



# WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dear WSSU students, faculty, and staff,

Election Day is getting closer and closer as we gear up for not only a productive school year, we are also preparing for a very active election season. As Rams, many of us have had an opportunity to exercise our right to register to vote, and also, to have intentional conversations about the 2024 election season. We may still question who to vote for, what each candidate stands for, and if our votes matter, but one thing is evident, we know our VOICES matter!

Winston-Salem State University is unique because we have an on-campus voting site. The on-campus voting site allows not only the students, faculty, and staff of WSSU the opportunity to vote early and within a close vicinity, but our site also caters to the larger Winston-Salem community. With this, we must utilize this opportunity to hold on to our site by taking our fellow Rams to the Anderson Center from October 17<sup>th</sup> - November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we can do that by voting early!

In the past few years, many have faced challenging times. Issues such as the global pandemic, inflation, and civil unrest require voters to become more knowledgeable about our rights, changes in voting practices, and a better understanding of national policies and how they may affect our future.

Winston-Salem State University is committed to valuing the identities and lived experiences of our fellow Rams. We continue to support our peers and colleagues as we, together, learn and prepare to serve our community as embraced through our motto "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve." Through the work of the Student Government Association's Political Action Committee (PAC), we continue to educate our campus and community, partner with community organizations, and increase knowledge on issues such as voter rights, ID laws, and ways to register to vote.

As WSSU's Mission Statement outlines, WSSU "cultivates the genius of interconnected learners through academic excellence, transformative scholarship, and impactful engagement to produce equity-minded, highly competent, and productive citizens. Winston-Salem State University aims to enhance the lives and livelihoods of its students, the people of North Carolina, and persons around the world." It is through engaging in voting that we can contribute to the community and be a meaningful part of the democratic process. This recognition also connects with knowing that many of you will be voting for the first time, and that is something to truly celebrate. With this, let's encourage each other to make a difference, utilize our individual power to shape our future, and VOTE!

As a university, we acknowledge the importance of free speech and expression. We have provided resources that will help to guide our campus and collaborative community partners through our university's procedures for free speech and expression, along with important information that relates to voting, programs, and future training and educational sessions:

- [UNC Policy on Free Speech and Free Expression Policy](#)
- [WSSU Free Speech website](#)
- [Voting 101: First Steps, Make Your Plan, Know Your Rights](#)
- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)
- [Reporting Infringement of Freedom of Speech](#)

SGA Political Action Committee Chair

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