



Emily Rusch
Executive Director
CALPIRG and
CALPIRG Education
Fund
@emilyrusch

















With smartphone-wielding drivers more distracted than ever, backers say robotic vehicles have the potential to make roads significantly safer, noting that nearly all car accidents are a result of human error.

Please see DRIVERLESS on A8

tices toward gays and lesbians.

Keith Rivera, who resigned in August after serving three-and-a-half years on the board, said he abstained because of his objections to the company's politics. Mr. Rivera and Mr. Gilliland had both stepped down from reviewing the project for political reasons at an earlier

to procedure, and mowse said calling the situation "uncomfortable and emotional" for many involved.

Addressing his decision to abstain for the first time in public, Mr. Mosel said he declined to vote on the Chick-fil-A project changes because of his position as president Santa Barbara Gay & Lesbian Business Association and his partdy, called on the council to remove and replace Mr. Mosel and Mr. Gilliland.

"Don't let them weasel out of it," Mr. Worthen told the council. "They broke the rules. Send a message to the community that board members, government officials cannot break the rules

Please see COUNCIL on A5

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CALPIRG partners with UCSB to break voter registration record



STEVEL MALONE/NEWS PRESS

Nadim Houssain, left, David Washington, Kat Lockwood and Jonathan Abboud are part of UCSB's effort, along with the California Public Interest Group, to celebrate National Voter Registration Day with a voter registration drive for students.

By JORDAN ECARMA

NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

After registering more voters than any other college campus in the nation in 2008, UCSB has set out to break its own record for student voter registration before November elections, representatives said.

The California Public Interest Group (CALPIRG), a student nonprofit, joined with the UCSB campus to launch a voter registration drive at UCSB on Tuesday, which was National Voter Registration Day. The drive is intended to help more than 10,000 students register to vote.

"Young people have been voting in record numbers since 2004." said Nadim Houssain, the external vice president of statewide affairs with UCSB Associated Students, at

We hope to continue that legacy this year by again registering 10,000 students to vote in the election, matching our 2008 first place results," he said.

"We're going to break the record," said Jonathan Abboud, president of the UCSB Residence Halls Association. He noted that of the 5,700 campus residents who moved in recently for the new school year, more than 3,000 are already registered to vote.

CALPIRG has worked closely with the Secretary of State's office as well as student groups to create Californ iaStudentVote.org, an online voting resource for students.

"We are particularly excited that this year, for the first time ever, students will be able to register to vote online," said Kat Lockwood, CALP-IRG representative and campus organizer. She demonstrated the fivestep online registration process at Tuesday's event.

The easy access to registration will come in handy for students that put it off to the last minute.

"The online registration will help especially as the deadline gets closer." noted Ms. Lockwood. "There will definitely be those students sitting

in their dorms realizing I need to register to vote.'

The online tool syncs with the Secretary of State's website to allow students to register to vote online, according to Ms. Lockwood.

"Online voter registration is a no-brainer - it will make it easier for Californians to participate in our elections, while saving our election officials time and money." she said.

UCSB students are already politically minded and enjoy voting, according to Mr. Abboud. He noted that 41 percent of UCSB students turned out for the school's last student government elections, and the percentage has gone up each year.

"I guess we just like voting here a lot," the third-year student said with a laugh. UCSB students take elections seriously, and the student government election season features political parties and debates "like a presidential election," he said.

The UC Student Association af-

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