



It's Time to GET OUT HER VOTE

2006 is an election year. With our nation at war, the right to abortion and birth control in jeopardy, global warming increasing, and attacks on affirmative action, it is time for young feminists across the country to register and vote on November 7!

In 2002, the last non-presidential election, less than 20% of 18-24 years olds voted, but more than 60% of senior citizens made it to the polls. This is why social security dwarfs issues young people care about like women's rights, reproductive choice, affirmative action, civil liberties, global peace, and the environment. This is our future; we must play a part in how it is determined.

The *Get Out HER Vote Campaign* (GOHV) is a student voter education and registration initiative aimed at significantly increasing registration and voting by young women. GOHV legally targets young women and students of color because they are traditionally underrepresented.

GOHV is a non-partisan campaign in accordance with the laws and regulations governing 501c3 organizations. This means your FMLA cannot support an individual candidate or party – Democratic, Green, Republican, Independent, etc. In addition, your FMLA must afford everyone the opportunity to register to vote regardless of their party affiliation. Feminists have a variety of political affiliations and can be associated with any political party. While partisan groups are focusing on candidates you will focus on the importance of voting and what is at stake for young people, especially young women and people of color!

By focusing on at least four issues your group will stand out with students and this will help increase the group's membership. GOHV also offers group members an option for civic involvement that can make a difference but only lasts a few short months. Most state's registration deadlines end in early October!

Here's your chance to get involved!

The Feminist Majority Foundation has compiled these materials and website www.feministcampus.org/vote to help you launch a successful *Get Out HER Vote* (GOHV) campaign on your campus. In your GOHV kit, you will find the following information and fact sheets:

- *Getting Started* – Everything you need to know about planning and launching a successful campaign.
- *Frequently Asked Questions* – A fact sheet to prepare you for questions from college voters.
- *Spreading the Word* – Ideas on how to publicize your activities and reach student voters.
- *What is at Stake?* – An issue guide to the 2006 elections. Read to learn about what's at stake for young people and voting.
- *Why HER Vote Counts* – Get the numbers: women must vote in order for women's issues to be addressed!

With these materials, the FMLA/affiliate is empowered to get out the feminist vote. Remember – your campus organizers are available and more than willing to help, so feel free to get in touch and make sure to visit www.feministcampus.org/vote for the latest materials and updates.

Vote as if our lives depend on it... They do!!



Get Started with *Get Out HER Vote!*

Now that your group has decided to register and mobilize students on your campus to vote this fact sheet is your guide to planning, launching, and executing an effective *Get Out HER Vote* (GOHV) campaign. These GOHV activities should energize your group and help you become established as a powerful and visible multi issue group on campus. While you increase the votes and voices of young people this fall, you will also build key alliances with other student groups.

Step One: Prepare

1. Know the rules and don't be intimidated! States vary on rules for registering voters, but remember you have the right to vote where you live. Check out www.feministcampus.org/vote for information on each state's rules.
2. Go over the GOHV materials! FMLA leadership should read them first, and then recruit GOHV chairs to coordinate the campaign and volunteers.
3. Before the first FMLA general body meeting, the GOHV Chairs should stock up on official voter registration forms from your local county registrar. Consult with your FMLA campus organizer, download them from www.feministcampus.org/vote, or call your Secretary of State or County Registrar of Voters to find the nearest location to pick up a large supply. For a quick supply, you can usually find forms at public libraries and post offices.
4. Some states may require you to become deputized in order to register others. Don't worry – this is usually just a 5-20 minute process to make sure you understand how to properly register others to vote. Some states even let you do it online!
5. The GOHV chairs should present an overview of the GOHV campaign and recruit volunteers for the committee at the first general membership meeting (and on the group's listserv). Remember to have a few committee sign-up sheets at the meeting. Before the meeting ends, also make sure you have registered everyone who attends to vote at their current address.
6. Immediately following the general body meeting, or soon after, schedule a GOHV committee meeting to walk through your state's voter registration form, instructions, guidelines, and voter registration deadline. Remember that FMF has compiled information for you at www.feministcampus.org/vote.
7. Develop a plan of action. The average person registers 6 people per hour, so the more volunteers you have the more students you will register. Assign teams to places where feminists and students of color might be the majority, such as the women's and multicultural centers or lounges, ethnic studies classes, and women's studies courses.

Step Two: Registering

1. Have all volunteers start with who they know first! Have them register their friends and classmates first; new voters are more likely to register and vote if their friends are involved.
2. When registering students at the voter registration tables in the women's centers, and women's and ethnic studies departments draw attention to your table with balloons, signs, and banners. (No materials other than the registration form that allows registrants to select a party affiliation should reference political parties or any candidate.) At least two or more FMLA members should work together. Don't wait to be asked or sit behind the table— approach passersby! Talk with potential registrants and ask them if they are registered to vote. Encourage them to register on the spot, and make sure you have them also complete the voter pledge sign up sheet!
3. Go classroom-to-classroom targeting women's studies, queer studies, sociology, anthropology, government, nursing, and ethnic or cultural studies classes. Ask professors to allow you to pass out voter registration forms at the beginning of class and explain how to fill out the form, collecting completed forms at the end of your presentation.
4. Have as many students as possible complete the voter pledge sign up sheet – newly registered voters *and* already registered voters. Completing these sheets will provide the local GOHV committee and FMF critical contact information to check that everyone who registers actually gets on the voter rolls and for you to mobilize GOHV voters to the polls on November 7th.
5. Be prepared to talk about the issues. You are not able to endorse specific candidates or parties, but you can target women and people of color because they are underrepresented groups and educate students on the issues as stake for young people.
6. Deliver your voter registration forms!! At the end of every day and before the registration deadline, have a team of FMLA organizers collect all of the completed voter registration forms and deliver them to your local county registrar. ****This is one of the most important steps!**** If you don't turn in the forms, you could be violating state law. Try to make several trips; local county clerks offices tend to have small staffs so it is important to not overwhelm them by delivering large stacks of forms all at once.
7. When you drop off completed registration forms, check the voter rolls for a random sampling of names that you previously submitted. This is a great way to verify that the voters you register are getting onto the rolls.
8. Fax or mail a copy of your voter pledge sign up sheets to your campus organizers at 703-522-2219 (East Coast) or 310-556-2509 (West Coast).

Step Three: Mobilize

1. Between your state's voter registration deadline and November 7th is the best time to mobilize registered students. Print information about *where* and *when* students can vote and make it widely available. Also leaflet with the FMF frequently asked questions to help students who may be targeted by voter suppression efforts.
2. Some states permit early voting. If your state is an early voting state, encourage students to vote as early as possible. Statistics show that early voting increases the voter turnout!

3. Some states allow registration on Election Day. Again, know the laws for your state (posted on www.feministcampus.org/vote) and pass out flyers reminding students who have not registered to vote before the deadline that they may do so on Election Day.
4. The Night Before Election Day - The GOHV committee and other volunteers should set up a phone-bank: call students from your voter pledge sign up sheets, remind them to vote, and let them know poll locations. If the main student polling location is off-campus, find out if the student needs a ride.
5. Election Day - Organize voting rushes on Election Day to rally and lead hundreds of your peers to polling locations.

Remember: every step of this process is vitally important!

You can register voters, but if they don't vote, your work means very little. Don't rely on other groups to get feminists registered and voting. Feminists must be leaders, and we must lead our own. This way, we'll see feminists voting at the polls and feminists in public office.

Good luck!!

Frequently Asked Questions by Student Voters

Voting is a complex system that varies from state to state, but has federal guarantees. Students frequently have questions. Look below for answers to some of the most common questions. As always, don't hesitate to contact your county registrar of voters, Secretary of State, www.feministcampus.org/vote, or FMF Campus Organizer for answers to questions that you may not find below.

Q: Can I register to vote where I go to school?

A: YES. Absolutely. The U.S. Supreme Court has said you have the right to register and vote where you are in school, even if you do not intend to reside there permanently. Depending on the state, certain identification is required when you register to vote the first time. Your Social Security number or a driver's license number should be sufficient. You may also be able to use your college ID card or other picture ID for verification. You can also use a recent utility bill or bank statement as proof of your current street address.

You DO NOT need an in-state driver's license or state-issued photo ID in order to register to vote where you attend college, *except* in Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri; in these three states and in Arizona, which requires a birth certificate or state-issued ID, the voter registration ID laws are being challenged as unconstitutional burdens on the right to vote.

Q: Will my financial aid or student loans be affected if I register to vote at an address different from my parents'?

A: NO. Absolutely NOT. Where you register and vote has NOTHING to do with your parents' permanent residence or your qualification for scholarships or student loans. Students are often told they will risk their financial aid if they register at their school address, but don't be misled.

Q: Should I register at my parents' home address and vote by absentee ballot?

A: It Depends. We always urge students to register to vote where they will be living on Election Day so there is no chance of missing the opportunity to vote. You have a vested interest in voting where you go to school, live, and spend nine months (or more) out of the year. Local politics around your campus will affect you in your time at college or university. Although you can vote by absentee ballot, you shouldn't rely on your parent(s) remembering to send your application for an absentee ballot or risk requesting an absentee ballot too late. Make your vote count in the state where you live.

However, if the ID requirements for voter registration that have been imposed by some states (see Question 1) keep you from registering where you go to college, then by all means register at your parents' home address and vote by absentee ballot. And remember to report any problems you encounter with registering at your college address to the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Q: Can a P.O. Box be used for the address on the voter registration form?

A: NO. A voter must use a *physical street address* in order to register to vote. This is so that election officials can assign the newly registered voter to a voting precinct. If the student lives in a dorm, the name of the dorm and street address of the dorm must be used on the registration form. A P.O. Box *can* be used as the *mailing address* where voting materials and sample ballots will be sent.

Q. What kind of ID will I need to show when I go to vote on Election Day?

A. The Feminist Majority Foundation advises you to bring two forms of proof of your identification and current address, like a voter registration card, Social Security card, driver's license, student or picture ID with your current address. State officials are also supposed to accept a recent local utility bill or bank statement as proof of your current address.

Q: What do I do if I registered to vote and for some reason my name is not on the roster at my polling place when I go to vote on Election Day?

A: Demand a provisional ballot and vote. According to federal law, you are guaranteed a provisional ballot. If the election is close, the state is required to verify *and count* all provisional ballots. So make sure your voice is heard by demanding a provisional ballot.



Spreading the Word on Campus

Use the *Get Out HER Vote* Campaign materials to help increase visibility for your Voter Registration Drive on campus and spread the word about the importance of young women's votes *in the 2006 elections*.

GOHV Ads, Posters, Flyers and Stickers: Feminist Majority Foundation has created ads, posters, flyers, and stickers that you can use to plaster campus with your message. Paper materials are included in your kit and can also be downloaded from the GOHV website, www.feministcampus.org/vote. Personalize these posters to advertise GOHV organizational meetings, registration events, and election day mobilizations. The more students see your materials, the more likely they are to notice them and take action, so broadcast your message loud and strong!

Radio Public Service Announcements: *PSA's are messages "in the public interest" that are usually run by campus and local radio stations for free. We have 30- and 60-second Get Out HER Vote radio PSA scripts for you or your campus DJ's to record and read on-air urging student listeners to register and vote on November 7th. Talk with your campus radio station about playing or reading the announcements followed by an announcement of where your FMLA will be registering voters on campus. You can listen to and download copies of the PSA's on www.feministcampus.org/vote.*

Voter Educational Materials: Use our GOHV Campaign materials for leafleting and at your voter registration tables. "What is at Stake" explains why it's so important that young women's voices are heard in the upcoming elections. The "Why *HER* Vote Counts" fact sheet is about the gender gap, the youth vote, and age gap and is designed to help motivate new voters. Your FMLA and GOHV organizers should know these fact sheets well and be prepared to use them as the basis of talking points.

Press Coverage: Submit letters to the editor and op-eds to your campus newspaper about the importance of young women's votes in the upcoming election and about your GOHV activities on campus. Ask campus radio and newspaper reporters to do an in-depth series on the importance of the youth vote and women's votes, debunking the myths about student voting rights, and highlighting the issues at stake in the upcoming elections. Provide spokespeople to be interviewed. Invite the press to cover your GOHV events and activities on campus as part of their reporting. Ask if the school newspaper will run your posters and flyers as a PSA to urge students to get registered and vote.

Sponsor Special Events on Campus: Depending on your time and resources, consider sponsoring a special event or week of events. Some suggestions include:

- **Vote-apalooza: National Student Voter Registration Week:** Organize a week of massive voter registration activities on your campus the week before registration ends in your state. Consider organizing outside of the cafeteria with voter registration forms during breakfast, lunch, and dinner, working with feminist professors to register your classmates to vote, recruit women's athletic teams, sororities and resident assistants to vote, and collect GOHV sign ups.
- **November 1-7, 2006 Get Out *HER* Vote Countdown to Election Day:** Host rallies, teach-ins, dorm storms, and events to mobilize feminist students to vote on Election Day and tell students *where* they can vote! If your campus has a polling location on campus, literally organize voting rushes on Election Day to rally and lead hundreds of your peers to polling locations on campus.

What is at Stake?

The 2006 election will decide who controls Congress and many state legislatures across the country. It may not be a presidential election year, but your representatives and senators will be making decisions that could change your lives. Also, keep an eye out for special initiatives and referendums that may be on your state's ballot.

Reproductive Rights

Abortion rights and birth control are under attack in this country. Following South Dakota's abortion ban in March 2006, 11 other states have introduced legislation this year aimed at criminalizing abortion. Congress has just passed the Teen Endangerment Act that will impose harsh delays on young women seeking to escape deadly abortion restrictions in their home state; the Act also makes it a federal crime to assist young women crossing state lines to obtain a safe abortion. The confirmations of two new anti-choice Justices to the Supreme Court may result in the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Elected state and Congressional leaders will decide whether to roll back the clock on thirty years of progress and restrict women's access to abortion and birth control. To stem the tide of legislation attacking women and women's reproductive freedom across the country, our voices must be heard at the ballot box this November.

Civil Rights and Human Rights

Critical civil rights issues are at stake. Federal lawmakers will decide to weaken or strengthen Title IX, the historic U.S. law that prohibits discrimination in federally funded educational programs. Affirmative action programs for women and people of color in employment and education are under attack in some states and at the federal level. State and federal lawmakers continue to debate and pass laws on whether to permit civil unions between gays and lesbians or same-sex marriage or whether to restrict the benefits of marriage to heterosexual couples. *To stand up for civil rights and gay and lesbian rights, our voices must be heard this November.*

Global Peace and Women's Rights

Congress will decide the size of the military and defense budgets in Iraq, whether or not we go to war with Iran or another country, the participation of the U.S. in the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and whether the U.S. will ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). U.S. policy makers will be a major influence in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq and in determining the rights of women in these two countries. *To demand peace and women's rights globally, our voices must be heard this November.*

Women's Economic Equality

Even today, a woman with a college degree will make less money on average than a man who has dropped out of high school. Lawmakers elected in 2006 will make decisions about pay equity, equal education, minimum and livable wage laws, healthcare, federal welfare funding, and economic policies that will create or lose jobs. *To demand equal pay for equal work, jobs and living wage, our voices must be heard this November.*

Environment and Oil

The next Congress will decide the fate of environmental laws and regulations intended to crack down on corporate polluters, and how strictly these laws are enforced. The Congress and president determine our energy policies, and whether and how we are going to reduce our dependence on oil and develop renewable energy sources. *To protect our environment and to ensure that we reduce our oil-dependency, our voices must be heard this November.*

Globalization and Trade Policies

The next Congress will shape the U.S. role in globalization, our global trade policies, whether we crack down on sweatshops and protect workers' rights internationally from Juarez, Mexico to the Marianas Islands, and what we do to stop human trafficking. *To promote the rights of women workers across the globe, our voices must be heard this November.*

Make the pledge to exercise your vote this November!

With so much at stake, feminists must make their voices heard!!

Why HER Vote Counts

Because elections today frequently are won by tiny margins, the mobilization of students – especially young, feminist women – has the potential to change the political landscape in many states and perhaps the country as a whole. Remember, in 2000 the presidential election was decided by only 537 votes.

Only 59.6% of the voting age population in the United States voted in 2004, and **only 20.6% of 18-24 year-old young women voted in the last mid-term election in 2002** but almost 70% of senior citizens made it to the polls. This is why Social Security dwarfs issues young people care about the most like reproductive rights, peace, affirmative action, and the environment. This November, young people, especially young women, have enormous rights at stake in the election. Yet, we are the least registered and least voting population in the country. Among women, 18- to 24-year-olds vote less than any other age group. It's time to change these numbers!

Women Are Under-Represented – It's Time to Represent!

Even though women are 51% of the population, women hold only 15% of the seats in the U.S. Congress – we are 67 of the 435 U.S. House of Representatives seats, and only 14 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats. Only 4.5% of the U.S. House seats are held by women of color. There are no women of color in the U.S. Senate.

The picture in our state legislatures is better, but still dismal. Women today hold only 22.8% of state legislative seats nationwide. At the current rate of gain for women in elective office, it will take over 300 years to achieve parity with men in Congress.

Young women need to register, vote, and run for government in record numbers. So Get Out HER Vote this fall! Remember, under-representation begins in student governments. If you are ready to change the gendered division of power, join our campaign, From Campus to Congress, to promote feminist leadership. Run for office on your campus in the Spring of 2007!!! Visit www.feministcampus.org for more information.

The Gender Gap

Increasing voter participation among young women has the power to transform politics. Women vote differently than men; this measurable difference in male and female voting behavior and opinions is called the “gender gap.” This gap can be significant, and has determined the outcome of elections in the past. When feminists are mobilized, the face of power can look different.

Consider these statistics: A recent Ms. poll (Summer 2006) revealed that the clear majority, 53%, of *all* American women consider themselves feminists as compared to 35% of all men – a whopping 18-point gender gap. The same poll indicated that 55% of women wanted the U.S. to withdraw troops from Iraq immediately or within the year as compared to only 43% of men – a 12-point gender gap. When these women are at the polls and vote, they can make a difference!

The Age Gap

Even amongst women, younger women vote differently from older women. In the 2004 presidential election, young women were more likely to believe that not enough attention was given to women's issues. Consider these statistics on the percentage of younger women and older women who considered the following issues to be deserving of more attention:

Prevention of Violence against Women: 69% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to violence against women while only 46% of older women agreed.

Equal Pay: 67% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to equal pay while only 55% of older women agreed.

Women's Equality Under the Law: 65% of younger women said not enough attention was paid to women's equality while only 56% of older women agreed.



RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

30 second

AT STAKE IN THE NOVEMBER 7TH ELECTION ARE ISSUES LIKE: SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION, WAR, THE ENVIRONMENT, GLOBALIZATION AND MANY OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG WOMEN.

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY ISSUES LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE DOMINATE THE POLITICAL DEBATE – WHILE YOUNG WOMEN’S ISSUES ARE IGNORED? ONLY 20 PERCENT OF OUR GENERATION VOTED IN THE LAST NON-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – WHILE MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF SENIORS MADE IT TO THE POLLS.

IF YOU DON’T VOTE, OTHERS WILL SIMPLY DECIDE FOR YOU.

YOU CAN FIND OUT HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE BY CHECKING OUT WWW.FEMINISTCAMPUS.ORG/VOTE. THAT’S WWW-DOT-FEMINIST-CAMPUS-DOT-ORG-SLASH-VOTE

SHOW THAT YOUNG WOMEN HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7TH.



RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

60 second

WITH OUR NATION AT WAR, THE RIGHT TO ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL IN JEOPARDY, AND GLOBAL WARMING INCREASING, IT'S TIME FOR YOUNG FEMINISTS TO REGISTER AND VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 7TH.

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHY ISSUES LIKE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE DOMINATE THE POLITICAL DEBATE – WHILE YOUNG WOMEN'S ISSUES ARE IGNORED? ONLY 20 PERCENT OF OUR GENERATION VOTED IN THE LAST NON-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – WHILE MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF SENIORS MADE IT TO THE POLLS.

HERE'S A PREVIEW OF WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION: SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION, WAR, THE ENVIRONMENT, GLOBALIZATION. THESE AND OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG WOMEN WILL BE DECIDED IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

IF YOU DON'T VOTE, OTHERS WILL SIMPLY DECIDE FOR YOU.

AS STUDENTS, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO REGISTER AND VOTE WHERE WE GO TO SCHOOL. WE SPEND A LOT OF OUR TIME AND A LOT OF OUR MONEY HERE, SO LET'S MAKE SURE THAT OUR VOICES ARE HEARD ON ELECTION DAY.

YOU CAN FIND OUT HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE BY CHECKING OUT
WWW.FEMINISTCAMPUS.ORG/VOTE. THAT'S WWW-DOT-FEMINIST-CAMPUS-DOT-ORG-
SLASH-VOTE

DON'T FORGET - THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR (STATE) IS (DATE).

SHOW THAT YOUNG WOMEN HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7TH.