

Dear Falcon Community,

As we approach the Nov. 5 General Election, we anticipate a busy and intense election season. Engaging with civility is part of what it means to be a Falcon, as affirmed in the UW-River Falls core values. We strive for our students to be excellent examples of this, and our faculty and staff model this type of engagement daily. With that in mind, I would like to share a few important reminders and resources for the benefit of all:

Voting. Voting is part of what it means to be an engaged citizen, a standard that is ingrained within the UW-River Falls mission. Please visit, and encourage others to visit, <http://www.uwrf.edu/vote> for more information.

Political activity by state employees and UWRF students is subject to certain rules. Please familiarize yourself with them here: [Guidance on Political Campaign Activities](#). There are also rules regulating campaign activity in the residence halls which can be found [here](#).

Freedom of expression. We are pleased to share with you our new [Freedom of Expression web resource](#), developed under the coordination of the Dean of Students Office over the past year. You are encouraged to review this information and share it regularly. On that webpage you will also find the new video from the Wisconsin Institute for Citizenship and Civil Dialogue (WICCD) that was developed for new student orientation. Related, thanks to a grant from WICCD, the Dean of Students Office is organizing a series of training and educational events for students this fall. Watch [FalconsConnect](#) for details. Please help us to promote these student resources.

Social media. Be sure you are aware of the UW-River Falls social media [policy](#) and guidelines when posting on both UWRF-affiliated and on personal accounts. If you discuss higher education or issues related to UW-River Falls on your own social media account, we suggest you include a sentence like: “The views being expressed are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.”

Political statements. Prevailing state and national [guidance](#) directs that universities, as publicly funded institutions, should maintain viewpoint neutrality and avoid making institutional statements on issues not related to their core educational mission. Students, employees and other university stakeholders are always entitled to exercise their individual First Amendment rights, just not speaking on behalf of the university and in accordance with appropriate time, place and manner limitations. A disclaimer statement indicating that any views being expressed are personal and not intended to reflect the views of UW-River Falls should be used in any such public statements.

Protests and civil unrest. [Updated guidance](#) has been issued to chancellors by the Universities of Wisconsin regarding how campuses should handle protests, encampments and other assemblies. The guidance is focused on ensuring compliance with Board of Regent policy and state statute, as well as to safeguard our campus communities and preserve our ability to pursue our primary educational mission. You are invited to familiarize yourself with our [Use of University Facilities](#) Policy. For other questions about this guidance, email chancellorscomms@uwrf.edu.

Thank you for your time reviewing these important resources.

Sincerely,
Maria Gallo, Chancellor