

# RNC Chairman encourages Elon community to participate in November midterm elections

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Copy Editor

Michael Steele, chairman of the Republican National Committee, addressed Elon students, faculty and community members on Wednesday, Sept. 29, stressing the importance of political participation in the upcoming November elections.

"The dynamics in this political election are unlike any other we've seen before," he said. "You (the audience) have to decide where this fit in for you."

Steele discussed everything from his "Fire Pelosi" campaign, to the minds of independent voters and even added a visual demonstration and humor to the often-tense subject of politics.

Steele encouraged students, regardless of their political affiliation, to participate in the upcoming

elections.

"I want you to consider this November and recognize the role you play," he said. "You can do it as a Republican, Democrat or Independent. I don't care how you do it, just do it."

In 2003, Steele was the first black man elected to the position of Lieutenant Governor in Maryland, and has been a political contributor on the Fox News channel and "The Colbert Report."

The importance of leadership and understanding is an issue Steele said is vital in both politics and the real world.

"The kind of leadership you bring to the game is so important," he said. "How you lead and what you do matters so much, and anyone can lead."

Steele said he has been traveling around the country in a red van with "Fire Pelosi" written on the

side and he's been listening to students' and graduates' concerns about the job market. He also touched on economic issues, policy and health care reform and their importance to upcoming elections.

Steele also brought up the recent debate about the Tea Party and its loyalty to the Republican Party. He said the battle between the two parties is not a fight, but wishful thinking for some.

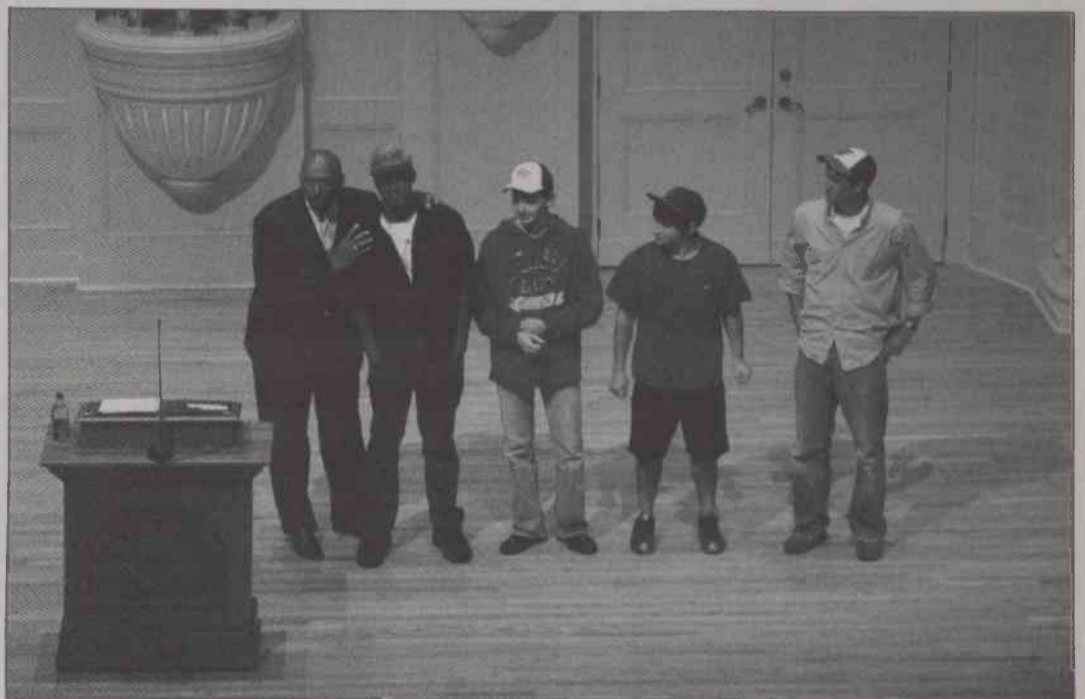
"I support the Tea Party," he said. "It's an organic movement of citizens, and a major force that will affect the outcome this November."

Steele said the upcoming elections in November will bring about an unprecedented shift in politics, and it's important for people to vote and be involved.

"You can affect the system," Steele said, "and every vote does count. You have to insert yourself into this process."



Steele encouraged the audience, regardless of their political affiliation, to vote. He used student participants to illustrate some of his main points.



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