Students could have a significant impact on the results of this vote. Marylin Quinn, associate professor and librarian, recently helped about 50 to 100 new voters register to vote in the Township, because the drive home on Tuesday to vote is too far for a lot of students.

“Most of them can’t drive home to vote,” said Quinn. “[Voting] is much more complicated with the absentee ballot.”

Quinn took care of all the hassle for those students and said that they should have no problems once they show up at the polls.

“I personally took all those registration forms to the Mercer County Election Committee,” she said. “They have to bring in their Rider IDs [on Election Day].”

Many groups are advocating the ordinance, including The League of Women Voters, the Center for Civic Responsibility, the American Association of Retired People (AARP) and the Communication Workers of America (CWA), along with Common Cause.

Common Cause is a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization founded in 1970 as a vehicle for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest. Its main goal is to push back the influence of special interest money while advancing the influence of citizens in setting the government’s agenda, according to the organization's website.

Skowronski said that the ordinance is significant in that it will prevent these soft money contributions in the future from occurring.

“[Voting] is much more complicated with the absentee ballot,” said Quinn. “They have to bring in their Rider IDs [on Election Day].”

Those who are interested in voter education and registration should contact Common Cause. Tyeisha Jones, the canvassing efforts, also noted that there has been an increase in the number of individuals interested in voting.

“We’re going to be out there doing door-to-door, talking to voters,” said Quinn. “We’ll be outside the polling places [on Tuesday] as a last step to get people on their way to vote.”

In addition to voting, Skowronski said that Rider students could also help by volunteering to help with the canvassing efforts.

“This weekend and on the second, we really need help,” she said.

Students who want more information can look at the website at www.stoppaytotplay.org. Those who are interested in helping can contact Skowronski at (732) 548-9798, x. 6, or can e-mail her at laurentj@pointcampaing.com.

The new website was conceived in order to reach out to the students, according to her.

“When I considered coming to Rider, I first went to the website, which offered much of the information I was interested in,” said Thompson. “Having an easy source at hand facilitates my decision.”

The website offers links such as “About Rider” that sum up Rider’s history and its main goal.

Tara Laposa, the director of Internet projects, has also assisted in many of the website enhancements. The “Prospective Students” link has been added to attract possible students and provide necessary information. The “Athletic” board has also been undergoing construction, as well as, the “Academics” and “Our Faculty” links.

A new current student portal was launched to encourage students to give any feedback concerning the website.

At the launch of the new website, students had some difficulty finding Webmail. A quick change solved the confusion of many and a shortcut is now located at the top of the page.

Students had some reactions to many of these changes.

“[Webmail] is very much better now,” said freshman Lauren Gilden.

Laposa encourages students to speak their mind and believes that only by voicing your opinion can it be heard. She is recruiting a group of three to five students that can help voice the website and provide feedback on student issues. After all, Rider is represented by the students, according to her.

Future plans for the Rider website include a guideline for new students who want to know what to do after getting accepted into college. Site analytics and site traffic will also be new additions to the website. Builders will be able to track where drop-offs occur and what parts of the site have too much traffic. An online and academic catalog is also in the making. Multimedia presentations will be included under these links and campus tours for the external community will be offered. Courses and descriptions will be relocated for students who need assistance or are interested in various subjects.

So far, some Rider students have reacted positively to the new change.

“I think the webpage is really good,” said sophomore Morgan Levina. “Once all the pages come together and look alike, it should turn out to be a great site.”

O’Hara emphasizes that the website should reach all students and offer the opportunity to get involved and have a path to follow, once accepted into Rider. Although the website is a main communication source, traditional mail services and phone calls have not been abandoned in order to reach out to students.

“Current and prospective students should feel the potential to reach direct opportunities through the Rider website,” Laposa added.