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To: The John Jay College Community
Re: National Voter Registration Day & Upcoming Leadership Changes

I have a question for you. What can every eligible citizen do to positively impact their communities and effect change at the local, state, and federal levels? The answer is simple: You can vote. By casting your vote, you're actively seizing the power to secure a brighter future for yourself and generations to come. You're casting a vote for those who don't have the power to vote themselves—children, immigrants without citizenship status, and system-impacted individuals without voting rights. In a critical moment in time, you're standing up and reminding the world just how precious and powerful our democracy truly is.

For many decades in our country's history, young adults were the least engaged members of the U.S. electorate, with over 50 percent of young adults never casting a ballot in any presidential or midterm election. But the tide has turned.

In the wake of galvanizing events in our country—including the racial reckoning following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Elijah McClain; a reimagining of public safety in our communities; extreme weather indicating the consequences of climate change and global warming; and the devastating effects of the ongoing battle against the Covid-19 pandemic—the importance of using your voice to vote and shape our communities has never been greater.

Let's keep this momentum going as we face critical local elections this fall. Today, on **National Voter Registration Day**, if you're [eligible](#), please register to vote. You can download a personalized voter registration form right in CUNYfirst to mail in.

Key dates to remember:

- Voter registration mail applications must be postmarked no later than **October 8**, and received by the board of elections no later than **October 13** to be eligible to vote in the General Election.
- Absentee ballot applications must be received by mail by **October 18** or in-person by **November 1**.
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked or delivered in-person by **November 2**.
- **Election day** is **November 2**.

Please see our [Rock the Vote](#) website for upcoming events and up-to-date information, and join the [Center for Student Involvement and Leadership](#) (CSIL) for their voter registration

drive with giveaways and one-on-one virtual voter registration workshops for students. For more information, send an email to CSIL at csil@jjay.cuny.edu. Additionally, as an expression of our commitment to participatory democracy and civic engagement, John Jay is looking forward to hosting early voting for our westside neighbors in October.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share some news on an upcoming transition in our leadership team. Robin Merle, our Vice President for Institutional Advancement, will be moving on to new opportunities next month. During her tenure at John Jay, she built a great team and transformed our fundraising operations: fundraising for student success grew by more than 135 percent (from \$2.3 million to \$5.4 million), the net assets of the John Jay College Foundation increased by 60 percent, two galas (one virtual) netted \$1.8 million, and the Annual Day of Giving campaign was reimaged to support our student emergency funds, making it among the top three most successful campaigns in all of CUNY. As a community, we'd like to thank Robin for her tireless commitment to raising funds for the betterment of our students and College. Please join me in wishing her well in this new chapter in her life as she embarks on a book tour for her new book about the resilience of professional women, and advisor to non-profits. Robin's last day will be September 30.

We're living in extraordinary times both at John Jay College and in our country. As scholars of justice, and impassioned proponents of equality and unity, I implore everyone—regardless of their political persuasion—to engage in our electoral process and use their voice.

Thank you,



Karol V. Mason
President
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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