

# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **UL STUDENTS FORM ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVOCATE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

**As November 3 approaches, a group UL-Lafayette students are calling on their peers to make sure they're represented in this year's presidential election.**

LAFAYETTE, LA – An advisory board has been formed by five students in UL's Department of Communication. These students in collaboration with the university's student chapter of the Rotaract Club hope through their proactiveness, their peers will register to vote and exercise their power in this year's presidential election. How will these students get turn-out? They're offering an incentive for students to register.

The coalition formed in July 2020, under the leadership of UL Lafayette Instructor Mrs. Maniko Barthelemy. Barthelemy joined the Department of Communication in 2017 and believes college students hold power and their vote sends a clear message.

“There's power in voting, and there's power in voicing your opinions through our democratic process. The current state of our nation reiterates how instrumental voting can be, especially by our future leaders,” stated Barthelemy.

-MOVE-

“Be the Change – UL” is the voter registration campaign slogan the students are using. The board consists of students of various majors across the Department of Communication. The advisors are as follows: Cameron Lion (Broadcasting), Elijah List (Strategic Communication- Public Relations), Kaitlyn Johnson (Broadcasting), Kourtney Williams (Broadcasting), and Madelyn Myer (Strategic Communication- Public Relations).

It’s the hope of the advisory board that students will no longer stay silent with their opinions.

“A lot of people say, ‘My vote doesn’t count’ …” said Myer in Be the Change – UL’s campaign video. These are the comments these five students are tired of hearing, so they’re bringing a new way of rallying voters to UL’s campus.

Currently, students are being advised to visit “RocktheVote.org” and register through quick and easy registration process. Once students register, they can direct message their confirmation to any of the Be the Change – UL’s social accounts to be entered in a raffle for a \$25 gift card. The winner of the raffle will be chosen September 15 at noon. The drawing will be streamed via Instagram and Twitter.

“Rock the Vote” is a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people. The advisory board is not affiliated with any political parties; moreover, they would just like all of their peers to be registered to vote.

More information can be found by visiting their pages on Instagram and Twitter (@BeTheChange\_UL). You can also contact their faculty instructor for information using [maniko.barthelemy@louisiana.edu](mailto:maniko.barthelemy@louisiana.edu).

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