After months upon months of heated preparations, frenzied primary battles, and animated debates, it all boils down to Election Day this Tuesday. The question remains the same – who will become the next President of the United States on November 4: Senator Barack Obama from Illinois or Senator John McCain from Arizona?

This year’s elections have generated unprecedented interest among CLS students. The presidential and vice-presidential debates have turned out huge crowds at Lenfest Café. In the past few weeks, the Law School has been abuzz with chatter about Sarah Palin, the economic crisis, Obamamania and Joe the Plumber. In continuing with this trend, many CLS students have decided to get directly involved in the last days of a very, very long campaign season.

The CLS Democrats, the school’s link between students and the Democratic Party, have organized several groups of volunteers to directly participate in Obama’s campaign. The first group left on Friday, October 31, for Prince William County in northern Virginia. Virginia is, of course, one of the crucial swing states which voted for McCain in 2004, but which Obama hopes to turn blue this time around. Here, CLS students and other Obama supporters are canvassing (going from house to house and convincing voters to come out and vote for their candidate), and phone banking (calling up all those who they couldn’t reach in person and letting them know when and where to vote in their districts). They will also be providing election protection on Election Day.

Two groups of Democrat supporters will also be canvassing for Obama in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The first group left on Friday night, and they will soon be replaced by a second group of students making the trip on Election Day itself. Pennsylvania, like Virginia, is a state widely believed to be still in play. McCain has devoted a lot of resources to wrestling it away from the Democrats (Pennsylvania voted blue in 2004) in the past couple of weeks of his campaign.

For those who have decided to stay in NYC for the election, there are several other opportunities to get involved. The CLS Democrats will be providing election protection in one of Queens’ State Senate districts for a Democrat candidate. The Columbia chapter of IMPACT – the national and non-partisan association of law students organized to ensure fair voting – will be working with Election Protection – the nation’s largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition of around 60 non-profit organizations – to guarantee that every vote cast ends up being counted. Many CLS students have gone through mandatory election training and will be participating in the action on Tuesday as either call center receptionists or MLVs (Mobile Legal Volunteers). The first group will be receiving phone calls about any potential voting irregularities occurring around the country. The MLVs on the other hand have been assigned to monitor voting precincts in five NYC boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx.

CLS Republicans have not organized any activities at the school level for McCain supporters. However, numerous chapter members are canvassing on behalf of their party in various states across the country, such as Pennsylvania.

All in all, it seems that no matter the outcome on November 4, CLS students have demonstrated a commendable eagerness to participate in the democratic process. This election promises to have record voter turn-out, and our law students’ involvement in the respective campaigns and in ensuring voting fairness is testimony to this fact.

Image credit: www.agoravox.com
This Week At CLS: November 3-10, 2008

Monday
- Clinic Open House. 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 101. *Refreshments served.*
- Law and Economics Workshop: Yair Listokin, Yale Law School. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG Case Lounge.

Tuesday
- Yoga Club: Class. 6:30 - 7:30 PM; JG Annex.

Wednesday
- Panel Discussion: “China: After the Olympics.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 103.
- CCLS: Lecture on Constitutionalism, Tian Lei. 12:15 - 1:15 PM; WJW 600.
- Lunch with the Hon. Myron Thompson. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 101. *Lunch served.*
- CPS Roundtable: Managing romantic partnerships/marriage during law school. 12:15 - 1:00 PM; JG 940. *Lunch served.*
- HRI Speaker Series: “The Trial of Donald Rumsfeld: A Prosecution by Book,” with the Center for Constitutional Rights. 4:15 - 5:30 PM; JG 103.

Thursday
- Tax Policy Colloquium: Yoram Margalioth. 4:00 - 6:00 PM; JG 940.
- Public Law Workshop: Reva Siegel, Yale Law School. 4:15 - 5:45 PM; JG Case Lounge

Monday
- Clinic Faculty Presentation. 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 101.
- “The RIAA v. The People: Copyright Law and Filesharing.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG 102.

Event information is taken from the Advisor, a Student Services e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event. [http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform](http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform).

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The 2008-2009 Student Senate

**Executive Board**
- Max Miller, President
- William Leavitt, Vice President
- L. David Peters, Treasurer
- Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
- Benjamin Brickner, Parliamentarian

**Class of 2009**
- Rajiv Batra
- Stephen Chu
- Stephen Cockrell
- Dustin Crawford
- Gabe Gershowitz
- Brian Goldberg
- Craig Greiwe
- Jason Lear
- Amy Maffucci
- Scott McMannet
- Mikhail Savary

**Class of 2010**
- Kathrin Schwesinger
- Dan Y. Shin (University Senator)
- Adam Sparks
- Elliott Ash
- Esha Bhandari
- Kelley Bolar
- Max Dubin
- Yael Fischer
- Dimia Fogam
- Ryan McDevitt
- Austin Thompson
- Meredith Uhl
- Eric Wolfkoff
- Steven Wu

**Class of 2011**
- Kevin Boroumand
- Mike Anderson

**LL.M./J.S.D.**
- Celine Assaf (LL.M.)
- Patryk Labuda (LL.M.)
- Peter Lochore (LL.M.)
- Mathias Oleskow (LL.M.)
- Hiram Pagano Filho (LL.M.)