

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

VIDEO TITLE: A message on voting and civility

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Hello. I'm Jane Close Conoley, president of Cal State Long Beach, and I want to share a couple of thoughts about the upcoming local, state, and federal elections.

Because it cannot be said enough times or loud enough...**VOTE!**

I'm encouraging everyone – whether you are part of The Beach family or one of the communities we serve – to vote in this election. Whether you vote by absentee ballot or in-person, it is important that you exercise your right and make your voice heard.

Over the past several years, we have seen the integrity and strength of our democracy repeatedly challenged. One of the ways we can ensure that it prospers and continues is to participate in one of its most important aspects – voting.

Your participation is part of a great tradition; honors those who have sacrificed to make free and fair elections possible; and safeguards the rights of yourself and others. Important elections can be decided by the slimmest of margins, so every vote counts.

In addition to your vote, I encourage you to volunteer to help with the vote, if you can. If your local elections commission allows it, that could mean assisting at a polling place. Or it could mean something as simple as helping a loved one or neighbor get to the polls. After all, ***we are in this together!***

And speaking of being in this together...now, ***more than ever***, we need to treat each other with kindness, politeness and respect. Unfortunately, incivility has risen to “crisis” levels in our country. If our “democratic experiment” is to succeed, we must be able to disagree without being disrespectful. We must commit to finding common ground when it comes to discussions and debates. We have to listen to others, take the time to sincerely examine the beliefs and actions of ourselves and others. And when the votes are tallied and announced, we must accept the results of free and fair elections. That doesn't mean giving up on an idea or initiative. For we must all continue working toward a better future, even if it takes some time to see the desired results.

Thank you for listening. I hope you'll take this to heart and exercise your right.

Go vote! And Go Beach!