

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT UMW

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FALL 2019



**WE'RE
PLANTING
SEEDS OF
CHANGE**

 UNIVERSITY OF
MARY WASHINGTON
Center for Community Engagement

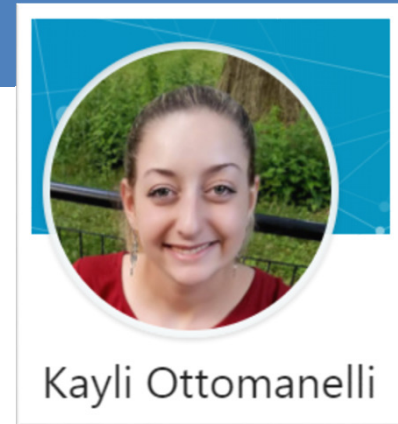


VOTING AMBASSADORS

- The Center for Community Engagement hosts two academic internships for students to be Voting Ambassadors with the UMW Votes program.
 - Students work 10 hours a week to promote voter registration, education, and mobilization.
 - Dr. Ranjit Singh is the faculty sponsor.
 - Students write a reflection paper.
 - A small committee of 5 people advise the UMW Votes program: Ranjit Singh, Crystal Rawls (SAE), Chris Williams (JFMC), Marina Castro-Meirelles, Sarah Dewees (CCE)



Stephanie Turcios



Kayli Ottomanelli



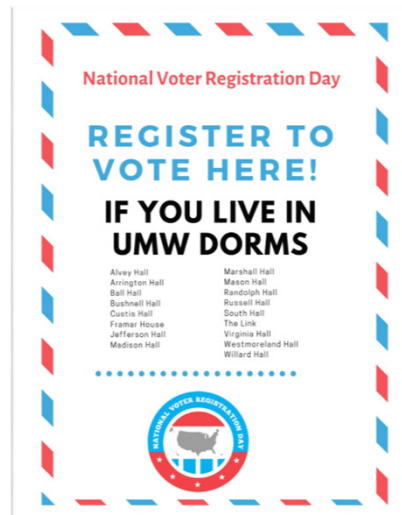
VOTER REGISTRATION

- NextGen conducted the majority of voter registration efforts on campus this year
 - Welcome fair (pre-week)
 - Tabling on campus
 - National Voter Registration Day
- Other groups, such as Citizens for Democracy and Feminist Majority also conducted voter registration
 - Tabling on campus, NVRD



CCE PLANNED A CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY – SEPT. 24

- 45 students registered to vote
- 200 participants
- Partnered with on-campus and off-campus groups
 - Citizens for Democracy
 - Young Dems
 - NextGen
 - Feminist majority
 - Campus Vote Project
 - League of Women Voters

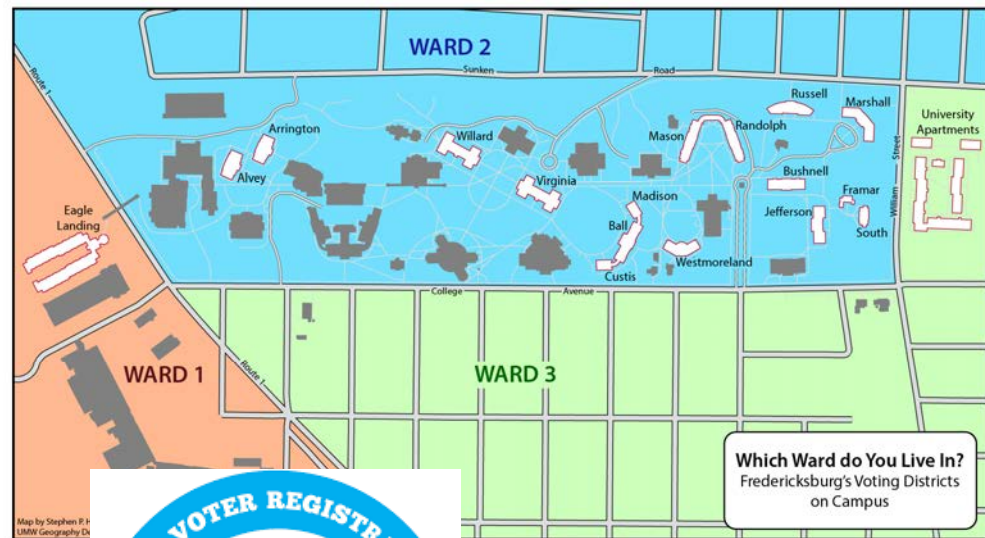


CREATING A CULTURE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

- 5 local candidates had information tables
- Three voter registration tables for three polling places:
 - Dorms
 - Eagle Landing
 - University Apartments
- Budget provided by NextGen (pizza, giveaway items).
- Partnered with **National Voter Registration Day** organization for stickers, giveaway items.



NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY: COLLABORATION ACROSS STUDENT GROUPS

- UMW votes/CCE
- Citizens for Democracy
- Planned Parenthood Club
- Young Dems
- NextGen
- Campus Vote Project
- Off campus:
 - League of Women Voters



SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT FROM OUTSIDE GROUPS

- The Center for Community Engagement has been working with the following national organizations that have provided fellowships for students to do voter registration work on the UMW Campus:
 - Campus Vote Project: Fellowship held by Amber Brown (\$\$)
 - NextGen: 2 Fellowships and ~3 volunteers (\$\$)
 - Feminist Majority: Fellowship held by Rebecca Jacobi (\$\$)



Fellows from CampusVote Project, UMW Votes, and NextGen



FEMINIST MAJORITY

Working for Women's Equality from the Streets to the Legislature

AFTER VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV) EFFORTS

- Weekly meetings with a coalition of voting groups on campus
- Educational materials helping people understand where their polling place is (see pamphlet, next pages)
- Marketing:
 - Chalked the walk
 - Banner in the UC (created by Citizens for Democracy)
 - Flyers on campus
 - Flyer on OrcaTV
 - Painted the rock
 - Postcards reminding people to vote
 - Class visits
 - Emails to professors encouraging them to remind students to vote



ELECTION DAY: GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV) EFFORTS

- Rides to the polls on Election Day 9am – 7pm
 - Staffed by CCE, NextGen, Young Dems, Feminist Majority, community volunteers
- Sandwich boards on campus reminding people that it was Election Day
- All-campus email



Voter information pamphlet

SAMPLE BALLOT DORMS ON CAMPUS

Commonwealth of Virginia
City of Fredericksburg
General Election
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Instructions:

- To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
- To write in the name of a person who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and print that person's name on the line provided.
- If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
- If you make marks besides filling the oval, your votes may not be counted.

Member Senate of Virginia 17th District
Vote for only one

☐ Bryce E. Reeves - R

☐ Amy J. Laufer - D

☐ Write-in

Member House of Delegates 28th District
Vote for only one

☐ Paul V. Milde II - R

☐ Joshua G. Cole - D

☐ Write-in

Clerk of Court
Vote for only one

☐ Jeff S. Small

☐ Write-in

Soil and Water Conservation Director Tri-County/City District
Vote for not more than two

☐ Giannina Dimaio Prantz

☐ Write-in

☐ Write-in

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Ballot Style # 002
Type: 001 Description: 0001

SAMPLE BALLOT EAGLE LANDING AND UMW APARTMENTS

Commonwealth of Virginia
City of Fredericksburg
General Election
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Instructions:

- To vote for a candidate, use a black ball point pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
- To write in the name of a person who is not already on the ballot, fill in the oval and print that person's name on the line provided.
- If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
- If you make marks besides filling the oval, your votes may not be counted.

Member Senate of Virginia 17th District
Vote for only one

☐ Bryce E. Reeves - R

☐ Amy J. Laufer - D

☐ Write-in

Member House of Delegates 28th District
Vote for only one

☐ Mark L. Cole - R

☐ Jessica H. "Jess" Foster - D

☐ Write-in

Clerk of Court
Vote for only one

☐ Jeff S. Small

☐ Write-in

Soil and Water Conservation Director Tri-County/City District
Vote for not more than two

☐ Giannina Dimaio Prantz

☐ Write-in

☐ Write-in

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Ballot Style # 001
Type: 001 Description: 0001

ARE YOU READY FOR ELECTION

DAY?

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2019

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR ELECTION DAY

- Your Eagle One can be used as an ID at the polls.
- There will be rides to the polls from 7am to 7pm at the Bell Tower. Vehicles will take off approximately every half hour.
- Make sure to check your polling location for the address where you are registered.

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

17TH DISTRICT SENATE FOR VIRGINIA

Bryce Reeves: <https://www.brycereeves.com/>

Amy Laufer: <https://www.lauferforvirginia.com>

28TH DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Paul Milde: <http://paulmilde.com/>

Joshua Cole: <https://jgcole.org/>

88TH DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Mark Cole: <http://markcole.com/>

Jessica Foster: <https://www.jessfoster.org/>

Voter information pamphlet

UMW APARTMENTS

WARD 3

POLLING LOCATION

Walker-Grant Middle School
1 Leaming Ln, Fredericksburg 22401

CANDIDATES:

Virginia State Senate District 17

Bryce Reeves (R)
Amy Laufer (D)

Virginia House of Delegates District 88

Mark Cole (R)
Jessica "Jess" Foster (D)

ON CAMPUS DORMS

WARD 2

POLLING LOCATION

Dorothy Hart Community Gym
408 Canal St, Fredericksburg 22401

CANDIDATES:

Virginia State Senate District 17

Bryce Reeves (R)
Amy Laufer (D)

Virginia House of Delegates District 28

Paul Milde (R)
Joshua Cole (D)

EAGLE LANDING

WARD 1

POLLING LOCATION

Hugh Mercer Elementary School
2100 Cowan Blvd, Fredericksburg 22401

CANDIDATES:

Virginia State Senate District 17

Bryce Reeves (R)
Amy Laufer (D)

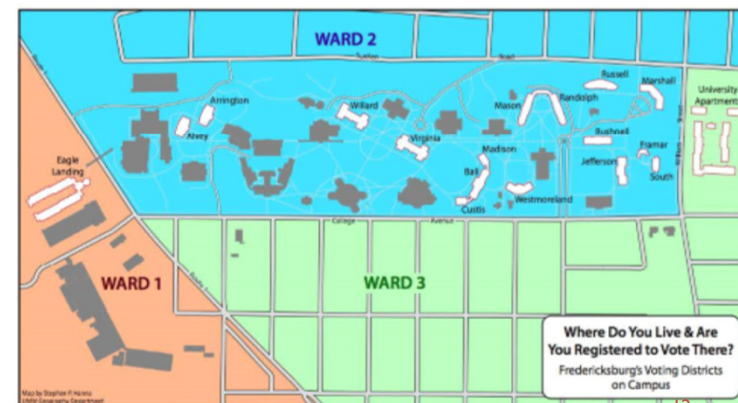
Virginia House of Delegates District 88

Mark Cole (R)
Jessica "Jess" Foster (D)

Why Vote?

Virginia is at a pivotal moment in its politics. With a 21-19 Republican majority in the Senate of Virginia and a 51-49 Republican majority in the House of Delegates, voters this year have an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future politics of the Old Dominion. Policies relating to the environment, transportation, gay rights, Confederate statues, gerrymandering, college tuition and a host of other issues will be shaped by the choices voters make on November 5. Voters in Virginia have an unusually large number of districts where there is strong two-party competition in 2019. Two years ago, one legislative district finished with a tie vote, forcing the random draw of a name to select a winner. Remember that **every vote does matter** – and it does so more often than one might think, particularly in Virginia.

—Paragraph composed by Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, Professor of Political Science



INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL INITIATIVES: CCE INITIATED MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

- UMW Became member of **Students Learn, Students Vote**
 - Can apply for grants next year
 - Monthly conference calls
- **Campus Vote Project: Voter Friendly Campus Designation**
 - **Phase 1: Submitted UMW statement of interest (submitted 10/7/19).**
 - Phase 2: Submit an action plan based on [Strengthening American Democracy](#): A Guide for Developing an Action Plan to Increase Civic Learning, Political Engagement, and Voting Rates Among College Students due **May 31, 2020**.
 - Phase 3: Implement new steps to encourage registration and voting ongoing through **November 6, 2020**.
 - Phase 4: Submit a Voter Friendly Campus Report analyzing your efforts due **January 31, 2021**.
 - Phase 5: Voter Friendly Campus Designation announced **March 2021**.
- **ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge**
 - Voter Friendly Campus plan due May 31st 2020
 - Eligible for awards



AWARDS

- UMW was recognized as part of the [ALL IN Democracy Challenge](#) on November 12, 2019.
- UMW won a platinum seal for high voter turnout in 2018, based on voting rates recorded in our NSLVE report (*National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement*).
- Students attended the award ceremony at the Newseum in D.C.



NEXT STEPS

- **By December 15, 2019:** Hire 2 new Voting Ambassador interns
- **By Feb 15, 2020:** Form coalition to start planning for ***Day on Democracy*** (Nov 3, 2020). Work to identify budget for civic engagement work in Fall 2020.
- **By May 31, 2020:** Work with coalition to create campus action plan that describes our strategy to increase student voting rates and help students form the habits of active and engaged citizenship; Write action plan; Submit action plan to Campus Vote Project/ALL IN.
- **Fall 2020:** host ***National Voter Registration Day***; implement ***Day on Democracy*** in partnership with other groups.

IDEAS FOR DAY ON DEMOCRACY

Co-curricular Activities:

- **Common Read**
 - Possibly coordinating with Common Read to integrate voter education and registration into Common Read experience
 - Common Read theme next year is ***Civility and Political Action***
 - Common Read will also be dovetailing with James Farmer anniversary celebration
- **First Year Experience/FSEM**
 - April Wynn has agreed to think about ways to reach out to FSEM classes to provide information on civic engagement, e.g. voter registration opportunities, sharing information about voter registration deadlines, reminders of Election Day

Student Engagement:

- National Voter Registration Day
- Marketing campaign to raise awareness (work with University Relations?)
- Programming on Election Day (to be decided by committee within existing budget and staff resources)