

Discover

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CENTER **F**★**R** **POLITICS**



The Center for Politics

is a practical institution that bridges the gap between the ivory towers of academia and the real world, and in doing so, touches over a million lives each year. As such, the Center for Politics is committed to serious academic analysis as well as constructive ways to generate greater civic participation among the general public. We can't reach hundreds of thousands of citizens all on our own; our staff of fifteen relies on the help of our wonderful U.Va. student interns, generous private donors, thousands of committed primary and secondary teachers involved with our Youth Leadership Initiative across the nation, and interested citizens to make civic education and participation a vital part of our democracy.

Our inspiration comes from a likely source: Thomas Jefferson. His words guide our mission because of his dedication to civic engagement and promotion of education as the key to building and sustaining good government.

In this brochure, you will see a small sample of people the Center for Politics is proud to be associated with. You will meet Christina Valencia, a fourth-year student and superb Center intern; and Ken Stroupe, the Center's chief of staff, who conducts groundbreaking research on civic education. You'll get to know some of our financial

I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion.

Thomas Jefferson

supporters, like J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr. and Dominion Power; and some of our closest friends, Bonnie Ford of the U.Va. Alumni Association, and Werner Sensbach, the former University Architect who oversaw the Grounds for nearly thirty years. Doug Wilder, Richmond's Mayor and the first elected African-American Governor and Virgil Goode, Virginia's Fifth District Congressman, are from different political parties but share in their support for the Center for Politics. Eleanor Clift of Newsweek and Donna Brazile, a political strategist, have enhanced the Center's public programming with their participation in the American Democracy Conference.

We hope that in some small way, we have touched your life as well. Perhaps you have attended one of our national programs or have subscribed to Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball e-mail. If you have children, they have likely participated in our national Youth Leadership Initiative which is in over 16,000 schools around the country. Or perhaps you are one of Mr. Sabato's former students (there are more than 14,000 of them). In whatever way you have become acquainted with the Center, we are thankful for your interest and hope that you use the resources we offer to further stimulate your own political engagement.

Sincerely,

The Center for Politics Faculty and Staff



- **Ken Stroupe**
- *Chief of Staff and the Director of the Youth Leadership Initiative*
- Center for Politics



Ken Stroupe, Chief of Staff and the Director of the Youth Leadership Initiative at the Center for Politics, is passionate about political education and sees it as an answer to improving government. In his recent publication studying high school students across the nation he explains, “**The troubling question that that nation should ask now is whether today’s generation has been adequately prepared to meet the civic responsibilities of active engagement in a democratic society...** For all its shortcomings and imperfections, the American system of government remains a model for democracy and freedom. But as the nation witnessed in 2001, what seems a bastion of strength one day can be destroyed the next, if it is not guarded carefully.” The Youth Leadership Initiative is one method for maintaining a strong democracy and assuring that tomorrow’s leaders are prepared to guide the nation. Stroupe, the press secretary to former Virginia Governor George Allen, was recently appointed by Governor Mark Warner to a three-year term on the newly-created Virginia State Commission on Civics Education.

L. Douglas

Wilder began his political career in the Virginia General Assembly as a state Senator in 1969. He served as Lieutenant Governor in 1985, and in 1990 he became the nation's first elected African-American Governor.

Currently the Mayor of Richmond, Virginia, Doug Wilder has been an active participant in the Center for Politics' programs for many years. "The Center has been an integral institution in examining the political history of the Commonwealth. The conferences, panels and symposiums are among the most engaging in the nation. Larry Sabato and his staff at the Center continue to provide top-notch resources, research and publications for the public."

L. Douglas Wilder ■

Mayor of Richmond ■

Former Governor of Virginia ■



■ **Bill Hall**

■ *Vice President of External Affairs
and Corporate Communications*

■ Dominion



Corporate sponsors are essential to the Center for Politics, and the Center's top corporate donor is Dominion. Bill Hall, Vice President of External Affairs and Corporate Communications at Dominion, explains why they are so supportive of the Center's programs. "The Center for Politics has carved a unique niche—not only in Virginia, but in the nation. The political process can be complex, and the Center for Politics provides a great venue for the understanding of politics and the airing of political views. The Center's programs spark the interest of future governors, senators and presidents. The programs are a perfect way for all people to learn more about the political process." Hall says it is important that the community understands what Dominion does and how, and that partnering with strong non-profits helps Dominion spread its message. "It's also important that local politicians and community leaders know that Dominion is a good corporate citizen," says Hall. **"For Dominion, good business means more than dollars and cents; it's about community outreach and being a good neighbor."**

Dominion's support of the Center's programs goes beyond corporate sponsorships. The Center for Politics has been chosen by Dominion to develop an in-house Executive Political Institute. When asked why the Center was chosen Hall replied, "The Center for Politics was the logical choice for our Executive Political Institute. It was an easy choice because the Center is considered the leading authority on government and politics."

Christina Valencia, a fourth year American Political Science and Sociology major, has interned at the Center for Politics for three semesters. She was selected from a competitive pool to intern at the Center for academic credit, then stayed on as a volunteer, and this summer she was selected to receive one of the few paid internships at the Center. Christina is enthusiastic about her time at the Center. “Not only have I had a lot of fun, but I’ve learned a great deal about how politics really works. **Real world experience like this will go a long way when I apply for graduate school and enter the job market.**” Christina’s internship has focused specifically on the Center’s signature educational program, the Youth Leadership Initiative. “Working with YLI has opened my eyes to the importance of civics education. I’ve also applied the lessons I have learned at the Center to other areas of my life—like mentoring middle school girls.” Her internship, made possible through private support, afforded Christina the opportunity to gain experience that will better prepare her for law school, a career on the Hill, or whatever impressive path she decides to take.

Christina Valencia ■

Intern ■

Center for Politics ■



- **Virgil Goode**
- *U.S. Congressman*
- Virginia's Fifth District



Virgil

Goode began a distinguished career as a public servant in 1973 when, at the age of 27, he was elected to the Senate of Virginia. He served in the General Assembly until 1996 when he was elected to Congress representing the 5th District. A 1973 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Congressman Goode serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce. **“I share the goals of the Center for Politics to improve civic education and civic participation by providing quality civic education resources to hundreds of thousands of teachers and students throughout Virginia and all across the United States. I commend them for these important and worthwhile efforts,”** said Congressman Goode.

Donna Brazile is Founder and Managing Director of Brazile and Associates, LLC. She is Chair of the Democratic National Committee’s Voting Rights Institute and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University. Brazile became a household name in 2000 when she served as Campaign Manager for the Gore-Lieberman ticket—the first African-American to lead a major-party campaign for President of the United States. Her “inside the beltway” perspective has helped to make several of the Center’s conferences exciting and unique. She notes, “**The Center for Politics provides political insiders with the rare, yet important, opportunity to share their views and answer questions in a public, nonpartisan forum.** Public programs which examine political topics of the day serve not only to inform citizens on critical policy issues, but also serve to quell apathy—a leading threat to our modern democracy.”

Donna Brazile ■

Founder and Managing Director ■

Brazile and Associates, LLC ■





Youth Leadership Initiative

The Center for Politics' signature program, the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI), develops and distributes free technology-based educational resources to civics and government teachers across the country. YLI teachers say it best—in the words of Ken High at Pollard Middle School in Massachusetts, “**YLI is one of the best resources I've found for teaching about government.**” We used YLI's lesson plans extensively during the Presidential election, and the e-Congress simulation really engages students in the law-making process.” Funded by individual donors and the federal government, YLI is a one of a kind resource for teachers. Signing up is as simple as visiting the website (youthleadership.net), and comprehensive lesson plans on topics ranging from the political process to the foundations of American government are just a click away. In the very popular Mock Election, which includes national and statewide races, nearly

- Over **800,000 young people** cast over two million votes in our 2004 mock election.
 - Students all over the country wrote **5,230 pieces of original legislation** for an on-line simulation of Congress, called e-Congress.
-

one million children participated in 2004. However, the program's reach extends far beyond election season—at YLI, civics education is important all year, every year. Doreen Smith, a teacher at Colorado's Mountain Vista High School thanked us for "having the most organized and incredible on-line voting I have ever experienced as a teacher! **The students received the most benefit—I think they will remain encouraged to be a part of an exciting process—citizenship and voting.**"



- **Bonnie Ford**
- *Associate Director*
- University of Virginia Fund



To many U.Va. graduates and students, she is known as the Associate Director of the U.Va. Fund, but to the Center staff, she is simply known—and affectionately so—as Bonnie. Ms. Ford is among the most active of Center for Politics participants. She attends the Center’s Virginia Political History conference in Richmond each year, and has even been found among the hundreds of students who attend the annual Crystal Ball lecture in the chemistry auditorium. The nonpartisan, no-nonsense approach appeals to Bonnie, and promotes her interest in lifelong learning. “**Politics is important from early youth. Throughout life we all have a very strong reason to be interested in politics. We have an obligation not only to vote, but to be knowledgeable about the issues and the candidates.** It affects your daily life in every way, it is something that people have died for.” Bonnie says the best way for her to stay abreast of all things political is to be a passionate learner and participant in the Center’s programs.

On June 13, 1971, the Commonwealth of Virginia lost a Lieutenant Governor, but a ten-year-old J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr. and his siblings lost their father. At the youthful age of 34, “Sarge” Sr. died while in office of an inoperable brain tumor. He was known for many things—his commitment to bipartisanship, his political savvy, his strong stance on integration, and his terrific sense of humor. However, it was his commitment to young people and his interest in motivating them to get involved in politics that today is his most lasting trait. In fact, Larry Sabato remembers that the Lieutenant Governor knew his name and took time to speak with him whenever their paths crossed, and Sabato was only a teenager at the time. When Sarge Jr. enrolled at the University of Virginia and became one of Sabato’s students, there was a special connection. Twenty five years later, young Sarge has pledged to help the Center for Politics endow the Youth Leadership Initiative and thereby name it after his father, J. Sargeant Reynolds. “This will be a fitting tribute to an unforgettable public servant,” said Sabato.

**J. Sargeant
Reynolds, Jr.**

Principal

Reynolds Development



■ **Eleanor Clift**

■ *Contributing Editor*

■ *Newsweek*



Eleanor Clift, contributing editor for *Newsweek*, has been a regular participant in the Center for Politics American Democracy Conference.

Says Clift, “In a time of heightened skepticism about the media, **the University of Virginia Center for Politics provides a welcome forum where journalists and academics can engage in enlightened debate, and the public can be a full partner.**”

Clift has reported on the White House for decades. She is a regular panelist on *The McLaughlin Group* and appears on many national television shows, including *Nightline* and *Good Morning America*. The Center for Politics strives to provide the very best programming to the public; journalists like Eleanor Clift ensure the dialogue will be informed.

Werner

Sensbach, the University Architect from 1965 until he retired in 1991, worked with four U.Va. Presidents. When he was asked in the late 1960s whether the University should purchase the Birdwood Pavilion, Sensbach responded, “don’t ask, just buy it.” Today, this historic property is slated to become the new home for the Center for Politics, once a fundraising campaign to save the building is completed. While the structure has fallen into disrepair, Sensbach captures the beauty and potential of Birdwood in his oil paintings of the building. “At Birdwood, the Center for Politics has an opportunity to recreate the student and professorial experiences that Mr. Jefferson intended,” he explains. Standing on its spectacular Grounds, it is easy to understand why Sensbach was inspired to recall Jefferson’s words: “How sublime to look down into the workhouse of nature, to see her clouds, hail, snow, rain, thunder, all fabricated at our feet! And the glorious sun when rising as if out of a distant water, just gilding the tops of the mountains, & giving life to all nature?”

“Birdwood is lyrical and poetic,” says Sensbach, “and there is poetry in human life. Jefferson could express that poetry in architecture. And Birdwood is our last chance to preserve the emblem of Jefferson’s philosophical ideals. Architecture is a tool of education. As man learns to live in harmony with nature, so they learn to live in harmony with one another.”

Werner Sensbach ■

University of Virginia Architect ■

1965-1991 ■



■ **Larry Sabato**

■ *Director*

■ Center for Politics

■ *Robert Kent Gooch and University*

Professor of Politics



Larry

Sabato made a special gift this year in honor of his mentor, Edgar Shannon, the late President of the University. The gift reflects his dedication to Shannon, to the University and to the future of the Center for Politics. **“I believe the Center for Politics will continue to grow into a great national organization with a mission that I’m honored to be associated with forever.** This gift, an endowment where the principal is invested, is a way to provide future generations of young people with the same help and encouragement that has guided my life.” Sabato’s gift, the largest ever given by an active faculty member to U.Va., highlights his commitment to make the University the national leader in youth and adult civic education. Private support is the only way to guarantee that the Center will be able to continue its mission in the next year, decade and century. Said University President John T. Casteen, “True to form, Larry’s gift is eloquent in what it signifies. It speaks of his love of the University, his belief in the power of knowledge, and his hopes for the future of humankind.”



Our Mission

To strengthen American democracy, the Center for Politics seeks to improve civic education and increase civic participation through comprehensive research, pragmatic analysis, and innovative educational programs. Your support helps us to reach our goals:

- To promote the value of politics
- To be recognized as the leading institution on politics
- To seek and evaluate best practices in civic education
- To develop and promote classroom resources for elementary, secondary, and higher education
- To raise awareness and understanding of politics through events and publications
- To serve as a complete political resource for students, teachers, journalists, elected officials, and the general public

Giving to the Center for Politics helps to make an immediate and substantial impact on civic participation and engagement. Please join Larry J. Sabato and the staff (93% of our staff made a gift last year) by including the Center for Politics in your philanthropic plans this year. We are committed to making the gift process as convenient as possible for you—if you have any questions or need additional help, please call us at 434-982-5706.

Your gift makes an impact at the Center for Politics. For example, your gift of \$25 could send one Mock Election Classroom Kit to a school which will prepare a classroom for the activities associated with election time. \$100 could fund student research for the Crystal Ball e-mail that is distributed to thousands of students, journalists, teachers and the general public. A Founders Society gift of \$2,500 grants you membership to our premier giving society and can host a lecture, provide funds for important community outreach, or underwrite a panel discussion at the American Democracy Conference.

■ To Make a Gift By Check

You may send a check, made payable to the U.Va. Center for Politics to:
Center for Politics
University of Virginia
PO Box 400806
Charlottesville, VA 22904

■ By Credit Card

Please call the Center's Development Office for a secure transfer of your credit card information at 434-982-5706

■ Make an Online Pledge

Pledge at www.centerforpolitics.org and pay when it is convenient

■ Matching Gifts

Does your employer match gifts? To check, visit us on-line at www.matchinggifts.com/uva/

■ Discuss Giving Options with a Gift Officer:

Call the Center for Politics Development Office at 434-982-5706 to inquire about stock gifts, electronic transfers from your bank account, planned gifts or gifts-in-kind

The Founders Society

The Founders Society is the Center for Politics donor society, honoring the leadership and direction of our most generous benefactors. Founders Society members are individuals who have given \$2,500 or more each fiscal year to the Center for Politics. Their gifts benefit every operational area of the Center—from the Youth Leadership Initiative, to the free and innovative political Crystal Ball. Gifts qualifying donors for membership in the society include:

- Cash, including matching gifts from donor's employer
- Securities or other appreciated assets
- Estate gifts such as: gifts in trust, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance policies, bequests, and retirement plans
- Gifts made by family members from family foundations
- Gifts-in-kind

Endowment Gifts

To ensure the long-term success of the Center, the top funding priority is to build an endowment that will permanently fund our programs, particularly the Youth Leadership Initiative which reaches over a million school children annually. Named endowments begin at \$50,000. Our endowment goal is \$20 million, which will provide essential foundational funding for the Center.

Giving Opportunities to Benefit Women

The comparatively low percentage of women in politics has stimulated a new funding priority. Internship funding for female students will encourage more women to get involved in politics during their academic development. The internships give real world experience in politics, a particularly important opportunity for female students considering career choices. Donors may endow a named prize that recognizes and awards the most deserving female intern of the year. The prize, which will average \$2,500 per year, will support women at the Center in perpetuity. Named prize endowments begin at \$50,000.



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