CLARK COLLEGE STUDENTS ‘ROCK THE VOTE,’ SHARE VIEWS

Today is the last day to register online or by mail to vote in the Nov. 4 election, which means it’s time to start thinking about how to vote.

The Columbian attended Clark College’s Rock the Vote registration event this week and asked some students to identify their top issues for this year’s presidential elections.

CRISTIN RODRIGUEZ, 26
Political persuasion: Undecided.
Republican.
Registered to vote: Yes.
Top issues: Family values, taxes.
Vote for: Barack Obama. He wants to reduce the deficit by taxing us, and I can’t take on anything more.

Barack Obama’s position: Would raise income taxes for families making more than $250,000; nobody’s taxes would go up, and most middle-income families’ taxes would fall.

JOE JENKINS, 38
Political persuasion: Democrat.
Registered to vote: Yes.
Top issues: Economic jobs, immigration.
Vote for: Barack Obama. I believe in the core fundamentals of family values, and it’s too hard for families to make it these days.

Obama’s position: Stop giving tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas and give them to those creating jobs in the United States.

CIARAN MCCARTHY, 19
Political persuasion: Republican.
Registered to vote: Yes.
Top issues: Health care, the economy.
Vote for: Barack Obama. I want to cut that business tax. I want to cut it so that businesses will remain in the U.S. and create jobs, “he said in the first presidential debate.

McCain’s position: Would make companies pay taxes on health care premiums (certainly companies do not as an incentive to provide workers with health care. Would provide families with a $5,000 annual tax credit to purchase health insurance from a new market (in Washington, health care costs $11,403 per family on average). Supports “high-risk pools” for those with preexisting conditions.

ALEX BERENZIO, 20
Registered to vote: Yes.
Top issues: The economy, the Navy.
The just returned a 2012.
Vote for: Barack Obama. The economy, the economy, the economy. “The economy determines my college. The funding could be too because it’s paid through the G.I. Bill, if you have no funding, you can’t go to college. You can have passion, but you can’t go.”

Obama’s position: Would provide students with a $4,000 refundable tax credit.

McCain’s position: Would shorten FAFSA aid form and make current tax credits more easily accessible to families.

—Compiled by Isadore Balfour
Columbian staff writer

CLARK ON THE MARCH

Construction continues on Clark College’s $27 million east Vancouver satellite campus, set to open next fall at 18700 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd. As the centerpiece of the college’s 95-acre Columbia Tech Center campus, the four-story building will house 10 classrooms, eight science and computer labs, a 3,500-square-foot multipurpose area for conferences, and offices for faculty and support staff. Clark will offer general education classes, professional and technical training, basic-skills classes, workforce force development and personal enrichment courses at the site.