

Nov. 3, 2023: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Center for Politics and Hoos Vote Run to the Polls with UVA President Jim Ryan

(CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA) -- Center for Politics students are partnering with UVA President Jim Ryan for "Run with Jim to the Polls." UVA students, family, and community members are invited to meet at the steps of Madison Hall, 1827 University Ave., at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7, for a run or walk from Grounds to the Venable and Slaughter polling locations, which serve UVA students. Members of the broader Charlottesville community are welcome to join.

The Center for Politics students working with Center for Politics Academic Programs Officer Carah Ong Whaley this year have partnered with entities across UVA to encourage informed participation in state and local elections. Their goal is to make voting community-oriented and celebratory, which is important in an era of divisive politics.

"I am grateful to the Center for Politics for their 'get out the vote' efforts in the Charlottesville community," said President Ryan, "Voting is one of the most important ways we can participate in democracy, and I look forward to kicking off Election Day with a run to the polls."

Participants who are Charlottesville residents and registered to vote in the Venable and Slaughter precincts can do so in person during the run/walk. The Center for Politics will have tables set up at Madison Hall to check voter registration. Student Council is providing free rides through Yellow Taxi to other Charlottesville and Albemarle polling locations.

In addition, the students have partnered with the UVA Residence Life to host "Do-Nut Forget to Vote" parties in every dorm at UVA. Carter Mountain Orchard is delivering 9,000 apple cider donuts on Election Day. Free donuts will be given to UVA students whether they vote or not, though they will get a friendly reminder to vote.

"Donuts and voting -- what could be more American?" said Khatoine Taylor, a second-year UVA student and a Center for Politics intern organizer of Election Day activities. "Voting is the foundation of our democracy. The energy and enthusiasm of students celebrating voting gives hope for the future. By making our voices heard at the ballot, we shape the future of our communities."

Grace Williams, a third-year UVA student and a Center for Politics intern organizer of Election Day activities, said: "Democracy doesn't work unless we participate in it, which is why we are working to make sure young voices are heard this Election Day."

For additional information, including the route of the run/walk, contact Dr. Carah Ong Whaley at clo3s@virginia.edu or 202-378-3334.

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Founded by Professor Larry J. Sabato, the Center for Politics has established annual conferences, publications, programs, and curricula to advance democracy around the world and to equip people to better understand politics and government. The Center has worked to educate and inspire our citizenry about practical politics and civic engagement through programs that are unique, compelling, and open-minded -- including producing four Emmy-winning documentaries.

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