

Libraries and Democracy

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<https://faulibrarydean.wordpress.com/2018/08/24/libraries-and-democracy/>

Yesterday during my Donuts with the Dean event in the Wimberly Library, I had many interesting discussions with new and returning students about their hopes and plans for their academic careers and their lives. FAU's students are focused, smart, and articulate.



Many of the conversations touched on the importance of reading and staying informed and several students shared their concerns about various situations in the country. When I asked those people if they were registered to vote, the answer was "no." Those conversations with those bright, talented young people inspired me to write this post.

There has been a lot of focus recently on the importance of the upcoming mid-term elections in the United States. By tradition and according to professional ethics, libraries in North America do not take sides in any political debate. Our goal is to help our users locate the information and the resources they need to make up their own minds about any issue.

Academic libraries, like the FAU Libraries, focus many of their services and programs on students. Many of our students are first-time or less experienced voters. To help our students (or any member of the FAU community) figure out for themselves how to evaluate candidates and understand the issues, we are offering a special workshop on October 18 entitled [Election 2018: Researching Candidates and Issues](#). This 50 minute workshop takes place in the Wimberly Library starting at noon. To register for the workshop, please use the [online form](#).

The State of Florida has an [online site for voter registration](#) that explains what you need in order to register. It's easy as long as you have identification. The deadline to register in Florida for an upcoming election is 29 days before that election. If the deadline has passed, you can still submit an online application at any time and it will be processed for future elections. If you're a permanent resident of another state, those states will also have sites for online voter registration that you can find by searching the Internet. ***The Florida deadline for registering in time for the November 2018 election is October 9.***

FAU's Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning also has a [Voter Engagement](#) web site with information and resources.

The Libraries will help you find the information you need to make up your mind for the fall 2018 and future elections. But only you can take care of your voter registration and then get out and vote!