Political organizations help inform Williamsburg citizens in historic election

With the 2008 Presidential Election marking the first semester, political organizations were particularly busy. The College Republicans and Young Democrats both helped to promote their respective parties in the 2008 Presidential Election. After the election, the groups stayed active, as participants were able to congregate and enjoy sharing the same political values.

Both the College Republicans and the Young Democrats began by spreading awareness about their parties' candidates and attended major organization meetings. The College Republicans attended the Americans for Prosperity Defending the American Dream Summit in Washington, D.C. where they got a chance of meeting a variety of elected officials and party members. The Young Democrats attended the Virginia Young Democrats convention, an annual event.

Being a part of a political organization made students feel like they could have a big effect on their government. "It is critical for people to act on their views rather than simply having them," Alex Kashurba, member of the College Republicans, said. "Then they can make a difference in the community."

Also, being informed about U.S. politics was the focus of many political organizations on campus, including Americans for Informed Democracy and Students for a Democratic Society. "Being in a political organization is a great way to get involved, but it is not the only way," College Republicans Secretary Eileen Bartolozzi said. "What is most important is being an informed voter and an active citizen."

With voter registration drives and extensive campaigning, the political groups focused much of their efforts on the Presidential Election. However, being a politically active and aware citizen was their ultimate goal.

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