Recommendations To Expand Voting Rights And Accessibility
The University of Florida

Overview:
Politicians in the state of Florida restricted voting in recent years, making voter registration and accessibility more challenging. Thousands of students on the University of Florida campus are first-time voters, and must either be registered to vote or be educated on the procedures of voting. This project will center on a policy conference at the university, which will engage students on legislative solutions to the complications of voting.

Events/Initiatives:

1. **Policy Conference**- Primarily our project will be centered on a policy conference hosted by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. Students from Floridian colleges and universities will spend one weekend drafting legislative solutions to the restrictions to voting.

2. **Lobbying in Tallahassee**- After the conference, a group of students from the policy conference will meet with Florida legislators in Tallahassee to discuss their proposed initiatives. These students be representative of Florida’s universities and colleges, and will not exclusively come from the University of Florida.

3. **Collaboration with Student Government**- The University of Florida Student Government, in collaboration with the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, sponsors a program called TurboVote, which disperses information about voting online. Although this program exists, many students do not use it. We would encourage Student Government to promote it more heavily through emails and flyers.

Major Measurable Goals:

1. **Policy Proposals from the Policy Conference**- The largest goal from the University of Florida’s conference is to draft a policy proposal for voter expansion within Floridian colleges and universities.

2. **Sponsorship of Legislation**- The principal metric of our success would be sponsorship of legislation geared toward reducing the barriers to voting and voter registration on university campuses. This would be achieved with our lobbying efforts in Tallahassee.

3. **Increased voter turnout/registration**- Although the policy conference and lobbying efforts would occur after the 2014 election, an increased use of TurboVote would increase the turnout for this election cycle on the university’s campus.

Collaboration with Consortium Schools
The primary collaboration with the consortium schools would be discussion of how to design the University of Florida’s policy conference. While UF sponsored a policy conference in May, speaking with other students would explain how the conference could produce more significant
results, both in terms of quality of policy proposals and lobbying efforts. Moreover, many other consortium schools can offer suggestions for complementary voter registration efforts; while it is important to change the policies restricting voter registration, efforts to register more voters must be enacted before the 2014 election.