

Worcester State University has aimed to increase student democratic engagement with the primary goals of increasing our rates of voter registration and voting rates. We have done this in the following ways.

- 1) Organized multilingual, voter registration and education drives on Saturdays in September and October at non-conventional venues – primarily the farmer’s market run by the Main South Community Development Corporation at University Park each Saturday.
- 2) Regular tables throughout September and October that provided voter registration and voter information. We included voter information in two languages – English and Spanish.
- 3) Forums: We have hosted forums for the candidates for governor (Jay Gonzalez and Bob Masse), the candidates for Lieutenant Governor (Jimmy Tingle and Quentin Palfrey) and held the only one debate between candidates for District Attorney.
- 4) On October 22nd, we hosted a debate between the two candidates for District Attorney, Joe Early Jr. and Blake Rubin. We had an audience of 500. We hosted with the ACLU, whose director, Rahsaan Hall, has been conducting a campaign called *What a Difference a DA Makes*. Other co-sponsors include the Ma Women of Color Coalition, the NACCP and the League of Women Voters. This event included organizing the audience, a student moderator, and student panel to handle questions and represent the concerns of young people with respect to law enforcement.
- 5) Ballot Question #1 Debate Forum: A debate and information forum regarding Massachusetts Ballot Question #1 (which would limit the number of patients assigned to a nurse at any given time in most hospital settings), was held Monday, October 29 from 5:00 - 6:30pm. We had an audience of 80+ as Official representatives on both sides presented the issue and answered questions. This event was free and open to the public. Students of all disciplines and other WSU community members submitted questions in advance for consideration.
- 6) Up to Us: Worcester State is one of 125 schools participating in Net Impact’s Up to Us campaign, raising awareness about the long term national debt. This project will culminate in My Two Cents Day, on November 8<sup>th</sup> when we will hold teach ins on the impact of the national debt on the current generations. We will also hold a ‘Don’t Panic at the Deficit Disco on November 9<sup>th</sup>. This project is funded by the Clinton Foundation and the Peter Peterson Foundation. Two students and an advisor attended The Net Impact conference at the Phoenix Conference Center, October 25 - 27. WSU is one of 3 schools in Massachusetts participating.