

TurboVote provides fast connection for youth vote

“Democracy requires participation and participation requires information---TurboVote helps provide some of that information,” says Alison Howard, chair of the [Department of Political Science and International Studies](#) in Dominican's [School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences](#), whose students will organize a voter registration drive later this month.

TurboVote is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working with colleges across the country to help make it easier for students to vote and participate in our democratic process.

On September 23 – National Voter Registration Day –students were stationed on campus from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. with laptop computers, encouraging students, faculty, and staff to sign up at [Dominican.turbovote.org](#) to either register to vote or simply sign up to receive reminders about upcoming elections, absentee ballots, and links to important information that will help them cast an informed vote.

Lynda Roberts of the Registrar of Voters and Maureen Hogan of Voter Registration of the Elections Department for the County of Marin attended the Dominican TurboVote event.

TurboVote operates a digital platform that tracks participants' voter status, sends them registration and absentee voter materials, and lets voters know their polling places. TurboVote also sends users texts and e-mail reminders when an election at any level of government is approaching — from the presidential election to a local school board race.

“It is easy to miss an election, whether it is because you have moved and have forgotten to re-register, missed a deadline to register, didn't request an absentee ballot in time, or simply haven't been able to devote enough attention to the issues in upcoming elections,” Howard says.

“TurboVote helps students register to vote and then reminds them of upcoming elections. The program is geared toward the student's locality so if there is a bond issue then it tells the student about the issue so they can do some research.”

Last year, Dominican made it onto TurboVote's “leader board” as one of the top 10 schools to have registered voters. To date, Dominican has signed up about 330 voters via TurboVote.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Signing up for TurboVote at [dominican.turbovote.org](#) is free, fast, and easy, Howard adds.

After signing up, users either can fill out voter registration forms or vote by mail using absentee ballot forms online. TurboVote prints the filled-out forms and mails them along with pre-stamped envelopes addressed to each user's local voting election board.

The service typically costs \$1.60 per form. Because Dominican has partnered with TurboVote, the University will pay the mailing fee and a small fixed sum that helps cover other costs.

“Even if you are already registered, there is still tremendous value in signing up for TurboVote,” Howard says.

“The reminders about upcoming elections and the ability to easily access the information you need to cast an informed vote is really the main benefit of TurboVote.”

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