

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

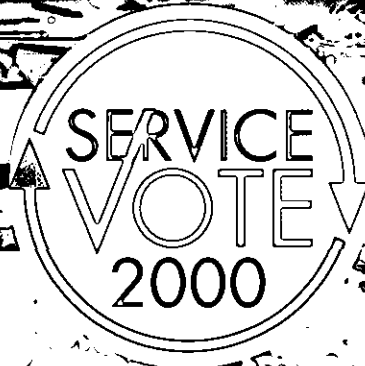
JTS Box Number: IFES_79
Tab Number: 76
Document Title: Service Vote 2000 Voters Toolkit
Document Date: 2000
Document Country: United States -- General
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE01994



* 1 F 7 1 5 F 9 D - E B 3 8 - 4 E 4 B - B C 4 6 - A D A 0 1 0 7 9 1 9 1 C *

Every day,
you strive to
help others...

A PROJECT OF
YOUTH SERVICE
AMERICA
Funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts



VOTERS

TOOLKIT

What do the decision makers have
in mind for our future?

YOU GOTTA VOTE TOO!

Volunteer Today. Vote for Tomorrow. www.SERVE.net.org

SERVICEVOTE 2000 CAMPAIGN REGISTRATION FORM

To: Matthew Leber, Campaign Manager ServiceVote 2000

Youth Service America

Phone: 202-296-2992 x22

Fax: 202-496-2030

Email: mleber@ysa.org

Website: www.SERVE.net.org

NAME _____ DATE _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (H) _____ Best time to call: _____

PHONE (Other) _____ Best time to call: _____

EMAIL _____

Check all activities that you will be participating in these next months:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Pledge of Service (ongoing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Educate Voters (ongoing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a "Power Hour" (summer/fall) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a Service Stop (fall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a Voter Registration Drive (fall) | <input type="checkbox"/> Build a Coalition (ongoing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vote on November 7, 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a Youth Forum (fall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a Service Day (summer/fall) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold a Political Fair (fall) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer on a Campaign (ongoing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct Evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a friend to vote | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REGISTRATION FORM	3
CHAPTER ONE	5
SERVICEVOTE 2000 - OVERVIEW	5
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	5
SERVICEVOTE 2000: CAMPAIGN VISION, MISSION & GOALS	6
CAMPAIGN STRUCTURE	7
WHAT SUPPORT WILL THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR HAVE?	7
CAMPAIGN STRATEGY	8
CAMPAIGN PLANNING TIMELINES	10
OVERVIEW	10
MONTH BY MONTH LOCAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING TIMELINE	11
SERVICEVOTE 2000 NATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS	14
SERVICE VOTE 2000: JUST THE FACTS	16
THE TOP SIX MYTHS ABOUT YOUTH	16
CHAPTER TWO: RECRUITMENT - PHASE ONE	18
PHASE ONE DATES: AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 22	18
ORGANIZING DRIVE	21
CHAPTER THREE: VOTER EDUCATION & REGISTRATION DRIVE - PHASE TWO	26
PHASE TWO DATES: SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 30	26
VOTER EDUCATION	27
HOSTING DEBATES AND FORUMS	27
DEBATE WATCH 2000	31
Q & A ABOUT PLANNING A DEBATEWATCH:	33
SERVICE EVENTS	35
ORGANIZE A SERVICE DAY	36
ORGANIZE A "POWER HOUR"	37
ORGANIZE A TEACH IN	39
SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH DEBATES	42
TEACH IN — ISSUE RESOURCES	43
THE CANDIDATE SURVEY	46
SIGN A PLEDGE OF SERVICE	47
VOTER REGISTRATION	48
CHAPTER FOUR: GET OUT THE VOTE - PHASE THREE	50
PHASE THREE DATES: OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 7	50
GET OUT THE VOTE	50
THINGS TO DO BEFORE ELECTION DAY	51
THINGS TO DO ON ELECTION DAY	53
WHAT TO DO AFTER THE ELECTION	53
TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE	55
SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT	55
CHAPTER FIVE: WORKING WITH THE MEDIA	56
SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY	59
SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR #1	60
SAMPLE OPINION EDITORIAL	63
APPENDIX	
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	65
NEWSPAPERS BY STATE	71
BOARDS OF ELECTION BY STATE	74
YOUTH & THE POWER OF POLITICS - SUCCESS STORIES	77



CHAPTER ONE

SERVICEVOTE 2000 - OVERVIEW



We live in an era where far too often we hear, "What's wrong with America's youth?" However, America's youth are doing what is right — they are volunteering at unprecedented rates. For example, they have tutored more children, cleaned up more rivers, and donated more hours to helping America live up to its promise than any generation in the last 50 years.

Unfortunately, as volunteering is rising among this age group, voting is declining — from 50% in 1972, to an all-time low of 32% in the 1996 Presidential election. The discrepancy between youth volunteering and youth voting is one that no longer can be ignored. Like volunteer work, the voting booth is a necessary step in the cycle of civic participation. The 2000 Elections provide a unique opportunity for the national and community service field to encourage voting by those who already volunteer.

In a national youth survey conducted by 20/20 Vision in September of 1999, participants were asked what methods were effective ways to make change. Ninety- three percent believed that the most effective way to make a change is by "putting your ideals to work in your everyday life." Ninety-two percent surveyed believed that "volunteering locally to help people directly" is an effective way to make change. *At the same time, less than 20% of young Americans voted in 1998.* From these results, it is clear that youth think that they can make the greatest difference close to home, but do not see the vote or public policy as the means to make that effective change.

If this cycle continues, the children of today's volunteers will be cleaning up the same dirty rivers and tutoring at the same mediocre schools. The purpose of ServiceVote 2000, this Tool Kit, and the Tool Box is to provide young adult volunteers with effective tools to education and activate their peers before the election, get them out to the polls on November 7th, and engage them in the political process.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- 20/20 Vision Education Fund
- 2030 Center
- Ad Council
- Alliance for Better Campaigns
- Alliance for National Renewal
- America's Promise
- Campus Compact
- Campus Outreach Opportunity League
- City Year
- Close Up Foundation
- College Republican National Committee
- Council for Excellence in Government
- Debate America
- Debate Watch
- Democracy Compact
- Do Something
- Foundation for Individual Responsibility and Social Trust
- Generation Net
- govWorks.com
- Hillel - The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
- HOBY
- Independent Sector
- League of Women Voters Education Fund
- National 4-H Council
- National and Community Service Coalition
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- National Association of Secretaries of State
- National Association of Service and Conservation Corps
- National Civic League
- National Youth Leadership Council
- National College Reform Party
- National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Inc.
- National Youth Voting Day
- Points of Light Foundation
- Project Vote Smart
- Rock the Vote
- Schoolcity.com
- United States Student Association
- University YMCA
- Voter Foundation
- The Washington Center
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group
- Young Democrats of America
- YouthBuild USA
- Youth-e-Vote.com
- Youth Greens
- Youth in Action Campaign
- Youth Vote 2000 Coalition

SERVICEVOTE 2000: CAMPAIGN VISION, MISSION & GOALS

Our Vision is to create a society where young adults are engaged by the political process and believe in it as an opportunity to serve their communities.

Our mission is to spearhead a national campaign to encourage full civic engagement of American youth by forging a tangible connection between their involvement in community service and the political process; and to increase awareness and commitment among candidates to make national and community service a common experience for all young people.

The ServiceVote 2000 Campaign will achieve its mission by mobilizing a network of national civic and youth service organizations as a vehicle to stimulate grass-roots organizing. The Campaign will maximize its impact by focusing on young volunteers, the candidates, and the media.

OUR GOALS ARE THREEFOLD:

1. Bridge the gap between volunteering and voting among young people.
2. Educate and engage candidates about National and Community Service.
3. Raise public awareness about importance of youth involvement as volunteers and voters.



CAMPAIGN STRUCTURE

300 LOCAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

Local Campaign Coordinators (LCCs) are the organizers of the campaign in their local communities. As an LCC, you will work closely with a Youth Service America Regional Campaign Coordinator, as you mobilize and educate young adult volunteers in your community and get them out to the polls. Whether or not you have experience, if you have the passion and are willing to try, your campaign will be a success.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR HAVE?

• TOOL KIT

The Tool Kit is divided up into three phases of the national campaigning - Phase One: Recruitment; Phase Two: Voter Education and Registration; and Phase Three: Get out the Vote. You can pull out each phase and make copies to distribute to other members of your organization. We've added a separate section on media and specific resources found in the appendix that we thought would make your job easier. You are welcome to use any and all of this information. However, we'd prefer that you become part of the national movement to engage young adult volunteers in politics by officially registering as a local campaign site. When you have questions, call a Youth Service America Regional Campaign Coordinator.

• TOOL BOX

The Tool Box will contain many of the materials that you will need for your activities - flyers, stickers, posters, and postcards to spread the word in your community - as well as more guides and "HOW TOS" from our partners. As special recognition of the leadership role you've agreed to take, we'll send you a cool backpack to hold those posters as you hang them around campus, and a coffee mug to make sure you can keep up with the flow of traffic at your events!

• NATIONAL STAFF

Youth Service America has a six member team working to help you make sure that your campaign is a success. The four Regional Campaign Coordinators, the Campaign Manager and the Campaign Director are ready to help you with your campaign from start to finish. We are here to listen to your ideas, identify local media and local coalition members to assist you, design a plan and make sure you are a success. As soon as you become a Local Campaign Coordinator by faxing back your registration sheet, you will be assigned a Regional Campaign Coordinator and receive a call from us within one week of registering.

BROAD NETWORK OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

You won't want to organize this campaign alone and most likely there are a number of organizations in your community also mobilizing young people to vote. Get them involved and strengthen each others programs. We have listed our Campaign Partners in an appendix in the back. Give them a call. They are prepared to put you in touch with their local affiliates and sites in your area.

OVERVIEW

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

GOAL ① BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN VOLUNTEERING AND VOTING AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.

Training Young Volunteers as Local Campaign Coordinators

Over 300 young volunteers will be trained as Local Campaign Coordinators through its 35+ organizational partnerships, conferences, forums, and the Republican and Democratic conventions. Campaign Coordinators, working closely with ServiceVote 2000 staff, will organize grassroots initiatives in their community that include information fairs, service stops, public forums, voter registration, and "get out the vote" activities.

Connect Volunteering and Voting at the Republican and Democratic Conventions

ServiceVote 2000, will host Service Projects, an educational program - Convention Watch, train local campaign coordinators and promote the "I Volunteer and I Vote" message at the conventions in Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Service Projects - Working with national and local media, young people will invite candidates to a service project such as painting a school, creating a civic-youth mural, or cleaning up in a neighborhood.

Convention Watch - Is a simple idea to get young people talking about the candidates and issues, not just listening. In partnership with Debate Watch 2000, youth volunteer focus groups will meet daily during the convention to discuss the conventions and how the issues affect their lives. The opinions of young people, collected through the focus groups will be broadcasted through television, radio and web media. This way young adult volunteers across the nation can influence the broader dialogue on matters of public policy.

Local Campaign Coordinator Trainings - After providing young people an opportunity to serve, to discuss the issue, young people will be armed with the tool to mobilize their own community through trainings.

Youth Forums

ServiceVote 2000 will co-host five large regional forums with its Campaign Partners. The forums will connect young adult volunteers to the candidates at the local, state, and federal levels. The candidates will be encouraged to share their vision for increasing the involvement of young people in national and community service, as well as the political process. The national media coverage will draw attention to candidates and the young adults involved. ServiceVote 2000 Local Campaign Coordinators will initiate and produce forums and fairs around the nation.

GOAL ② EDUCATE AND ENGAGE CANDIDATES ON ISSUES RELATED TO NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Service Events

Local Campaign Coordinators will organize service events for candidates and their staff. The events, referred to as Service Stops, will be designed to stand alone, or be added on to a youth forum or issues fair. The purpose, to engage candidates in volunteer activities and educate them about the ways in which young people are addressing local needs in their communities.

OVERVIEW

Candidate Youth Service Briefing Packet

A briefing packet will be available to educate candidates about national and community service, and indicate ways for them to demonstrate public support. The packet will be distributed to all presidential, vice-presidential, senate, gubernatorial candidates, and those in selected congressional districts.

Candidate Survey on Youth Service and Political Action

ServiceVote 2000 will collect information about where the candidates stand on issues around youth service and youth involvement in the civic participation process. Responses will be posted on the ServiceVote 2000 Website, released to the media, and will serve as a preliminary analysis of candidates' perceptions of young people's role as civic participants.

Pledge of Service

The non-partisan Pledge of Service will be an important component of all national and local ServiceVote 2000 Campaign events in which any candidates will be in attendance. It will be used to gain support from candidates for national and community service, and obtain coverage from the media. It will provide a tangible and publicized manner for candidates demonstrate their support for national and community service.

GOAL 3 RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AS VOLUNTEERS AND VOTERS.

Media Coverage of all ServiceVote 2000 Events

ServiceVote 2000 will work with its local partners to ensure media coverage of young people engaging political candidates at all ServiceVote 2000 events in local newspapers, television, and radio. ServiceVote 2000 will identify reporters covering issues of youth voting and national and community service. Service Vote 2000 will stage a "made-for-C-SPAN" event, featuring Capitol Hill members speaking out on youth and civic responsibility.

National and Local Opinion Editorials and Editorial Boards

ServiceVote 2000 will submit a national opinion editorial to The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today and other national media outlets, distribute editorial advisories and call editorial boards at national newspapers and local papers in targeted congressional districts, encouraging them to editorialize on the importance of youth volunteering and voting. In addition, ServiceVote 2000 will attempt to arrange meetings between the Youth Service America leadership and the editorial boards of the aforementioned national newspapers. As election day approaches ServiceVote 2000 will assist the Local Campaign Coordinators in publicizing their activities and opinions in the popular newspapers of that region.

Grassroots Awareness Campaign: Volunteer Today. Vote Tomorrow.

Local Campaign Coordinators will cover local communities and college campuses with thousands of the "Volunteer Today Vote For Tomorrow" posters, flyers, and handbills, provided in the Campaign Toolbox. Free "Volunteer Today Vote For Tomorrow" postcards will be distributed to youth oriented stores, shops, and restaurants where the five regional youth forums will be held.

Publication of Findings

ServiceVote 2000 will work to publicize the successes and findings of the Service Vote 2000 Campaign through national and local media, and the Internet. Polling data and subsequent analyses of service-related surveys also will be distributed and promoted to the media. ServiceVote 2000 will work with their partners in their overall efforts to engage youth and promote the work of the partners to the media.

OVERVIEW

CAMPAIGN PLANNING TIMELINES

Overview

We put specific projects into a timeline, but nothing is set in stone. However, it is going to be in your best interest and make you more successful if you keep a few things in mind:

- **Summer:** Use this time to build your coalition, and recruit more general members into your ServiceVote 2000 group. You can also build relationships with the press, contact candidate offices to find out about volunteer opportunities over the summer, notify them of your activities in the fall or set up a service stop. This is also the time to mail out the survey and ask each candidate to sign onto the Pledge of Service. The big push will be in the fall and you want to be able to hit the ground running so that summer is a key time to lay out all the groundwork. For example, if you know you are going to host a Youth Rally or Political Action Fair then set the wheels in motion.
- Set up an e-mail list and send it to YSA so that we can send our National Service Briefing to all of your members. Alert your members to check our website at www.servenet.org, where we will post articles about volunteering and voting and the campaigns. Summer also is a great time to encourage your members to write letters to editor about youth service. Remember if we push the government - they will follow our lead.
- **Fall:** This is the big push - the time where we make our voices heard. Host a youth rally, a political action fair, coordinate a service stop with the local candidates. Take the results of the candidate survey to your local paper. Hold a press conference with all the candidates who signed the pledge of service. Register people to vote! And once folks have voted, make sure to contact all the members of ServiceVote 2000, and other volunteer sites to determine just how many youth volunteers voted.

T
I
M
E
L
I
N
E

Month By Month Local Campaign Planning Timeline

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

- **Register to Vote:** We've included a National Campus Voter Registration Project Organizing Handbook (in the Tool Box), prepared by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. It will provide excellent resource material, contacts and general information about conducting a voter registration drive on campus.

- **Candidate Survey:** Send out the survey to all of your local candidates. You can find the addresses of your local candidates on the Project Vote Smart website at www.vote-smart.org. Cut and paste our sample cover letter and the questions onto your own letterhead. Where possible, send the information via e-mail. You will have to make follow up phone calls because the candidates receive many, many surveys. So be prepared to make the follow up calls. Make sure to send us the results so we can post them to our Website.

- **Pledge of Service:** Ask candidates to sign onto our Pledge of Service. You can ask them when you are making follow up phone calls. Don't include the pledge when you send the survey. Send them separately so that the candidate doesn't do one over the other and so that you have another way to be in touch with your representative. Ask your peers to sign the pledge of service as well. You can have it at a table in a common area as a way to interest people in what you are doing and ask for their help.

- Attend state and local conventions and conferences

- Contact Youth Service America if you are interested in attending the democratic or national conventions in Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

- Write a letter to the editor (see sample)

- Compile a list of media contacts

- Register your opinion on-line at the Youth In Action site at www.youthlink.org

- **Power Hour:** Hold your first power hour. Use this tool during your first organizing committee meeting. Check out the Project Vote Smart Website to find out about how your local candidates feel about issues. Remember to fax the results to YSA. We want to know what issue you wrote your letters on, how many you sent out and to whom.



USE AS
CHECKLIST

THE
TIMELINE



USE AS
CHECKLIST

TIME
LINE

Month By Month Local Campaign Planning Timeline

SEPTEMBER

- **General Interest Meeting:** You'll want to recruit additional people to help you with all of your great activities. There are a number of non-traditional ways to do this. First, go to each classroom on the entire campus and in the upper right-hand (or left-hand) corner of the blackboard, write the date, time, and location of your first meeting of the year. This will come in handy when you go to classes on campus to encourage people to register to vote, and get involved with your group. Every activity you do on campus is an opportunity for you to recruit more volunteers to help you with ServiceVote 2000.
- **Voter Registration Push:** The beginning of the year is a great time to reach out to new students on campus and engage students in your activities. Call faculty of the largest classes on campus (see ServiceVote 2000 Faculty Rap) and request to do a 5-minute presentation about ServiceVote 2000 and your activities (see the ServiceVote 2000 Class Presentation Rap). At the end of the presentation ask everyone to register to vote. Make sure to have the voter registration materials before school starts! You could easily register hundreds, if not thousands of people to vote within a few weeks!
- **Media Attention:** Once you've registered folks to vote, send out a press release to the local paper and make sure your campus paper write a story about the event. People want to know the difference you are making! Refer to the Alliance for Better Campaigns state partner list for organizations that can assist you in receiving increased media attention.
- **Host a Youth Rally**
- **Press Conference** Depending upon your findings from the candidate survey or the number of people that have signed onto the Pledge of Service, you may have a ready-made press conference!

OCTOBER

- Conduct a **"Power Hour"** and report the results to Youth Service America

- Host a Political Fair

- Host a candidate service stop

- Sign up individuals to pledge to bring at least one other individuals to the polls with them in November

NOVEMBER

- Vote!**

- Poll all of the members of your ServiceVote 2000 group and all other volunteer groups on campus and find out how many voted. Report the results to YSA.



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

TIMELINE



**HOT
ITEM**

**W
E
L
C
O
M
E
T
O
T
H
E
T
I
M
E
L
I
N
E**

ServiceVote 2000 National Calendar of Events

MAY 2000

May 2	Indiana, North Carolina, and District of Columbia Primaries	
May 9	Nebraska and West Virginia Primaries	
May 12 - 14	Young Blue Dogs National Meeting, Indianapolis, IN	
May 16	Oregon Primary	
May 23	Arkansas, Idaho, and Kentucky Primaries	
May 31 - June 4	CYZYGY Conference	San Jose, CA

JUNE 2000

June 6	Alabama, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, and South Dakota Primaries	
June 6	Service Vote 2000 National Press Conference Partnership Meeting	Washington, D.C.
June 18 - 21	National Association of Service and Conservation Corps Annual Conference	New York, New York
June 19	Hillel Partner Agency Day	Washington, D.C.
June 21 - 27	National Community Service Conference	Orlando, Florida
July 2000		
July 1 - 3	Libertarian Convention in Anaheim, California	
July 11 - 13	Council for Excellence in Government	
July 31 - August 3	Republican National Convention Youth in Action Convention	Philadelphia Philadlephia

AUGUST 2000

- August 10 - 13 National Reform Party Convention Long Beach, California
- August 10 Candidate Survey Results
- August 14 - 17 Democratic National Convention Los Angeles, California
 Youth in Action Convention Los Angeles, California

SEPTEMBER 2000

- September/October Five Regional Youth Forums To be determined
- September 4 - 22 **ServiceVote2000 Grass Roots Campaign Begins!!**
 Phase one: Recruitment Drive
- September 18 - 22 Local General Interest Meetings
- September 25 Phase two: Civic Education and Voter Registration
 - October 30

OCTOBER 2000

- October 3 Presidential Debate at University of Massachusetts Boston, 9pm.
- October 4 Regional Forum: Political Action Day -
 Brevard Community College, Melbourne, Florida
- October 5 Vice-President Debate - Centre College Danville, Kentucky, 9pm.
- October 28 National Make a Difference Day**
- October 26 - Phase three: Get Out the Vote
 November 7
- October 11 Presidential Debate - Wake Forest University North Carolina, 9pm.
- October 17 Presidential Debate - Washington University Missouri, 9pm.

NOVEMBER 2000

- November 7 ELECTION DAY!



**HOT
ITEM**

E
N
D
O
F
T
H
E
T
O
O
L
K
I
T

SERVICE VOTE 2000: JUST THE FACTS

THE TOP SIX MYTHS ABOUT YOUTH

MYTH 1

Young people are too self-absorbed to get involved with their local community.

FACT

Today's youth are volunteering in record numbers. In fact, 60% volunteer in their communities. Youth who perform community service are more likely to graduate from high school, vote, and volunteer and adopt philanthropic attitudes as an adult is. A recent poll by Peter D. Hart found that young people are actively looking for new and distinctive ways to connect to the people and issues surrounding them.

MYTH 2

Young people are becoming progressively more violent and are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

FACT

Research shows that young people who are involved in service programs are less likely to be engaged in destructive social behavior. They are fifty percent less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, join gangs, or engage in teen-age sex.

MYTH 3

Schools are ineffective at preparing young people to become active citizens or responsible adults.

FACT

According to a 1999 Department of Education survey, 64% of all public schools, including 83 percent of public high schools, had students participating in community service activities — up 3663% from 15 years ago! In schools, service builds character and teaches responsibility, by linking learning to civic participation.

MYTH 4

Young people don't have what it takes to make the world a better place.

FACT

An overwhelming majority (93%) of America's 60 million young people believes they can make a difference in their communities. Many more young people would become involved in their communities if people they knew helped them learn about possibilities for getting involved. Youth who learn about community-based organizations directly from someone they know are three times as likely as other young people to volunteer.

MYTH 5

Federally funded programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA and the Peace Corps are too expensive.

FACT

A recent independent study of AmeriCorps shows that it is creating \$1.66 in benefits for each \$1.00 spent. On average, AmeriCorps members generate 12 part-time volunteers and volunteer agencies also find that AmeriCorps members help organize and enhance the effectiveness of occasional volunteers.

MYTH 6

Young people lack grounding in spiritual beliefs.

FACT

The most common place for a young person's first service opportunity is their place of worship or school. Since 1994, more than 13,000 AmeriCorps members, roughly 13%, have served with faith-based groups. In addition, one of the primary sources and experiences used in developing service-based learning in the public school system were those programs already existing in parochial schools.



OVERVIEW

CHAPTER TWO

PHASE 1



USE AS
CHECKLIST

RECRUITMENT

CHAPTER TWO: RECRUITMENT - PHASE ONE

PHASE ONE DATES: AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 22

GOAL: Recruit as many people as possible to assist you on the campaign and begin to create a “buzz” on campus or in your local community.

OUTCOME OF PHASE 1: A Community General Interest Meeting that recruits new members, equips them with your vision and engages them in a set of clearly defined next steps.

STEPS:

① IDENTIFY AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

Call a couple of your friends and/or peers that you think will be interested in getting involved. A handful of people can make a big difference. For example, in Washington, DC in 1993, five friends came together over two large pizzas to talk about the decay of the public schools. Six years later over 15,000 young adults come together annually to beautify the public schools, while obtaining per hour sponsorships for the work they performed. Over \$300,000 in college scholarships has been raised to date.

② HOLD A BRAINSTORMING SESSION.

The objective of the Brainstorming is to start to share ideas and put the national campaign into a local context. It is great if the invitees to the Brainstorming become participants but at this stage they are to help you get started. Use the brainstorming session to:

- identify Community Resources (organizations, student groups, facilities).
- set Local Campaign Objectives and Goals. Decide which activities your organization will conduct over the coming year. Think big and outside the box. Remember, big changes are made with only a handful of people. Call Jennifer Coken, Director of ServiceVote 2000, or Matthew Leber, Campaign Manager, at 202-296-2992 x22 to discuss your plan. They will help you design the perfect program that will be extraordinarily success and put you in touch with local Youth Service America Affiliates, chapters of United Way and the College Republicans and Democrats to help you along. (Think BIG)
- set the General Interest Meeting Date and location. From this point on your objective will be to get as many people to show up to the meeting as possible.

3 IDENTIFY COMMITTEE CHAIRS – HOLD AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING.

Approach the local organizations you've identified to assist you in the project. Ask for one representative from each community/campus group to attend an Organizing Committee Meeting. Use this meeting to solidify campaign goals and activities and identify Committee Chairs. If people do not step up to the plate to chair a committee, ask if they will serve as the leader of that committee up to the General Interest Meeting. A chair can be identified at that time. Remember as chair of a committee, your job is to motivate and manage people, not do it all yourself!

Possible Committees to form:

- **Voter Education.** Manages all education activities such as debates and debate watches, forums, fairs, etc. Each member of your committee can take on organizing one activity. The number, size and scope of activities will depend on the number of members of your committee.
- **Voter Registration.** Schedules and manages all activities to register people to vote. Ensures that appropriate voter registration or absentee ballot forms are available. Keeps track of goals set and the results in relation to the goal. Ensures that voter registration forms are sent to the appropriate place and that people registering fill out an "I pledge to vote" card. Turns those cards over to the Get Out The Vote Committee. (This committee can be combined with the Get Out The Vote Committee if there is a deadline for voter registration. About twenty states have same day voter registration, if that is the case, the two committees should remain separate up through election day.)
- **Get Out The Vote.** Schedules and manages activities such as door-to-door leafleting or phone banking to remind people to get to the polls. Tracks total number registered with actual number voting on Election Day. Tracks all "I pledge to vote" cards. Sends e-mail addresses to the national office to become part of the national database reminder service. Arrange rides or child care if needed.
- **Publicity.** Manages getting the word out before an event through e-mail, phone calls, door-to-door canvassing, and blanketing the community with posters, leaflets and flyers before an event. This committee also will ensure that appropriate materials are available during the event. For example, we will supply you with "Volunteer Vote" bracelets to tie onto the wrists of every person that registers. This is another way to publicize your activities.
- **Media Relations Chair.** Manages contacting local media to cover specific events as well as setting up radio interviews, spearheading Letter to the Editor campaigns, scheduling meetings with the editorial boards of local newspapers, and contacting the local cable company to apprise the community of the local campaign.
- **Coalition Committee.** Manages collaborations with like-minded organizations. Reaches out to new constituencies and ensures that each group participating feels ownership of the campaign.
- **Issues Committee.** Manages researching and writing about the local candidates and issues that will affect the community. Works with publicity committee to ensure high visibility of information.



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

RECRUITMENT

CHAPTER TWO

PHASE I



USE AS
CHECKLIST

RECRUITMENT

4 BUILD A COALITION

Identify local organizations to bring on board, and use our partner list in the appendix at the end of the Toolkit to identify organizations that would be interested in collaborating on your ServiceVote 2000 Campaign activities. Contact the national office of each partner organization, and they will put you in touch with a local chapter. Use the Alliance for Better Campaigns state partner list to identify organizations that can assist you in hosting Youth Forums and securing better press coverage.

Meet with each organizations one-on-one to present your initial plan and activities. Discuss how you will work together, making sure that each coalition member buys into the goals and activities. Ask for additional advice, suggestions and guidance and for a commitment as to what they will bring to the table. By bringing on coalition members early, you can make sure you are not duplicating efforts, and they can assist you in turning out a large crowd for your General Interest Meeting. Schedule a regular bi-weekly coalition meeting, spearheaded by the Coalition Committee, so that each organization can have ownership over how the campaign is going. Once an organization has agreed to collaborate with you, make sure to list them on your materials.

Always ask each group if you can make a presentation about the campaign to their large meeting. This will get people excited about the campaign. Given the short timeline and the specific end date to the campaign, you should not need to worry about whether their involvement takes away from on-going activities.

5 OBTAIN ALL NEEDED MATERIALS

Our national office can supply you with posters as well as copies of flyers and leaflets that you can use to publicize the General Interest Meeting and other activities. Just contact your Regional Campaign Coordinator. Additional materials you will have to supply on your own will vary from pencils and pens for Power Hours, to podiums to tables for the education materials. **For every event you will need:**

- Pencils and pens
- Sign up sheets
- Campaign surveys
- Petitions on local and national issues
- Voter registration materials
- "Volunteer and Vote" Bracelets
- Campaign Flyers
- Cameras for photos to send to local papers

6 ORGANIZING DRIVE

The Organizing Drive should last at least two weeks, no more than three. This is the first stage of the campaign and your opportunity to get the word out and begin to create a "buzz" on campus or in your local community. You should pull out all the stops to ensure that as many people as possible show up to your General Interest Meeting. Get creative. Get loud. The more people see a presence on campus, the more they are going to want to take part in the campaign.

The number of recruitment activities you conduct will depend on the number of people you have on your organizing committee, or in your coalition. You should always go for the biggest bang for your buck. In other words, if you have a limited number of people, focus on active activities such as making presentations to large groups. Do not stop there however. Remember the three key words that make any organizing drive successful: Visibility, visibility, visibility.

There is a huge difference between active and passive organizing. Passive activities are those that involve no real human contact. Putting posters, and passing out leaflets or handbills are two examples of passive organizing. Tabling, class presentations, and door knocking are active because you have the opportunity to ask them to commit to come to the General Interest Meeting. With few resources, focus on active ways to organize. Reinforce your message by putting up posters.

Whether making a presentation, going door-to-door or standing in front of a table, always ask people to sign up to attend the General Interest Meeting and ask for their phone number. Let them know that you will be making a call about five days out to remind them of the meeting. People have busy schedules and they will welcome the reminder. Making the reminder calls is a guaranteed way to increase normal meeting attendance 100%.

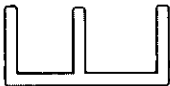
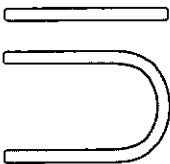


**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

RECRUITMENT

CHAPTER TWO

PHASE I

USE AS
CHECKLISTUSE AS
SAMPLEUSE AS
SAMPLE**6 ORGANIZING DRIVE (CONT.)**

Presentations You can make a presentation to a local church group, an after school program or in the largest classes on campus. The presentations get people excited about the upcoming campaign. Here is a sample faculty rap and class rap. You can modify them for the groups that you are targeting.

FACULTY RAP

Find the professors of the largest classes on campuses – these are generally all of the freshman 101 courses. Call faculty members between 8am and 10am or between 3pm and 5pm. These are the best times to get a hold of them.

“Is Professor X there?” “Hi Professor X, this is Jennifer and I’m calling from (your student group). This fall, we are participating in ServiceVote 2000, a national campaign to mobilize youth volunteers to vote. Our goals are to register (*number*) of students on our campus, educate the campus on issues that are important to youth, and then encourage them to vote. I’d like to take five minutes – ten minutes at the beginning of your class to register the students to vote, and let them know about an upcoming interest meeting we are having. Is that possible? Great. What day is best for you.”

The registration process will have to be fast so that you don’t take too much class time. You may want to work it out with the faculty member to have voter registration forms available on each desk to save time passing them out.

CLASS PRESENTATION RAP

“Hi, I’m Jennifer and I’m from (your group). This fall, we are participating in ServiceVote 2000, a national campaign to mobilize youth volunteers to vote, and to influence the candidates to make national and community service a common experience for all young people.

How many of you are eligible to vote? How many of you voted in the last election? You’re vote does make a difference. In fact, just one vote makes a difference.

- . In 1776, ONE VOTE gave America the English language instead of German.
- . In 1850, ONE VOTE made California a part of the United States.
- . In 1868, ONE VOTE saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- . In 1923, ONE VOTE gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- . In 1960, Richard Nixon lost the presidential election and John F. Kennedy won it by a margin THREE VOTES PER PRECINCT.
- . In 1990, ONE VOTE decided a state House race in Oakland County, MI.

Our first priority is to register (*number*) of students on our campus (or in our community) in the next three weeks. We’ve provided voter registration forms on your desk. Please take a moment to fill out the form and pass it in.

Our first interest meeting will be held on (date, time, place) and we encourage you to attend. The information is on the board. Remember, if we don’t vote, we’re going to keep cleaning up the same dirty rivers year, after year, after year.

Chalkboarding: This is a great way to get the word out on a college campus. Go into classrooms at the beginning of each week and write the time, place, and date of your General Interest Meeting in the upper right or left hand corner of the chalkboard. Go back every few days to make sure it has not been removed.

Tableing: Set up a table at the most trafficked area on campus or in your local community. Remember, the purpose of the table is NOT for you to sit at, but to put materials on! Have voter registration materials, petitions, "Vote. Volunteer." bracelets, I Pledge to Vote cards, and flyers about the General Interest Meeting available. The most effective way to table is to stand in front of the table with a clipboard that has a petition or voter registration form on it, and make a statement that catches people's attention. For example: "We're registering people to vote today so that we can have a right to complain." Or, "We're asking people to sign the petition to call for a national youth debate to make the candidates listen to what we have to say." Ask people to sign your petition and register to vote. If they register, make sure to tie a bracelet onto their wrist to remind them to vote on November 7. Slap a sticker on their backpack, jacket or shirt. Make sure that if they register you also make a list of e-mail addresses so that the national office can send an email reminder to vote!

Table Tents: We have included sample handbills in the Toolbox that you received when you became a Local Campaign Coordinator. (If you did not receive handbills or have misplaced them, called the national office and speak to your Regional Campaign Coordinator immediately.) Put two palm cards together and write in the date of the General Interest Meeting. Go to your local copy shop and make copies. Put the table tents in the cafeteria, at the local library or in the local coffee shop.

Posters: The national office can supply you with as many posters as you want. Put them up everywhere. If one is good, ten is better. You want attention drawn to the posters so put them everywhere, in multiples and in unusual places. After every organizing meeting, have people leave with 10 or 15 posters to put up. You can use pencils to wrap masking tape around so that they can put them up when they are walking home. Your publicity people can actually map out the areas that they want to put up posters on a weekly basis. Remember, visibility, visibility, visibility.

Handbills: Write the information about the General Interest Meeting on the handbill and hand them out in high traffic areas. A great spot is the local transit at rush hour in the morning or evening. You also can pass them out after church services, in line for the movie theater or outside a grocery store.



USE AS
CHECKLIST

RECRUITMENT

CHAPTER TWO

PHASE I



USE AS CHECKLIST

T R E N D I N G R E C R U I T M E N T R E C R U I T M E N T R E C R U I T M E N T

6 ORGANIZING DRIVE (CONT.)

Leaflets: Leaflets or handbills can be placed under doors in the dormitory, under the windshield wipers of cars, or inside the screen door in your local neighborhood. Make sure never to place a leaflet or handbill in someone's mailbox - it is against the law!

Doorknocking/Canvassing: Go door to door to talk to people about the local campaign and ask them to come to the General Interest Meeting. You will need a clipboard with a petition, voter registration forms and leaflets with the date, time and place of the meeting.

Phonebanking: Make reminder calls five to seven days from the General Interest Meeting. Get your organizing committee together and call everyone on your list. Call people in the evening between 6pm and 8pm. Ask a member of the coalition if you can use multiple lines at their office so that everyone can be together. Order pizza and make it a fun evening!

Assume that you can reach 8 - 10 people an hour. If you have 200 names on a list, it will take one person 20 hours to reach everyone. If four of you are calling between 6pm and 8pm, that's a total of eight hours of calling in one evening. With four people calling, it will take a minimum of three evenings to reach everyone. Remember however, that not everyone will be home when you call. Try at least two times before you leave a message.

The purpose of the call is to remind the person AND to get a firm commitment. Assume that 50% - 75% of the people that make a firm commitment will actually attend the meeting. If you start with 200 names and you reach 100 people, 50 - 75 will actually show.

7 GENERAL INTEREST MEETING

The purpose of the General Interest Meeting is to galvanize the people in attendance. You want to make it only one hour in length and have people leave with a feeling of accomplishment. Give an overview of the entire campaign, ask your committee chairs to make brief presentations and then split up into committees. Each committee should set their next meeting and establish a regular time to meet. Every person in attendance should sign up to attend an upcoming event, register to vote, sign the National Youth Debate Petition, and/or leave with 10 - 15 posters to put up.

Here is the biggest hint to a successful General Interest Meeting — start on time, keep the ball rolling and end on time. The attendees will leave with a great respect for what your organizers can accomplish in a mere one hour time span.

Needed Resources:

- Meeting space (auditorium, gymnasium, etc. that can hold 50 - 300 people)
- Local Campaign Coordinator, committee chairs
- Posters for presentations, group work
- Markers, tape, paper
- National Youth Debate petitions
- Voter registration forms
- Sign up sheets
- Info filled flyers
- Volunteer Today. Vote Tomorrow. Posters up on the walls
- As many attendees as possible.
- Volunteer and Vote Bracelets

Helpful Resources

- Chalk board
- Microphones
- Power Source
- Power Point Presentation (Laptop, necessary wiring, wall space)
- Few external disturbances



USE AS CHECKLIST

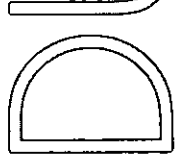
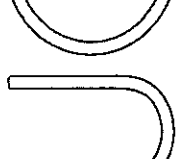
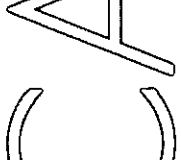
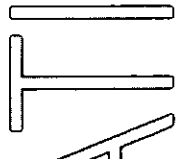
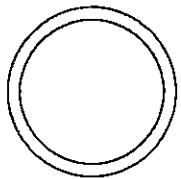
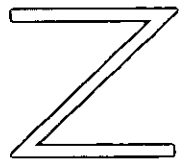
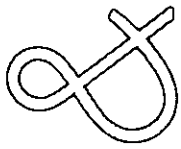
RECRUITMENT

GENERAL INTEREST MEETING AGENDA:

TIME	ACTIVITY	METHOD	DETAILS	MATERIALS	WHO
1	Welcome & Introductions	Scream & Yell	Ask that different group representatives yell where they are from	Loud Voices	Local Campaign Coordinator
5	Present the Vision of the Campaign	Lecture	Write the overall goal of the national campaign and hang it on the wall. Write the overall goals of the local campaign (# registered, etc.)	Microphone, Presentation Materials	Local Campaign Coordinator
10	Present Planned Activities	Committee Chairs	Each Chair should present what their committee does and the activities that they have brainstormed. This is the opportunity for each Committee Chair to "sell" their committee as the hippest, coolest committee since sliced bread.	Microphone Presentation Materials Flyers to hand out	Committee Chairs
10	New Activities and Coalition Members	Group Brainstorm	Ask people to suggest other activities or ideas, organizations to collaborate with or other general recommendations	Big Paper/ Posters Markers	1 Facilitator 1 Poster/Writer
30	Committee Members	Committees	Break into committees and establish the next meeting date and regular meeting time. Have everyone sign in so the Chair can make follow up phone calls. Each Committee Leader facilitates meeting and works in designated area of room. Works with interested individuals to plan next steps, persons responsible, and next committee meeting date.		LCC & Committee Leaders

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



CHAPTER THREE: VOTER EDUCATION & REGISTRATION DRIVE - PHASE TWO

PHASE TWO DATES: SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 30

GOALS:

1. Educate the young adult volunteer community about the political process, local issues, who's running for office and how they can make a difference.
2. Put the concerns of youth and of the national and community service community on your candidates agenda.
3. Inform the public through use of the local media and publicity.

OUTCOME: A community of young people with the knowledge necessary to vote, the tools to effectively make change through the political process, and an audience to respond to them.

OVERVIEW

Whether someone is registered to vote, or not, they will not show up to the polls if they do not have an idea of who is running or how their vote is going to affect the issues they care about. To present this information to your local community, you will need to find out who your local and national policy makers are, and become knowledgeable in the nuts and bolts of government and the voting process, the candidates, and the issues. You can find general issue, national, and state and local government information online at the Library of Congress' website, <http://lcweb.loc.gov/global/subject.html>, or you can use Project Vote Smart's website at www.vote-smart.org. Project Vote Smart's website gives you the ability to look up your local officials and compare their stance on particular issues. This website also has a special youth involvement page. Most of the major media outlets including Newsweek (www.newsweek.com), MSNBC (www.msnbc.com) and CSPAN (www.cspan.org) for example have special pages dedicated to the 2000 election. In addition to searching the web, read the daily newspaper and watch the daily news to keep up to date on the campaign trail to the election.

There are a number of ways that you can educate your community. All education activities should include registering new voters as well as collecting signatures on the national petition calling for a National Youth Debate.

VOTER EDUCATION

(some information taken from the enclosed NAICU Organizing Handbook)

You can register 100 percent of your volunteers to vote, but still have poor voter turnout if they are not motivated to vote on Election Day. The best way to motivate people is to educate them about the local, state, and federal issues that have an impact on their lives. Here are a number of events and activities you can hold to educate young voters.

1 HOSTING DEBATES AND FORUMS

Candidate debates and forums are a staple of American politics. Hosting debates at the state and local level is a necessary and substantive way of engaging your peers in the 2000 election, while putting the candidates on the spot about the lack of attention paid to young people.

ServiceVote 2000 will be coordinating five regional youth debates from their national office in Washington DC. In addition, we have joined forces with Youth Vote 2000 (see the section entitled "The Case for a National Youth Debate) to call on the presidential candidates and the Commission on Presidential Debates to focus one of the three national debates on issues that affect youth.

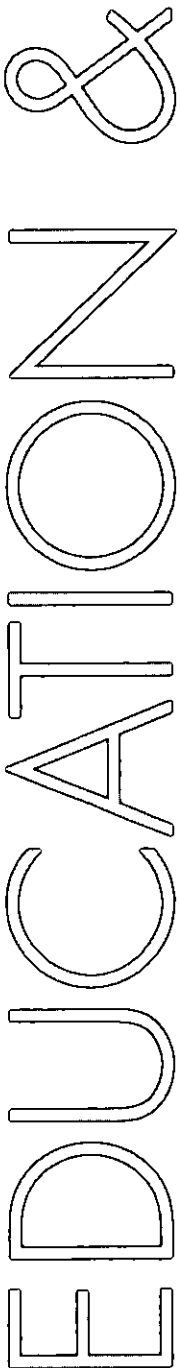
The following paragraphs provide suggestions for you to host a local youth debate. The debates you will host at the local level are a central focus of the overall organizing strategy of Service Vote 2000. These debates are a way for you to connect your community service to local politics thereby making yet another connection between service and voting. The Commission on Presidential Debates has a very informative guide on hosting local debates. You can access this information through their website at <http://www.debates.org/pages/host.html>.

The League of Women Voters also publishes- "Face to Face: A Guide to Candidate Debates". This handbook is a step by step guide to sponsoring a candidate debate for any elective office. It includes basic information on debates including sponsors, news coverage, planning timetable, as well as in depth information on debate content and formats. Contact Melissa Merrill (phone number listed under Partner Organization) to receive a guide free of charge.

REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



FORUMS

• **Issue Forum:** Invite representatives from as many local parties as you can, include not only the Democrats and Republicans, but the Reform Party, the Libertarian Party, the Socialist Party the Socialist Workers Party, the Green Party, etc. You can find out about these parties from your local board of elections. Decide on any number of topics to cover and give each party three minutes to state their position on the issue. Follow this with questions from the audience. Here's a sample agenda from Brevard Community College's Political Action Day, held March 13 with over 3,000 young people. They chose to address issues that were of importance to them:

9:00 - 9:30	3-minute opening statements from each party
9:30 - 10:00	3-minute speeches on the environment
10:00 - 10:15	Questions
10:15 - 10:45	3-minute speeches on Florida One Act
10:45 - 11:00	Questions
11:00 - 11:30	3-minute speeches on gay rights and Proposition 22
11:30 - 11:45	Questions
11:45 - 12:15	Abortion
12:15 - 12:30	Questions
12:30 - 1:00	2-minute wrap up

Youth Forum: The purpose of a youth forum is to allow the candidates to clearly define their vision and ideas of increasing the involvement of young people in national and community service as well as how the candidates would support building an infrastructure to make service and service-learning the common experience of all young Americans. The format for the event could include a five-minute opening statement by each candidate in which they can outline their vision and key ideas and plans. This would be followed by a question-and-answer period of one hour led by a locally recognized moderator (your local television station is great for this). Prescreen questions to the candidates from the audience to ensure that the focus is on questions to the candidates rather than statements from the audience.

Candidate and Political Fairs: Candidate and political fairs are a great way for people to learn about candidate platforms. A good time to host a fair would be several days before a debate. This gives people an opportunity to learn about the issues before the debate. A candidate or political fair is similar to a job fair. Invite the candidates, political parties, groups supporting or opposing ballot measures, and other interested parties onto your campus to set up tables, distribute information, and meet people. If the candidates show up, it will give people a unique opportunity to talk with them in an informal atmosphere.

Any of these activities require advance planning because a candidate's schedule will be tight. Here's a list a sample "to do" list:

- **Set a date.** Aim for September or October.
- **Select a location for the event to be held.** Make sure that you select a location that will fit the needs of your event. For a political fair, you will want to hold it in a local gym or in a large conference room where you can set up individual tables for the candidates and organizations.
- **Build a Coalition.** You can use the list of partners at the end of the Toolkit to identify local chapters to collaborate on these events by assisting you with attendance, contacting local incumbents and challengers and ensuring that your debate is completely non-partisan.
- **Get the word out.** Take the list of individuals and organizations that you would like to invite and contact them. Be sure to let the individual and organization know about the event that you are going to hold, what the purpose of the event is, and most importantly how the event will be beneficial to them. With a political fair, this will give candidates the opportunity to meet a new voting population - the youth vote - in an intimate setting. For political organizations, this will give them a chance to educate a voting population.
- **Receive Confirmation.** Get both written AND verbal confirmation from the candidates
- **Check Logistics.** Notify the location of the event and discuss any logistical concerns such as extra security or parking. Make sure to find out whether organizations can display certain materials or tape things to the walls.
- **Get in touch.** Contact groups that would be interested in attending the forum. This can include local schools/colleges/universities. It's a good idea to contact the local high schools where there are many students who have just turned 18 and are new voters such as church youth organizations, local youth organizations, and sports teams. You should also extend the invitation to all interested voters, a forum will be a great way to educated the experienced voter as well as the novice.
- **Publicize the event.** On campus by placing an ad in the campus newspaper, putting up flyers and in the community by announcing the event over the local radio station. Use the posters, flyers and handbills that are included in your toolbox to publicize your event. Feel free to make as many copies as needed.



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

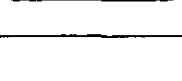
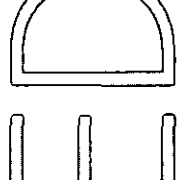
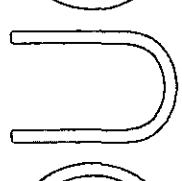
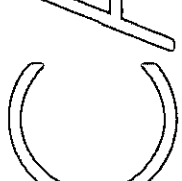
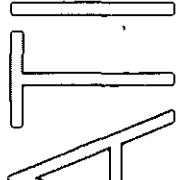
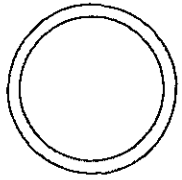
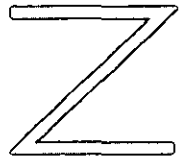
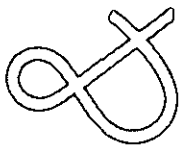
REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



USE AS CHECKLIST



- **Gather the necessary materials.** Once you have made all of the necessary contacts you can now begin getting the necessary materials together. For the political fair, you will want to have one table and chairs per candidate and organization that has confirmed their participation in the fair. This will provide participants a place to set up their information and paraphernalia for the fair. Work with the facilities manager on campus to assist you in setting up sound for the debate.
- **Keep a Participant List.** Be sure to type up a list of all of the participants and make copies of this list to place on a table at the entrance of the fair. This will be helpful when people enter they can have a listing of all the participants and be sure to visit all of the tables that they are interested in. Also, have extra office materials available such as pens and paper.
- **Decorate your event.** A banner, the American flag, red, white, and blue balloons, all will provide a nice, simple touch to the event.
- **Contact the media.** Provide media with a news advisory two days before the event (see sample). Make sure to contact radio, TV and newspapers. Set up radio interviews with local stations. Contact the Alliance for Better Campaigns (see listing under Partner Organizations) to assist you in obtaining better press coverage.
- **Provide Reminders.** A few days before fair, contact all necessary persons as a reminder about your event.
- **Prepare early.** Set up the location in preparation for the next day. Place cards for all of the participants so that they are aware of their location at the fair. Early preparation will also give you a chance to see if there is anything you may have over looked and will give you time to take care of it.
- **Enjoy.** Once participants begin arriving, greet them and assist them in finding out where they need to be and what their plan is. During the event, be sure to keep things running smoothly, take part and enjoy all that you have worked so hard for. After the event, be sure to thank all of the participants for their time and efforts.
- **Let Youth Service America know of your success.** At the end of this chapter is an Events Form. Please fill it out and send it to us by fax, mail or even email. You may also give us a call and we will take the information over the phone.

2 DEBATE WATCH 2000

Debate Watch 2000 is a simple idea to get your peers talking about the candidates and issues, not just listening. DebateWatch began in 1996 as a way to get small groups together—in living rooms, community centers, schools, libraries, and places of worship across the country—to watch the presidential debates and discuss them. Through its flexibility, DebateWatch is a tool for strengthening communities and building civic participation. It is also a way to make your voice heard. Group leaders are encouraged to fax or e-mail summaries of discussions immediately after discussion ends. DebateWatch coordinators will quickly compile your reactions and release them to the media, the debate sponsor, and the campaigns. This way you and other citizens across the nation can influence the broader dialogue on matters of public policy. Suggested discussion questions also ask you to think about ways to work on issues in your own community.

HOW TO HOLD A DEBATEWATCH:

1-2 weeks before the debate

- Invite neighbors, colleagues, friends to your DebateWatch
- You might ask each member of the group to bring something such as ice, cups, napkins, food, etc.
- Consider making nametags for participants. This facilitates interactions and introductions among group members. Nametags are especially helpful if you are an outside facilitator.
- Ask DebateWatch participants to arrive at the viewing/discussion site about 20-30 minutes before the scheduled beginning of the debate to get acquainted and discuss the evening's events.

Preliminary Steps

- Arrange for setting so that everyone can see the television easily. Have beverages and snacks available.
- Have the group members in their seats ten minutes prior to the start of the debate.
- Don't turn the television on until shortly before the debate begins and leave the volume off until the debate actually starts. This prevents participants from being influenced by pre-even commentary.
- Watch the debates, taking notes if you wish.



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2

✓
USE AS
CHECKLIST

&
E
D
U
C
A
T
I
O
N
&
E
D
U
C
A
T
I
O
N
&
E
D
U
C
A
T
I
O
N

DEBATE WATCH 2000 (CONT.) - HOW TO HOLD A DEBATE WATCH

Post-debate steps

- As soon as the debate ends, turn the television off and take a 10-minute break for refreshment, etc.
- When everyone has reassembled, thank them for participating. Explain that this is a discussion and that there are no right or wrong answers; they are there to share their reactions to the debates and to learn from one another.
- As you begin the discussion, break the ice. A brief period where members introduce themselves and their interests or reasons for being in the group helps.
- Follow the suggested set of question or raise your own. Ask a new question when discussion is waning. A good rule of thumb is to move on when comments are repeated. Encourage group members to ask questions of their own.
- In the course of discussion, participants may answer a question that appears later on the list. Simply skip it when it appears on the list or ask if anyone has any additional thoughts.
- As discussion takes place, ask questions to seek clarification if you feel that the group might not be following what someone is saying. If you see that someone wants to say something but can't get a word in, call on that person.
- When it is apparent that discussion is exhausted (most groups will talk for about an hour), give everyone an opportunity to make any last comments.

Post-discussion steps

- Thank people for coming, and if you had a successful evening, make arrangements to get together again for one of the other debates.
- Congratulate yourself on a job well done!



Q & A ABOUT PLANNING A DEBATEWATCH:**HOSTING OR PARTICIPATING IN DEBATEWATCH IS EASY.**

Below is a list of questions and answers to help you get the most from the experience. Remember, there is no single way to organize DebateWatch 2000. The most important thing is to get people together to talk about the debates and about issues in the presidential, Congressional, and state races.

Q Who can host Debate Watch 2000?

A Anyone! Or any group, formal or informal. The whole point of DebateWatch is to get as many Americans as possible talking about the debates, the campaign, the candidates, and the issues that affect our lives.

Q Where is DebateWatch taking place?

A In all fifty states, U.S. territories, and overseas. If you have friends or relatives in parts of the country or abroad, encourage them to take part.

Q Who should be invited to participate?

A Invite your neighbors, friends, co-workers, or family. Hold a DebateWatch in place of a regular meeting for a club or organization. Think about including people of all ages, including teens who might not be old enough to vote but are interested in current events. It takes no special expertise to talk about the issues, so anyone you know is a potential participant.

Q How many people should be invited to join?

A Discussion works best if approximately 6-12 people participate. If you belong to a larger group or organization that wants to hold a DebateWatch,

view the debate together and then break into smaller groups for post-debate discussions. If you are planning to divide a large gathering into multiple groups, make sure you have enough space or rooms so that groups don't disturb on another.

Q Where should DebateWatch groups meet?

A DebateWatch groups can meet in a living room, school, community center, public library, business, place of worship, union hall, restaurant or wherever you can watch a television and then comfortably hold a discussion. With large groups, have a large screen television or several televisions to guarantee that everyone can see.

Q Do we need a group leader, and what qualifications should a leader have?

A You should designate a facilitator to lead the group, get thing organized, and keep discussion going. Select someone who is comfortable giving directions and who won't dominate the discussion

REGISTRATION

DEBATE WATCH 2000 (CONT.) - HOW TO HOLD A DEBATE WATCH

Facilitator's Guide:

Your role is to pose questions to the group, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to speak, and mediate disagreements if necessary. Past experience has shown that heated disagreements among group members are unlikely. Should this occur, however, defuse the situation with a question to the individuals or light comment. Remind members that all opinions are valuable and that everyone will have an opportunity to express an opinion. Stress learning rather than persuasion as the purpose for the discussion. All research surveys are optional. However, the facilitator survey provides an opportunity for everyone to provide feedback to the candidates and debate sponsor.

Suggested facilitator questions

The following questions are designed to stimulate discussion. Feel free to add your own. It is not necessary to ask all the questions.

1. Why did you decide to participate in DebateWatch?
2. What role does politics play in your everyday life?
3. What were your expectations of the debate? Were they met?
4. What did you learn about the candidates or issues that you did not know prior to viewing the debate?
5. Did the debate influence your attitudes about the issues or the candidates?
6. Were there any issues of interest that were not discussed during the debate?
7. Were there any issues raised that you considered irrelevant or unimportant?
8. How do the issues discussed in the debate affect you?
9. How can you influence the issues at the local, state, national levels?
10. How will participating in DebateWatch affect the way you read, watch, or listen to news of the campaign?
11. How will it affect the way you discuss the campaign at work, home, etc.?

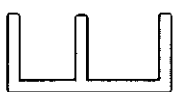
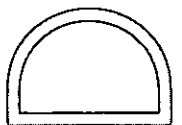
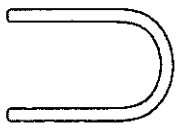
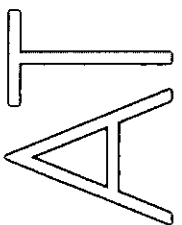
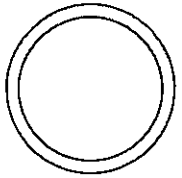
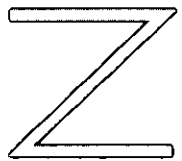
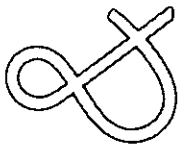
Use these additional questions for the second and third presidential debates:

14. What did you learn from this debate that you hadn't learned from previous debates?
15. How, if at all, did the press coverage of the previous debate(s) influence your attitudes about the candidates or the issues in this debate?

Use this question for the vice presidential debate:

16. Do you think vice presidential debates are useful? What can be done to make them more useful?

Become a part of the DebateWatch 2000 partnership. You will receive updates on the debates, ideas for hosting your DebateWatch, and an opportunity to have your voice heard by candidates and the debate sponsor. For more information go to: www.debates.org To become a partner, see the contact information under Chapter Eleven: About our Partner Organizations.



3 SERVICE EVENTS

ORGANIZE A "SERVICE STOP" OR "SERVICE DAY" FOR THE CANDIDATE

1. Select a Project

This is a great opportunity for you to educate your candidate about the importance of community service; or give them an opportunity to put their money where their mouth is! Try to select a project that will be of interest to the candidate. For example, if the candidate supports environmental protection, you may want your project to involve an outdoor activity such as planting a flowerbed at a local park.

2. Contact the Candidate

Get in touch with the candidate by contacting their campaign headquarters and ask to speak with the person in charge of the candidate's scheduling. Let them know who you are, whom you are affiliated with, and what you have in mind. It's a good idea to let the scheduler know that you don't want to make more work for them! This is an opportunity for the candidate to visit a great project and gain some media exposure. You will have to be flexible with your dates and times so that you can accommodate the candidate's schedule. Be prepared to put something in writing to the campaign office. Once you have received a written or verbal confirmation, you can begin to plan the logistical details of the project.

3. Plan Project

As a veteran volunteer, this is what you do best and planning the service project should not be too difficult. The most opportune time to hold an event for press purposes is 10 -

11am in the morning. This gives the press people time to make their deadlines and get a crew out to your site.

Contact the location where the service project is going to take place, gather all of the necessary materials, and build up a group of young individuals to take part in the service project. Make sure to let the site know that the press may be attending. Some service providers, such as homeless shelters, do not want their guests on camera. Make sure to discuss the appropriateness of having the guests on television, or interviewed by a newspaper reporter.

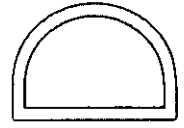
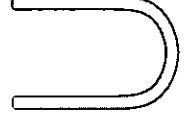
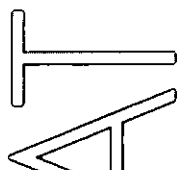
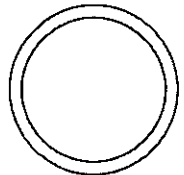
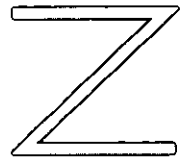
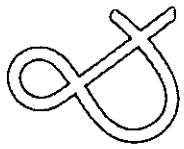
4. Notify Media

Write a News Advisory (see sample) that can be faxed out two to three days before the event. Make sure to note directions to the site and indicate where parking is available. Coordinate with the campaign's press person whenever possible. If you do not have a contact at the local newspaper, radio, or TV station, call and ask for the Assignment Editor or the Political Editor. Ask that person to whom you should address the fax. As soon as the fax is sent, call contact to ensure receipt. Press people can be elusive because new stories break all the time, so they cannot guarantee coverage, period. You do want to call back the next day to see if they are sending a reporter. At the same time ask the name of the reporter that will be covering the story. They probably won't know but it is a good ploy to try to confirm coverage.



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**

REGISTRATION



SERVICE EVENTS (CONT.)

5. Finalize Details

Make sure that you call the candidate's office the day before the event to remind them of their commitment. It is also a good idea to contact the location and remind them of the activity planned for the next day and to contact those who will be helping you out to give them a reminder as well. Also, make sure that you have all of the materials necessary for your project as well.

6. Hold Event

Once everything has come together, all you have to do is hold the event. Be sure to arrive early and have everything set up and ready to go. Once the candidate has arrived, greet them, orient them as to the plan for the service project, and then begin. This will be one service project that you will not forget. When the project is over, be sure to thank the candidate for their time and service and make sure to report what you did to Youth Service America - ServiceVote 2000.

ORGANIZE A SERVICE DAY

You can follow the same guidelines as organizing a service stop for the candidate. You may have to set up a few different opportunities for campaign volunteers because the usual sights may not be able to handle a plethora of volunteers. You will definitely have to be flexible as well because the times campaign volunteers can break away are often odd hours - 4 - 7 on a Friday night or during the middle of the day on Saturday. Here are some examples of service projects for campaign volunteers that are flexible:

1. Getting down and dirty.

Campaign volunteers can flex their collective muscles and repaint a church basement, clean out basements, closets, attics or garages of senior citizens, wash windows, or build bookshelves at the local library. As you well know, most volunteers like to see the results of their labor that same day!



2. Food or clothing drive.

During literature drops, suggest that campaign volunteers pass out a notice of a food or clothing collection that weekend or the following week. Ask members of the community to leave non-perishable items, or clothing in good condition on their front porch. Have campaign volunteers and/or the local Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop head out into the neighborhoods to pick up the items. The local Kiwanis, Lions Club or Rotary Club also can be tapped to provide transportation. This is a great coalition building effort.

4 ORGANIZE A "POWER HOUR"

A "power hour" is a one-hour activity where you and a group of your peers will become educated on an issue and then hold a letter writing campaign to have your voices heard on the selected issue.

1. Choose an Issue

The first thing that you must decide is what issue to write about. You can select any topic of interest or of concern. You may choose to write about a recent event in the community, an issue that is of personal concern, or you may select to write about a general topic such as the environment or crime. Selecting an issue will also help you decide which officials you are going to target. If it is regarding a local issue, you will want to address your state and local officials. If your issue is a national concern or broader in scope, you will want to address your national officials.

2. Get Educated

Once you have selected an issue it's a good idea to research the background information on the topic. You can go to the local library, watch the news or browse the Internet to see what the current information is. In order to write an effective letter, you must have some background knowledge in your issue. In addition, having this information will make it easier for you to present your issue when you hold the "power hour."

3. Be Prepared

Now that you have the background knowledge on your issue, it is time to gather materials for the "power hour." Get paper, pens, stamps, envelopes, etc. Make sure that you have all of the addresses of your local, state and national officials with you as well. By being prepared, it will be easier to mail the letters immediately after the "power hour".

4. Hold the "Power Hour"

Since you have gotten everything in order, all you have to do now is hold the "power hour." You can do this at your local volunteer meeting of YSA members or ask to hold a "power hour" for an organization that deals with the issue that you selected. For example, if you selected the environment as your issue, see if you can hold one for a local branch of the Sierra Club. When you hold the "power hour," first give a brief presentation on the issue so that everyone has some information on the subject. You may want to pass out a sheet of quick facts on the subject as well; this will come in handy for quick facts to include in the letters during the letter-writing portion of the "power hour." Once you have given the information on the issue, you can begin the letter writing. Read and give out a sample letter to provide a guide for how the letter should be written. When the letters are completed, write down the names of everyone who sent a letter and to whom it was written. Having this information will make it easier to follow up on the status of the letter. Also, be sure to have everyone that attended provide his or her personal information on a sign-in sheet. This will also be an important resource to have if you decide to hold other political functions. When all of the letters are ready to go, all you have to do is just place them in the mail.



USE AS
CHECKLIST

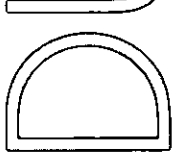
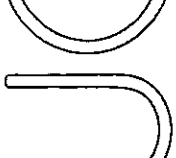
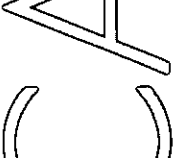
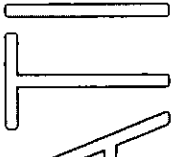
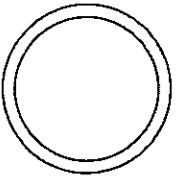
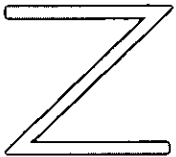
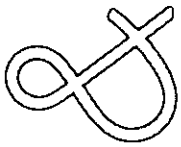
REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



**USE AS
CHECKLIST**



ORGANIZE A "POWER HOUR" (CONT.)

5. TIPS

- Mail your letters individually, and be sure to include your contact information in the letter.
- If you are a member of an organization or group, use your group's letterhead to write your letter.
- Be brief, but personal. Share your knowledge and experience. Describe how the issue will affect you. Letters should not exceed one page.
- Cite the bill number or title (if known), your position, and your desired outcome.
- Compliments are important: Remember to thank your elected official for a job well done if she/he has done something that you support.
- When you receive a response from the official, make sure they have responded to what you asked for. If not, write again. When you have this information, be sure to report what you have done to ServiceVote 2000.

6. FOLLOW-UP

- If you do not receive a response to your letter, write a follow-up letter or call the U.S. Capitol at 202-224-3121 and ask for the office of your representative or senator. Your legislator's receptionist should know about the backlog and whether you should have received a reply yet.
- Be sure to speak with the staff person who handles legislation related to your particular interest. Generally, in a congressional office, the Legislative Assistants (LA) do research, draft speeches, and advise on legislation. Legislative Correspondents (LC) typically draft letters to constituents. Talk to a Legislative Assistant.
- If you get a "her line is busy," "he's in a meeting," or "she's on the floor right now," leave a message describing your concern. Good staffers will call you back.
- If you get no call in 24 hours, call once more. Still no luck? Ask for the Chief of Staff. Chances are you will get a prompt, apologetic response.

5 ORGANIZE A TEACH IN

A great way to combine volunteering and voting is by conducting a teach-in with your volunteer group about a local or national issue that concerns your community. You may focus on various issues from violence in your school system, to student-aid, to specific legislation such as the Reauthorization of National and Community Amendments Act of 1999. Below is an example of the YouthVote 2000 Coalition case for a Presidential Youth Debate.

Following this section and in your Tool Box are more ISSUE RESOURCES to help you prepare for an effect TEACH IN.

The Case for a National Presidential Youth Debate - Youth Vote 2000

You can use the following information and the included petition to engage anyone in supporting the call for a national youth debate. Youth Vote 2000, the largest non-partisan coalition committed to encouraging civic participation among our nation's young people, is demanding accountability by politicians on the issues of importance to young people today. Youth Vote 2000 is urging the Commission on Presidential Debates & the candidates for President of the United States to re-engage young people in democracy by making one of the three official presidential debates a youth debate, with youth asking the questions and youth moderating. This debate will give youth the opportunity to have their issues and concerns on the political stage with those who want to lead this country. Then, maybe, the political stand off may come to an end.

To support a youth debate, log on to www.youthvote2000.org and sign their national petition. The following letters can be sent to the presidential campaign offices, and the Commission on Presidential Debates. The addresses for all letters are:

Bush for President
P.O. Box 1902
Austin, Texas 78767-1902

Gore 2000, Inc.
2410 Charlotte Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203

Buchanan Reform
P.O. Box 1919
Merrifield, VA 22116-1919

Nader 2000
Post Office Box 18002
Washington, DC 20036

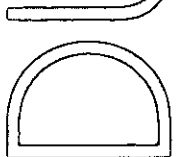
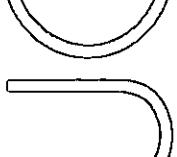
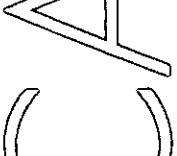
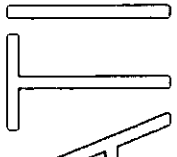
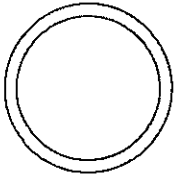
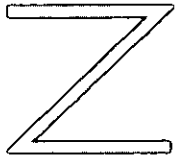
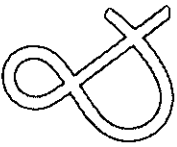
Commission on Presidential Debates
1200 New Hampshire, N.W.
Suite 445
Washington, DC 20036

See sample letter on next page

REGISTRATION



**USE AS
SAMPLE**



ORGANIZE A TEACH IN (CONT.)

Sample letter to the Editor

Thanks for helping to support a youth debate among our national and local candidates for office. Our newspapers use a lot of ink to cover campaigns from the top down, and there are plenty of opportunities to respond to the coverage of the campaigns and make the call for Youth Debates. The more people know about the call for Youth Debates, the more pressure there is on candidates and their campaigns to respond to young people.

Tips for your letter:

- * Use the letter below as a sample for your own letter.
- * Start your letter by responding to a relevant story from the newspaper and include local information that might be relevant.
- * Make follow up calls to the person in charge of the opinion pages of your paper to make sure that your letter gets printed.

Sample Letter

To the editor:

We have a big problem in our democracy. There is a political stand-off between candidates and the young people in America. Generations of Americans, especially young people, are choosing to turn their backs on the democratic process. Part of the problem is that the leading Presidential candidates do very little to reach out and involve young people in the election. Their campaigns are apparently satisfied to win even if it is a victory that leaves many Americans on the sidelines.

Young people are very active in our community, and as a generation, we spend more time serving the community than any other age group. We also have a solution for how to improve the campaigns for voters of all ages: a Presidential Youth Debate.

The idea of a presidential youth debate is to take one night from the national elections and dedicate it to talking about our generation. At one of the three debates sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates, to have young people, our issues and our concerns on the political stage with those who want to lead this country. We can show them that we care, and they can show us that they are listening. Then, maybe the political stand off may begin to end. Everybody can support a Youth Debate. Maybe some of our local candidates could try it too.

Sincerely,

Sample Group Letter in Support of Youth Debates - Use this as a Power Hour Activity!

Thank you for agreeing to write an organizational letter to the candidates and the Commission on Presidential Debates. Please feel free to use the following letter as an example or a model for your own letter. Once you have sent your letter to both the Commission and the Presidential candidates, please also send a copy to John Dervin at Youth Vote 2000, 1730 M St., NW Suite 1000, Washington DC 20009.

Dear [candidate for president] and the Commission on Presidential Debates,

On behalf of [your organization], we call on you to commit to hold a youth presidential debate, with young people asking the questions and young people moderating. [Include a brief description of your organization and its interest in the Youth Debates].

On January 12, 2000, representatives of the Youth Vote 2000 coalition in a national press conference and in letters hand-delivered from Austin to Nashville to Washington, DC, called on the presidential candidates and the Commission on Presidential Debates to support a youth debate.

Now as the future nominees of your party, we call on you and the members of the Commission on Presidential Debates, to commit to have one of the three debates, in Boston on October 3, Winston-Salem, NC on October 11, or Saint Louis on October 17, be a youth debate.

Young people are not engaged in this election. In the states with primaries leading up to and including Super Tuesday on March 7, only 8% of all young people 18 to 29 voted in the elections. The concerns and issues of young people are not being addressed in a manner that is meaningful to their lives. Resources devoted to engaging young people in our democracy are scarce. We are counting on your leadership to demonstrate that our future president and political leaders are truly committed to improving our country and re-energizing our youth.

We need you to send a message to your party and to the nation that you believe in including young people in our political process. The health of our democracy is everyone's responsibility. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely, [your name and organization]



**USE AS
SAMPLE**

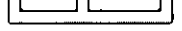
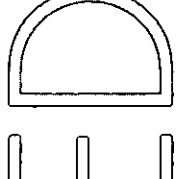
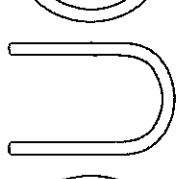
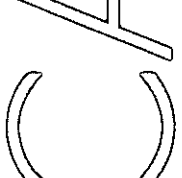
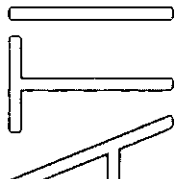
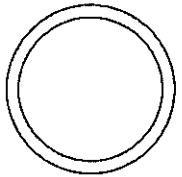
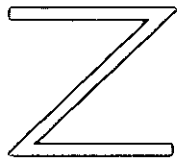
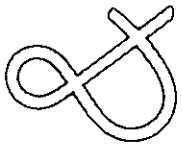
REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



USE AS
SAMPLE



SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH DEBATES

Use this letter as a model for your own letter to the Presidential candidates. Include your own story or perspective wherever you feel it is appropriate. Either hand-written or typed letters are fine, the most important thing is to send a message that you want to see the candidates participate in a Youth Debate.

Dear [candidate for president] and the Commission on Presidential Debates,

My name is (your name here) and I am working with Youth Vote 2000 to re-engage youth and students in the electoral process.

I strongly urge you to take a leadership role in this effort by making one of the three official presidential debates a youth debate, with youth asking the questions and youth moderating.

Politicians are not engaging young people in the political process, causing alienation and cynicism among youth and students. Studies show that youth are making a conscious choice not to vote, because they believe that politicians and candidates do not listen to them or discuss issues they believe should be a priority. As a consequence we have politicians ignoring youth, and youth ignoring politics. This dangerous cycle has grave consequences for the future of our democracy.

I believe an official youth debate, where youth moderate and ask questions of the presidential candidates, will be strong step in the effort to re-engage youth in the electoral process.

Thank you for your time, and I hope too see you participating in a youth debate in the fall!

Sincerely,

(Your name)

(Your address)

(Your e-mail) (optional)

TEACH IN — ISSUE RESOURCES

Combine service and education with a new twist - action. You can use a power hour strategy, organize the project around a teach-in, hold an issues forum or write letters to the editor. Here are some resources to find out more about issues that are of importance to you:

General

- An excellent resource on the web is Project Vote Smart's web site where you can link on to different issues at www.projectvotesmart.org.

- You can also visit YouthVote 2000's web site, which has links on to fact sheets on certain issues at www.yvote.com.

Economy

- "Since 1973, while the earnings of older Americans have mostly stagnated, real media weekly earnings for men aged twenty to thirty-four have fallen by almost a third. In fact, (Generation) Xers may well be the first generation whose lifetime earnings will be less than their parents. Already they have the weakest middle class of any generation born in this century." — Ted Halstead, President and CEO, New America Foundation, "Politics for A New Generation," Atlantic Monthly, August 1999. This article has been included in your Toolbox.

- **2030 Center.** The 2030 Center, founded in 1997, is a public policy organization for young adults. The 2030 Center's mission is to advocate for the economic interest of young workers. The name 2030 refers to people in their 20s and 30s. It also refers to the year 2030, not simply for its significance as a demographic benchmark for our society. The 2030 Center is addressing the economic future of today's younger generations. To find out more about the 2030 Center, its Social Security Program or Jobs for the Future Program, or to sign up to receive e-mail, please visit their website at www.2030.org.

Health Care

- **National Coalition of Patients Rights.** The National Coalition of Patients Rights is a non-profit organization consisting of medical professionals and concerned citizens who are dedicated to the premise that patients have the right to privacy when they consult a health care professional. They believe that the interests of employers, insurers, government agencies, police, and others should not be allowed to supersede that right. On their website, www.nationalcpr.org, you can find out more information about this organization and how they are able to raise public awareness through advocacy work and public education.

- **Families USA.** Families USA is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the achievement of high quality, affordable health and long term care for Americans. This organization manages a grassroots advocates network of organizations and individuals, act as a government watchdog on government actions on health care, publishes health policy reports, conducts public information campaigns, serves as a customer clearinghouse for information on health care concerns, and provides training and assistance to state and community agencies. For more information on Families USA visit their website at www.familiesusa.org.

REGISTRATION

TEACH IN — ISSUE RESOURCES (CONT)

Campaign Finance Reform

- **Alliance for Better Campaigns.** See information under ServiceVote 2000 Partners.

- **Common Cause.** John Gardner, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare founded Common Cause in 1970. Gardner envisioned a movement propelled by the focused and concerted grassroots lobbying activities of Common Cause members and reinforced with professional lobbying on Capitol Hill. His nonpartisan, citizens' lobbying group made an immediate impact. Today, Common Cause has more than 200,000 members nationwide, with active members and volunteers in every state. Common Cause regularly publishes investigative studies on the effects of money in politics and reports on a variety of ethics and integrity-in-government issues. These studies and background materials on a wide range of reform issues on the national and state levels can be found on Common Cause's web site, www.commoncause.org, along with special "Take Action" components that allow citizens to act on issues of open, honest and accountable government.

Education

- **Organization Name: U.S. Student Association**

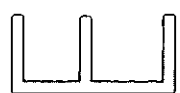
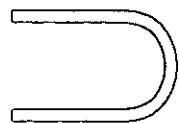
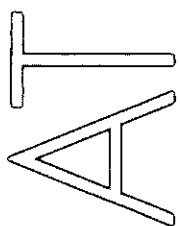
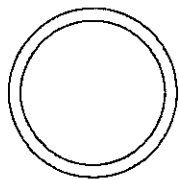
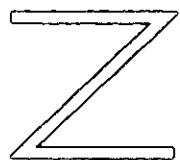
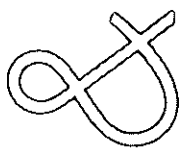
Contact Name: John Issacs

Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 347-8772

Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 393-5886

Contact E Mail Address: isaacsj@hotmail.com

The United States Student Association (USSA), the oldest and largest student organization, represents millions of students across the country. Formed in 1947, the USSA is the only national student organization represented in Washington, DC., and serves as the student voice on Capitol Hill, the White House, and in the Department of Education. By organizing powerful grass roots forces of students, the USSA is committed to increasing access to higher education and encouraging students to participate in government on behalf of their educational rights.
www.essential.org/ussa



Environment

• Campus Green Vote

Contact Name: Veronica E. De La Garza
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 234-5992
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 234-5997
 Contact E Mail Address:
veronica@envirocitizen.org

Campus Green Vote is the flagship program of The Center for Environmental Citizenship (CEC), a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating, training, and organizing a diverse network of young leaders to protect the environment. Campus Green Vote, established in 1992, is dedicated to recruiting and training students on political skills necessary to protect the environment. Today, they oversee hundreds of Vote Environment Campaigns, such as coalition efforts for voter registration, environmental voter education, and get-out-the-vote activities. www.envirocitizen.org

• Zero Population Growth

1400 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
 Suite 320
 Washington, D.C. 20036
 202-332-2200
 202-332-2302 (FAX)
 Toll free 1-800-POP-1956 info@zpg.org

Zero Population Growth is a national nonprofit organization working to slow population growth and achieve a sustainable balance between the Earth's people and its resources. We seek to protect the environment and ensure a high quality of life for present and future generations. ZPG's education and advocacy programs aim to influence public policies, attitudes, and behavior on national and global population issues and related concerns.

Hunger and Homelessness

National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness

1-800-no-hungr.

• Kids Can Make A Difference (KIDS).

Kids Can Make A Difference(r) (KIDS), an educational program for middle- and high school students, focuses on the root causes of hunger and poverty, the people most affected, solutions, and how students can help. The major goal is to stimulate the students to take some definite follow-up actions as they begin to realize that one person can make a difference. Please visit their website at www.kids.maine.org.

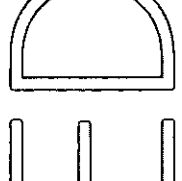
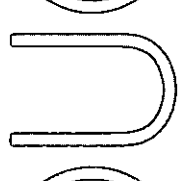
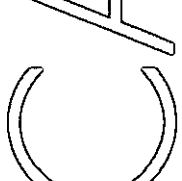
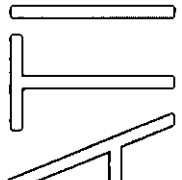
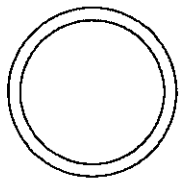
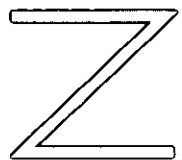
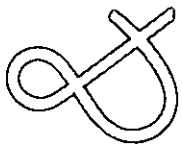
• The National Coalition for the

Homeless. The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national advocacy network of homeless persons, activists, service providers, and others committed to ending homelessness through public education, policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, and technical assistance. To find out more information about this organization visit their website at www.nch.ari.net.

REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



USE THE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Use these select questions to find out how your local, state and national candidates view youth service. You can include your own questions in addition to these, but we ask that you ask these questions specifically and send us the results. We will post the results to the Internet so that others interested in community service can access the answers.

Use the Project Vote Smart website at www.vote-smart.org to find the addresses of your state senators and representatives and Members of Congress. Send a cover letter, along with the questions, to each candidate. Make sure to let them know that you will be posting these results to the Internet, it is an incentive for them to return the survey. Include a fax number for them to fax back the results. If you don't hear within a week, make sure to place a phone call to remind them of the survey. Most candidates receive multiple surveys and you want to make sure that yours is one that is answered.

When you receive the results

- Fax them to YSA at 202-296-4030 or send them via email to mleber@ysa.org! Make sure that your peers know how they stand on youth service. Post their responses on your web site, create a flyer to pass out, hold a power hour to the candidate or write a letter to the editor!

THE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Question 1. While volunteering is at an all-time high among young people, the number of young people voting is at an all-time low. How would you propose to address this disconnect between volunteering and voting?

Question 2. What is your position on mandatory service requirements for students in the public school system?

Question 3. What is the one thing that you would say to compel a young person to vote and to vote for you specifically?

Question 4. Where do you stand on the reauthorization of the National and Community Service Trust Act, which provides financial support to Learn and Serve America, Serve America, Senior Corps and Americorps programs nationwide?

Question 5. What types of community service do you think are most desperately needed and what types of incentives would you support to encourage youth participation?

Question 6. Would you consider participating in a youth debate (youth moderated and youth asking the questions) with your opponent?

Question 7. What message of inspiration would you give to young people to encourage them in volunteering and to become more active in developing public policy?

Question 8. Who is your coordinator of youth and/or student outreach and what is their contact information?

SIGN A PLEDGE OF SERVICE

Young people attending the 2000 National Service Learning Conference wrote a Pledge of Service. The purpose of the Pledge is to bring together candidates and elected officials from both sides of the aisle in support of service being a common experience of all young people.

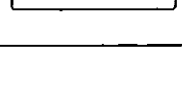
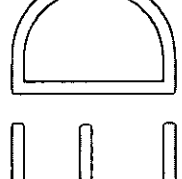
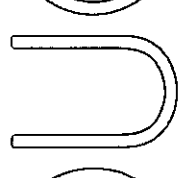
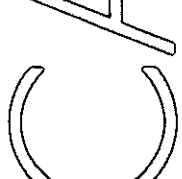
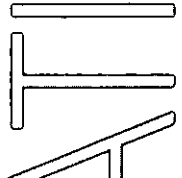
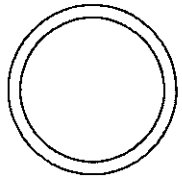
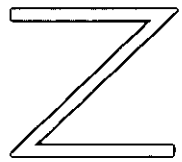
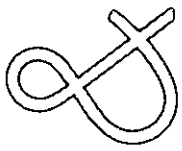
"With responsibility, honor, and integrity, I pledge to create and support opportunities to engage the Youth of America in meaningful service to our country, united as one among many, with courage and compassion for all."

You can use the Pledge in a number of ways to gain support from the candidates and from the media. For example, enlarge the Pledge to poster size at your local graphics store and hang it up on campus. Write to your elected officials and ask them to sign on as a supporter. Add their names to the public display. Use the enlarged Pledge as a prop for a media event to kick-off a political action fair, town hall meeting, or candidate debate. Ask someone on campus to dress up like Ben Franklin and pose in front of the Pledge as local candidates use his "quill" pen to sign on.

REGISTRATION

CHAPTER THREE

PHASE 2



VOTER REGISTRATION

1. Become Educated.

First and foremost, register yourself. To register, contact your local election office and request a mail-in voter registration form. If you have access to the Internet, you can download this form on the web at www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.htm. Follow the instructions and mail in the form to get registered.

Know what the voter registration laws and deadlines in your state or county before you begin your plans for a drive. You do not want to go into a Voter Registration Drive without knowing the exact requirements for registering. Almost all of the states have mail-in registration and even Internet registration. However, many the states and counties have different guidelines for voting, such as deadlines for registration. You can find out what the particular guidelines in your area are by contacting the state or local bureau of elections. (A list of the Board of Elections is included in one of the Appendices). You also can get voter registration information online at the Federal Election Commission web site, www.fec.gov. For some individuals who are away from the county that they are registered in on Election Day, request an absentee ballot from your local election office. Information on requesting an absentee ballot can be found on the web at www.vote-smart.org.

2. Get Started.

Contact your local election official to request the necessary materials for voter registration. You should request voter registration cards, the universal mail-in voter registration form and informational paraphernalia regarding voting procedures. Another excellent source for promotional materials and a place where you can register to vote online is, Rock the Vote. For more information see their web site at www.rockthevote.org. If you have a power source near the area you are conducting the voter registration drive, you can turn on a laptop and link directly to the Rock the Vote Website at www.rockthevote.org. The website will guide you through the registration process. Once you have completed the on-line process, watch for a form to arrive in the mail that you must sign and return.

In addition, ask your local board of elections to give you a list of polling places that you can copy and hand to people when they register. Inquire as to the process after the voter registration forms are submitted. For example, how long until a newly registered voter is notified that they are registered and giving their polling location? Does the local Board of Elections mail out a voter registration card? What kind of identification does a person need to go to vote? When you get the answers to all of these questions, compile the information and put it on the back of a flyer or leaflet to hand out to each newly registered voter.

3. Get Ready.

You do not have to do this alone. Contact a local chapter of the League of Women Voters, College Republican National Committee, the Young Democrats of America, or other community organizations active in the political arena to help you set up and work during the drive. (See our list of Partner Organizations in the Appendix). Also, we will include the League of Women Voters "Take A Friend To Vote" campaign materials as well as the NAICU Voter Registration Manual in your toolbox. Both items will assist you in conducting a successful voter registration drive. Set a goal for the number of new voters you want to register by the deadline. Keep this up in a visible place so that the entire community can support you in achieving your goal.

While you can conduct activities who's sole purpose is to register people to vote, a smarter approach is to incorporate registration activities with education activities. Register people to vote during presentations, while tabling, at organizational meetings, or in front of the grocery store. You may want to go door to door, go to community meetings, local schools, etc. and registrar people to vote at those locations. You can also get information about the drive out to the community by submitting press releases, editorials, ads, etc. to local newspapers.

4. Start Moving.

Register new voters! When someone registers, tie a "Volunteer. Vote." bracelet around their wrist to remind them to go the polls. Ask them to fill out an "I pledge to vote" card so that you can make a telephone call or send an e-mail to remind them during the Get Out the Vote drive. Give them a flyer or leaflet reminder, which incorporates next steps on the back. (Remember, you need to ask the board of elections a specific set of questions to make voting as easy as possible). Find out if they have special needs that will prevent them from going to the polls. For example, someone may need a ride to the polls or help with day care. Have your Get Out the Vote Committee work with the local League of Women Voters office to find out how they handle these issues.

5. Reporting In.

Call your Regional Campaign Coordinator to report the number of people that you registered over the course of the registration drive. If you are one of the lucky states that has same day registration, this cannot be done until after election day. Make sure to mail in forms as you complete them to ensure that people have the opportunity to vote. Turns the "I Pledge to Vote" cards over to the Get Out The Vote Committee and check out that chapter to learn how to make sure people get to the polls.

REGISTRATION

CHAPTER FOUR

PHASE 3

CHAPTER FOUR: GET OUT THE VOTE - PHASE THREE

PHASE THREE DATES: OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 7

GOALS:

1. Get young people out to vote.
2. Demonstrate that young people in a community can effect the results of an election.
3. Generate a focus on the importance of young people in the political process.

OUTCOME:

A community of young people who are engaged in the political process with elected politicians that recognize the need to address our needs.

GET OUT THE VOTE (THIS INFO TAKEN FROM NAICU'S VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDE)

Now that you have registered all these new voters, it's important to get them to the polls on Election Day, or make sure they submit absentee ballots. Elected officials will be far more responsive to the concerns of your community or campus if a high percentage of voters turn out and vote. By following up with these new voters, knocking on their doors or phoning the night before and the day of the election, offering rides or directions to the polls, you greatly increase the likelihood that they will actually vote.

An effective campaign requires a significant amount of preparation and volunteers to be successful, so start planning your get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts as you conduct your voter registration campaign. As with voter registration and education, there are many options for increasing voter participation on your campus. Outlined below are several standard GOTV tactics.

LE
T
O
V
E
T
H
E
T
O
U
T
O
T
H
E
G

Things to Do Before Election Day

Open polling places on campus and in your community

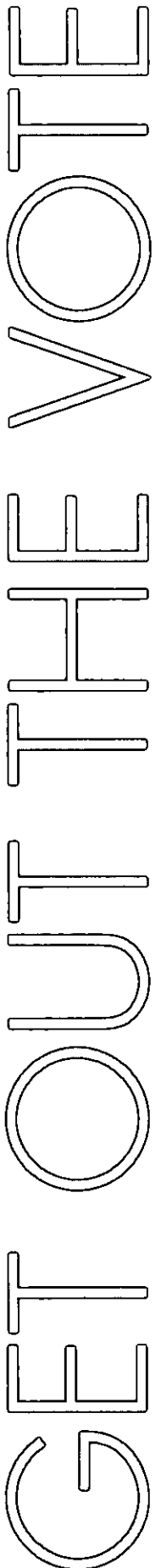
If you are interested in opening a polling place on campus, you will have to begin planning well in advance of Election Day. The involvement of the campus administration will enhance the success of this project. Contact the local elections official and see what is required to operate a polling place on your campus. College campuses are ideal polling places because they offer ample space, usually have plenty of parking, and are accessible to the handicapped. Opening a polling place will make it easier for people to vote between classes, and will probably increase voter participation.

Absentee ballots

As you conduct your voter registration campaign, you should also include a program to get people who will be away from home on Election Day to obtain an absentee ballot. If someone chooses to register to vote at their home address-either in another state, or in another part of your state-be sure to provide the address of the local election official so they can contact them to obtain an absentee ballot. You may want to create a form letter for people to use when requesting an application. Be sure they print their name, address, and phone number, and sign the letter. Each jurisdiction has different laws and regulations for absentee voting, so each person should contact their elections office to get further information on when the applications and ballots are due. We have included a list of the Local Boards of Elections in an Appendix at the back of this toolkit.

Keep a list of people who have registered to vote at their home address. Then your coalition can contact them about three weeks before the election to be sure they have requested their absentee ballot, and again about one week before the election to be sure they have mailed the ballot back to the appropriate elections office. Most states require the ballots to be received at the elections office by the time the polls close on Election Day-postmarks do not count!

You also might want to consider holding an absentee ballot event on campus about a week before the election. Bringing out-of-town voters together to cast their ballots will make them feel less isolated from the process. Make a notary public available, since some states and jurisdictions still require notarized absentee ballots. Ask the sponsors of your coalition to provide music, food, drinks, and promotional materials to draw the attention of students. As people complete their absentee ballots, ask them to volunteer with your GOTV efforts on Election Day. Doing so will make them feel like they have been able to affect the election process in both their home and school communities.



CHAPTER FOUR

PHASE 3

Things to Do Before Election Day (cont.)

Phone banking

Phone banking is the easiest and fastest way to contact people and urge them to vote. You will need a list of names, phone numbers (from your "I Pledge to Vote" cards), and a bank of phones and clear directions to nearby polling places. Secure several phone lines to use at night from offices on campus, or real estate, insurance offices, or churches in your local community. You will need as many volunteers as you have phone lines.

When do you start making your phone calls? That will depend upon how many people have pledged to vote and how many volunteers have signed up. Typically one person can contact twenty to twenty-five people per hour. In general, you will want to call people the night before the election and remind them that tomorrow is Election Day. But if there are many names on the list you will have to start calling earlier. Make sure everyone on the list receives one phone call before Election Day.

Get the voters to the polls

- If you decide to offer rides to polling places, you will need to begin planning well in advance. Start calling voters that have indicated that they need rides 5 - 10 days out.
- Find vans or buses-your campus may have vehicles available in the motor pool.
- Make sure you have insurance that will cover your activities.
- Set up a system to keep track of who needs a ride and how to communicate that to the drivers.
- Find volunteers to drive the vans and work the phones.
- Decide if you want to offer rides all day, or just part of the day.

Canvassing

Canvassing is walking through the dorms or the neighboring precincts, and knocking on doors reminding people to vote in the election. Canvassing provides a cheap and effective way to distribute voter education materials.

When you approach the door, identify yourself and tell them why you're there (to make sure they remember to vote). Leave material with them-including directions to the polling places, and the voting hours-and move onto the next house.

Never go out knocking on doors alone. Always travel with another person. Divide up the street-one person takes the even side, the other takes the odd side. This is for your own protection. In general, canvassing should not be done on Election Day, since you can reach more people faster with a phone call than knocking on doors. Canvassing is a good activity for the weekend before the election as a last-minute voter education tool.

L

T

O

V

L

H

T

T

U

O

T

L

G

Advertising

Ask your campus radio and TV stations to broadcast public service announcements (PSAs) in the days before the registration deadline, and the election, reminding people to vote. Put up table tents in the cafeteria, the library, and the student union urging people to vote. Make sure to list the date of the election, polling locations, and what time the polls open and close.

Things to Do on Election Day

Maximize your visibility

This could range from standing on the side of the street with signs saying "VOTE," to leafleting the parking lots with flyers reminding people to vote before the polls close. Be creative! And make sure the name of your organization appears on the material.

Celebrate!

Now that you have successfully registered, educated, and turned out the voters, you can sit back and relish the fact that the voice of your campus community is being heard in the halls of the White House, Capitol, State House, and City Hall. But don't rest on your laurels too long...

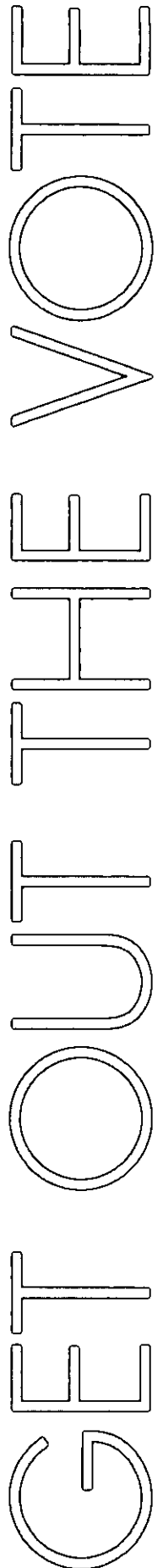
What To Do After the Election

Follow up! This is very important!

Your coalition should thank the businesses, volunteers, elected officials, and others who helped, or participated in, your Service Vote 2000 campaign. Send each of them a thank-you letter or a certificate of appreciation for their work. This will make them realize that they were an integral part of your coalition, and may make them willing to assist in future efforts.

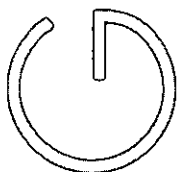
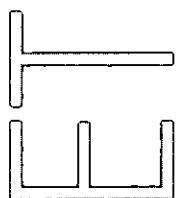
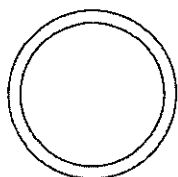
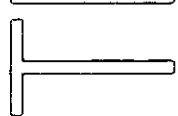
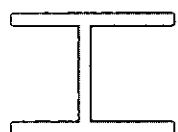
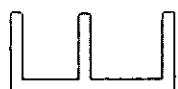
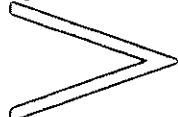
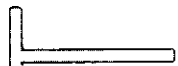
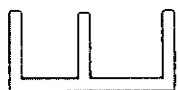
After the election, go to the local elections office and determine what the voter turnout was in the precincts on and around your campus. Look at similar past elections (e.g., midterm congressional, primary, presidential, etc.) to determine how successful your GOTV efforts have been. If your coalition conducted an active GOTV campaign, you should see an increased turnout. Send the information you gather from the elections office to local political reporters and to your Regional Campaign Coordinator. Perhaps they will run a story about the impact of your campus on the outcome of the election.

Make an appointment with the newly elected or re-elected officials to talk about the issues you and your peers are concerned about. Prepare information sheets on those issues, and make a packet of press clips, or statistics from the elections office to act as a gentle reminder of how the involvement of your campus affected the elections. They will remember this when they cast votes on issues important to your campus.



CHAPTER FOUR

PHASE 3



Sample Election Phone Scripts:

Sample Pre-Election Phone Script

Hello, is _____ home? Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling from [the name of your effort]. We just wanted to remind you that tomorrow is Election Day, and it's very important that you go to the polls. Are you planning to vote tomorrow?

[If yes] Great! Thank you for your time.

[If no] Are you able to get to your polling place? Do you need a ride?

[If yes arrange for a ride to the polls]

[If no] I hope you will reconsider. We will have vans going from [give name of campus or community meeting point] to the polling places at [give schedule].

Sample Election Day Phone Script

Hello, is _____ home? Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling from [the name of your effort]. I'm calling to remind you that today is Election Day. Have you voted today?

[if yes] Great! Thank you for your time.

[if no] There is still time to vote before the polls close. It's very important that all the registered voters in the [name of institution] community vote in this election. Do you need a ride, or directions to your polling place?

[if yes arrange for a ride to the poll or give directions]

[if no] I hope you will reconsider. It's very important that our community make a strong showing at the polls, so we can get the attention of the politicians.

SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The [Your Community] voter registration coalition urges you to register and vote! There will be a registration table located in front of the college activities building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and tomorrow. The process only works if you participate. Other people in the world are dying for the right to vote - you just had to turn 18. The deadline for mail-in registration is [day and date in your state]. Register and vote! For more information, or if you want to get involved, call 555-6789.

Take A Friend to Vote

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) has designed a Take A Friend to Vote Campaign to increase voter turnout.

Included in your Toolbox is their 10-page, easy to understand toolkit, which will guide you in not only becoming active voters, but in encouraging your peers, family and friends to register and vote.

Each toolkit includes fact sheets on voting, a pledge sheet for participants to use to engage their friends and family, postcards to be sent as reminders just before election day, and a Take A Friend To Vote bumper sticker.

All of these materials are included in your Toolbox!



USE AS SAMPLE
 VOTE
 THE
 TURNOUT
 LET
 US
 GO

CHAPTER FIVE: WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

(This material provided by NAICU)

If you hold an event to raise awareness or encourage action, but you do not invite the media, then the event did not happen as far as most people are concerned. Media coverage helps you inform your community about issues. It also sends a message to both candidates and incumbents: This community is vitally involved in the issues that affect us. Even candidates for national office will closely follow local and regional as well as national news stories. For example, stories on issues of interest are clipped by staff in the district offices of representatives, and then faxed to the Washington, DC office to be read by your member of Congress - usually the same day!

How do you interest the media in your activities? Be creative! Remember that it is out-of-the ordinary activities and research that draw news coverage. It is also important to think visually, to give photographers and television news crews the best shot at covering the event. Any of the activities described in the Toolbox is newsworthy. For example, In 1996 DebateWatch generated a great deal of media attention including coverage by C-SPAN of DebateWatches on several campuses and by Nightline. DebateWatch involves diverse groups within a community and demonstrates democracy at its best. It is very important that you develop a media strategy to use throughout the ServiceVote 2000 campaign, because you want every member of your community to know how important the issues of community and national service are to you!

Designate someone in your coalition as the media contact.

This person will be the main contact listed on media advisories, responsible for following up with the media and keeping track of the stories that are published. Remember to list Jennifer Coken, Director ServiceVote 2000, as your second contact with the phone number of 202-296-2992 x22. The fact that you are part of a much larger national campaign will carry weight with both the press and the campaign offices.

Compile media information

Work with your institution's public relations office to coordinate your media activities. You may be able to use their media mailing and contact lists. This information can be found in your local phone book, or in reference books at your local library. You can begin to search your local paper for any stories written on the campaigns, as well as on youth voting trends or community service. Contact those reporters directly. Sometimes reporters are assigned to a story on a case-by-case basis. Other times reporters are assigned to a "beat" - like politics, or youth. Don't forget to contact the smaller weekly papers or your local campus paper or radio station. Press coverage is press coverage is press coverage.

THE MEDIA

Newspapers

- Names of the editor, publisher, political reporter, education reporter, youth or service reporter
- Deadlines and days of publication
- Address, phone, fax, e-mail address

Radio Stations

- Names of the news director, talk show host(s) and producers
- Deadlines
- Address, phone, fax, e-mail address

Television Stations

- Names of the news director, political reporter, education reporter
- Deadlines for each newscast
- Address, phone, fax, e-mail address

Getting Coverage for An Event Tell the Media

- Draft a one-page media advisory giving details of the event - who, what, when, where, and why - and send it to your media list.
- This should be done a week in advance to allow the news directors and reporters to plan ahead. If you are sending something to a weekly paper, you may have to send it a few weeks in advance.
- List the names of the speakers.
- Be specific about possible photo opportunities and visuals such as the kind of service project the candidate will participate in.

Follow-up, Follow-up

- Call the media the day before the event to remind them that you are holding an event the next day.
- Confirm the time and location, and tell them again why it is important and who will be attending.
- Wherever possible, fax the advisory to them again.

Be ready to greet the media

- The media contact should greet the reporters and give them a press release, and be available to answer questions or set up interviews with participants and speakers.
- Use a sign-in sheet to get the names of the reporters who attend and the organization they represent, so you can follow up with them after the event, and call them for future events.
- Send the news release to the reporters who did not attend your event.
- Call each reporter to make sure they received the release and ask if they have questions.
- Call your radio stations and ask if you can make a statement about the event on the phone. Read the newspapers and watch and listen to the TV and radio stations for coverage.
- If you know about coverage in advance, make sure to set someone up to tape.
- Send copies to YSA and to all of the candidates. This is a valuable point of contact with the candidates - it will let them know that you are taking an active role in civic education!

THE MEDIA

Talk Shows

During off-air time, call the host or producer of a local radio talk show or television community affairs program and pitch your idea of doing a show on volunteering and voting in your community. Suggest guests such as community leaders, local candidates, the head of your organization, your institution's president or the student body leader. When the show airs, be sure to have plenty of callers lined up to support your message.

Candidates and members of Congress are also frequent guests on talk shows. This provides an excellent opportunity to let them know about ServiceVote 2000. When the show airs, get your coalition members to call and ask their views or ideas about community and national service. This will drive the point home that constituents are interested in the subject. It's also an excellent way to educate the general public.

Newspapers

Letters to the editor provide another useful way to educate the general public about voter registration. Following a few basic rules will improve your chances of getting published.

- Keep the letter short and to the point (around 150 words). Do not try to make several points in the same letter.
- Type the letter neatly
- Always sign your letter and provide your address and daytime phone number. Most newspaper will not accept a letter unless they can call and verify the author's identity.

- Check to see if your newspaper has a Website. Often it will state on the Website whether the newspaper prefers to receive the letter via e-mail, fax or snail mail.
- Most papers will accept no more than one letter per month from the same person. Demonstrate the diversity of your coalition by having many people write.

Editorial Board Meetings

Put together a group of influential people - business or community leaders, college presidents, and student leaders - to meet with the editorial board of your local newspaper. If you are well prepared and armed with facts (see our list of the Top Six Myths about Youth and the Facts About Youth Service), you may generate a positive editorial. Your members of Congress monitor the editorial page closely as a barometer of their constituents' opinions.

Opinion Editorials

Many newspapers will accept opinion pieces submitted by members of the community. These pieces (often called "op-eds," from their location opposite the editorial page) allow you to make several arguments in support of get-out-the-vote efforts in your community. Have the university president, executive director of an area non-profit, student government officials, or community leaders (you are included in this group too) submit op-eds to the newspaper.

SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT: Toni Marie El-khoury
 Home: (321) 752-7037 or Cell: (321) 537-5086
 Jennifer S. Coken, Director, ServiceVote 2000
 (202) 296-2992 x22 or cell (202) 253-1107

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 MEDIA ADVISORY**

-Brevard Community College Shuts Down to host Pre-Primary Conference
 - 3000 YOUTH ENGAGE CANDIDATES
 Brevard Community College Students Host Political Action Day March 13th

WHAT:

Brevard Community College students will host a Political Action Day on Monday, March 13th to engage with the candidates running for office. Local candidates and other statewide representatives of both parties have agreed to attend to make statements and answer questions from students, military personnel and citizens. Presidential candidates have not yet confirmed their attendance.

WHO:

Confirmed Parties Representatives

Local Candidates Confirmed

National Presidential Candidates Confirmed

WHEN:

Thursday, March 13th 9am - 3:00pm

WHERE:

The candidates will speak from the main stage, located at the gazebo, near the center of campus.

BACKGROUND:

While volunteerism is at an all-time high among young people, the number of young people voting is at an all-time low. Choosing between voting and volunteering is dangerous. Much has been written attributing the major cause of this decline to cynicism among young people. In fact, many youth do not vote because they are afraid to make an uninformed choice. The purpose of this event is to educate and activate our community to reverse this dangerous trend.

Brevard Community College Melbourne Campus Student Government sponsors this debate, and Youth Service America's ServiceVote 2000 - a national campaign to mobilize youth volunteers to vote. ServiceVote 2000 is a member of the Youth Vote 2000 coalition.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

**USE AS
 SAMPLE**

THE MEDIA



**USE AS
SAMPLE**

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR #1

To Whom It May Concern:

As a former AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer, a program under the National Service program umbrella, I worked full-time to ensure the basic needs of low-income families and children were met during the aftermath of flooding in Grand Forks, ND. I also educated the public about child nutrition issues through research conducted with the Food Research and Action Center in Washington, DC.

Each year thousands of people serve in National Service programs, and each year hundreds of communities are served by these people through literacy programs, health education programs, community gardens, arts involvement, service learning, food banks, homeless shelters, and countless other programs throughout the United States.

In return for my year of service, I received a small living stipend (less than minimum wage) and an education award to pay back student loans I incurred while in college. More importantly, I received an education on the social issues affecting my community, my country, and my world. My year as VISTA helped shape my career path and philosophy on giving.

A bill to reauthorize National Service programs such as the National Senior Service Corps, Learn and Serve America, and AmeriCorps, has been introduced in Congress. Reauthorization would ensure these programs continue for the next several years. Opponents of the bill argue that these programs should not exist because they pay people to serve their communities. By enabling individuals to serve their communities full-time and become community catalysts, these programs mobilize millions of other people in volunteer service. We should encourage our elected officials to support these programs, which contribute so much every day to the improvement of our communities.

Sincerely,

<NAME>

<CITY, TOWN>

THE MEDIA

Sample Letter to Editor #2

To The Editor:

E.J. Dionne's column "The Politics of Youth? Filled With Qualifications" hit the nail on the head - candidates should seek to motivate, not manipulate, young voters to the polls. This is especially critical for youth volunteers because they are all too familiar with the pressing problems facing our communities. They've been a part of the immediate solution and can see right through campaign rhetoric. But now it is time for them to claim their birthright as participants in the process.

When people of civic consciousness - especially college students, with ready-made networking power and Internet-savvy outreach skills - mobilize as voters, they can and do sway the outcome of elections. Consider the University of Wisconsin students who made history this past year when they helped to elect Wisconsin's first female Member of Congress, Representative Tammy Baldwin. Rep. Baldwin's Web site says her election to Congress "was lauded for its high voter turnout, most especially among college students on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus."

Community service is a meaningful step in the larger process of civic life. Voting is an equally important step that can cure the disease by challenging the systemic failures that created the problem in the first place. Challenge the government to follow your lead. Turn your generation into the generation that volunteered AND voted.

Steven A. Culbertson
President and CEO
Youth Service America
1101 15th Street, NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20009
202-296-2992 x26
202-296-4030
Member, Youth Vote 2000 Coalition
Word Count: 216



USE AS
SAMPLE

THE MEDIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2000

CONTACT: Jennifer S. Coken

(202) 234-8261 or cell (202) 253-1107

Brett Schorr (202) 547-3577

YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA LAUNCHES SERVICEVOTE 2000

National Campaign to Mobilize Record Number of Youth Volunteers to Vote

WASHINGTON, DC - With an eye on the November election, Youth Service America is launching a national campaign to mobilize young adults who are volunteering at record levels, to fulfill another major civic duty by voting. To minimize the gap between high levels of volunteering and poor voter turnout among youth, ServiceVote 2000 will use a campaign organizing kit to train young volunteers and volunteer organizations to educate and activate volunteers before the election, and to get out their vote on November 7.

These "toolkits" will, among other things, provide volunteers with valuable information and guidelines on how to organize regional youth forums and political fairs, promote the importance of youth service at the Democratic and Republican Party conventions, advance ServiceVote 2000's agenda in the media, and help organize service projects for the candidates.

A recent survey of young people found overwhelming belief that volunteerism and voting are each effective means of bringing about change. According to a national youth survey conducted by 2020 Vision in September 1999, ninety-two percent of those surveyed responded that "volunteering locally to help people directly" is an effective way to make change, while eighty-eight percent responded that "voting in elections" is an effective way to make change. Yet despite the high correlation noted in the survey between the importance of volunteering and voting among participants, youth are volunteering at unprecedented rates, but statistics show they are not turning out to vote in elections.

"This is a problem that can no longer go ignored," said Steven A. Culbertson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Youth Service America. "It is thrilling to see this generation of young people volunteering at historic rates. But if young people perceive volunteerism as an alternative to voting, they are missing a key component of their service experience. As with volunteer work, the ballot box is a necessary step in the cycle of civic participation."

(John Smith), head of the (local) ServiceVote 2000 office, said that the goals of the campaign are twofold. "We hope to encourage full civic engagement of youth by connecting our unprecedented involvement in community service with the political process. We also want to provide opportunities for the candidates to clearly define their vision and ideas for increasing the involvement of young people in national and community service." Local activities will include organizing a regional youth forum, hosting a political fair and asking local candidates to sign onto a "Pledge of Service."

Many major volunteer and political organizations have joined the ServiceVote 2000 Campaign. General Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and CEO of America's Promise, said: "Youth of today are the unsung heroes of their communities. This generation is volunteering at a rate that surpasses any generation since World War II. But, making the world a better place means they need to be volunteering and voting. ServiceVote 2000 will further activate the youth service movement, and bring young people's energy into the voting booths of America as well."

Youth Service America (YSA) is a resource center and the premier alliance of more than 200 organizations committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young Americans to serve locally, nationally, and globally. The mission of YSA and its programs is to strengthen the effectiveness, sustainability, and scale of the youth service field. YSA envisions a powerful network of organizations committed to making service the common experience and expectation of all young Americans. The project is funded by a generous grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

THE MEDIA

SAMPLE OPINION EDITORIAL

"An Appeal to Young Adults — Get Out and Vote!"

Young people today have strong opinions on everything — is that a surprise? Crime, religion, environment, education, peace-and-war. Our generation has a lot to say. We have energy and ideas. We think and care - volunteering by young Americans has increased in the last decade by twelve percent, and the number of service-related programs has increased fourteen-fold in the last fifteen years

What puzzles me, though, is why we are forfeiting this country's greatest right and aren't fully taking matters into our own hands. I'm talking about the ballot box. Voting. One minute of our time behind the curtains.

What's with this whine, whine, whine? "Defense budgets are too high." "Welfare budgets are too high." "There are too many guns in the streets." "Everyone has the right to bear arms." This is what we hear, and say. It's what we believe, passionately so. We attend protests and demonstrations in support of one cause or another. We sign petitions at school or in our community. Just think how many young people the newspapers and television show at pro-life and pro-choice rallies — lots! Then take the most effective, and probably the most convenient, step of all and bring about the change we say we want by voting for candidates who mirror our own convictions.

This is possibly the most with-it, savvy generation to emerge in American history and undoubtedly the most civic minded since World War II. With our passion for the Internet, we're more aware of all aspects of life than ever. Yet we essentially boycott the one opportunity each year when all citizens have a direct say in their own future.

I know, I know, I'm preaching to the choir. After all, you and I care enough about our communities — our society — to give of ourselves, to read books to underprivileged kids, to clean the litter off our streets and highways, to initiate food drives in our schools and places of worship for the hungry in our midst. Think of that girl a few years ago in Philadelphia who started small, by bringing blankets to homeless people on her city's streets. We're not apathetic. We are the activists. We care about America's future.

[This paragraph should be tailored to the individual's own story.] I've been volunteering for the last five years through (name of organization) at a senior citizens center a few miles away. Even after my great-grandmother died there I continued going, just to talk with residents. It takes so little effort, and I felt great for it. Now I am informed about the issues they're concerned about, and I take that into account when a candidate solicits my vote. And this November, I WILL vote.

There are so many of you — us — out there. How many? Well, studies indicate that an overwhelming 12 million-plus students are involved in service-related programs. In 1985, there were fewer than a million! Yet since 1972, the first year adults under 21 could vote, the number of 18 to 21 year-olds voting has dropped from 42 per cent to 28 percent.

Those numbers are fascinating. There are so many of us out there spending endless hours volunteering for causes we believe in. It really disappoints me that we're taking voting so for granted. We must reverse that trend, or our impact on public policy will drop even more.

I know: You think Democrats and Republicans ignore our concerns, and therefore it's okay to blow them off when they come a-courting. Wrong. That's the kind of cyclical cynicism that'll get us nowhere. Why do you think so many politicians care about issues that matter to seniors or women or minorities? Because there are votes at stake — lots of them! That's not cynicism, that's reality. Votes, not just money, are the coin of this realm, folks. It's time to be players, not spectators.

You're already committed enough to devote some free time to the greater good. If you think politicians ignore us, then put them on the spot.

Here's what you can do: Wherever you volunteer, arrange for candidates to come for a visit before November's elections. Have them meet-and-greet the staff and those whom you are helping. Then let them know what's on your mind. Ask the candidate to sign a pledge that he/she will support the many programs — like the 2030 Center or America's Promise, to name just two — that help young people who serve society. And make sure the media is there to get the message across.

Call ServiceVote 2000 at (202) 296-2992 or check out their Web site (servet.net) if you're looking for help in pulling off such an event, or for other ideas.

Write letters. Volunteer for campaigns. Recruit more volunteers. Learn the system and work it to your — our — advantage. Promoting safer streets and getting involved in politics are two sides of the same coin. There's a ton we can do to make our voice heard on the issues we care about.

And above all, vote.

Signed,
John Doe



USE AS
SAMPLE

THE MEDIA

ABOUT YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA

- Mission and Programs -

YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA (YSA) is a resource center and an alliance of 200 organizations committed to increasing the quantity and quality of opportunities for young Americans to serve locally, nationally, or globally. Founded in 1986, YSA's mission is to strengthen the Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Scale of the youth service movement. A strong youth service movement will create healthy communities, and foster citizenship, knowledge, and the personal development of young people. YSA envisions a powerful network of organizations committed to making service the common experience and expectation of all young Americans.

THE YOUTH SERVICE INFORMATION NETWORK

The Network provides youth service organizations and the media with key information and research on best practices, resources, and opportunities in the youth service field.

- **NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE AFFILIATES** is the largest network in the U.S. of youth service organizations, representing over 50 million young Americans. The Affiliates program provides its members with the weekly National Service Briefing, service-related information, issue papers, discounts on goods and services, and convenes the field around key issues through the monthly Working Group on National and Community Service. YSA is also organizing Service Vote 2000, an initiative to engage more young volunteers in voting, as well as build political support for creating a culture of service.

- **WWW.SERVENET.ORG** is the premier web site on service and volunteering and is the first national database of local volunteer opportunities. Through SERVENet, Affiliates reach potential volunteers by posting opportunities on Volunteer Now!, In addition to posting calendar events, job openings, news, and best practices, Affiliates can find resources and best practices online to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of their programs. YSA's commitment to America's Promise is to have volunteer opportunities on SERVENet for every zip code in America before the year 2001!

THE YOUTH AS ASSETS CAMPAIGN

The Youth as Assets Campaign works to empower young people, highlighting their ongoing contributions to their communities and mobilizing their energy, commitment, and idealism through sustainable service.

- National Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world, engaging millions of young Americans and focusing national attention on the amazing leadership of young people. National Youth Service Day is also an opportunity to recruit the next generation of volunteers and to promote the benefits of youth service to the American public.

- The President's Student Service Awards recognize young people ages 5 to 25 who contribute between 50 and 100 hours of service in a year. The awards are a White House initiative sponsored by the Corporation for National Service and administered by Youth Service America with the American Institute for Public Service and the Points of Light Foundation.

THE INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Institute provides personalized training to Affiliates and other partners on key topics that include strategic planning, community mapping, social entrepreneurship, cross-sector partnering and marketing, developing youth voice, integrating technology and service, and evaluation. YSA provides customized assistance as well as leadership programs.

- The Fund for Social Entrepreneurs recruits, trains, and supports visionary young entrepreneurs who are launching new youth service organizations. The Fund incubates these organizations by providing seed capital, training, and technical assistance as well as building partnerships with business and other service organizations.

APPENDIX

ServiceVote 2000 is a collaboration among over forty organizations. Call their national or local office and find out how they can be involved in your activities.

Partner Organizations

• 20/20 Vision

Contact Name: Natalie Hildt
 Contact Phone Numbers: (800) 669-1782
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 833 5307
 Contact E Mail Address: vision@2020vision.org
 Website: www.2020vision.org

20/20 Vision makes grassroots activism simple for busy people by providing the information they need to get involved in a wide range of progressive issues, like conserving the environment, shifting military spending to domestic needs, stopping handgun violence and getting money out of our campaign process. 20/20 watches Congress and collaborates with dozens of groups and experts to make sure members' monthly '20-minute action' is focused on who, what and where it will make the most difference.

• 2030 Center

Contact Name: Adam Luna
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 822-6526, (877) 2030-ORG
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 822-1199
 Contact E Mail Address: 2030@2030.org
 Website: www.2030.org

The 2030 Center is a public policy organization for young adults. The Center's mission is to advocate for the economic interest of young workers. The name 2030 refers to people in their 20s and 30s. It also refers to the year 2030, not simply for its significance as a demographic benchmark for our society. The 2030 Center is addressing the economic future of today's younger generations.

• Alliance for Better Campaigns

Contact Name: Matt Farrey, Associate Director
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 879-6755
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 879-6755
 Contact E Mail Address: alliance@bettercampaigns.org
 Website: www.bettercampaigns.org

The Alliance for Better Campaigns is a public interest group that seeks to improve elections by promoting campaigns in which the most useful information reaches the greatest number of citizens in the most engaging way. We aspire to a politics larger than attack ads and the money chase that pays for them. In particular, we are challenging television broadcasters to open the airwaves to a robust variety of issues forums for candidates. Visit our website www.bettercampaigns.org and learn about the activities of our state and local partners. Sign up to receive e-mail alerts and download sample letters and other materials that you can use to help us persuade broadcasters and candidates to give us campaigns that enrich, rather than diminish, democracy. On the following page is a list of our state partners:

Arizona:
 League of Women Voters - Arizona
 Brian McAnallen, 602-684-3757

Arizona Chamber of Commerce
 Timothy Lawless, 602-248-9172

California:
 Citizens' Research Foundation
 Jonathan Bernstein, 510-654-6865

Delaware:
 Common Cause Delaware
 John Flaherty, 302-521-0394

Florida:
 Common Cause Florida
 Ben Wilcox, 850-222-3883

Illinois:
 Illinois Campaign for Political Reform
 Cindi Canary, 312-335-1767

Indiana:
 Citizens Action Coalition Education Fund
 Julia Vaughn, 317-205-3535

Michigan:
 Michigan Citizen Action
 John La Pietra, 616-349-9170

Michigan Campaign Finance Network
 Johnston Mitchell, 517-482-7198

Minnesota:
 Minnesota Alliance for Better Campaigns
 Dean Alger, 612-824-3973

Missouri:
 Missouri PIRG
 Derek Cressman 202-546-9707

Nevada:
 Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
 Kathleen Dickinson, 775-348-7557

New Jersey:
 Eagleton Institute, Rutgers University
 Ingrid Reed, 732-932-9384 ext.232

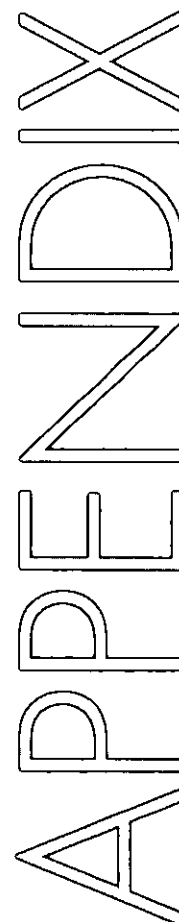
New York:
 Citizen Action of New York
 Linda Davidoff, 212-643-5344 ext. 45

North Carolina:
 UNC School of Journalism and Mass Comm.
 Ferrel Guillory, 919-962-5936

North Dakota:
 University of North Dakota, School of Comm.
 Jim Hikims, 701-777-2581

Ohio:
 Ohio Citizen Action
 Catherine Tureer, 614-263-4111

Pennsylvania:
 Institute for the Study of Civic Values
 Ed Schwartz, 215-238-1434



Partner Organizations

Rhode Island:
Common Cause Rhode Island
Phil West, 401-861-2322

Texas:
Texans for Public Justice
Craig McDonald, 512-472-9770

Virginia:
UVA Center for Governmental Studies
Alex Theodoridis, 804-924-3604

West Virginia:
League of Women of Voters of West Virginia
Ellender Stanchina, 304-342-2706

Wisconsin:
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Mike McCabe, 608-225-4260

- Alliance for National Renewal
Contact Name: Elizabeth VanBenschoten
Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 783-2961
Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 347-2161
Contact E Mail Address: ncldc@ncldc.org
Website: www.ncldc.org

The Alliance for National Renewal is a coalition of national and local organizations dedicated to the principles of community renewal. A catalyst for inspiring and helping citizens work together to improve their communities and thus, our nation, ANR offers assistance to communities that want to start community renewal alliances; access to a network of people who believe in taking back our nation, neighborhood by neighborhood; a collection of stories on successful community renewal efforts; and inspiration, ideas, tools and collaborative processes shared through conferences, publications, technical assistance, and the World Wide Web.

- America's Promise
Contact Name:
Contact Phone Numbers: (703) 684-4500
Contact Fax Numbers: (703) 535-3900
Contact E Mail Address: highered@americaspromise.org
Website: www.americaspromise.org

Led by General Colin Powell, USA (Ret.), America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth is mobilizing the nation to fulfill Five Promises to young people: an ongoing relationship with caring adults - parents, mentors, tutors or coaches; safe places with structured activities during non-school hours; a healthy start and future; a marketable skill through effective education; and opportunities to give back through community service. America's Promise serves as a nationwide catalyst, urging public, private and nonprofit organizations to focus their combined talents and resources to improve the lives of our nation's youth.

- Campus Compact
Contact Name: Karen Zivi
Contact Phone Numbers: (401) 863-1119
Contact Fax Numbers: (401) 863-3779
Contact E Mail Address: campus@compact.org
Website: www.compact.org

Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents committed to helping students develop the values and skills of citizenship through participation in public and community service. It is the only national higher education organization whose primary purpose is to support campus-based public and community service. Our presidents believe that by creating a supportive campus environment for the engagement in community service, colleges and universities can best prepare their students to be active, committed, and informed citizens and leaders of their communities.

- City Year
Contact Name: Lisa Ulrich
Contact Phone Numbers: (617) 927-2434, (888) 4-CITYYEAR
Contact Fax Numbers: (617) 927-2510
Contact E Mail Address:
Website: www.cityyear.org

City Year's mission is to put idealism to work by tapping the civic power of young people for an annual campaign of idealism. City Year seeks to generate transformative community service, break down social barriers, inspire citizens to civic action, develop new leaders for the common good, and improve and promote the concept of voluntary national service. Our vision is that one day, the most commonly asked question of an 18-year-old will be: "Where are you going to do your community service year?"

- Close Up Foundation
Contact Name: Charles M. Tampio
Contact Phone Numbers: (703) 706-3343
Contact Fax Numbers: (703) 706-0002
Contact E Mail Address: tampioc@closeup.org
Website: www.closeup.org
The Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, informs, inspires, and empowers people to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Close Up connects individuals of all ages to their communities and institutions through challenging educational programs and products.

- College Republican National Committee
Contact Name: Scott Stewart
Contact Phone Numbers:
(202) 608-1411 or (888) 765-3564
Contact Fax Numbers:
Contact E Mail Address: mail@crnc.org
Website: http://content.college.com/republicans/

The College Republican National Committee (CRNC) is the largest and most active student political organization in the nation. Founded at University of Michigan and with a 107 year history, the CRNC is the oldest political youth

X
D
N
Z
E
P
P
A

organization in America. The Committee consists of 50 federations and over 1,000 campus chapters with more than 100,000 members. The CRNC has come a long way in developing into a modern day political vehicle to recruit, register, and train college students in Republican politics.

- **COOL: Campus Outreach Opportunity League**
Contact Name: Sarah Pearlman
Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 265-1200 x 109
Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 265-5241
Contact E Mail Address: outreach@COOL2SERVE.org
Website: www.COOL2SERVE.org

COOL's mission is to educate and empower college students to strengthen our nation through community service. Our vision is to educate, mobilize, and connect students of all backgrounds to lead a movement that increases participation in our communities, promotes activism, and fosters the civic and social responsibility necessary to build a just society.

- **Council for Excellence in Government**
Contact Name: Dave Sheldon
Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 728-0418
Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 728-0422
Contact E Mail Address: webmaster@excelgov.org
Website: www.excelgov.org

The Council for Excellence in Government works to improve government performance. Council programs bring together individuals, institutions, and ideas in the public and private sectors to help develop creative leadership and management in government, often employing innovative concepts and methods tested in the corporate arena. The Council seeks practical public-sector reform, enabling government at all levels to produce the kinds of results that Americans increasingly demand.

- **DebateWatch 2000**
Contact Name: Diana B. Carlin
Contact Phone Numbers: 785-864-3633
Contact Address: Communication Studies Department, 3090 Wescoe Hall, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66044
Contact E Mail Address: presdeb@ukans.edu
Website: www.debates.org

DebateWatch is a program sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) to get more Americans talking about the candidates and issues, not just listening. Launched in 1996, the project brings people together in homes, libraries, community centers, and schools to watch the presidential debates and discuss them. Groups can even fax or e-mail a summary of their discussion so their reactions are compared with thousands of others across the nation. Reactions are also shared with the media as a way to make citizens' voices heard.

DEMOCRACY COMPACT

- **FIRST Foundation — The Foundation for Individual Responsibility and Social Trust**
Contact Name: Meredith Keiser
Contact Phone Numbers: 215. 241. 7980
Contact Fax Numbers: 215. 851. 1420
Contact E Mail Address: first@libertynet.org
Website: www.libertynet.org/~FIRST

FIRST is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to engaging young adults 18-35 in the political process by co-coordinating deliberations across the country and hosting conferences to bring young people together to talk about issues that are important to them. With these voices, we are forming a Generational Action Plan that we will present to the Presidential Candidates at our We the Future 2000 convention in Philadelphia April 14-16th, 2000.

- **FreedomChannel.com**
Contact Name: Paul Zurawski
Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 785-5920
Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 785-5925
Contact E Mail Address: mail@freedomchannel.com
Website: www.freedomchannel.com

FreedomChannel.com is a free, nonpartisan site that introduces video-on-demand into American politics. This site offers voters and the media the first-ever one-stop shop for the video views of candidates and issue groups. It allows voters to dial up the candidates they are interested in, on the issues they care about, all at times of their own choosing.

- **govWorks.com**
Contact Name: Andres Irlando
Contact Phone Numbers: (888) GOVWORKS
Contact Fax Numbers: (425) 928-6265
Contact E Mail Address:
Website: www.govWorks.com

govWorks, Inc., founded in 1998, is a private company that collaborates with government to provide a wide variety of Internet-based services. By developing national online links among government agencies, citizens and businesses, govWorks has created a comprehensive and efficient channel for transactional, informational and communication exchange.

- **Hillel - The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life**
Contact Name: Suzanne Borden
Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 857-6610
Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 857-2751
Contact E Mail Address: info@hillel.org
Website: www.hillel.org

Hillel is the foundation of the campus Jewish community and is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world. The Hillel network brings to the college world all the richness and diversity of Judaism and Jewishness. Its historical commitment to

Partner Organizations

X
I
D
N
E
P
P
A

Partner Organizations

a pluralistic community encourages intellectual challenge and growth.

- **INDEPENDENT SECTOR**

Contact Name: Matthew Hamill
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 467-6100
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 467-6101
 Contact E Mail Address: info@IndependentSector.org
 Website: www.indepsec.org

INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen America's independent sector (also called the nonprofit or "third" sector) and to encourage philanthropy, volunteering, not-for-profit initiative and citizen action that help us better serve people and communities. INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a national coalition of voluntary organizations, foundations and corporate giving programs.

- **League of Women Voters Education Fund**

Contact Name: Melissa Merrell
 Contact Phone Numbers: 202-263-0520
 Contact Fax Numbers: 202-429-0854
 Contact E Mail Address: mmerrell@lww.org
 Website: www.lww.org

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization, which builds citizen participation in the democratic process, studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner and enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

- **National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities**

Contact Name: David L. Warren
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 785-8866
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 835-0003
 Contact E Mail Address: vote@naicu.edu
 Website: www.naicu.org

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities serves as the unified national voice of independent higher education. The association has represented private colleges and universities on policy issues with the federal government, such as student aid, taxation, and government regulation. In addition, NAICU has spearheaded several major public initiatives, such as the Student Aid Alliance and the nonpartisan National Campus Voter Registration Project that helps member institutions conduct campaigns to register students and employees.

- **National Association of Service and Conservation Corps**

Contact Name: Andrew Moore
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 737-6272
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 737-6277
 Contact E Mail Address: amoore@nascc.org
 Website: www.nascc.org

The National Association of Service & Conservation Corps unites and supports youth corps as a preeminent strategy for achieving the nation's youth development, community service and environmental restoration goals.

- **National and Community Service Coalition**

Contact Name: Chairman James C. Kielsmeier
 Contact Phone Numbers: 651-631-3672
 Contact Fax Numbers:
 Contact E Mail Address:
 Website:

The National & Community Service Coalition was formed in 1992 by organizations that share the belief that the community service movement is a vital partner in solving public problems, restoring the ethic and institutions of community, and contributing to the personal and professional growth of its participants. NCSC informs and educates the service community on political and policy developments in Washington and around the country and encourages organizations and individuals interested and involved in the service movements to engage in debates over local, state, and federal policy issues related to service.

- **National Civic League**

Contact Name: Bill Schechter
 Contact Phone Numbers: (303) 571-4343
 Contact Fax Numbers: (303) 571-4404
 Contact E Mail Address: ncl@ncl.org
 Website: www.ncl.org

National Civic League's mission is to strengthen citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions. Founded in 1894 by Theodore Roosevelt, Louis Brandeis and other turn-of-the-century progressives, NCL promotes the principles of collaborative problem-solving and consensus-based decision making in local community building. The role of NCL today remains the same as it was 100 years ago: encouraging the greatest possible involvement of citizens in the governance of their own communities.

- **National Youth Leadership Council**

Contact Name:
 Contact Phone Numbers: (651) 631-3672
 Contact Fax Numbers: (651) 631-2955
 Contact E Mail Address: nylcinfo@nylc.org
 Website: www.nylc.org

The National Youth Leadership Council's mission is to engage young people in their communities and schools through innovation in learning, service, leadership, and public policy. The NYLC is at the forefront of efforts to reform education and guide youth-oriented public policy. The Council works to develop model programs in schools across America; create curricula and training programs for educators and youth; advocate educational reform and progressive youth policy; conduct ongoing research in youth issues; and maintain extensive networks in support of these measures.

IX
 D
 N
 E
 P
 P
 A

Partner Organizations

- **Points of Light Foundation**
 Contact Name: Cynthia A. Scherer
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 729-8000
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 729-8100
 Contact E Mail Address: volnet@pointsoflight.org
 Website: www.pointsoflight.org

The Points of Light Foundation is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization devoted to promoting volunteerism. The Foundation's mission is to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service to help solve serious social problems. Some of the major areas of the Foundation's work are: assisting employers in developing workplace volunteer programs; providing training for Volunteer Centers across the nation; providing products and services to volunteer management professionals; and aiding the growth of the family volunteering concept.

- **Project Vote Smart**
 Contact Name:
 Contact Phone Numbers: (406) 859-8683
 Contact Fax Numbers:
 Contact E Mail Address:
 Website: www.vote-smart.org

Project Vote Smart is a national library of factual information on over 13,000 elected offices and candidates for public office. We cover them in five basic areas: backgrounds, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and the performance evaluations made on them by over 100 conservative to liberal special interests. We do not lobby, support or oppose any candidate or issue - or accept financial support from any organization that does. We are staffed by both conservatives and liberals of various parties who have volunteered for up to two years in order to help you get the facts about candidates instead of just the rhetoric.

- **Schoolcity.com**
 Contact Name:
 Contact Phone Numbers:
 Contact Fax Numbers:
 Contact E Mail Address: marketing@schoolcity.com
 Website: www.schoolcity.com

SchoolCity.com works to enrich education by providing communities with the web-based tools and curriculum-focused content they need to use the Internet effectively in education. We understand that a school is not a building where teachers lecture or students take tests, it is a community, a city. Achieving academic excellence takes the involvement and participation of all the community members, all the citizens: students, teachers, parents, and administrators. In the student, teacher, and parent sections of our site we offer educational headlines, features, resources, and content.

- **Youth in Action Campaign**
 Contact Name: Brian Elms
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 265-1200 x112
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 265-3241
 Contact E Mail Address: gyan@youthlink.org
 Website: www.youthlink.org

The Youth In Action Campaign was launched nationally by

the Foundation of America in 1997 to create recognition and financial support for the diverse voices and solutions of youth. Today, in countries everywhere, young people are taking an initiative and starting an effort to deal with a problem. It is being proved that youth are not apathetic, but able and capable of being part of the solution! Under the auspices of the Global Youth Action network, the Campaign works to promote and reward the extraordinary efforts that create results.

- **YouthBuild USA**
 Contact Name:
 Contact Phone Numbers: (800) 998-9999 or (202) 708-2290
 Contact Fax Numbers:
 Contact E Mail Address:
 Website: www.hud.gov/progdesc/youthb.html

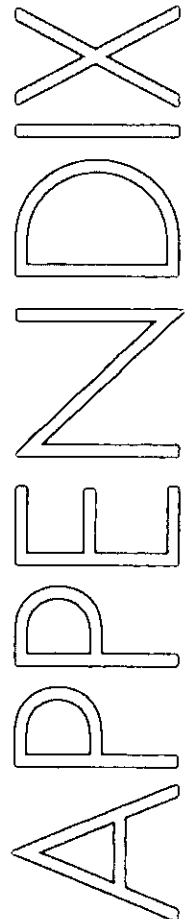
Every year, thousands of disadvantaged youth drop out of high school, starting down a road that too often leads to poverty, dependence, and crime. YouthBuild helps dropouts choose the more productive path towards self-sufficiency by enabling them to gain marketable construction skills. In YouthBuild, participants spend time learning in the classroom, earning income as a trainee at construction sites, and contributing to their community by helping to build or rehabilitate affordable living.

- **YouthVote 2000 Coalition**
 Contact Name: John Dervin, Political and Debates Director
 Contact Phone Numbers: 202-263-1323
 Contact Fax Numbers: 202-463-3692
 Contact email: info@youthvote2000.org
 Contact Website: www.youthvote2000.org

Youth Vote 2000 is the largest non-partisan coalition committed to encouraging civic participation among our nation's young people. Directed by our Board and fueled by the power of our coalition members' extensive national networks, Youth Vote 2000 is demanding accountability by politicians on the issues of importance to young people today.

- **Young Democrats of America**
 Contact Name: Jay Parmley
 Contact Phone Numbers: (202) 863-8000
 Contact Fax Numbers: (202) 488-5081
 Contact E Mail Address: yda@dnc.democrats.org
 Website: www.yda.org

The Young Democrats of America is the official youth arm of the Democratic Party. Open to anyone under the age of 36 who affiliates with the Democratic Party, YDA is a nationwide grassroots organization with 780 local chapters. Our membership reflects the broad diversity of our nation and the Democratic Party. This includes high school students, college students, young workers, young professionals and young families. All of the members have the interest of their community at heart and work hard to affect the democratic process.



THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CONNECT VOLUNTEERING AND VOTING

1. You Care.
2. You can make a difference.
3. Voting will sustain the long-term impact of your service.
4. Vote to support programs that affect and fund the work of the organization where you volunteer.
5. In many countries outside of the United States, people are dying to exercise their right to vote.
6. Voting is the ultimate way of voicing your opinion and serving your country.
7. You can affect local school board elections and make a big difference in local education.
8. You can protect those that cannot protect themselves such as the homeless, the hungry, children and animals.
9. Educating yourself about the political process and then voting gives you something to debate Uncle Charlie with at Thanksgiving.
10. It gives you the right to complain.

THE TOP 10 WAYS TO CONNECT SERVICE-LEARNING WITH VOTING

1. Study the political system of a country where the right to vote has been either taken away or denied. Raise funds to benefit an organization, or volunteer with a local group, that does work in that country.
2. Go to govote.com and figure out how members of your class stand politically. Create a visual to track the results.
3. Conduct an informal poll in your school, place of worship or community. Create a visual representation of the results and display the results prominently! Volunteer on a campaign for the day - come back and reflect on your experiences.
4. Organize a mock debate or election.
5. Conduct a Power Hour
6. Scan the web for useful sites. Create a site at school to educate your peers.
7. Organize a school-wide voter registration drive.
8. Write a school-wide newsletter educating your peers on how candidates feel about the issues.
9. Hold a "We Volunteer and We Vote" Fair. Invite local volunteer groups, issue groups and representatives from local political offices to your organization, office or campus. Invite your peers to sign up to do more volunteer work, and become educated about issues and candidates.
10. Ask participants to present weekly political briefings. Pair students up and ask them to research and then present each side of an issue. Ask them to suggest volunteer opportunities to impact that issue.

APPENDIX

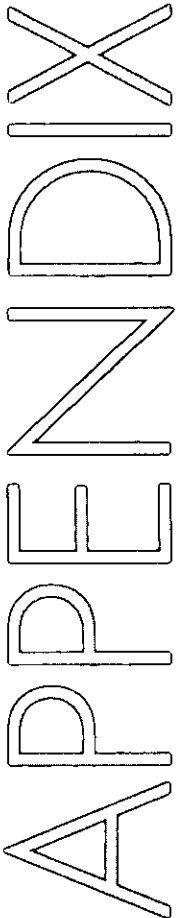
List of Newspaper contacts by state:

- Alabama**
Montgomery Advertiser
2000 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 34104
(334) 262-1611 or (334) 261-1509
- Alaska**
Anchorage Daily News
PO Box 149001
Anchorage, Alaska 99514-9001
(907) 257-4200 or (907) 257-4305
Fax: (907) 258-2157
- Fairbanks Daily News Miner
PO Box 70710
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-0710
(907) 459-7572 or (907) 459-7585
Fax: (907) 452-7917
Kelly Bostian, Managing Editor
- Arizona**
The Arizona Republic
120 East Van Buren St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 444-8000
Fax: (602) 444-8044
- The Arizona Daily Sun
1751 South Thompson St.
PO Box 1849
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(520) 774-4545
Fax: (520) 774-4790
- Arkansas**
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
(501) 378-3457 or (501) 399-3657
Fax: 1 (900) 225-5234
- California**
The Los Angeles Times
Washington Bureau
(202) 887-1050
The San Francisco Chronicle
901 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 777-1111 or (415) 561-8700
Fax: (415) 674-7338
Vale Kershner, News Director
- Colorado**
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202-1577
1 (800) 336-7678 or (303) 820-1577
Fax: (303) 820-1369
- The Daily Camera
PO Box 591
Boulder, CO 80306
(303) 442-1202 or (303) 473-1365
Fax: (303) 449-9358
Michael Thompson, News Editor
- Connecticut**
The Hartford Courant
285 Broad St.
Hartford, CT 06115
(860) 241-6200
Fax: (860) 241-3865
Michael Regan, Politics
- The Advocate
75 Tressler Blvd.
PO Box 9307
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 964-2273
Fax: (203) 964-3765
Karen Tensa, News/Copy Desk
- Delaware**
The News Journal
950 West Basin Rd.
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 324-2800
Fax: (302) 324-5509
- Florida**
The Miami Herald
One Herald Plaza
Miami, FL 33132-1693
(305) 350-2000 or (305) 376-3560
Fax: (305) 376-5287
- The Orlando Sentinel
633 N. Orange Ave.
Orlando, FL 32801
(407) 420-5396
Fax: 1 (900) 288-NEWS
Steve Doyle, Deputy Managing
Editor for Newsfeatures
- Georgia**
Atlanta Journal Constitution
PO Box 4689
Atlanta, GA 30302
(404) 526-5151 or (404) 526-5342
Fax: (404) 526-5974
Carl Raucher, Political Editor
National Desk
- Athens Daily News - Athens Banner
Herald
(706) 549-0123
Fax: (706) 208-2246
- Hawaii**
Honolulu Advertiser
Po Box 3110
Honolulu, HI 96802
(808) 525-8090
Fax: (808) 525-8090
- Idaho**
The Idaho Statesman
1200 N. Curtis Rd.
Bosie, ID 83706
(208) 377-6400
Fax: (208) 377-6449
- The Times-News
132 Third St., West
PO Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83303
(208) 733-0931
Fax: (208) 734-5538
- Illinois**
The Chicago Sun Times
401 North Wabash
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 321-3000 or (312) 321-
2522
Fax: (312) 321-3084
- Indiana**
The Indianapolis Star
307 North Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1899
1 (800) 669-7827 or (317) 633-
9273
Fax: (317) 633-1038
- Herald-Times
1900 South Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47402
(812) 332-4401
Fax: (812) 331-4383
Bill Strother, City Editor
- Iowa**
The Des Moines Register
(515) 284-8561
Fax: (515) 286-2504
Mike Townsend, Managing Editor
and News

**Newspapers
by State**

APPENDIX

Newspapers by State



Kansas
The Topeka Capital-Journal
616 SE Jefferson
Topeka, KA 66607
(785) 295-1205
Anita Miller, Managing Editor

Withca Eagle
(316) 286-6351
Fax: (316) 286-6627
Tom Shine, Asst. Managing Editor

Kentucky
The Kentucky Post
421 Madison Ave.
Covington, KY 41011
(606) 292-2600
Fax: (606) 291-2525
Roy Wood, Political Editor

Louisiana
The Advocate
PO Box 588
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0371
(225) 383-1111
Fax: (225) 383-0371

Maine
Portland Press Herald
309 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101-5009
(207) 791-6300
Fax: (207) 719-6920

Bangor Daily News
491 Main St.
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 990-8000
Fax: (207) 941-9476
Carroll Astbury, News Editor (207)
990-8138

Maryland
The Baltimore Sun
501 North Calvert St.
PO Box 21278
(410) 332-6100
Fax: (410) 752-6049

Massachusetts
Boston Herald
1 Herald Square
Boston, MA 02106-2096
1 (800) 882-2024 or (617) 619-
6461
Fax: (617) 542-1315

The Boston Globe
135 Morrissey Blvd.
PO Box 2378
Boston, MA 02107-2378
(617) 929-3186

Fax: (617) 929-3186
Jordana Hart, General
Assignment/News (617) 929-
3089

Michigan
The Detroit News
615 West Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 222-6793
Fax: (313) 222-1474

Minnesota
The Star Tribune
425 Portland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55488
(612) 673-4414
Fax: (612) 673-4359

Mississippi
Sun Herald
Biloxi, Mississippi
1 (800) 346-5022
Fax: (228) 896-2104
Missouri
The Kansas City Star
1729 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64108
(816) 234-4689
Fax: (816) 234-4926
Darryl Levings, Asst. Managing
Editor - National News

Montana
Billings Gazette
PO Box 36300
Billings, MT 59101-6300
1 (800) 543-2505 or (406) 657-
1311
Fax: (406) 657-1208
Tom Tollefson, Regent Editor

Independent Record
PO Box 4249
Helena, MT 59604
(406) 477-4072
Fax: (406) 447-5052
Rich Meyers, City Editor (406)
477-4071
Nebraska
Omaha World-Herald
(402) 444-1304 or (402) 444-
1277
Fax: (402) 345-0183
Mike Reilly, Metro/Regional
Editor

The Lincoln Star Journal
PO Box 81609
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 473-7310
Fax: (402) 473-7291
Dave Bundy, News Editor

Nevada
The Las Vegas Sun
PO Box 4275
800 South Valley View
Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 385-3111
Fax: (702) 383-7264

New Hampshire
The Concord Monitor
1 Monitor Dr.
Concord, NH 03302-1177
(603) 224-5301 x324
Fax: (603) 224-8120

New Mexico
The Santa Fe New Mexican
202 East Marcy
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 983-3303
Fax: (505) 983-9147
Mike Cosgrove, News Editor (505)
986-3024

New York
The New York Times
(202) 862-0324
Fax: (202) 862-0340
Washington News Desk

North Carolina
The Charlotte Observer
600 South Tyron St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 358-5000
Fax: (704) 358-5036
Ann Doss-Helms, (704) 358-5033
The News and Observer
215 South McDowell St.
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 829-4520 or (919) 829-4536
Fax: (919) 829-4529

North Dakota
Grand Forks Herald
375 Second Ave. North
Grand Forks, ND 58203
(701) 780-1134
Fax: (701) 780-1123
Paula Tobin

Ohio
The Cincinnati Post
125 East Court St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

The Columbus Dispatch
34th South Third St.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 461-5200
Fax: (614) 461-7580
Joe Hallet, Politics Editor

Oklahoma
The Daily Oklahoman
PO Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405) 475-3311
Fax: (405) 475-3183
Harold Soles, News Editor

Oregon
The Oregonian
1320 Southwest Broadway
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 221-8100 or (503) 294-5123
Fax: (502) 294-4019
The Statesman's Journal
(503) 399-6622
Fax: (503) 399-6773

Pennsylvania
The Philadelphia Inquirer
Box 8263
Philadelphia, PA 19101
(215) 854-2771
Fax: (215) 854-5477

The Pittsburgh Post Gazette
34 Blvd. Of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 263-1500
Fax: (412) 391-8452

Rhode Island
The Providence Journal
75 Fountain St.
Providence, RI 02902
(401) 277-7000
Fax: (401) 277-7346

South Carolina
The Greenville News
305 South Main St.
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 298-4301
Fax: (864) 298-4395

The State
PO Box 1333
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 771-8415
Fax: (803) 771-8430

South Dakota
Aberdeen American News
124 South Second St.
PO Box 4430
Aberdeen, SD 57402
1 (800) 925-4100

Tennessee
The Tennessean
1100 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 726-4892 or (615) 259-8095
Fax: (615) 254-5654
Bonna de la Cruz

The Commercial Appeal
495 Union Ave.
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 529-2332 or (901) 529-2345
Fax: (901) 529-2522

Texas
The Dallas Morning News
PO Box 655237
Dallas, TX 75265
(214) 977-8222
Fax: (214) 977-8806

Houston Chronicle
801 Texas Ave.
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 220-7171
Fax: (713) 220-7552

Utah
The Daily Herald
1555 North Freedom Blvd.
Provo, UT 84603-0717
(801) 334-2548
Fax: (801) 373-5489

The Salt Lake Tribune
143 South Main
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 257-8722 or (801) 257-8742
Fax: (801) 257-8525
Hillary Groutage

Vermont
The Burlington Free Press
191 College St.
Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 660-1862
Fax: (802) 660-1802
Rob Eley

Virginia
The Richmond Times Dispatch
(804) 649-6990
Fax: (804) 775-8059
Pam Stallfith

Washington
Seattle Post Intelligencer
PO Box 1909
Seattle, WA 98111-1909
(206) 448-8000
Fax: (206) 488-8166
Ken Bunting

Washington, D.C.
The City Paper
(202) 332-2100
Fax: (202) 332-8500
Elissa Silver

The Washington Post
1150 15th St, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071
(202) 334-6000
Fax: (202) 334-7502

West Virginia
The Dominion Post
Greer Blvd.
1251 Earl Core Rd.
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 292-6301
Fax: (304) 291-2326

Wisconsin
Wisconsin State Journal
1901 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 252-6200

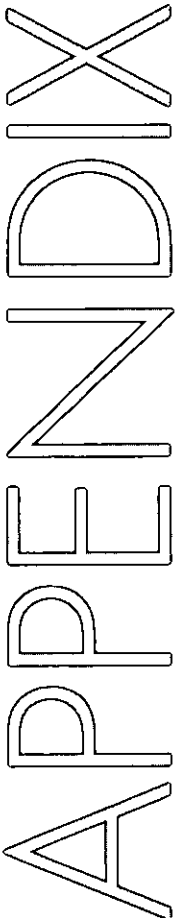
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
PO Box 661
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 224-2000

Wyoming
Casper Star Tribune
PO Box 80
Casper, WY 82602-0568
(307) 266-0500
Fax: (307) 266-0568

Newspapers by State

X
D
N
Z
E
P
P
A

Boards of Election by State



List of State Boards of Election

Alabama
www.sos.state.al.us/election.htm
 Secretary of State
 Election Division - Room E204
 600 Dexter Ave.
 Montgomery, AL 36103
 (334) 242-7210

Alaska
www.gov.state.ak.us/lsgov/elections/homepage.html
 Secretary of State
 Division of Elections
 Court Plaza Building - 4th Floor
 240 Main Street
 Juneau, AK 99811
 (907) 465-4611

Arizona
www.sosaz.com/election/
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 1700 W. Washington 7th Floor
 Phoenix, AZ 85007-2808
 (602) 542-8683

Arkansas
www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elect.html
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 St. Capitol - Room 026
 Little Rock, AK 72201
 (205) 682-5070

California
www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division - 5th Floor
 1500 11th Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 657-2166

Colorado
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/sos/divinfo.html#Elections
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 1560 Broadway - Suite 200
 Denver, CO 80202
 (303) 894-2680

Connecticut
www.sots.state.ct.us/ElectionsDivision/Electionindex.html
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 320 Trinity Street
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 566-3106

Delaware
 Secretary of State
 Federal & Duke of York Streets
 Dover, DE 19901
 (302) 739-4111

Florida
www.election.dos.state.fl.us
 Secretary of State
 Division of Elections
 Florida Dept. of State
 The Capitol - Room 1801
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
 (904) 488-7697

Georgia
www.sos.state.ga.us/elections
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 #2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
 SE
 Suite 1104 W. Tower
 Atlanta, GA 30334
 (404) 656-2871

Hawaii
 Secretary of State
 Office of Elections
 802 Lehua Avenue
 Pearl City, HA 96782
 (808) 453-8683

Idaho
www.idsos.state.id.us/elect/eleindex.htm
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 700 W. Jefferson St. - Room 203
 Boise, ID 83702
 (208) 334-2852

Illinois
www.elections.state.il.us
 Secretary of State
 State Board of Elections
 1020 S. Spring
 Springfield, IL 62704
 (217) 782-4141

Indiana
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 200 W. Washington St
 State House - Room 201
 Indianapolis, IN 46204
 (317) 232-6541

Iowa
www.sos.state.ia.us
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 The Hoover Building - 2nd
 Floor
 Capitol Complex
 Des Moines, IA 50319
 (515) 281-6598

Kansas
www.kssos.org/elewelc.html
 Kansas Secretary of State
 Elections Divisions
 2nd Floor - State Capitol
 Topeka, KS 66612
 (913) 296-4561

Kentucky
www.sos.state.ky.us/ElecDiv.htm
 Secretary of State
 700 Capitol Ave.
 State Capitol Building
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 (502) 564-3490

Louisiana
www.laelections.org
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 33 State Capitol Dr.
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802
 (504) 342-4970

Maine
www.state.me.us/sos/cec/elec/
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 State Office Building- Room
 221
 Capitol Street
 Augusta, MN 04330
 (207) 287-4186

Maryland
www.elections.state.md.us
 State Board of Elections
 11 Bladen Street
 Annapolis, MD 21404
 (410) 974-3711

Massachusetts
 Secretary of the
 Commonwealth's Office
 Elections Division
 1 Ashburton Place - Room 1705
 Boston, MA 02108
 (617) 727-2828

Michigan
www.sos.state.mi.us/elect.html
 Department of State
 Bureau of Elections
 Mutual Building - 4th Floor
 208 N. Capitol Ave
 Lansing, MI 48918-1700
 (517) 373-2540

Minnesota
www.sos.state.mn.us/election
 Secretary of State
 Division of Elections - Room 180
 State Office Building
 100 Constitution Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 (612) 215-1440

Mississippi
www.sos.state.ms.us
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 401 Mississippi Street
 Jackson, MS 39201
 (601) 359-6357

Missouri
www.mosl.sos.state.mo.us/sos-elec
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 600 W. Main St.
 Jefferson City, MO 65101
 (573) 751-2301

Montana
 Secretary of State
 Elections Bureau
 State Capitol - Room 225
 Helena, MT 59620
 (406) 444-4732

Nebraska
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 State Capitol Building - Room 2300
 14th & K Streets
 Lincoln, NE 68509
 (402) 471-2554

Nevada
www.sos.state.nv.us/nvelection/
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 101 S. Carson Street
 Carson City, NV 89701
 (702) 687-3176

New Hampshire
www.199.92.250.11/sos
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 107 N. Main Street - Room 204
 Concord, NH 03301
 (603) 271-3242

New Jersey
www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/
 Department of State
 Elections Division
 20 W. State St. CN304
 Trenton, NJ 08625
 (609) 292-3760

New Mexico
www.sos.state.nm.us/elect.htm
 Bureau of Elections
 State Capitol Building - Room
 420
 Santa Fe, NM 87503
 (505) 827-3620

New York
www.elections.state.ny.us/about
 State Board of Elections
 6 Empire State Plaza - Suite 201
 Albany, NY 12223
 (518) 474-1953

North Carolina
www.sboe.state.nc.us
 State Board of Elections
 133 Fayetteville Street Mall - #
 100
 Raleigh, NC 27601
 (919) 733-7173

North Dakota

Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 600 East Boulevard Ave.
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0500
 (701) 328-2900

Ohio
www.state.oh.us/sos
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 30 E. Broad Street - 14th Floor
 Columbus, OH 43266-0418
 (614) 466-2585

Oklahoma
www.state.ok.us/~elections/i
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 300 N. Lincoln - Room 101
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4897
 (405) 521-2391

Oregon
www.sos.state.or.us/elections
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 State Capitol - Room 141
 Salem, OR 97310
 (503) 986-1518

Pennsylvania
www.dos.state.pa.us/bcel/elections
 Department of State
 Bureau of Elections
 304 N. Office Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 (717) 787-5280

Rhode Island
www.elections.state.ri.us
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 100 N. Main Street
 Providence, RI 02903
 (401) 277-2340

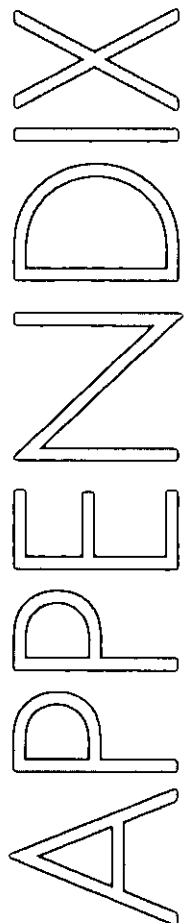
South Carolina
www.state.sc.us/scsec
 Elections Commission
 2221 Devine St - Suite 105
 Columbia, SC 29205
 (803) 734-9060

South Dakota
www.state.sd.us/sos/sos.htm#1998and2000Elections
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 State Capitol Building - Suite
 204
 500 East Capitol Ave
 Pierre, SD 57501
 (605) 773-3537

Tennessee
www.state.tn.us/sos/election.htm
 Registry of Elections Finance
 404 James Robertson Parkway
 Suite 1614
 Nashville, TN 37243-1360
 (615) 741-7959

Texas
www.sos.state.tx.us/sos/election.htm
 Secretary of State
 Elections Division
 Insurance Annex Building
 221 East 11th Street
 Austin, TX 78701
 (512) 463-5650

**Boards of
 Election by
 State**



Boards of Election by State

X
D
N
E
P
A

Utah

Office of the Lieutenant
Governor
Elections Division
203 State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(801) 538-1520

Vermont

www.vermont-elections.org
Secretary of State
Elections Division
26 Terrace Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-2464

Virginia

www.sbe.state.va.us
State Board of Elections
200 N. 9th Street - Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-6551

Washington

www.state.wa.gov/voting
Secretary of State
Elections Division
416 14th Avenue,
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504 - 0220
(360) 902-4151

West Virginia

www.state.wv.us/sos/election/2000election/eofficials.htm
Secretary of State
Elections Division
Building One - Suite 157 K
1900 Kanawha Blvd E.
Charleston, WV 25303-0770
(304) 558-6000

Wisconsin

www.elections.state.wi.us
Secretary of State
State Elections Board
132 East Wilson Stret
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 266-8005

Wyoming

Elections Division
State Capitol - Room 106
2000 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7186

District/Territory Boards of Elections

District of Columbia
Board of Elections and Ethics
441 4th NW - Suite 250
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-2525

American Samoa
Election Office
Pago Pago, American Samoa
96799
From the mainland dial (011)
684-633-2522

Guam

Guam Election Commission
Second Floor
GCIC Building
Agana, Guam 96910
From the mainland dial (011)
671-477-9791

Puerto Rico

Secretary of State
Department of State
Street San Francisco
Esquina San Jose
Plaza De Las Armas
Old San Juan
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902
(809) 723-4334

U.S. Virgin Islands

Office of the Lieutenant
Governor
#18 Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands
00802
(809) 774-2991

YOUTH AND THE POWER OF POLITICS — SUCCESS STORIES

LEGISLATION

The National and Community Services Trust Act

President Bill Clinton signs the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, creating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service to expand opportunities for young Americans to serve their communities.

Service-Learning

Maryland was the first state to require high school students to perform a certain number of hours of community service-learning. Each year there is an effort in the state legislature to overturn this graduation requirement, and each year high school students and supporters of service learning have succeeded in defeating the bill.

BRINGING CANDIDATES TO OFFICE

The Presidency

In 1996, President Bill Clinton repeated his success with the youth of America with his victory against Senator Bob Dole. Although only 49 percent of the electorate voted for President Clinton, he received 53 percent of the 18 to 24 year old votes. Clinton's appeal to young voters proved to be a significant difference between him and Senator Dole, which secured Clinton's presidential victory.

House of Representatives

University of Wisconsin students made history in 1998 when they helped to elect Wisconsin's first female Member of Congress, Representative Tammy Baldwin. Rep. Baldwin's Web site says her election to Congress "was lauded for its high voter turnout, most especially among college students on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus."

Governor

WCCO-TV, the Minneapolis affiliate of NBC, stated that the Gubernatorial victory of Reform Party candidate, Jesse "the Body" Ventura can be attributed to the votes of young voters. Governor Ventura was able to attract young voters to the polls along with those disenfranchised by the "two-party system." With the votes of these two groups, Ventura was pushed over the top and won the Gubernatorial seat of Minnesota in 1998.

REAL CHANGE

Deficit reduction pledges

In 1992, the federal budget deficit was out of control, having grown since the early 1960s to a height of \$290 billion. Special interests lobbied to protect their tax breaks and subsidies, and lawmakers obliged with deficits, sacrificing the economy's health. Legislators acknowledged the need for fiscal responsibility, but pointed fingers rather than taking action.

A concerned group of young people, Lead... or Leave, launched an aggressive campaign to urge members of Congress and their electoral opponents to pledge not to seek re-election after four years unless the deficit had been actually cut in half. High-profile endorsements from former Senators Rudman and Tsongas, and later from Presidential candidate Ross Perot, helped ensure media attention, but the real work was done at the grassroots level.

Throughout the country, major-party candidates on the campaign trail were greeted by groups of young activists who used pennies to make their point. After presenting the pledge, they would dump a pile of 4,200 pennies, each one representing a billion dollars of the national debt, at the candidates' feet, and ask for their leadership to clean up the mess. TV crews could not resist the visual appeal, and candidates, unwilling to look bad on camera, signed the pledge on the spot.

Nationwide, 106 major-party candidates signed the pledge. The campaign played a key role, along with Perot's Presidential candidacy, in building momentum for deficit reductions in Washington. Today, the deficit has been eliminated, although an enormous national debt remains. Lead... or Leave's 1992 campaign was executed in 2 months, with a staff of just eight people, and hundreds of volunteers nationwide.

Education

New Jersey Higher Education Alliance, led by 20 year-old college students, Jonathan Rosen and Travis Linderman noted that college tuition was becoming less affordable. They successfully lobbied for a \$500 million bond for higher education.

Clean Air

In 1997, President Clinton faced a decision on endorsing stronger clean air standards in response to growing rates of childhood asthma attacks and "bad air days". Young people working with U.S. PIRG helped lead a national campaign, featuring press events with a giant tombstone that read "In memory of the 1,000 people who will die from air pollution this year", and receiving unprecedented media coverage for the issue of clean air. In response, President Clinton publicly endorsed the stronger air standards, and began leading the fight for cleaner air.

APPREZIX

Desert Protection Action

In 1993, leaders of the Sierra Club had been working for a decade to enact the California Desert Protection Act, safeguarding millions of acres of the Mojave Desert as wilderness. Senator Bennett Johnston (D-LA), who chaired a key committee, held up the act's passage in the Senate. Johnston was not usually a friend of the environment, and he could hold up a bill indefinitely.

A Louisiana high school student named Stephanie took the initiative that made a difference. She and a few friends from different schools set up tables in their lunch rooms, armed with paper, pens, boom boxes, and cookies. Within three weeks, they generated thousands of hand-written letters to Senator Johnston, urging his support for the Act. Soon afterward, he moved the bill out of his committee, enabling a Senate vote, which approved it. The California Desert Protection Act became the only major pro-environment law to pass during the 103rd Congress.

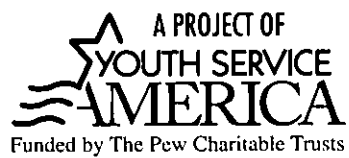
Civil Rights

Uncertain Massachusetts legislators passed a landmark Gay and Lesbian Students Rights Law after hearing compelling testimony by young people about the bill. With the support of the Lieutenant Governor, youth spoke at hearings, met with individual lawmakers, organized a massive letter writing campaign, and held rallies and candlelight vigils that raised public support for a law that aims to, "provide all students with a safe and supportive public education."

Violence Prevention

Students Against Handgun Abuse joined in a statewide lobbying campaign that resulted in a new Maryland law that limits an individual from buying more than one firearm a month.

APPENDIX



1101 15th Street, NW, Ste 200
Washington, DC 20005
phone: 202-296-2992 ext.22
fax: 202-296-4030
servicevote2000@ysa.org
www.SERVEnet.org