

Students have little time to register for primaries

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

Time is running out for UNL students who have not registered to vote in the May 10 primary.

Lancaster County Election Commissioner Patricia Hansen said May 2 was the deadline for voter registration.

"Normally the deadline would be Friday, but because it's Arbor Day, it was moved to Monday," she said. "Offices in some part of the state will be closed, but not in Lincoln."

As of April 15, there were about 123,000 registered voters in the county, Hansen said. State law requires re-registration for change of name, address or party affiliation.

Hansen said not much had been done to encourage university students to register to vote because classes wouldn't be in session on the May 10 election.

But, she said, the commissioner's office planned to work with students for the November election.

Registering to vote is a top priority for some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

"I want to register to vote because I feel it's my civic duty. Voting is the

only way you can express your views in this country," said Sara Havelka, a freshman speech pathology major.

Kim Hayek, a freshman accounting major, said although registering to vote was important, it was hard to find the time for it.

"It's important to vote because if someone gets elected and you didn't vote, you have no right to complain," she said. "But if you did vote, and your candidate doesn't get elected, then you have an authentic gripe."

Two organizations at UNL, College Republicans and Young Democrats, are especially concerned about registering students to vote.

Jennifer Cusick, president of College Republicans, said, "It's very important, especially as a college student, to get into the habit of voting. If you forfeit your right to vote, then you forfeit your right to complain."

She said voting in the May 10 primary would be especially important because the local officials elected would directly impact students' lives.

Andrea Casart, president of UNL Young Democrats, agreed.

"I feel it's important for students to register to vote, because like any citizen, they have a lot at stake. They need to communicate their feelings."

Protest

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screens be stopped until alternatives can be discussed, that university lawyers find a way out of the contract without penalty and that NU take a public stand against Mitsubishi.

The letter was accompanied by a report stating that Mitsubishi owned considerable shares of logging companies in South America, Southeast Asia, Canada and other countries, making it the second largest importer of tropical timber.

While most regents were going to wait until Saturday to decide what to do, they agreed changes in the contract were unlikely.

Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha said she was doubtful the university could

get out of the contract.

"Whether something can be done at this point, I don't know," she said. "This is not a small contract. This is big time."

Even if the environmental groups don't prevail, she said, the university should learn to be more cautious in the future.

For Regent John Payne, the issue is closed. Payne said there were "two sides to every story," and changes now were not feasible.

Boycotts of Mitsubishi are nothing new, Williams said. But so far, most have focused on the automobile and electronics industries.

"We're certainly not the first ones," Williams said. "It's been happening all around the nation. We just haven't heard about it much in the Midwest."



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