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Statement of Mission

The Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE) is a national non-profit organization founded and run by students. Our mission is simple: to increase youth voter turnout by removing access barriers and promoting stronger civic education. SAVE's work is largely chapter based with over 30 chapters on the campuses of colleges and universities in more than 15 states including Ohio, Virginia, New Mexico, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, Indiana and Maryland. A full list of chapters is available upon request.

The mission of our chapters is to work towards greater young voter empowerment in a number of ways. Our chapters:

- work with college administrators to institutionalize voter registration,
- host debates, discussions, and town hall forums centered on electoral awareness,
- coordinate grassroots efforts to reform elections,
- lead voter registration programs in local high schools,
- disseminate voting information and resources on voting procedure,
- and collaborate with national and regional press outlets to bring young voters to the forefront in the media.

By arming young people with the knowledge to navigate the political process via a commitment to dialogue, issues awareness, and interaction with local government, we seek to create a foundation for life-long participation in the democratic system. Thus, SAVE is unique not only because it is student-led, but also because it focuses on a strong education-based curriculum in order to supplement traditional GOTV efforts. SAVE also devotes significant time to exploring possible reforms to the American electoral process in response to the variety of cultural and institutional obstacles that too often stand in the way of truly democratic governance.

Accomplishments

Since June of 2007, SAVE has been able to do a tremendous amount of work with a limited budget of under \$50,000. Our accomplishments include:

- Building over 30 college chapters in more than 15 states
- Recruiting more than 10,000 student members



- Conceiving of, and successfully advocating for the introduction of numerous pieces of federal legislation to empower young voters such as the Student VOTER Act of 2008.
- Testifying before Congress (in both the House Judiciary and Administration Committees) on behalf of the student voting population in the United States
- Designing and Lobbying a Congressional resolution to make the last week in September “National Voter Awareness Week”
- Leading national election protection efforts on behalf of 20 other non-profit organizations, signing onto the Crawford v. Marion Supreme Court amicus brief.
- Forming strategic partnerships with the United States Student Association, the Student PIRGS and HeadCount to register 25,000 voters and protect student voting rights.
- Launching a national student voter hotline for young citizens to report voting concerns and testimony
- Holding over a dozen press events on youth vote trends with featured guests such as Joe Scarborough, Thomas Friedman, Judy Woodruff, Norman Mineta, Eleanor Clift, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Mike McCurry and David Broder.
- Hosting national town hall forums with 2008 presidential candidates, U.S. Senators Joe Biden and John Edwards.
- Directing numerous higher-ed meetings on civic education with the goal of promoting a college presidents pledge to increase student voter turnout that 13 university presidents have currently signed.
- Appearing in dozens of leading newspapers and TV outlets

Most recently, on July 31st, 2008, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. House members Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Steven LaTourette (R-OH), introduced companion versions of the Student Voter Opportunity to Encourage Registration (VOTER) Act of 2008 which would:

- Require all universities that receive federal funds to offer voter registration to students at the same time they register for classes.
- Amend the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA or “motor voter act”), which Congress passed in 1994 and which requires state and local governments to offer voter registration to citizens when they obtain a driver’s license or public assistance benefits. The student voter bill would designate universities that receive federal funds as “voter registration agencies” for purposes of the NVRA.

SAVE worked closely with Senator Durbin and Representatives Schakowsky and LaTourette to author the Student VOTER Act and advocate bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress to begin a national dialogue about young voters before the 2008 election. With our joint efforts, we hope to continue to push this legislation towards becoming a reality through 2009 and winning more accessible student voting rights across the country.

On September 24, 2008, SAVE hosted a press conference with members of the Democratic leadership, specifically Leader Steny Hoyer and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn.



Several other members of congress attended, including Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Congressman Tim Ryan, Congressman Kendrick Meek, Congressman and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The event focused solely on accessibility for young voters and their role in the 2008 election. Each member focused on a different aspect of voting rights, ranging from voter identification to vote suppression.

On September 25, 2008, the Committee on House Administration held a hearing, "Ensuring the Right of Students to Vote," which SAVE tirelessly insisted upon over the course of several months. Two representatives from SAVE testified, Executive Director Matthew Segal and University of Pennsylvania student Lauren Burdette. In addition, Congresswoman Schakowsky testified on the merits of the Student VOTER Act. The hearing represented increased recognition in Congress on the barriers young voters face, largely a result of SAVE's presence in the Capitol.

Media & Communications

SAVE has received a broad range of media coverage in nearly 100 different outlets since its founding in the summer of 2007. SAVE has been highlighted on the following television and radio networks:

- *CNN Newsroom, CNN*
- *Fox & Friends, Fox News Channel*
- *The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC*
- *The Today Show on NBC*
- *C-SPAN*
- *Al-Jazeera English*
- *Voices of America*
- *XM Satellite Radio*
- *Discovery Channel*
- *Air America Radio*
- *Nova M Radio*
- *Sirius Radio*

In print, SAVE has been featured by national and local publications including, but not limited to, the:

- *Associated Press*
- *USA Today*
- *Washington Post*
- *U.S. News and World Report*
- *Time Magazine*
- *The Nation*
- *American Prospect*
- *Politico*
- *Chronicle for Higher Education*



- *Inside Higher Ed*
 - Local: *Chicago Tribune, Columbus Dispatch, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Akron Beacon Journal, Press of Atlantic City, Palm Beach Post, Iowa Press Citizen, Pioneer Press.*
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Appendices:

Key Staff & Board

Board of Directors

- The Honorable Jeri Thomson, Former Secretary of the United States Senate
- The Honorable Lee Hamilton, Former United States Congressman (IN-9)
- The Honorable Malcolm Wallop, Former United States Senator (WY)
- The Honorable Matthew McHugh, Former United States Congressman (NY, 28)
- Eleanor Clift, Editor, Newsweek Magazine; Political Contributor, MSNBC
- The Honorable Sharon Pratt, Former Mayor (District of Columbia)
- Beatrice Cumming Mayer, Trustee, Sarah Lee Corporation
- Wendy Abrams, Founder, Cool Globes Project
- Nancy Grant

Matthew Segal, Executive Director

Matthew Segal is a 2008 graduate of Kenyon College and the founder and executive director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE). A national non-profit organization with over 10,000 members and chapters on over 30 college campuses throughout the country, SAVE's mission is to increase youth voter turnout by removing access barriers and promoting stronger civic education. Segal, 23, has significant experience with young voters, testifying on multiple occasions before the U.S. Congress about voting problems in college districts. He has stood with U.S. senators and members of Congress leading a lobbying effort of more than 1,000 students for the Voting Rights Act reauthorization. He was appointed a senior research fellow and national democracy coordinator for the Roosevelt Institution, a 7,000-member national student think tank. He is a leader on Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner's Voting Rights Advisory Council. He guides regular workshops and panels on youth-voter mobilization and voter-participation trends. He also contributes a blog to The Huffington Post. Matthew has appeared on CNN Newsroom, Fox and Friends, The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC, The Today Show on NBC and has been quoted extensively by the Associated Press, The USA Today, The Washington Post, Politico, the U.S. News and World Report, The Columbus Dispatch, The Nation, and the Chronicle for Higher Education among several other newspapers.

Anna Salzberg, Director of Operations

Anna Salzberg is a senior at Kenyon College, and is a founding member and the Director of Operations at SAVE. She is also a junior associate at the Kenyon Review and is an honors English major.



Bobby Campbell, Director of Policy and Programs

Bobby Campbell is a graduate of Colgate University ('08) and a founding member of SAVE. Bobby played a central role in the development of the organization's mission, model, and structure. His government experience began as an intern at the Treasury Department's Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture, where he worked with the strategic planning and policy staff.

Molly Masenga, Legislative Director

Molly Masenga began working with SAVE as Legislative Director in 2008. She is a senior at Georgetown University, majoring in Classics with the intent of attending Law School. Molly has worked with Anschutz Entertainment Group in Los Angeles as well as the Warner Music Group in New York.

Chapter Roster

- The American University (Washington, D.C.)
- Boston College (Boston, Massachusetts)
- Colgate University (Hamilton, New York)
- Eastern New Mexico University (Portales, New Mexico)
- Georgetown College (Washington, D.C.)
- Graceland University (Independence, Missouri)
- Haverford College (Haverford, Pennsylvania)
- Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana)
- Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio)
- Loyola College (Chicago, Illinois)
- Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
- Northwood University (Midland, Michigan)
- Oberlin College (Oberlin, Ohio)
- Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio)
- Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana)
- St. Lawrence University (Canton, New York)
- Syracuse University (Syracuse, New York)
- Temple University (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- Tennessee State University (Nashville, Tennessee)
- Towson University (Baltimore, Maryland)
- Truman State University (Kirksville, Missouri)
- University of Iowa (Iowa City, Iowa)
- University of Montana (Missoula, Montana)
- University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- University of South Carolina (Columbia, South Carolina)
- University of Western Michigan (Kalamazoo, Michigan)
- University of Wisconsin (Madison, Wisconsin)
- Washington University (St. Louis, Missouri)
- Western Washington University (Bellingham, Washington)
- William & Mary (Williamsburg, Virginia)