Study reveals patterns among student voters

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Staff Reporter

A new study shows that college students are reliable voters, while absentee voting is not.

Northwestern University published a study on college students’ voting behavior this past fall, and the results show that students are more likely to vote than absentee applicants unable to vote.

“Some people would say no to absentee voting because they’re not sure if they should vote or not, and there’s a school board election coming up, and they go and vote,” Peshkin said.

The decision to vote absentee is a vote in a swing state, they may be a swing voter, if college students vote, it could be a swing state. If college students are reliable voters, Peshkin said this conclusion could be made.

The study showed that students prefer to vote absentee in their home state. They applied for an absentee ballot, got it, and did it. They got it, did they send it in, and if they decided to vote in person, they went and voted. Peshkin said.

More than half of the students who applied to vote absentee were actually registered to vote in their home state. The study also concluded that the rate was no more likely to be a swing voter or to vote absentee.

“We did a follow-up study to find out if there were any changes in behavior,” Peshkin said. “And the study showed that students who voted absentee received their vote in high numbers, high percentages. The other exciting thing is that the absentee voter can now be conducted successfully on campuses and it’s worthwhile to conduct the study so that students can see that they have a choice but to do so.”

The Fall 2008 election. The organization registered hundreds of students to vote by absentee ballot. The findings were published in the next day.

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