

# Voter registration draws record student turnout

## ELECTION 1984

By Mark Edquid

As election day approaches, students at Penn State and around the country are apparently waiting to vote in record numbers.

"Not only did Penn State register more voters than any other university in the nation, but we also broke any previous records at Penn State," said Kevin DiGiammarino, voter registration coordinator for the university.

The Commonwealth Campuses contributed approximately 2,200 new registered voters to the Penn State total with Capitol Campus contributing 50 new student voters.

DiGiammarino said that by working with undergraduate student governments and other various campus organizations, "we were able to register an

outstanding number of 13,900 students."

The National Student Campaign for Voter Registration (NSCVR) estimates there are well over one million new student voters.

Students registered to vote -- and registered others -- on a scale unprecedented in our history," said Amy Kelly, National Office Coordinator of NSCVR. She points to the nationwide cooperation of Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), the United States Student Association, State Student Associations, student governments, and campaign political groups as the key to the campaign's success.

"Last Spring, a lot of people in the country thought "student politics" was a contradiction in terms," says Kelly. "After this fall, when students organized themselves, registered, and are now about to make a signifi-

cant impact on the election -- after all that -- those people won't make that mistake again."

Students registered other students at voter registration rallies, "Reg Fests," parties, tables, dining halls and dorms, walks, and class registration lines.

The University of Texas /Austin registered 10,000 new student voters. 6000 were registered at State University of New York in Albany. Ohio State University reports 5600 registered for the fall elections. On its way toward registering 4600 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the voter registration coalition there found that the city clerk is "overwhelmed every time we come in to turn in completed registration forms -- they can't believe the numbers," according to Kristin Hass, Michigan coordinator for NSCVR.

STRAW POLL STUDENT SAMPLE - ENROLLMENT RATIO

	Based on 9/6/84 preliminary enrollment	Based on 50 students polled
Science/Eng. Tech.	40	40
Business Administration	30	16
Beh. Sci. and Educ.	8	12
Public Policy	4	24
Provisional/Non-degree	14	--

700

### Comparison of Federal Deficits

(Cumulative for each Administration In Billions of Dollars)

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

Truman

Eisenhower

Kennedy

Johnson

Nixon

Ford

Carter

Reagan

(\$12)

(\$29)

(\$10)

(\$39)

(\$114)

(\$124)

(\$194)

(\$670)

By the year 1989, the national debt will climb to \$3.1 trillion, eating up 32 cents of your tax dollar in interest payments on the debt alone