

A VIRTUAL MARCH TO THE POLLS

Assignment:

POLS 101 Students,

We have an exciting extra credit opportunity next week on campus.

Next week, early voting will be held on campus. From **March 14-16**, in **Student Center East room 613 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** People will be able to both register to vote and vote early.

This is where your extra credit opportunity comes in.

- Students who vote early can get 5 extra credit points if they take a selfie outside of the polling place. You then post your selfies to social media with the hashtag #UICVOTES as part of an effort to boost voter turnout here at UIC. You have an opportunity to be leaders in a virtual march to the polls. Send your TA a screenshot of your social media post with your selfie.
- Students can get another 5 points if they bring someone else to vote with them.
- You can also take a selfie of yourself with your absentee ballot, or at your local voting location.

If you are not registered to vote, that is not a problem. You can register to vote right before you vote at the polls.

If you are not a resident of Chicago or a non-citizen, you will not be able to vote at this location. You can still get 5 points extra credit if you bring someone to vote, and 10 points if you bring two people.

To learn more about the candidates that will be on the ballot you can visit this site - <https://www.ballotready.org/>

Since there will be no class on March 14 (you have a film to watch at home) you could use our normal class time to go vote early and get some extra credit. Most of us will be using this time to go together to vote. See you at the polls!

Publicity:

At the same time the university sent general email blasts about the early voting opportunity and posted the following story along with photographs in the printed and electronic versions of the student newspaper:

Vote early on campus this week

March 14, 2018



Cast your ballot early on campus for the Illinois primary election.

Early voting will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 14 to 16 in Room 613, Student Center East. Share a selfie on social media with #UICVOTES.

Voting before the March 20 election offers a flexible and time-saving option for Chicago residents. It's also a chance for staff, students and faculty to be heard. Those who want to vote but are not registered can register at the polls.

“We have worked very hard to increase voter registration,” said Dick Simpson, professor of political science.

Those efforts were recognized last year. UIC was named a Voter Friendly Campus by the Fair Elections Legal Network's Campus Vote Project and Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education (NASPA), as well as and the “Most Engaged Campus” during the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

Voters will choose gubernatorial candidates for the November ballot, and vote for state and federal offices. Legislators will weigh in on issues that are important to higher education, such as the state budget, Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and more.

“It’s important for this voter constituency to get out and show that we’re civically engaged,” said Marvin Slaughter, a junior in political science and economics and president of the UIC Student Advocacy Coalition. “To show [our legislatures] that we should be a priority, we have to show them that the civic and political process is a priority to us.”

Early voting at UIC was made possible by the UIC Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, Student Affairs, the UIC Office of Public and Government Affairs, the Department of Political Science and campus student organizations.

The Result:

UICVOTES

Early voting opened on the UIC campus today and students showed up to register and vote for the first time. Some seasoned student voters returned to do their civic duty. Students paused to take a framed selfie in the hall, and post on social media the hashtag #UICVOTES. A number of UIC students and I were interviewed by ABC-TV on “early voting.” The segment will air at the 4:30 p.m. newscast tonight, March 14, 2018. We are voting at a rate of about 30-40 an hour. We probably won’t get a 1,000 students, faculty, and staff to vote early, but we will get hundreds.



[POLITICS](#)

UIC offers early voting on campus this week

By [Sarah Schulte](#)

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 07:04PM

CHICAGO (WLS) --

The University of Illinois at Chicago is offering early voting on campus until Friday, ahead of the March 20 primary election.

The effort aims to boost the number of young voters, who traditionally have low turnout.

Many students took advantage of the polls' proximity on Wednesday.

"There are a lot of major issues that need to be changed, I believe voting is one of the ways to do that," said Charlie Lang, a UIC student.

"I feel like everybody comes out for the general election, but I feel like if you go out in the primary, you care about these things," said Sarah Hassan, a first-time voter.

Four years ago, only 9 percent of UIC students turned out to vote. In the 2016 general election, the number went way up, but it was a presidential year. This year, the goal is to surpass 2016 numbers and get more than 1,000 students and staff to early vote.

"The student or youth vote, as it is sometimes called, could quite easily be the deciding factor in a number of tight races in Illinois," said Dick Simpson, a UIC political science professor.

High-profile competitive races, including a gubernatorial election, are driving many to the polls in Chicago.

After 3 weeks of early voting, the Chicago Board of Elections says it is already surpassing numbers from 2010, which is a year the board uses as a comparison because of the similarities of races.

In addition to early voting, the election board is seeing three times as many vote by mail applications.

"A congressional race, it might be an attorney general, somewhere, we are bound to have a very close race, where vote by mail ballots may be a deciding factor," said Jim Allen, a Chicago Board of Elections spokesman.

Early voting and registration at 51 sites in Chicago continues through Monday.