

Students devote time to campaigns

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Students also can volunteer to walk precincts, Klein said. Precinct-walking entails walking through neighborhoods and placing leaflets on doors.

"We always need as many volunteers as we can get," Klein said. "Students are the ones that pull through for us."

Josh Moenning, a junior advertising and political science major and a volunteer for the Johanns campaign, said many students volunteer because they have an interest or past involvement in politics.

"My dad's a pretty strong Republican," Moenning said. "It rubbed off."

Jensen said he enjoys political work because he can follow the action of state government.

"I love being involved in the fight all day long, every day," Jensen said. "The time I spend here is well worth it."

Jensen said volunteering does require a lot of time. It also pays little money, if any, he said.

"But no one does this job for the money," Jensen said.

Hal Hansen, a sophomore history major and field coordinator for the Hoppner campaign, agreed.

"Working on a campaign is a financial strain," Hansen said. "You don't make much money for the work that you do."

Hansen said the 70 hours or more per week and the "nitty gritty" field work have become more of a burden that he expected.

Because of his commitment to the Hoppner campaign, Hansen had to cut down on the number of credit hours he was taking this semester.

"It's a sacrifice to take time out of school," Hansen said. "But I think Bill is such an exceptional candidate that I am willing to make that sacrifice."

However, all students are not willing to make the same sacrifice.

Moenning said he originally began volunteering for the Johanns campaign because he wanted to see a Republican in the Governor's Mansion.

However, between school and a part-time job, Moenning hasn't had the time to be politically active.

"I'm on the volunteer list, but I haven't been active," Moenning said. "They haven't called me, and I haven't called them."

Tribsch said the Johanns campaign has a large pool of volunteers. Not all volunteers are needed at any given time, he said.

Student-organized political groups also are working with their respective political campaigns.

UNL College Republicans Vice President Ben Patton said earlier in the year the organization invited Johanns to speak about his vision for the state.

As an organization, members of College Republicans decided to do whatever they could do to elect Johanns into office. Students are volunteering with the campaign on an individual basis, he said, though he is not.

Jensen, who also is the president of the UNL Young Democrats, said the group helped with a universitywide voter registration drive Oct. 5. The organization also has been having public office candidates come speak during meetings, he said.

Both student organizations said their long, hard work and dedication to the campaigns will pay off Nov. 3 after polls are closed and ballots are counted.

"Unlike flipping burgers, you are doing something that matters," Hansen said. "At the end of the election you see the benefits. You have made a difference in people's lives."

Klein and Tribsch said students who are interested in volunteering on a campaign should contact their local campaign party office.

"Students should get involved in campaigns because we are the future of the political system," Moenning said. "We are the next generation of Nebraskan politics."



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