

Six Reasons Why Stetson Students Should Register to Vote in DeLand

Many young Americans are more or less invisible to politicians because they vote less than older Americans. It doesn't have to be this way.

- 1) **Elections usually happen while students are in school:** General elections usually happen in November, primary elections in late August or early September (late January for the U.S. Presidential Primary), when Stetson students are in school. Students registered at their parents' hometown either have to drive home, or order an absentee ballot, fill it out and return it in time. For many young voters – especially busy college students – this is too much, so they don't vote. In contrast, students registered on campus can walk to their poll located at: Florida Lutheran Retirement Center, 450 North McDonald Avenue, DeLand.
- 2) **Vote where you live most of the time:** It makes more sense to vote where you live most of the time. Upon entering college, many students spend most of their time at college, not at their parents' home. Also, many do not return to their parents' town when they graduate.
- 3) **Vote where students can act together.** College students are actually in a better position than other young, voting-age Americans to have their voices heard because gathered together at college they can act together: learn about public issues, educate each other, and vote together.
- 4) **Better to learn active citizenship at school, with other students:** Stetson is more effective at teaching engaged citizenship if students are registered locally. Students registered to vote in DeLand have a reason to learn about local government, and local officials in turn have a reason to pay more attention to Stetson students if Stetson students are registered and vote locally.
- 5) **Community conditions directly affect students:** Many college students live in a “campus bubble,” and neglect to learn about the communities in which they live. Yet from safety, to transportation and parking, to bookstores and libraries, to supermarkets, bars, clubs and restaurants, the local community and local government directly impact students' lives. Given that most Stetson students spend at least four years in college, and that Stetson students are a permanent and significant part of the local community, it makes sense for Stetson students to be involved in shaping their local communities. Voting locally is the first step.
- 6) **Help put Stetson on the local political map!** The United States has one federal government, but 39,000 local governments (county, city, town and village). Most politics is local. This info sheet is part of a larger effort to institutionalize voting at Stetson – to get students in the habit of voting, to learn about local government, and strengthen ties with our local community. You can help by registering to vote locally during your years at Stetson.

*Brought to you by **Stetson Votes**.*

For more information, or to get involved, contact Dr. Paul Lachelier at placheli@stetson.edu.