



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Shelby Taylor, Communications Director
Bob Graham Center for Public Service
P: 352-273-1086 | E: sheladk9@ufl.edu

TJ Pyche, Director of Outreach
Alachua County Supervisor of Elections
P: 352-275-9404 | E: tjpyche@alachuacounty.us

April 5, 2018

UF's Bob Graham Center for Public Service, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections to host joint voter registration drive with UF President Kent Fuchs

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — In an effort to promote student voter registration and electoral participation, the University of Florida's Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections will host a joint voter registration drive from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on April 9 at the North Lawn of the J. Wayne Reitz Union.

University of Florida President Kent Fuchs and Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim A. Barton will be on site helping students to navigate the voter registration process, as well as handing out cookies and information about the upcoming elections.

"My office is excited to partner with the Bob Graham Center for Public Service and President Fuchs to make sure that students are registered to vote and aware of upcoming elections," Barton said.

In 2016, UF students' turnout rate outperformed peers at other public research institutions 64.2 percent to 51.9 percent, respectively. In total, nearly 5,000 more UF students voted in 2016 than in 2012, and UF saw the number of students registered to vote increase by more than 4,000

during that same time period.

“The groundswell of electoral participation we have seen at the University of Florida is the result of concerted efforts to engage our student body in the democratic process,” said David Colburn, Ph.D., director of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. “The center’s commitment to civic engagement coupled with the university’s great relationship with the local Supervisor of Elections has had a tremendous impact on our campus.”

The voter registration event will be the first in a series of campus voter registration activities leading up to the 2018 midterm elections.