

13 May 2019

BallotReady  
332 S Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60604

As a rising senior Political Science major at Amherst College, I am passionate about politics and the ways in which we, the people, can express ourselves through various avenues and be empowered, or disbarred even, by political entities. I've assumed leadership positions that entailed listening to and accounting for a multitude of student voices, and they have only contributed to my growing interest in politics. I learned about this internship position through the Noble Network of Charter Schools' alumni newsletter, and as I've learned from my research, BallotReady's mission of providing nonpartisan information on candidates to ensure well-informed voters at the polls aligns perfectly with my values and desires for all elections and races to come. I wish to contribute to the mobilizing of millions of voters and thus ensuring a better functioning democracy.

My coursework at Amherst College has provided me with invaluable reading and writing experience. I've engaged in very politically-charged discourse and have been challenged to question and confront the systems of power acting against our democracy. States of Extraction with Professor Picq, a political science professor, left an ever-lasting mark on my way on thinking. I did research on the monetary contributions made by large corporations in the environmental destruction of sacred lands across America. I discovered the ways in which this information is hidden from the general public. By creating this presentation, I learned the value in making such information readily accessible to a wide array of people in an effort to create a well-informed society who can use their collective force and voice to call for justice.

Additionally, I've taken on leadership roles and on-campus jobs that required commitment and constant self-reflection. As a student caller for my college's annual fund, I learned the value in engaging in a thoughtful conversation with every alum I spoke with. Not only do their contributions provide support for financial aid, residential life, and more, but their memories and breadth of knowledge is invaluable, and the enthusiasm and relentlessness that came with every call is what is needed to encourage people to head to the polls. Also, as a student coordinator for First-Year Experience, I was in charge of gathering and assessing student feedback through written reports on all our social and educational events so as to ensure that we were giving first-year and transfer students the programming they wanted in easing their transition into Amherst. I was tasked with brainstorming and addressing the ways in which we could improve our programming on a weekly basis. I was able to see the growth in our student turn-out as the semester progressed, and I was able to collaborate with different on-campus resource centers.

As someone who has experienced the pitfalls of our voting system and who is passionate about making the voting process less of a burden to communities who don't necessarily have the time or resources to properly inform themselves, I am confident in my ability to excite citizens about the value in their voice and vote. It would be an honor to be a member of BallotReady's growing team, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,