

# VOTE: It's only your future at stake!

By Francena Turner

It is impossible to turn on your television or log onto any social media site without being inundated with political rhetoric. It would be much easier to just unplug and disconnect from the political atmosphere surrounding the 2012 general election, but it is not a good idea to do so. Politics is, after all, a numbers game.

Note: The following are approximations and sources are given.

As of Sept. 13, North Carolina had **6.4 million** registered voters.

This sounds like an enormous number, but it is not.

According to the projected 2011 US Census information, NC has a population of roughly **9.7 million**.

Of that number, approximately **7.3 million** are of voting age.

Remember we have **6.4 million** registered voters.

There are a little over **947,000** unregistered voters in NC!

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, only 70 percent of registered voters voted in the 2008 general election!

So, if NC maintains at least a 70 percent in this year's election, and add the 947,000 unregistered voters, roughly **2.8 million people won't vote in the 2012 election.**

**This is UNACCEPTABLE.**

We still are not done with the numbers games yet.

There are approximately 579,000 registered voters between the ages of 18-29 in North Carolina.

The Pew Research Center found that these young adults accounted for 18 percent of the vote during the 2008 general election.

The young vote mattered a great deal in the 2008 election, but more than that, youth enthusiasm helped encourage previously non-voting older voters to register and vote.

According to the Office of State Budget and

Management, and as this past July 1, there were 972,385 people between the ages of 18-25.

This would leave a little over 390,000 unregistered college aged adults in NC alone.

**This is UNACCEPTABLE.**

**Why Voting is Necessary.... (even if you don't like either candidate)**

- President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney are our candidates for President in this year's general election. Regardless of how you feel about either candidate or their respective political parties, one of them will be the next president of the United States. You will be affected by the outcome of this election. If your lives progress according to plan, you'll all have graduated or be preparing to graduate by the time the next election comes around. The issues that seem irrelevant, complicated, boring, or hopeless to you now, will certainly matter to you by then. Register and Vote.

- Aren't you tired of being underestimated? In the 2008 election, North Carolina saw over 5 million voters over the age of 26 (73 percent of total voters). Remember that only 7 percent of registered voters voted that year. We read, see, and hear that politicians do not bother to campaign in certain states or to certain demographics because these states or demographics don't vote. Don't allow yourself to be dismissed. Register and Vote.

- The Nicki Minaj effect.

"I'm a Republican voting for Mitt Romney  
You lazy b\*\*\*\*s is f\*\*\*\*g up the economy."

Nicki Minaj

Nicki Minaj, a popular rapper, has been a trending topic for the last couple of weeks based on a line in one her songs that "implies" that she is endorsing Mitt Romney for President. Clearly she can vote for whomever she chooses, but that isn't even the issue. The media recognizes her power to influence pop culture. Pop culture is YOU. The media and our politicians recognize your worth even if you don't. Minaj has over 14 million Twitter followers. The

possibilities sent the blogosphere, Twitterverse, and Facebook into a tailspin. You don't find it insulting that anyone thinks you'd cast your vote based on a lyric in a rap song? Did she really have to make an announcement stating that it was sarcasm? No one was worried about that demographic of 26 and older adults casting such votes. Show them that you're more intelligent than that. Register and Vote.

- Voting is your civic duty. I know you hear it all the time, but it's true. People died for your right to vote. Too often we think that those who came before us fought for our CHOICE to vote. They did not. Inherent in the battles they fought was the idea that we all had a fundamental right to take place in electing those that would represent us. We are all a part of this country, so why would we continue to relinquish our right to representation?

**Getting Started**

During election season, there will be voter registration drives everywhere. Those held on campus will be advertised. If you don't catch any of those, there are several places you can go off campus.

**Voter Registration:**

NC Board of Elections:  
227 Fountain Head Lane  
Fayetteville, NC 28301  
Phone number: (910) 678-7733

**Voting:**

**Absentee ballots:**

Contact your county Board of Elections, in writing, to request an absentee ballot.

## General Election Schedule

- OCT 12 Regular deadline for voter registration
  - OCT 18 Early Voting and Same-Day Registration begins
  - OCT 30 Absentee ballot requests due
  - NOV 3 Early Voting and Same-Day Registration ends
  - NOV 6 General Election
- Obtained from ncelectionconnection.com*

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION VOTER EMPOWERMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The Fayetteville State University Student Government Association announces its 2012 Voter Empowerment Initiatives. The FSU initiatives include voter registration, voter education and get out the vote programs and activities.

**FSU Bronco Debate Team – Viewing & Critiquing of Presidential Debate on Domestic Policy**

Oct. 3

FSU Campus

9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

**Storming the Dorm Voter Registration Campaign: Will Your Voice Be Heard?**

Oct. 8

FSU Campus

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The FSU Student Government will initiate a "Storm the Dorms" Campaign to register students who have not registered to vote and to give students who have registered an opportunity to check their registration status.

**FSU Bronco Debate Team – Viewing & Critiquing of Vice Presidential Debate on Foreign and Domestic Policy**

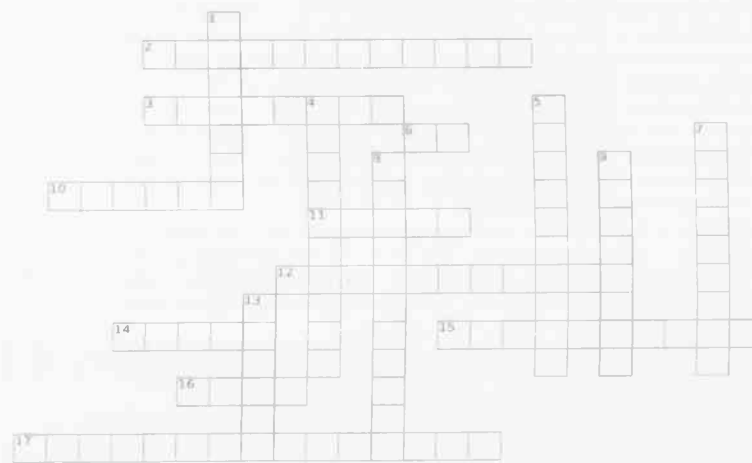
Oct. 11

FSU Campus

9 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

## Voting 101

Test Your Knowledge



ACROSS

- 2 Presidential Race incumbent
- 3 the "left", generally speaking, platform of social responsibility and government intervention/regulation where needed
- 6 age at which a United States Citizen can vote
- 10 2012 Incumbent Vice-Presidential candidate
- 11 2012 Incumbent Vice-Presidential Candidate
- 12 cooperation, agreement, and compromise between two major political parties
- 14 the lower legislative branch in United States government, elected every 2 years
- 15 amendment that gave women the right to vote
- 16 2012 Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate
- 17 a national or state election - a vote to select the winner of a position or political office

DOWN

- 1 a preliminary election where voters decide who will represent each party in the general election
- 4 the "right", generally speaking, platform of less government involvement in private sector business
- 5 the use of irregular or obstructive tactics by a member of a legislative assembly to prevent the adoption of a measure generally favored or to force a decision against the will of the majority
- 7 amendment that gave African-Americans the right to vote
- 8 generally speaking, a government party that does not side with the democrats or the republicans. They support views from both sides on separate issues
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ vote, a vote cast by a person who, because of absence from usual voting district, illness, or the like, has been permitted to vote by mail.
- 13 Congressional upper house of the legislature, elected every six years on a rolling cycle