

# Students For Barack Obama Register Voters

By [Amanda Scott](#) - Jul 21st, 2008 at 12:34 pm EDT

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*Even though school is out for the summer, students are still playing a vital role in summer voter registration events. This past weekend, the [Students For Barack Obama](#) Connecticut chapter held a highly successful registration drive.*

Over one hundred people gathered Saturday in Hartford, Connecticut for a youth rally and voter registration drive sponsored by Students for Barack Obama. On the ninety five degree day, youth volunteers from across the state learned and registered new voters and brought in many new people into the political discourse of this election.

Ambitious volunteers quickly setup a table outside to maximize the success, waving Obama signs at passing cars, enticing pedestrians to take a quick pit-stop, register to vote and join in on the festivities. Inside, people who attended listened to some R&B music, enjoyed some snacks and cold water, and registered to vote. A live musical performance by local church pastor Cleo drew a huge response with his song "Yes We Can," inspired by Barack Obama and written specifically for the event.

Fourth World Nation, a popular youth band from South-Western Connecticut, traveled over an hour and a half to perform. The band featured its original music and was a huge hit among all the attendees. Members of the band exemplified much of what the Obama Campaign has been about – diversity, originality, unity and passion – made evident by an impeccable range of repertoire including songs from rock, reggae, and alternative styles of music.

The musical rendition was preceded by the keynote speaker of the event, the Connecticut high school SFBO director for Students for Barack Obama, Thomas Dec. He [spoke](#) of his experiences in the campaign and the common thread motivating many of the youth voters to turn out in this election:

“The key is being able to take advantage of what our country has to offer, but still provide that opportunity to others who might not have the means to provide that opportunity to themselves. Younger voters, voters across the country – they see this concept slipping away. We turn on the T.V and we see millions of people without healthcare, millions of people in poverty.

We see all of these problems and it doesn't seem like much is getting done to solve these problems, or at least make headway towards [solving] them. The positive thing is we also see millions of young people going and trying to change this – through the Obama campaign, through volunteer service – really trying to take a stake in this country and in this election. We have stood up. We have decided that silence is not the answer.”

The event ended at about one o'clock in the afternoon with many of the volunteers anxious for the next event. The tables were put away, the chairs dismantled, but the journey was certainly far from over – many of the volunteers planned to attend later events throughout the Greater Hartford Area.