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Voter Registration Options and Deadline (October 11)

1 message

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To: Rodney Miller <miller@covenant.edu>

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To all student, faculty and staff:**VOTE - NOT because we have good candidates; but because THE STAKES ARE SO HIGH!**

The federal court system has ruled that college students may register to vote in a state other than their state of legal residence in order to exercise their privilege to vote. Whether you vote in your home state through absentee ballot or register in Dade County, GA, I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. **The first election will be the General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. In order to vote on November 8, you must be registered to vote by Tuesday, October 11, 2016. Please consider the options below, but for a Covenant student to register in Dade County GA, the student must see Rodney Miller in the Office of Records and complete an Application for Voter Registration by 2:30 PM on October 11, 2016.** You must also be registered by October 11 to participate in any subsequent runoff elections.

Romans 13:1-7 describes why we are to submit to our governing authorities. In the US political system, one of the ways we support and change the governing system we submit to is by electing responsible public servants. Information about candidates and elections can easily be found through web sites and newspapers to become informed before making choices between candidates. Certain local races will address issues that students may want to leave to the full-year residents of Dade County and the city of Trenton, GA. If that is the case, simply abstain from voting in those particular elections and vote in the local, state and/or national elections that the Lord directs to participate. Be a responsible and engaged citizen!

Sample ballots, qualified candidates, proposed constitutional amendments and/or statewide referendums are generally available on the internet under a Secretary of State webpage in your state.

Here are the options for Voter Registration:**1. Students preferring to maintain their voter registration in their state of legal residence should request an absentee ballot from that state.**

If a student is a resident of Georgia and needs to request an absentee ballot, you can get the address of your election board from *My Voter Page* on the state website www.sos.state.ga.us/elections under the Voter Info tab. An absentee ballot may be requested now and should be requested early to allow sufficient time to have the ballot mailed and be returned before November 8.

For residents of other states, contact the registrar's office in your home town, search the internet for the Secretary of State Office or Google "Indiana absentee ballot" for your state to determine the process to request an absentee ballot. You should begin this process as soon as possible to determine any application deadline and allow time to request, receive and return an absentee ballot before Election Day.

2. To be eligible to vote in Dade County, GA, you must complete submit a registration application that is processed by the Secretary of State Office or the Dade County Board of Elections Office.

An Application for Voter Registration in GA can be picked up in the Office of Records in Kresge Library 212. Either visit the office or call to confirm that Rodney Miller, the Dean of Records, who is also the

Deputy Registrar for Dade County to register students to vote, will be in the office for a one-minute appointment to finalize and submit the application. Sample forms are available to help students include the correct information for a smooth process. A student can also register to vote if they apply for a GA driver's license. Covenant students registering in the state of Georgia are canceling any previous registration in their state of legal residence. Registering to vote in the state of Georgia does not change your state of legal residence for financial aid purposes.

Qualifications for Voter Registration:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age on or before election day.
3. Must not be serving a sentence for having been convicted of a felony.
4. Must not be judicially declared to be mentally incompetent.

If registered to vote in Dade County, GA (option 2. above), how and where do students vote?

When students go to the polls, take your Covenant photo ID as well as a valid driver's license or state issued photo ID from the state of legal residence. In Dade County, other than absentee voting, there are two other options to vote:

• **Early Voting from October 17 - November 4, 2016**

Georgia has Early Voting allowing any Dade County registered voter to go to the Board of Elections Office at the Administration Building, 71 Case Avenue, Trenton, GA 30752 (12 miles and 20 minute drive) and vote. Early voting times and a sample ballot are available on *My Voter Page*. In Dade County, these times are:

* October 17 - November 4, 2016

- o Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 12:00pm, and 12:30pm - 5:00pm
Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm, and 12:30pm - 2:00pm
- * One Saturday, October 29, 2016 9:00am - 4:00pm

• **Election Day - Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

The polling place for Covenant students is the West Brow Community Center (approximately five miles South of the front entrance of Covenant). Directions will be publicized closer to Election Day, and are available on *My Voter Page*.

If you have any questions, please contact Rodney Miller at miller@covenant.edu or visit the Office of Records, Kresge Library 212.

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