What was the single most important factor in the Republican Congressional victories last November? George W. Bush. His whirlwind campaign tour of key battleground states during the last two weeks before the election ended up reaping rich rewards for his party, which gained seats in both the House and the Senate and maintained control of state governorships.

Midterm Madness
The Elections of 2002
(ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD, SPRING 2003)
BY LARRY J. SABATO

What was the single most important factor in the Republican Congressional victories last November? George W. Bush. His whirlwind campaign tour of key battleground states during the last two weeks before the election ended up reaping rich rewards for his party, which gained seats in both the House and the Senate and maintained control of state governorships. Midterm Madness features a comprehensive analysis of 20 key races and insightful commentary by some of the country’s top political scholars and journalists.

IT WAS EIGHTY-THREE DEGREES AND SUNNY at Aiea Intermediate School on the island of Oahu; eleven degrees and snowing at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks, Alaska; seventy-one degrees and raining at Wakulla Middle School in Crawfordville, Florida; and thirty-four degrees and cloudy at Troy Central High School in Troy, Maine.

A variety of weather conditions prevailed across the nation as polls closed November 1, 2002 on the Youth Leadership Initiative’s first national Mock Election. At the end of the ten-day voting period, 68,578 elementary, middle and high school students had cast ballots, resulting in the largest secure online Mock Election in the nation.

In just four short years, the YLI program has expanded from a pilot project in 14 central Virginia schools to a national civic education program with more than 2,000 participating schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"The Youth Leadership Initiative is growing at a very successful rate," noted YLI director Ken Stroupe. "This year is an important building year..."

IN BOOKSTORES SOON

Youth Leadership Initiative Expands Nationwide

STUDENTS “ELECT” REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN U.S. SENATE

IN BOOKSTORES SOON

Youth Leadership Initiative
Expands Nationwide
STUDENTS “ELECT” REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN U.S. SENATE

CONTINUED
How right were they?
A review of the results may be as surprising to you as they were unexpected for us.

 SENATE
Of 34 Senate races, results of the YLI Mock Election matched the general election results in 29 races including Louisiana, where students supported Mary Landrieu by 59% and Minnesota where Norm Coleman narrowly defeated Walter Mondale.

 GOVERNOR
Of 56 gubernatorial races, results of the YLI Mock Election matched the general election results in 27 races including California, where Democratic candidate Gray Davis coasted to an easy victory against five other opponents; Georgia where 53% of students voted for Republican gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue; and Maryland where Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was soundly defeated by Republican Robert Ehrlich.

 WASHINGTON DC
Mayor Anthony Williams was supported by a majority of students to retain his seat and Eleanor Holmes Norton was re-elected as Delegate to the United States House of Representatives.

 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
For all congressional race results, log on to the YLI website at www.youthleadership.net.

for the program and sets the stage for a very exciting presidential election year in 2004.”

Over a ten-day period from October 21 through November 1, 2002, students voted online at www.youthleadership.net using either secure electronic cyber-ballots or by verified paper ballots. All ballots nationwide included races for the U.S. House of Representatives; others featured races for U.S. Senator and/or governor, depending on each state’s respective election cycle.

When the ballot development process was complete, YLI had provided nearly 500 different ballot styles in every Congressional District in the nation, with some districts having multiple ballot styles due to local races and/or ballot referenda.

Thanks also to the excellent resources provided by the National League of Women Voters DemocracyNet (DNet) website, students were able to research the specific policy positions of all candidates on their ballots prior to voting. The DemocracyNet is a state-of-the-art interactive website designed to improve the quality and quantity of voter information and create a more educated and involved electorate.

Many reporters documented the enthusiastic participation of YLI students nationwide. The Post Register in Boise, Idaho, covered the YLI Mock Election at Skyline High School in Boise, Idaho writing, “posters detailing such things as district boundaries and sample ballots were taped to the walls...with nary a blank space in the place.” The Daily Progress in Charlottesville, Virginia, interviewed several participating students at Burley Middle School noting that, “public affairs and voting took center stage this week as local students, as well as many across the nation, voted in the YLI Mock Election.”

Speaking to a reporter on the importance of the YLI program for her school, YLI faculty sponsor Suzanne Janss at Burns Middle School near Tampa, Florida, said that she felt “especially pressed” to teach students how to vote. “We [Floridians] have been embarrassed in the news,” said Janss. “It’s important to teach these kids about politics.”

The YLI Mock Election is not a scientific survey and is not designed to be predictive, nevertheless, reporters across the country could not resist the temptation to point to the mock election results as a possible foreshadowing of things to come in the 2002 general election. Just days before Election Day, the nationally syndicated Gannett News Service reported on Mock Election results saying, “Students Would
The Center’s Youth Leadership Initiative has released *A More Perfect Union*, a CD-ROM game that utilizes cutting-edge technology and offers unprecedented means by which students can learn about American politics. The interactive game allows the user to run a Senate campaign in the fictitious state of Franklin. The player chooses among four potential candidates of various backgrounds and ideologies, and controls every aspect of the campaign including message development, campaign advertisements and polling strategies. The game also includes other educational features including a liberal-conservative test and a political trivia quiz. The game has been integrated with YLI lessons and has been used in over 4,000 schools across the country.

For more information or to purchase your copy, please visit www.centerforpolitics.org.
TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES. Things cook faster. Money is made and, of late, lost faster. Even politics happens faster.

From the first day, the Center for Politics has been committed to employing the latest technologies to advance our goal of increased political education and participation. Now, as we celebrate our five-year anniversary, the Center has truly come of age in this regard. Technology has become a primary medium for the expression of our mission.

The Center’s website (www.centerforpolitics.org) continues to provide resources for the political enthusiast. Visitors can read transcripts or watch streaming video of Center events, download one of the Center’s many studies, or keep an eye on our upcoming projects. (In fact, many of you are probably reading this article on our website.) These are all features one would ordinarily expect to find on a non-profit internet site. It’s the rest of what you will see on the CFP website that is extraordinary.

Sabato's Crystal Ball
The Crystal Ball took the political world by storm in its Fall 2002 debut. When all the dust settled, it was apparent that the site was well deserving of the attention it received. The Crystal Ball prognostications matched the real Election Day results in 52 of 54 Senate races, 52 of 56 gubernatorial contests and 453 of 455 House elections. But the most amazing thing about the Crystal Ball is not the accuracy of the picks. The secret to its success is its ability to go beyond predictions, the in-depth coverage it provides of the important contests all across the country. This year, it served up one-stop shopping for anyone looking to get a handle on the midterm madness – detailed descriptions of the candidates, expert analysis of each district’s idiosyncrasies and climate, and a fun, user-friendly style. After unveiling this first-class product, we learned that cream rises, and fast. Within a few days, the Crystal Ball was bombarded with visitors and media attention. During the election season, over 160,000 people visited the Crystal Ball, from all across the United States and from 53 other nations. This loyal fan base is only increasing as the Crystal Ball rolls on this spring to focus on the elections in 2004, 2006, 2008 and beyond. Best of all, many of the visits to this free internet resource are by students and teachers drawn to the innovative Crystal Ball Classroom.

Youth Leadership Initiative Website
Speaking of students and teachers, the Center’s most rewarding use of technology comes in the myriad of resources available to young people and educators via the Youth Leadership Initiative website. The Youth Leadership Initiative has gone from a pilot project in a few Virginia counties in 1999 to a major movement in the national effort to invigorate the civic spirit of our young people. Hundreds of thousands of students and teachers in all fifty states participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative. This growth has been made possible by technology. That’s what’s so ground-breaking about YLI; it literally could not have existed ten years ago. We have employed the boom in technology and the increased access in America’s schools to teach young people how to get involved in their political process. YLI has sponsored the largest internet mock election in history. Teachers have online access to hundreds of innovative lesson plans specifically catered to their state’s standards. Thousands of students across the country participating in YLI’s e-Congress interact with each other over the information super highway – proposing “bills”, debating their merits in “committee”, voting them into “law”, and, all the while, learning about how our top legislative body operates. The YLI website has become a virtual cauldron of youth civic engagement.

A More Perfect Union
Another way we are using technology to advance our mission comes in the form of an innovative educational CD-ROM we have developed as part of the Youth Leadership...
Youth e-Congress 2002

WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON, students step into the national youth e-Congress, an on-line virtual legislature designed to jump-start democratic participation among students by breathing life into the legislative process. The e-Congress is hosted by the Center for Politics’ Youth Leadership Initiative. Classrooms from across the country are joined via the Web to participate in a new genre of mock policy-making.

“It is ‘how a bill becomes a law’ taken to the next level,” Youth Leadership Initiative Director of Instruction Angela Stokes said. “It’s an innovative way to teach kids about the value of being involved in the political process, while showing them it can be fun.”

The Youth Leadership Initiative weaves technology into educational exercises that capture the attention of students and provide them with an interactive, hands-on educational experience aiming to leave an impression that will last a lifetime.

Through the exercise, students will research, draft, debate and vote on legislation that they and their peers across the country create. The students are linked to one another and have an opportunity to be in touch with real-world legislators and legislative experts, culminating in a final vote cast on the virtual House Floor. All of the YLI projects, including the e-Congress, are available free for teachers and schools who register on-line. For more information about the e-Congress and the Youth Leadership Initiative, visit on-line at www.youthleadership.net or call toll free 1-866-514-8589.

A More Perfect Union makes learning about politics as easy as slipping a disc into your computer’s CD drive. The activities are designed to teach students about the process, but we’ve found that it appeals to people of all ages. Users can test their knowledge with a political trivia game. They can see where they stand on the issues with an ideology quiz. And, most notably, players can see what it’s like to run a political campaign. Serving as the manager of a simulated U.S. Senate campaign in the fictitious state of Franklin, you control every aspect of the modern campaign – buying and scheduling advertising, establishing a fundraising strategy, ordering polls and adapting to demographics, scheduling your candidate, and dealing with ethical dilemmas. Even experienced politicians and political operatives enjoy playing this game. But the real goal is to demystify politics for our youngest citizens. A More Perfect Union uses an engaging format, with which young people are most comfortable, to help them understand our democratic process. Most of the time, they don’t even realize they are learning.

The hustle and bustle of the modern world makes it difficult sometimes to remember that technologies are designed make life easier. I encourage you to take a moment to pause and think about all the positive things technology is enabling. We at the Center for Politics are proud to be the source of a few of them. Is that your cell phone, or mine? ★
H. BENSON DENDY, III DESCRIBES FORMER GOVERNOR JERRY BALILES as someone who “knew how to get the job done and he believed that government could work and he made it work for Virginia’s people.” This is just one of many thoughts and reflections of former governor Gerald L. Baliles shared by friends, family, and colleagues at the 2002 Virginia Governors Conference. The Conference was held July 18th and 19th at the Boar’s Head Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia, and was co-sponsored by the Center for Politics and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. The Baliles Conference highlighted the administration’s effort to improve the Commonwealth by confronting issues ranging from transportation infrastructure to educational advances at all levels.

Starting out as a young lawyer in 1975, Jerry Baliles challenged the incumbent, Howard Carwile, for the Richmond House of Delegates seat. This victory helped him earn the description “boldly cautious” that was given to him by journalist Jeff Schapiro. This would follow him all the way to the governor’s seat. In 1981 Baliles managed to upset a seasoned veteran to become Attorney General. In 1985, Baliles seized the Democratic nomination and subsequently the governor’s seat.

The conference began with remarks from Center for Politics director Larry Sabato, who acknowledged the visions and goals of the Baliles administration and its ability to deliver results. The first panel, entitled “The Pre-Gubernatorial Years,” focused on Baliles’ emergence in the House of Delegates and then his transition to the office of the Attorney General. The second panel, “Trade and Economic Development,” included more of Baliles’ associates, all of whom stressed the importance of economic development throughout their work with the administration. Curry Roberts was quick to point out that between the years of 1986 and 1990 “$100 million was committed to new housing initiatives.” The next panel, “Transportation,” reflected on state funding for various construction projects and other items relating to public transportation.

The panels were followed by a reception, during which law partner and long-time friend of the governor, Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., provided some comic relief as he critiqued the picture that was used for Baliles’ portrait. Following an introduction by his former secretary of health and human services Eva Teig Hardy, Governor Baliles spoke to the audience and paid tribute to everyone for their commitment to excellence throughout his political career. He then addressed the growth of the Commonwealth through globalization, rapid communications, and advancing technologies.

The evening concluded with an after-dinner program during which Jerry Baliles, Larry Sabato, and others gathered for an informal session, “The Baliles Years, Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor”. The governor and others took this opportunity to share some of their personal memories of the administration.

“Sometimes I think public officials are more focused on tactics than strategy and that poses a problem. For tactics without strategy is like motion without a direction, and the challenge for Virginia is to now move forward again.”

—GERALD L. BALILES
FORMER GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA, 1986-1990
The second day began with a panel highlighting the educational impact of the Baliles administration on K-12 students. Former president of the State Board of Education Suzanne Thomas commented on Baliles’ leadership and support of the Commission on Excellence in Education and how his efforts propelled the document. The final panel of the conference, “Health and Human Resources,” looked at topics such as the mental health budget, hospital reaccreditations, and child care services.

Baliles and other conference participants will appear in the corresponding annual documentary “No Higher Honor,” now in production by WHTJ Charlottesville PBS. The documentary, which will air in June of 2003, will cover Baliles’ legacy and political career. Transcripts of the conference, as well as photos and a 2-hour video highlight tape, are available at www.centerforpolitics.org/programs/govcon.

Baliles addressed the growth of the Commonwealth through globalization, rapid communications, and advancing technologies.
ON THE HEELS OF THE 2002 MIDTERM ELECTIONS, the University of Virginia Center for Politics and The Hotline co-hosted the fifth annual American Democracy Conference on Thursday, December 12, 2002. The conference, which was held at The Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., looked back on the November 2002 elections and ahead to the 2004 presidential election cycle. Whereas elected officials are often constrained in their ability to “tell it like it is,” the Center for Politics and The Hotline seek to bring together the biggest and best behind-the-scenes names in politics to engage in a candid, no-holds-barred discussion of the current political landscape. This year’s conference was broadcast live on C-SPAN and was replayed on their website and on air repeatedly in the following weeks.

With the help of key political insiders and media consultants, the conference started off with an in-depth look at the campaign techniques from the 2002 midterm elections in a panel moderated by the Center’s director, Larry J. Sabato. Sabato started the panel by presenting his “Midterm Map of America,” a map of the country with each state distorted to represent its real significance in the 2002 election.

“It’s a map dominated by four states—Minnesota, Iowa, Texas and Georgia. The map is distorted because of the dramatic lack of competition this year,” Sabato said. “I think we misrepresent the election when we present it as a national election. It’s partly a national election, but it’s mainly a state and local election.”

The panel included media consultants as well as representatives from congressional campaign committees on both sides of the political aisle.

“To a large degree November 5 was a referendum on President George W. Bush…and the President won,” said Alex Castellanos, a Republican media consultant and president of National Media, Inc. Ken Mehlman, White House deputy assistant to the President and director of political affairs, delivered a captivating keynote address on how President Bush and the Republicans were able to maintain control of the governorships, as well as gain seats and take control of both houses of Congress. Mehlman argued this was partly on account of the quality of the candi-
Matt Smyth

AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR of the Center for Politics, Larry J. Sabato, Matt Smyth has one of the most important responsibilities at the Center. While the core area of his duties consist of helping Sabato with his numerous projects and presentations, Smyth also heads the Center's internship program, the largest such program at U.Va. As part of these duties, Smyth oversees the Center's internship course, one that attracts over a dozen University students each fall. Additionally, this past fall Smyth helped develop and manage Sabato’s Crystal Ball website, which provided free, comprehensive analysis of the 2002 midterm elections.

Smyth's work at the Center has been just one of many opportunities he has had to remain at the University after earning his B.A. in Foreign Affairs in 1998. As a student, he was a counselor for the University Judiciary Committee, served on the Intramural Advisory Council, and played on the club tennis team. Since graduation, Smyth has been employed by the University in a variety of roles: first as assistant director for informal recreation with the Intramural–Recreational Sports Department and most recently with Conference Services as program director for external services.

Craig T. Smith, a political adviser to Lieberman, discussed the importance of fundraising, even this early in the election cycle. He mentioned the concept of a “money primary” in which the candidate who is able to raise the most money will win the nomination, even before an actual primary.

“Historically in the Democratic Party, the candidate who has ended the year before the presidential primaries having raised the most money—not necessarily having the most in the bank—goes on to win the nomination,” Smith said. Bush will likely have an enormous sum of money to work with, which means the Democratic Party will be at a serious disadvantage, he added.

Next year’s American Democracy Conference, which will take place in December of 2005, will analyze the results of the Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi gubernatorial contests and discuss what will surely be a horserace for the 2004 presidential election.
Sabato Five–O!

ON OCTOBER 19, THE CENTER FOR POLITICS, with the help of friends, colleagues and political leaders from across the commonwealth, held “Sabato Five–O,” a fundraising event celebrating the 50th birthday of Larry J. Sabato, the Center’s founder and director. Held at the Richmond Marriot, the event raised over $160,000 for the Center for Politics and brought together many top Virginia politicians, including the five top statewide officials. U.S. Senators George Allen and John Warner, Governor Mark Warner, Lieutenant Governor Tim Kaine, and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore all provided laughs for the audience as they roasted Sabato on this special occasion. Former Governor L. Douglas Wilder served as the event’s master of ceremonies.

Some of the more humorous moments of the evening included:

SENATOR GEORGE ALLEN: “If you hurt your back and couldn’t make it to class, but can make it the satellite station for ‘Newshour with Jim Lehrer,’ you might be a lot like Larry Sabato.”

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TIM KAINE: “U.Va., as part of their plan to submit to the government, could have cut two-thirds of the 15 percent simply by curtailing [Professor Sabato’s] long-distance phone calls to reporters.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL JERRY KILGORE: “He stares at the TV cameras so much, that when he opens his refrigerator at night, he speaks for three minutes.”

GOVERNOR MARK WARNER: “Larry, do you require students to buy your own textbooks to line your own pockets or because nobody else will?”

SENATOR JOHN WARNER, referencing the infamous line from The Godfather: “I’m going to make you an offer you can’t refuse.” That is how I felt about the invitation you sent me [for this event].”

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS WILDER: “What is funnier than seeing Larry Sabato trying to be funny?”

BOB GORELL, editorial cartoonist for America Online News, called Larry Sabato the “Pez dispenser of sound bites,” and presented him with his own 50th birthday portrait as well as several other cartoons made especially for the occasion.

Professor Sabato also received video birthday wishes from members of Fox News’ “Beltway Boys,” James Carville and Tucker Carlson of CNN’s “Crossfire,” members of CNN’s “Capitol Gang,” Fox News’ Brit Hume, and NBC’s “Today Show” co-host Katie Couric. Sabato said initially he wasn’t looking forward to being ridiculed by the top Virginia elected officials, but said he bit the bullet for the good of the Center. “After all, I get to criticize these guys every other day of the year. I figured one day out of 365 isn’t so bad!” Sabato said after the event.
Center Launches Sabato’s Crystal Ball

WEBSITE ANALYZES 2002 AND 2004 ELECTIONS
WWW.CENTERFORPOLITICS.ORG/CRYSTALBALL

HAILED BY JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL INSIDERS as “indispensable” and a “must-read” site, Sabato’s Crystal Ball is the latest publication from the Center for Politics. The Crystal Ball website, launched just after Labor Day 2002, is a comprehensive elections forecast and analysis website.

Throughout the fall, Larry J. Sabato, the Center’s director and one of the nation’s top political analysts, published his weekly election predictions on the Crystal Ball.

The website is provided as a free public service to help increase public awareness of national politics. Starting from literally nowhere, the site has quickly grown into one of the top election analysis resources on the web. Last fall the CB tracked every gubernatorial and Senate race, and also made predictions on each of the “Nifty 50” most competitive House races in the country.

For the 2002 election cycle, the site produced some of the most accurate election predictions and analysis in the business, correctly forecasting 99% of House races, 94% of Senate races and 88% of gubernatorial contests. Building off this outstanding record for the 2002 races, the CB is gearing up for the 2003 and 2004 election cycles, and has already posted preliminary analysis for these future elections.

But the Crystal Ball was created as much for students as for political junkies; as such, there are a slew of resources for academics and educators. The CB Classroom includes a “tips and suggestions” section for students researching political campaigns. In order to help teachers bring the CB to students, the Center’s Youth Leadership Initiative created several lesson plans that complement the Crystal Ball. The CB also has various charts, maps and essays on topics ranging from the history of midterm elections to an analysis of Congressional seniority.

Be sure to check it out, but remember: as Larry Sabato is fond of saying, “He who lives by the crystal ball ends up eating ground glass!”

★

The critically acclaimed Crystal Ball website is gearing up for the 2003 and 2004 election cycles, and has already posted preliminary analysis for these future elections.
Facing America’s Political Challenges

THROUGH THE EXCITING NEW AMERICAN POLITICAL CHALLENGES series with Rowman and Littlefield publishers, Larry J. Sabato and the Center for Politics tap leading political authors to write cogent diagnoses and prescriptions for improving both politics and government. The books are short, to the point, and easy to understand (if difficult to implement against the political grain). They take a stand and show how to overcome obstacles to change and allow readers to grasp the breadth of the challenges that face our political system. The first three books of the series will be released in 2005.

Chesapeake Bay Blues: Science, Politics, and the Struggle to Save the Bay
Howard R. Ernst, professor at the U.S. Naval Academy

The Presidential Nominating Process: A Place for Us?
Rhodes Cook, independent political analyst and author

The Pursuit of Happiness (in the Time of War)
Carl M. Cannon, White House correspondent for National Journal

Danelia Robinson

AS THE OFFICE MANAGER for a constantly growing office, Danelia Robinson serves many very important functions for the Center for Politics. Since 2000, Robinson has worked at the Center, maintaining the financial records and serving as administrative support for the staff. Very well organized and hard working, her duties range from organizing the Center’s office space to ensuring compliance with the State and University policies regarding purchases.

Prior to coming to the Center for Politics, Robinson was employed by the University for several years as a Services Specialist and Fiscal Technician, in Occupational Therapy, Accounting Operations, and the Department of Biochemistry in the Medical School. Additionally, she was a freelance court reporter and also the official court reporter in the county seat of Lebanon, Ohio. Robinson also worked in the Consumer Protection and Tort Claims divisions of the Iowa Attorney General’s Office prior to moving to the East Coast. She has had a children’s story published in Message Magazine, and enjoys crocheting, swimming, and working towards her teaching certificate.
Although the story of the Birdwood property began four years before the birth of Mr. Jefferson, its course through history became unmistakably interwoven with the Jeffersonian legacy. To stand in front of Birdwood and to walk through the colonnade and into the entrance hall is to step into Virginia history. In 1819, William Garth built the present brick residence, using some of the same craftsmen that Mr. Jefferson used to work on the University. The Palladian portico and balcony over the front door are distinctly Jeffersonian features. Cornelius Middleton, a distinguished engineer, was Birdwood’s last private owner and his estate completed the sale of Birdwood to the University in 1974.

Today, Birdwood stands ready to regain its former grandeur as the home for the Center for Politics. Birdwood, built in 1819, has not been occupied since 1996 and is in desperate need of complete renovation. When completed, it will provide ample space for conferences, visiting scholars, and staff – not just for the Center for Politics – but for the entire University.

The estimated project budget for the renovation is $8 million and is the centerpiece of the Center’s current fundraising efforts. Birdwood, a stately mansion surrounded by 20 acres of gardens, is located just beyond the grounds of the University. Sitting on a small knoll with extensive views of the Ragged Mountains, Birdwood is itself a reminder of an age characterized by widespread public enthusiasm for the political processes of our nation. As such, it makes a fitting home for the Center.

For more information about Birdwood, please contact Doug Trout, director of development, at trout@virginia.edu or 434-243-8470.
THE CENTER FOR POLITICS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES all donors for their continued support of the Center’s mission and programs. The following gifts were received between May 18, 2002 and December 31, 2002.

If you would like to contribute to the Center for Politics, please complete and return the enclosed pledge card. You may also make a pledge online at www.centerforpolitics.org. All donations to the Center are fully tax deductible. For more information on giving to the Center, please contact our director of development, Doug Trout, at (434) 245-8470.

Inspired by Thomas Jefferson's dedication to politics, our giving levels represent the different stages of Mr. Jefferson’s career.

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**SUPPORT**

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**EDITOR** Rakesh Gopalan

**DESIGNER** Anne Matthews, Image Creations Graphic Design

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