

Calling All College Professors

With approximately 20 million college students in the United States, and zero chance of Election Day becoming a federal holiday by November 3, the question before us becomes, “What can we, as professors, do to ensure that as many of our students who are eligible to vote do so?”

As California State University Fullerton leaders in the College of Communications, which has long been committed to advancing a democratic society, we offer the following suggestions:

- *If you teach on Tuesday, November 3, rework the class to increase student learning about the importance of voting and encourage students to vote, no matter who they vote for.*
- *If you do not teach on Tuesdays, rework any single class that week to increase student learning about voting and encourage students to find time that week to mail in their ballot, or drop it off in person, by November 3.*
- *Encourage students and colleagues to help voters by:*
 - *Volunteering to staff polling stations or voting centers,*
 - *Participating in Get Out the Vote ride services to transport voters to the polls, or*
 - *Covering home care duties for a neighbor or friend so they can get to the polls,*
 - *ALL in accordance with local health and safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.*

*As educators, we believe we need to make every effort to do everything in our power to drive home the point that **voting this year is an absolute imperative**. Explain to your students that a non-vote will count as a vote for the other side. Make the example simple: 100 students vote for Candidate A and 99 students for Candidate B. If the student wants Candidate B and doesn't cast a vote, then the student effectively voted for Candidate A.*

Because there is so much noise around voting this November, we should make sure students understand what they need to do to vote. One nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that spells out exactly what needs to be done, state by state, is [here](#) and includes voting information specifically [for college students](#).

We hope that professors who care about their students – and the future that those students will graduate to live, work, and lead in – will join us in this effort to ensure that voices of all voters are heard and counted:

#MyVoteMyVoice

We know YOU care about the upcoming elections and will vote if eligible. By joining this campaign, you can help guide millions of young adults to a greater understanding and appreciation of the value of their vote, not only in this election, but also in any democratic society.

Garrett Hart, Chair and Professor, Department of Cinema and Television Arts

Jon Brusckhe, Chair and Professor, Department of Human Communication Studies

Jason Shepard, Chair and Professor, Department of Communications

HyeKyeung Seung, Chair and Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Robert Flores, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, College of Communications

Deanna Leone, Associate Dean, College of Communications

Bey-Ling Sha, Dean and Professor, College of Communications

