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The Arkansas Traveler

WEATHER



HIGH 74
LOW 55

Cool with a 20% chance of showers in the morning.

Polls offer requirements for voters

Cristen Handley
 Contributing Writer



Voting seems easy, right? You make a check mark next to your favorite candidate, and you're done.

Unfortunately, casting your vote for president is not an easy or painless task. It involves countless tedious requirements and regulations.

For starters, you must be a registered voter in Arkansas at least 30 days prior to the election. For those of you who have not yet completed this step, it will be at least four years before you will have to worry about the rest of the poll rules.

As of Monday, Oct. 6, all voters in the state of Arkansas must be registered. However, for those freshmen who moved from one county to another within the state and need to transfer registration, it's not too late. Registration updates for voters who have changed counties must be completed at least four days before the election.

Other qualifications for voting include being a U.S. citizen, an Arkansas resident, 18 years old before the election, not a convicted felon, not deemed mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction and not claiming the right to vote in any other states or counties.

As far as what to do once you arrive at the polls, both voters and poll workers have specific duties.

"Once you're there, you have to state your name, address and confirm your birth date," said Susie Stormes, director of the Arkansas State Board of Election Commissioners. "Then the poll workers are required to request ID, but only from first-time voters registered by mail who did not provide their ID by mail."

Alternatively, if you do not have a driver's license with you, you can present a copy of a government document such as a bank statement or paycheck that shows your name and address. However, if you do not present one of these forms of identification, you will vote with a provisional ballot.

One of the more unique rules regarding poll etiquette has to do with electioneering, which is any act of campaigning or persuasion of voters in a political campaign.

Let's say you want to show up at the poll all decked out in buttons and T-shirts that read "Barack Obama" or "John McCain," as your one last public pledge to your

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Walmart steps into political spotlight



LARRY ASH Staff Photographer

Walmart employees have been pushed to vote against the Democratic Party in the presidential election, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Chase Smith
 Staff Writer

Some are concerned Walmart is pushing employees to vote against Obama.

Ever since the first store opened in Bentonville in 1962, Walmart has become a dominant factor of the daily lives of millions of Americans. Its monumental size only can be matched by the grand inventory of its more than

4,000 facilities that operate every day in the U.S.

There is no doubt that Walmart is not only big, but also an important gear in the U.S. economy. However, this grand scale has people questioning the motives of Walmart, as it is at the forefront of America as the country moves into another presidential election.

Some are asking whether Walmart executives are getting their hands into politics for their own benefits – Ann Zimmerman and Kris Maher of *The Wall Street*

Journal reported that Walmart is pushing employees to vote against the Democratic Party in November.

"The Walmart human-resources managers who run the meetings don't specifically tell attendees how to vote in November's election," according to the article, "but make it clear that voting for Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama would be tantamount to inviting unions in, according to Walmart employees who attended

gatherings in Maryland, Missouri and other states."

Stacie Temple, senior director for strategy and communication of Walmart Watch, a Web site devoted to reporting about Walmart's political dealings, said in an interview that "the prospect that Walmart would possibly be taking such actions is highly deplorable."

Others are concerned about "Walmart Moms," which some

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10th Arkansas Insect Festival draws eager audience

Edward Humphrys
 Staff Writer

The auditorium of the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center was full of an unusual crowd Thursday. Instead of its usual occupancy of horses, cows and other livestock, the center hosted a prodigious crowd of schoolchildren and insects for the 10th Arkansas Insect Festival.

The sound of excited exclamations and the low murmur of inquiring whispers created a constant din in the spacious, earth-floored auditorium, which was filled with dozens of displays and packed with young children, volunteers, and faculty, staff and graduate students from the UA entomology department.

New crowds continued to file in hourly as schools from the region shuttled students to the festival for an immersive day of insects and arthropods, leaving the staff barely enough time to recover from the torrent of high-pitched questions before the next wave of curious children arrived.

Small groups of adults stood chatting on the red, earth floor

or conversed with the festival staff as the more curious among them towered conspicuously above the smaller attendees.

Children filed up and down long rows of displays or stood enraptured in front of the Arkansas butterfly cage, which teemed with a mass of butterflies native to the state. Festival staff could be seen hurrying between displays as some took a quick break for lunch in the empty bleachers.

Display cases of preserved and living insects held the thoughtful, reflected portraits of adults and children alike as they bent over to catch a good glimpse of the specimens inside. To one side of the hall there lay a patch of cotton plants embedded into the bare earth, with children roaming among the rows feeling and examining the voluminous, white tufts of crop.

"This is really great," one father said, holding the hand of his young son. "My son is really into bugs, insects, all of that stuff, just like I was at his age, so this is just a great thing to bring him to."

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EDWARD HUMPHRYS Staff Photographer

Three boys check out the bee display at the 10th Arkansas Insect Festival Thursday in the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center.

Trading spaces

There are roughly 11,200 parking spots on campus and about 19,000 students coming and going each day. In specific areas, parking has become a major issue. Cars circling parking lots like vultures is a common sight, so it's obvious there are often a lot of cars and not a lot of spaces to work with.

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UA campus lacks minority political groups

Bailey McBride
 Staff Writer

Even though polls across the country show a rise in voter turnout by minorities such as Latinos, African Americans and women, the UA lacks empowerment organization for these groups.

As America prepares for one of its most historic elections in less than a month, the media has given a lot of attention to the rise in voter registrations among minorities and the rise in turnouts over the past few years.

The UA currently has more than 350 Registered Students Organizations falling into categories from special interests to governing bodies. On campus, however, there are no groups supporting these minorities, only groups supporting the candidates such as Students for Barack Obama and Students for John McCain.

Both women and African Americans gained the right to vote within the last 90 years. Men and women were incarcerated or killed in the attempt to gain the privilege of voting as the U.S. went through the women's suffrage movement and the civil rights movement. Today, minorities have some of the lowest voter turnouts, especially among people under 30, according to the

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STUDENTS ASK: BAILOUT OR RESCUE?



VERONICA PUCCI Staff Photographer

UA graduate student Abel Tomlinson protests the bailout passed last week outside of Mullins Library Friday.

Mayoral candidate claims campus awareness

Miles Bryant
 Staff Writer

As the Fayetteville mayoral campaign trudges along, the student grapevine sometimes casually whispers the names of the candidates campaigning. Walt Eilers is a candidate who considers himself the most campus aware. He attributes part of this to his running in the past, which guides his exploration of all the nooks and crannies in the city of Fayetteville, including the UA campus.



Walt Eilers

"If you were to ask the current mayor of the City Council to find Vol Walker Hall, they'd

be hard pressed," Eilers said. "There's only one candidate who knows his way in and out of campus, because I run every square inch of it."

"But I'm interested in the campus because that's our major industry. We need to cultivate you. Right now you're being taken for granted. I'm tired of you being taken for granted. I want you to become part of the family here and be included," he said.

"We have 19,000 students here – you all are consumers. There are three things that can help them have an even better time in college:

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