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TOP STORY

## WKU students urge classmates to go vote

AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 24 min ago



With Election Day fast approaching, Western Kentucky University students are urging their classmates to register to vote so they can support candidates seeking state and local offices and make their voices heard.

“What more basic way can you be a better citizen than voting,” asked Ashley Edwards, a graduate student who helped register voters Tuesday at a table outside Cherry Hall.

WKU’s Department of Political Science offered the voter registration drive as part of its programming for this year’s Constitution Week.

On Monday, WKU celebrated the day in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. Any school receiving federal funds is required by law to offer educational programming on the history of the U.S. Constitution on that day.

Students will also be registering voters from 9 to 11:15 a.m. Sept. 25 at Pearce Ford Tower and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m at Downing Student Union.

“A lot of people that we’ve asked have very enthusiastically said that they’re already registered to vote,” Edwards said. “We’ve only (asked) a few people who’ve seemed indifferent ... Everyone seems pretty fired up.”

Andi Dahmer, a senior from Louisville, said many students are excited about the local races, including candidates vying for state House and Senate seats and the Bowling Green City Commission.

“Students know some of the candidates or they’re more interested in the issues the candidates are promoting,” Dahmer said.

Dahmer estimated that about 30 people stopped by their voter registration table outside Cherry Hall on Tuesday morning.

“A lot of them were changing the location of their registration, changing party,” or asking where they can vote, Dahmer said. The students offered information about local candidates and a chart comparing how Republicans and Democrats differ.

Voter registration efforts extended online as well, with students appearing in a short video encouraging their classmates to sign an online petition to cancel classes Nov. 6.

Bowling Green freshman Christian Lindsey registered to vote for the first time Tuesday after stopping by a table in Downing Student Union. Lindsey, who identified as a Republican, said he’s always been interested in politics and views voting as his civic responsibility.

If you don’t vote, Lindsey said, “then you can’t really complain about the job that they do.”

Kaetlyn Jeffries and Jaclyn Schiess, both freshmen, said they’re registered and plan to vote in November.



For Schiess, a Louisville native, voting is a way to “put your voice out there,” even if your candidate doesn’t win.

Jeffries, a Frankfort native, agreed and added that not everyone gets to participate in free and fair elections around the world.

“It’s still important to put your voice out there no matter what,” Jeffries said.

While both students grew up in Republican households, they’re developing their own political views in college.

Jeffries said she finds herself leaning Democratic, while Schiess, who grew up in a conservative military family, leans Republican.

However, for Schiess, it's about a candidate's values not their party affiliation.

“If a Democrat had better values that I liked I would vote for a Democrat,” she said.

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