



From the Editor

Who could forget the last presidential election and how close it was? Winning or losing, it all came down to a few votes. But “close” doesn’t count in an election—because after it’s over, it might just as well have been a landslide. The winner makes important decisions that impact all of us, and the loser goes home.

But how many more people would have voted, if somehow they had known before the election that their vote would have been so important? And how many young people would have registered, and voted, if they had been able to see into the future, and see how very close the election would be? Thousands, certainly, and perhaps millions, more would have voted.

It’s a fact: many people don’t vote. Many young people, especially, don’t vote. And what a mistake that is. If you don’t vote, you cannot claim to care about population growth, social justice, health care, defense, and other issues. When you don’t vote, someone else will vote for you. And they might not care about those issues, or they might be just as committed as you are—but to the opposite point of view.

That’s the point of this *ZPG Reporter*. Our special campaign, *Your Vote, Your Choice*, wants college

students—and all young people—to take advantage of their right to vote. Because every vote counts—in every election.

Of course, it’s easy to look back at the 2000 election and say, “Well, it really didn’t matter that I didn’t vote. They’re all the same anyway.” Unfortunately, that is not true. It’s become increasingly clear that “they” *aren’t* all the same. It’s clear that the issues that ZPG members—and college students—care about have been tossed aside by those who won the election.

The current administration has shown little concern for many of the issues young people care about. But if young people—and others—don’t speak up and show that they care about issues that impact them, there is no incentive for the administration to change direction.

So, the message is: Get out and vote. If you’re not registered, do yourself a favor and register. It takes only minutes to do.

Lee S. Polansky
Editor

★ ★ CELEBRATE WITH THE STARS! ★ ★ ★ ★



Tom Silverman

Live like a rock star and support ZPG’s mission!

Join famous ZPG supporters at the *5th Annual Awards Dinner* in New York on May 2! This star-studded event will honor Tom Silverman, CEO and founder of Tommy Boy Records.

Tom Silverman (left) has turned Tommy Boy Records into a music label powerhouse, earning gold, platinum, and multi-platinum albums by artists such as Everlast, Queen Latifah, Coolio, Naughty By Nature, Club Nouveau, De La Soul, Digital Underground, and House of Pain.

Mr. Silverman isn’t just a music lover, however— he’s been an active and valuable ZPG member for many years!

You can be a part of the action. Mingle with political powerhouses, entertainment dynamos, and leading activists at an important event honoring a man who exemplifies our ongoing work.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event!

- *The Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 2, at the Angel Orensanz Foundation Center in New York City.*

- *VIP seating is \$2,500 per couple.*

For more information and to purchase tickets, call Becki Harris, Development Coordinator, at 1-800-767-1956.

