

The Citadel's SoCon Votes Playbook

AY 2016-17

Overview:

The Citadel Department of Political Science in conjunction with the Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics has launched a campus-wide push to encourage cadet civic participation with the aim of registering all of our cadets and achieving 100 percent voter turnout. We believe instilling democratic habits early will result in an active civic life, which is essential for a healthy democracy.

The centerpiece of our efforts is the TurboVote technology. This will allow us to provide a relatively easy way for students to register to vote and cast absentee ballots. We will also work to foster a sense of citizenship among the cadets, reminding them of the importance of being actively involved in public affairs.

Finally, we will have student-led talks and discussions on the electoral process. This will be complemented by a talk from a well-known scholar of the U.S. Constitution. We believe this will be a motivating factor for the cadets to register and vote in the upcoming election.

Specific Actions:

- I. We have purchased the TurboVote program and will be hosting three voter registration drives on campus. These will be held in Mark Clark Hall (our student union) on *four* successive Wednesdays. Two registration stations will be set up on two floors of Mark Clark Hall. Each table will have laptop computers where the

Faculty Advisor, along with members of the political science honor society (Pi Sigma Alpha), will assist the cadets in navigating the TurboVote program. Flyers will also be distributed with instructions on how to access the TurboVote program.

a. The dates for this are such that students will be registered to vote within the 30-day time period required by South Carolina law for voting in the 2016 election.

i. Wednesday, September 14^h from 1200 to 1500.

ii. Wednesday, September 15th from 1200 to 1500.

iii. Wednesday, September 22nd from 1200 to 1500.

iv. Wednesday, September 29th from 1200 to 1500.

b. Campus-wide emails will also be sent letting the cadets know that we are in competition with other Southern Conference schools. These emails will contain instructions on how to find and navigate the TurboVote program.

II. Freshmen enrolled in the required Orientation 101 course will be told about the SoCon Votes competition. They will be reminded of the importance of voting and encouraged to register to vote and vote in November.

III. Public reading of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and a Constitution Day Address

a. We will have a public reading of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights by volunteering students and professors, followed by discussion. This will be on September 13th at 1900. This event will be open to the entire campus and the general public. Cadets will be encouraged to attend.

- b. We will have a Constitution Day Address by Prof. Philip Hamburger on the constitutional status of the growth of administrative power. This will also be open to all cadets and the public.
 - i. Philip Hamburger is the Maurice and Hilda Friedman Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. He is a scholar of constitutional law and its history, who works on many topics, including religious liberty, freedom of speech, academic censorship, judicial review, the office and duty of judges, administrative power, and the early development of liberal thought. His books are *Separation of Church and State* (Harvard 2002), *Law and Judicial Duty* (Harvard 2008), and *Is Administrative Law Unlawful?* (Chicago 2014).
- IV. Scheduled on Thursday evening, October 27th is a discussion of the Democratic and Republican presidential conventions. We sent a cadet to the Democratic convention and one to the Republican convention. These two cadets kept a blog and completed various assignments during this period. They will present a discussion entitled, "SoCon Votes: A Report from the Conventions." Along with an insider's look at the conventions, we hope these discussions will highlight the essential differences between the two major parties and their respective candidates. The presentation will conclude with a "Question and Answer" period.
- V. Last, we will be holding an election night party in the Greater Issues Room of Mark Clark Hall. Refreshments will be provided and there will be live coverage of the unfolding election returns. This will be hosted by Pi Sigma Alpha.