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**Civic Engagement Office**

**FXXREP Decision Package**

**Overview**

**Title:** Increase in program funding for the Civic Engagement Office (formerly known as REP)

**Contact:** Leti Romo or Nora Harren

**Summary of proposal:** With the focus of the Civic Engagement Office to expand on voter education, increase democratic involvement, and offer more civic engagement opportunities and programs.

**Total fiscal impact:** $1000

**Information**

[enter detailed information about how the additional funds would be used (such as adding new positions, extending positions terms, increasing specific allocations, etc.)

Beginning in the 2020 fiscal year calendar, the Legal Information Center will be absorbed into the CEO with slight shift in purpose and programming. Although we have the student staff needed to expand the reach of the Civic Engagement Office, we now need the additional funds to grow and expand the needs of campus community by educating voters (for example understanding the electoral college, info on election important dates, explaining political affiliations, etc) increasing democratic involvement through programs (for example, understanding local, state, and federal governing structures, knowing how to get involved with lobbying, etc) and offering civic engagement opportunities and programs (for example watch parties for national debates, state of the union, election day results, impeachment hearings, etc). Most of the increase will go towards enticing students to attend the events and cost for space reservations.

**Fiscal Impact**

[provide a breakdown of requested funds]

$1000 totale request

$100- subscription to the Bellingham Herald for the 9 months to keep up with relevant news

$450- Receptions and Meetings to host the events mentioned above

$450- Food (catering) to cover cost of Candidate Forums for local government

**Justification**

[respond to the following questions, as applicable]

* What will be accomplished with the requested funding?
* How will the requested funding impact your office?
* How will the requested funding impact students at-large?
* What alternatives are available if no funding is awarded?

To be used for REP events not previously budgeted for such as national debates watch parties; state of the union address watch party; examples of where money budgeted for E243 are events such as our WSA statewide day of action where we held a “Cookies, Coffee, and College Affordability” where we served cookies, coffee, tea, snacks, and then collected student testimony or snacks and food provided for performers at our Rock the Vote Event. Each year, our events are variable and dependent upon which topics or issues are relevant. So this would allow for flexibility around our programming. If we do not receive this funding, it will mean that we will not be able to fully serve our WWU students. With such a critical election coming up, it is imperative that the Civic Engagement Office expands the education through programming and events so that our students are knowledgeable and understand the processes that exist. With the emphasis of recruitment being on out-of-state students, the need to provide support and knowledge of different states’ voter timeline is very important.

The current budget of the areas do not allow for much flexibility to grow the reach and impact of the CEO and its potential programs.