity of those involved in Student V.O.T.E.S., and personal acquaintances.

The 1994 “Republican Revolution” very well could have both kept away and encouraged different students in voting. Republicans may have shown up in higher numbers than Democrats or independents. Due to the integrity of the Student V.O.T.E.S. mission, partisan research was not conducted. Party was to stay out.

Most of the students in our group were on-campus students. The close residential environment could have encouraged voter participation for these students (both in registration and voting) as compared to their off-campus counterparts.

A good number of the members of Student V.O.T.E.S. were already planning on voting in the November, 1994 election. Some were members of College Republicans and University Democrats; a few were directly involved in campaigns.

Many of these members were friends or acquaintances of mine or of other members. There could have been some obligation to vote out of a feeling of respect to that friend. The only true way of accurately knowing why a student voted would be through exit polling research in these same precincts.
III. Conclusions
**Evaluation**

Precincts 24 and 86 do not provide us with enough information to study the effect of Student V.O.T.E.S. There are too few members within these precincts. However, precincts 26 and 85 do provide a healthy population of Student V.O.T.E.S. members to reflect more accurately the impact that Student V.O.T.E.S. had upon them.

First, examining precinct 26 we find that Student V.O.T.E.S. had a 69 percent turnout as compared to 31 percent overall turnout. If Student V.O.T.E.S. were excluded from that overall number, there would have been a 28 percent turnout. This was not a significant enough effect on this precinct.

Precinct 85 had an 80 percent Student V.O.T.E.S. turnout compared to 11 percent overall. If Student V.O.T.E.S. had been excluded from the totals, the turnout would have been 9 percent. This again was not a significant enough effect on the precinct.

These two precincts saw the heaviest concentrations of Student V.O.T.E.S. members and there was no significant impact on the overall election. The entire Student V.O.T.E.S. population had a 72 percent turnout as compared to 54 percent for all of Delaware County. If Student V.O.T.E.S. were excluded, there would still be a 54 percent turnout. The effect is negligible on the county.

There was little to no effect of the group on the community as a whole or in local precincts. However, in almost every case, the turnout of Student V.O.T.E.S. members within each precinct was higher than that of others within their precincts. The best example is precinct 85. There is a 80 to 11 percent turnout disparity. Of those that did go to the polls on election day, approximately 1 out of 4 in precinct 85 was affiliated with Student V.O.T.E.S. Also, compared to past off-year elections, Student V.O.T.E.S. members beat the overall Delaware County average. The only
election turnout larger than ours was the general presidential election of 1992.

What Student V.O.T.E.S. did accomplish was turnout of its members as compared to other voters both past and present. This is significant. Our goal was to get our people to the polls and we did it. Regardless of the reasons why individuals involved in Student V.O.T.E.S. went to the polls, they went. Therefore, that goal was accomplished. I contend that contributing factors to this accomplishment are the tenets of our organization: vigorous voter registration, voter education, and voting initiatives. Student V.O.T.E.S. was the reason that a 72 percent majority of its members went to the polls.

**Post Election Day for Student V.O.T.E.S.**

After election day, Student V.O.T.E.S. now had to write its organizational constitution to meet university student activity guidelines. This constitution was to reflect the goals of the organization while maintaining the integrity of the non-partisanship that the group had enjoyed up until now. We also had to ensure that the group was accessible to anyone that wanted more information on candidates, voting, or the political process. Therefore, a no-dues policy was established. Also, the membership list of Student V.O.T.E.S. was not to be used by any outside group or by any of its members that is not expressly for the purposes of this organization.

The structure of Student V.O.T.E.S. was to change as well. Now there would be president, 3 vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. Each of the vice-presidents would be responsible for one facet of the group’s goals. The Vice-President of Membership would chair all voter registration drives; the Vice-President of Education would coordinate all information activities, like debates and research work; and the Vice-President of Public Relations would coordinate all publications and get-out-the-vote initiatives.
After a few weeks of discussion, the Student V.O.T.E.S. Constitution was adopted in a convention where all members were invited on November 29, 1994. The five attendees (David Eppley, “Doc” Hunter, Jen Nuckles, Keith Stouder, and Matt Stovcsik) unanimously signed the document. After a clarification change on January 10, 1995, Student V.O.T.E.S. was an officially recognized organization at Ball State University.

Also, in our last meeting of 1994 under our newly adopted constitution, we held our first election. “Doc” Hunter was elected the new president of the organization. Due to a lack of involvement of students who were going to return in the following school year, graduating seniors took the other offices until replacements could be found.

The present 1995 officers of Student V.O.T.E.S. are: E. L. “Doc” Hunter, President; Catherine “Cat” Lawrence, VP-Membership; Chris DuPont, VP-Education; Courtney Snyder, VP-Public Relations; Shawn Erwin, Secretary/Acting Treasurer. The present group of officers has been very busy in making this organization thrive. Their work has focused primarily in getting the freshmen out to vote not only in local politics but also in campus student politics. The newsletter that was sent out undoubtedly brought more freshmen to the SGA elections.

Next year’s goals for the group include improved turnout in the city elections by students and readying the group for the presidential primary in the Spring of 1996.
IV. Bibliography
Bibliography


Other Sources

Bales, Kay. Director of Student Activities, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Corbett, Michael. Political Science Department, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Eddy, Patricia. 1986 Mark Carmichael Campaign, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Emshwiller, Joan. Voter Registration Office, Delaware County, IN, discussion and voter registration materials.

Jones, Barbara. Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Jones, George. Assistant Director of Student Activities, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Losco, Joseph A. Political Science Department, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Nichols, Phil. Chair of Democratic Party, Delaware County, IN, discussion.

Ottman, Byron. Student Activist, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

“Register Once” Student Voting Conference, sponsored by Lead or Leave, Washington, DC, October, 1994, numerous discussions and packet information.
Scheele, Raymond. Political Science Department, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, discussion.

Windmeyer, Shane. Kansas Student Votes, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, discussion.
V. Appendices
Appendix A.

13 September 1994

Dear Student V.O.T.E.S. member,

I would like to thank you for taking your time to spread the word about Student V.O.T.E.S. Your actions will certainly make the Ball State student voice heard within Delaware County politics. In order to help maintain the honor and integrity of this organization, especially in the eyes of our members and the community at large, I encourage you to follow a few simple guidelines when promoting our organization:

1 ) **Leave partisanship at home.** If you hear a prospective registrant/member talking about current politicians (i.e. downing of Bill Clinton, or the in-fighting of one party or another), assure them that is not what Student V.O.T.E.S. is about. Also, don't promote a candidate for whom you are campaigning (when you are speaking on behalf of Student V.O.T.E.S.). And as always, don't declare your party identification. We are a non-partisan group.

2 ) **Keep the membership list to yourself.** The membership list is personal information of our members. They gave that information to us for only our organization to use. No one may use this list except for our organization's purposes. This list is not to be given to or copied by anyone outside of the organization.

3 ) **Please use Student V.O.T.E.S. paraphernalia.** When you are registering students to vote or are enlisting students into our organization, please use the Student V.O.T.E.S. Registration Form so that the secretary may enter the information more efficiently and so that the information (hopefully) does not get lost in the shuffle.

Please do not view this as a dictatorial memorandum, instead, a uniform set of loose guidelines for our members to follow. We are a new organization with a lot of outspoken individuals. I would like to see this organization use the outstanding abilities of those individuals in the most effective way possible. I believe this is one way in which that can be accomplished.

If any of you have any problems, complaints, or criticisms, give me a call "24/7" at 286-8672. Thanks again, people! You guys are the ones who are going to make this work!!!

Sincerely Yours,

David Eppley
President, Student V.O.T.E.S.
Appendix B.

To: E.L. "Doc" Hunter, President, Student VOTES
From: David Eppley, Founder, Student VOTES
RE: Letter for first pamphlet
Date: January 19, 1995

Student VOTES is an organization which strives to empower the Ball State student with political power -- the power to vote.

We are a non-partisan group which aims not only to register its members to vote, but also to educate those voters on the stances and issues of the candidates who are running. We do not take political stands as an organization in support of a party, platform, or candidate. That is up to you to decide.

We try to "get out the vote" on election day. We aim for 100% turnout of our membership on that day. We don't care how you vote; we just want you to show up at the polls.

Don't let society call us "Generation X" which doesn't care about the political decisions made on its behalf. We DO care! This is one way to prove them wrong.

Take an opportunity to better your situation. Be a part of the solution. REGISTER TO VOTE and JOIN STUDENT VOTES!!

Sincerely,

David Eppley,
Founder of Student VOTES
Appendix C.

January 19, 1995

To the members of Student VOTES:

This letter is a welcomed chance for me to say thank you to the organization and to say good luck to those who follow me in positions of leadership in this organization.

I have appreciated your confidence in me as your former President and currently as your Vice-President of Membership. I will remain an active member of this organization to watch it grow in numbers and in ideas. This organization has a wealth of potential if those who run it keep students first and party nonexistent. Our goal is to help politically empower the students of Ball State University. It is a difficult goal but can be accomplished with drive and great organization.

To help foster the growth of this organization, I hereby resign my elected position so that someone who will return next year may instill a sense of continuity. I am proud of this organization and wish it the best of luck.

Sincerely Yours,

David Eppley
Appendix D.
Student Voters Organized to Empower Students
Constitution
(Adopted: November 29, 1994; Amended: January 10, 1995)

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Student Voters Organized to Empower Students, hereafter referred to as Student V.O.T.E.S. or the organization.

Article II. Purpose

Section 1. It shall be the purpose of Student V.O.T.E.S. to empower students in the political process through:

A. Student voter registration.
B. Voter education.
   i. issues directly affecting students.
   ii. stances, actions, and issues of all candidates.
C. "Get-Out-the-Vote" initiatives.

Section 2. It shall not be the purpose or policy of Student V.O.T.E.S., in any way, to support or denounce a candidate, political party, or political ideology. All actions taken by or on behalf of the organization must be non-partisan.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. The membership of Student V.O.T.E.S. shall be limited to Ball State University students, faculty, and staff, who are registered to vote.

Section 2. Student V.O.T.E.S. strongly adheres to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, sexual orientation, national origin, physical or mental handicap, age, status as a Vietnam Era Veteran, political party, or political ideology in selection of its members.

Section 3. No Student V.O.T.E.S. membership list may be used outside of the organization without written consent of the organization.

Article IV. Officers
Section 1. The officers of Student V.O.T.E.S. shall be the President, Vice-President of Membership, Vice-President of Education, Vice-President of Public Relations, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The President.

A. Shall be a liaison between Student V.O.T.E.S. and the Ball State, local, state, and national communities.
B. Shall preside at all Student V.O.T.E.S. meetings.
C. Shall oversee the carrying out of Student V.O.T.E.S. policy and activity.
D. Shall be empowered to appoint ad hoc chairs for specific purposes designated by the President.

Section 3. Vice-President of Membership.

A. Shall be in charge of all voter registration drives.
B. Shall be in charge of all membership drives.
C. Shall chair the Membership Committee.
D. Shall preside in the absence of the President.

Section 4. Vice-President of Education.

A. Shall be in charge of acquiring all information on candidates.
B. Shall be in charge of debates sponsored by Student V.O.T.E.S.
C. Shall chair the Education Committee.

Section 5. Vice-President of Public Relations.

A. Shall be the editor of all Student V.O.T.E.S. publications.
B. Shall be in charge of all "Get-Out-the-Vote" initiatives.
C. Shall chair the Public Relations Committee.

Section 6. Secretary.

A. Shall keep minutes at all Student V.O.T.E.S. meetings.
B. Shall keep attendance at all Student V.O.T.E.S. meetings.
C. Shall keep and maintain a copy of the permanent records of Student V.O.T.E.S.
D. Shall do all that is necessary to provide a fair, accessible, and efficient meeting.

Section 7. Treasurer.
A. Shall keep the financial records of the organization.
B. Shall collect any dues or monies required by the organization.
C. Shall chair any Fund Raising or Development Committee.

Section 8. Elections.

A. All elections for officers in the organization will be supervised by the advisor or his/her designee who shall not be a member of the organization and will take place the last meeting of the first semester (this meeting shall not take place during finals week). Any member may run for office. The winner of an election is the person who receives a plurality of the votes cast in that election. Elections will be held individually, starting with President, then Vice-President of Membership, then Vice-President of Education, then Vice-President of Public Relations, then Secretary, then Treasurer, so that individuals who did not win in a previous election may run in another.
B. No person may hold more than one office at any one time.
C. Every member present may vote in the election.
D. The term of office begins the first meeting of the second semester. The term of office ends the following year at the beginning of the first meeting of the second semester.

Article V. Executive Council and Replacement of Officers

Section 1. The Executive Council (EC) shall include all officers of Student V.O.T.E.S. The purpose of this committee is to set the agenda for regular and special meetings, otherwise the President will set the agenda. The committee will set the direction of the group without enacting policy (this is reserved for the regular and special meetings).

Section 2. Quorum for EC shall be a simple majority.

Section 3. Officer Vacancy and Replacement.

A. In the event that an office becomes vacant, the President will appoint a temporary replacement. The organization may have a special election to fill the vacancy.
B. If the office of the President is vacant, the Vice-President of Membership will preside in that absence. There will be a special election for President as soon as is possible.

Section 4. Impeachment and Removal.

A. Any and all officers are subject to removal from office if they disobey any organizational policy, university policy, local, state, or national statute.

B. Some organizational policy infractions that would warrant removal from office (but not limited to): flagrant disobedience of the Student V.O.T.E.S. Constitution, misuse of Student V.O.T.E.S. funds, using the Student V.O.T.E.S. name or title in personal support of a candidate or party.

C. The accused will be given written notice of what he/she is charged. Both the accused and accuser will have at least one week to develop their cases. The trial meeting shall be held at a regularly scheduled meeting, presided over by the advisor of the group. Both sides will have as much time as they need to present their cases. The accused is removed only if a 2/3 majority of members present vote for removal.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meeting Time and Place.

A. The regular meeting time and place will be decided by each new executive council. This should be at an accessible site at the most opportune time to involve as many members as possible.

B. The President reserves the right to call any special meeting he/she feels necessary outside of the regular meeting times. However, these meetings must have a specific purpose.

C. All meetings are to be announced and open to the public.

Section 2. Quorum.

A. 2/3 of Executive Council must be present to hold a regular meeting of Student V.O.T.E.S. Any member of Student V.O.T.E.S. may attend these meetings and may vote on any issue.
Section 3. Rules of Order.

A. This organization shall follow Robert’s Rules of Order, deferring to the Student V.O.T.E.S. Constitution.

Article VII. Finances

Section 1. Dues.

A. There will be no dues required of members of Student V.O.T.E.S.

Section 2. Additional Methods.

A. The Treasurer and Fund Raising or Development Committee may initiate various methods of raising money for the organization, keeping in mind that no money will be required of any regular member at any time.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section 1. No amendments may be proposed which compromise the non-partisanship of this organization.

Section 2. All amendments proposed need to be introduced during a regular meeting in writing to the President who will read it to the group for discussion. The group will then vote on the proposed amendment in the following meeting.

Section 3. A 2/3 affirmative majority of votes cast of members present is necessary for its adoption.

Article IX. Ratification

Section 1. This Constitution will be the official Student V.O.T.E.S. Constitution effective immediately upon the signature of 3/4 of members present.

Those Signing Unanimously:

David Eppley
Jennifer E. Nuckles
E. L. “Doc” Hunter
Keith Stouder
Matthew J. Stovcsik