Planning Issues to Be Decided 11/5

Voting & Elections Resources on the Web

In case you need some last minute info or inspiration before you cast your ballot, check out these web resources:

Good Starting Points
American Voter '96. Launched by Congressional Quarterly Inc. to focus on the '96 congressional campaign. Allows viewers to customize information on incumbent's and candidates' positions on issues, and generate reports on members' bill sponsorships, voting behavior and political profile. http://voter.96.cqalert.com/


The National Political Index. Links to about 3500 web sites. The focus is on U.S. elected officials, candidates, political parties, news, info, humor, and even more...an ambitious and informative web project. http://www.politicalindex.com

Need a Good Laugh?
Mojo Wire. Comedian Paula Poundstone attended the Republican Convention and filed daily reports with Mother Jones Magazine.

Don't worry—they also sent a reporter to lampoon the Democrats! http://www.mojones.com/election_96/paulapage.html


Hillary's Hair. See all the styles and vote for your favorite. http://hillaryhair.com

Views, Facts and Figures
Americans for the Environment (AFE). A national nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping citizen activists use the political process to solve environmental problems. AFE tracks environmental ballot initiatives and referenda, convenes electoral skills training workshops and seminars, and produces guides for electoral activities. http://www.aufe.org/pub/home/info/homepage.htm

The Campaign Trail 1996 Online. What are the impacts of talk radio, the Internet, and other electronic media on the 1996 U.S. Presidential election? How can activists use new media to promote progressive goals? Lots of discussion, few graphics at this informative website. http://www.pocketbooks.com/trail.html

Center for Voting and Democracy. Educates the public about the impact of voting systems on political representation, proportional representation, etc. http://www.cvd.org
2. To provide a forum for professional field students studying

3. To act as the official and understanding of the intellectual and social interchange among

Jeremy Kerian, Planning Organization
S e c, d llry
T 'tllswr o spokesperson for students (SPO). The SPO goals are:

4. To promote fellowship Urban Planning,

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About SPO

Every student enrolled in the DURP is automatically a member of the Student Planning Organization (SPO). The SPO goals are:

1. To promote interest in and understanding of the professional field of planning.

2. To provide a forum for intellectual and social interchange among students studying planning.

3. To act as the official spokesperson for students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Graduate Program in Urban Planning.

4. To promote fellowship between Urban Planning students and the staff of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

These goals can be achieved when we all participate!

Year 1996 SPO Officers:

Christopher Glick, President
Jeremy Kerman, Vice President
Robbie Farrow, Treasurer
Misty Das, Secretary

Nicole Anas, Undergrad and APA Representative
Patrick J. Flynn, Undergrad Representative
Diane Cornely, Graduate Representative
Steve Schwoebel, APA Representative
Matt Noonesteer, APA Representative
David Siebert, UPhonds Coediter
Rosanne Walker, UPhonds Coediter

The first Senate bill, S. 605, which was introduced by then-Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), was a more sweeping payment and assessment bill. It covered all types of property and actions or inactions by federal agencies as well as actions by state agencies carrying out regulatory programs under any federal law. The bill would require federal taxpayers to pay for any regulatory action that reduced by one-third or more the speculative value of any affected portion of a real, personal or intangible piece of property.

A modified bill, S. 1954 continued to require a "takings" assessment before agency actions (or inactions) that even temporarily affect any kind of property — even when the delay would result in destruction of other private property and public resources. S. 1954 raised the threshold to a 50-percent reduction.

While these revisions were intended to garner more support, as of September 10, 1996, S. 1954 had 33 cosponsors, the same number as S. 605. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) announced that he would not bring S. 1954 to the Senate floor because there was insufficient support.

Backers of "takings" bills promise to revive the issue in the 105th Congress. If conservatives gain seats in the Senate, the bill is likely to pass. Our choices: Ewing voted for H.R.925. Salvi is pro-takings, Dixon is not. As president, Dole would likely claim the bill as a victory. Clinton has called the "takings" bills an untenable burden on regulators.

For more information, contact: Sheridan Pauker, National Wildlife Federation (202) 797-6606; nwf@nwf.org

Endangered Species Act Reform (H.R. 2275)

Don Young (R-Alaska) launched an ESA "reform" initiative last year that could remove dozens of species from the endangered list and eliminate many habitat protections.

Conservatives are almost certain to force a vote on Young's bill in the 105th Congress. Our choices: Ewing will most likely vote with Gingrich for the reforms, while Prussing has stated she will oppose weakening the ESA.

Clean Water Act Reform (H.R. 961)

This House bill, written by lobbyists from the Chemical Manufacturers Association and companies such as International Paper, drastically overhauls the Clean Water Act, removing close to 70 percent of current wetlands from protection and allowing as many as 70,000 additional types of chemicals to be dumped into lakes and rivers.

The Senate has yet to pass their version of "Clean Water" reform. The House measure was so overwhelmingly unpopular that some predict it will remain buried in committee. Our choices: Ewing voted for H.R.961. No one else is saying much
about their position on this controversial bill.

Other Issues

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Republican platform adopted in San Diego recommended that HUD be abolished and that HUD's core functions be turned over to the states. This could have significant impact on the planning profession.

The Democrats defend the need for HUD. If the agency was eliminated, the U.S. would be the only major industrialized nation without a cabinet-level agency to address urban issues.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Neither candidate has said much about the re-authorization of ISTE A. Some Republican leaders have proposed a total phase-out of transit assistance, again favoring "privatization" and a free-market approach.

Clinton has been holding a series of regional hearings to gather information and in general has supported public mass transit. For up-to-date info on ISTE A, go to: http://www.transact.org/home.htm

Whatever your position on these issues (and many others) it's clear that there is a choice to be made on Tuesday, November 5th. Do your part and vote!

Sources: CLEAR (http://www.eng.org/CLEAR/); Outside Online (http://pub2star.usc.university/online/index.htm); News Gazette (10/22/96); Planning (October 1996)
Monday, November 4  
Belle Starr, Outlaw/Belle Starr, Housewife.  
8 p.m. Levis Faculty Center.  
Eliza Steelwater, Stephanie Foote and Sonya Michel, UI.

Vote • Vote • Vote • Vote  
Tuesday, November 5  
Polls open from 6am-7pm
Vote • Vote • Vote • Vote

Wednesday, November 6  
Is Welfare a Feminist Issue?  
Noon. Women's Studies Building, 911 S. Sixth St., C.  
Sonya Michel, UI. For more information call 333-2990.

Sunday, November 17  
Maya Angelou  
Foellinger Auditorium.  
Tickets go on sale at Ticket Central and at the Assembly Hall on 11/7/96. Reserved seating only. Tickets are free to U of I students and $5.00 to the public. Any remaining tickets will be available at the door. For more information contact the Illini Union Program Department at 333-3660.

Sunday, November 24  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
6 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., C.  
Volunteers are needed to cook and perform other work related to this annual holiday dinner. The menu will include items traditional to this American holiday. For more information and to make reservations, call Andrea Shields, 367-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

Thursday, November 28–
Sunday, December 1  
Thanksgiving Vacation.  
All-Campus Holiday

Friday, December 6  
International Cinema  
7:00pm - 11:00pm. Illini Union Courtyard Cafe.  
Showing foreign films. $1.00 admission charge at the door for students and for the public. For more information contact the Illini Union Program Dept. at 333-3660.

Friday, December 13  
Instruction ends  
December 16-21  
Final exams

Paula Poundstone Live From the Republican Convention  
Found at http://www.mojones.com/election_96/paulapage.html  
Dancing the Dole  
(8/16/96)—"They should do away with music at the convention to cut down on the odds of the Republican leadership dancing in public."

It's been a long week. The re-introduction of Bob Dole has taken its toll on me. It's a good thing they went to the trouble, though. I had the whole wrong idea about the guy. I thought he was in Congress for the last thirty years. It turns out he has been in Russell, Kansas recovering from a war wound until quite recently. Even Phil Gramm benefited from the re-introduction. Bob Dole had called him a bug that should be stepped on and squashed during the primary, but I saw Phil Gramm standing right beside Dole during the balloon drop without any apparent fear of being squashed. Maybe he didn't even recognize the re-introduced nominee...

The First Night  
(8/12/96)—"I cried over the Partridge Family. However, even I found the carefully scheduled emotional moments in last night's presentation a bit phony."

The Second Night  
(8/14/96)—"The worst thing about watching the Republican Convention is knowing that the Democrats are going to do the exact same thing in a few weeks."

The Third Night  
(8/15/96)—"Elizabeth Dole told some story last night about Bob walking around in her mother's house in a towel after he showered. Well, fine, now I have that picture stuck in my head."