

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 ACTION PLAN

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2020 ALL IN Leadership Committee for Kansas State University:

Colene Lind & Donna Schenck-Hamlin
Cameron Charity & Hayley Spellman
David Procter & Chandra Ruthstrom
Kerri Keller & Adrian Rodriguez
MaryAnne Andrews & Tanya Gonzalez
Luke Matulewicz & Rebecca Paz

Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy
Wildcats Vote
Center for Engagement and Community Development
Division of Student Life
Faculty Senate
Office of Student Success

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This action plan has been prepared as part of Kansas State University's participation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge¹, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering colleges and universities across the United States in achieving excellence in democratic engagement. Our university is a registered participant in the Challenge and in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). The ALL IN Action Plan presents our design for addressing voter participation in the upcoming national election. Thereafter, NSLVE reports sent to our university will deliver data on registration and voter participation, allowing for an assessment of the Action Plan, its implementation, and potential for redesign in future election years.

In recent years, Kansas State University has broadened its focus of the "K-State Experience" by promoting community engagement beyond the traditional classroom setting. Whether in Kansas, the nation, or internationally, this priority shift works to build a generation of engaged citizens that are active participants in pursuit of the public good. Simultaneously, they strive to achieve extraordinary successes in their chosen endeavors. Election participation is an essential measure of engaged citizenship.

The goals of our ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Action Plan are threefold. By mapping out a detailed strategy for 2020, our first goal is to educate students about voter registration and the voting process. Second, we have identified a need to target low propensity voters and remove barriers to their participation— such voters can be identified by age, race, ethnicity, education level, and field of study. Third, and most importantly, our overarching goal is to create a culture beyond 2020 that focuses on active participation during and between elections. In developing and implementing this Action Plan, Kansas State University aims to accomplish just that.

Through students, administration, faculty, and staff participation, this Action Plan will be implemented from Summer 2020 until the conclusion of the fall election. Furthermore, it will be evaluated, reassessed, and updated by the spring semester in 2021. This plan includes both short-term and long-term goals that focus on student participation, registration rates, and civic engagement by members of the Manhattan campus. With strategic implementation and evaluation, it will be used to develop a politically engaged culture that extends far beyond the campus.

¹ <https://www.allinchallenge.org/>

LEADERSHIP

In coordinating the campus-wide effort to increase voter engagement, a leadership committee was selected to represent cross-divisional and interdisciplinary units, specifically:

- **Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy (ICDD)** – a campus/community partnership dedicated to the practice and study of democracy, dialogue and deliberation
- **Wildcats Vote** – a nonpartisan, independent student organization (ISO) driven to increase civic engagement at Kansas State University through voter registration, election participation, and activism in support of free and fair elections
- **Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD)** – a liaison office for communities partnered with faculty in areas of economic development, community coaching, public health, entrepreneurship, arts development, environmental stewardship, and community visioning
- **Division of Student Life (DSL)** – promoting student success through co-curricular opportunities to strengthen personal and academic growth, leadership, professional development, and community engagement
- **Faculty Senate (FS)** – participating in the establishment and oversight of policies shaping the purpose and character of the institution of higher learning
- **Office of Student Success (OSS)**– dedicated to student retention, academic persistence, progress and graduation

The leadership committee recognizes that civic participation during and between election cycles is reinforced by social ties among residential, vocational, and personal interest networks. The six contributing campus units encompass members who participate in nonpartisan civic organizations that also support full enfranchisement and voter engagement. Each contributing group has unique links to other campus and community units useful in promoting civic learning and voter engagement in target areas. The units listed below are not an exhaustive list, but a sample of groups that will serve as an informal network for the Leadership Committee:

ICDD	School of Leadership Studies; Ctr. for Social Studies Ed.; Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology. & Social Wk.; Job Corps; Flint Hills Wellness Coalition; USD383; UFM Community Learning Ctr.
Wildcats Vote	Student Governing Association (SGA); Union Program Council; Loud Light; ACLU; Manhattan/Riley County League of Women Voters; KS Regents University SGA’s
CECD	K-State Research & Extension; Kansas Health Foundation; Networks Kansas; Kansas Rural Center; Arts & Humanities Association of Manhattan; Thrive! Ft. Riley
DSL	Housing & Dining Services; Military Affairs; K-State Student Union; Center for Student Involvement; Diversity & Multicultural Student Affairs; Recreational Services
FS	Professional Staff Affairs; University Support Staff Senate; Information Technology Services; Global Campus; K-State Libraries; Council of Faculty Senate Presidents
OSS	K-State First, Academic Achievement Center, College Advising Corps, KS Advancement of Women in Sci. & Engg., Office of First Gen. Students, Undergrad. Research & Creative Inquiry

COMMITMENT

Kansas State University has asserted its commitment to *civic learning* and *democratic engagement*² through curricular and co-curricular programs and aspirations. Our Mission Statement expands the concept of citizenry to a global reach:

“The mission of Kansas State University is to foster excellent teaching, research, and service that develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry necessary to advancing the well-being of Kansas, the nation, and the international community”³.

As the first operational land-grant university in the country, our mission of public service is realized through community engagement, research and extension, and education of students “to be informed, productive, and responsible citizens who actively participate in advancing cultural, educational, economic, scientific, and socio-political undertakings”⁴. Faculty/staff across all colleges and through Research and Extension perform engaged scholarship that is tracked and supported by the Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD) under the Office of the Provost. CECD addresses democratic engagement specifically in the following three goals of its strategic plan⁵:

- Proactively engage staff, students, and faculty in voter registration, issue learning, and election participation, building on previously successful processes, structures, and community relationships.
- Convene and support a student/staff/faculty coalition dedicated to improving the campus climate for civic issue learning and political action.
- Through the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy, the Staley School of Leadership Studies, and additional curricular and co-curricular programs, promote training for facilitators of dialogue, deliberation, and community organizing.

As part of CECD, the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy (ICDD)⁶ at KSU is an interdisciplinary, nonpartisan organization that uses dialogue and deliberation to address complex public issues. ICDD engages in research, education, and facilitation of civic conversations to promote greater citizen participation in deliberation and public dialogue. The institute connects faculty and students from

² <http://www.civiclearning.org/> The Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Project was initiated by a grant in 2010 from the U.S. Department of Education to AAC&U and the Global Perspective Institute. It produced the report “A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy’s Future” https://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/crucible/Crucible_508F.pdf summarizing findings from multiple studies and roundtable meetings. The terms “civic learning” and “democratic engagement” are used frequently but not explicitly defined in this publication. Instead, the report “uses the dual terms of “civic learning” and “democratic engagement” to emphasize the civic significance of preparing students with knowledge and for action” and “multifaceted dimensions of civic learning and democratic engagement necessary in today’s United States are suggested” in a “Framework for Twenty-First-Century Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement”. <https://www.aacu.org/resources/civic-learning/institutional-goals> This framework offers a list of aspirational Knowledge, Skills, Values, and Collective Action that the authors concede is “suggestive, not definitive; much more work is required to better clarify component elements of civic and democratic learning in this global century.” After this report, a Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Action Network was formed to continue the work, and it lives under the AACU website at <https://www.aacu.org/clde/LearnEngageVote>. Subsequent articles called on universities and colleges to construct their own definitions. See “Defining Terms” in <https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/higher-education-civic-learning-and-democratic-engagement-0> We examined these resources before offering tentative definitions under “Landscape”, below.

³ <https://www.k-state.edu/about/mission/>

⁴ <https://www.k-state.edu/about/mission/>

⁵ <https://www.k-state.edu/cecd/about/Strategic%20Plan.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.k-state.edu/icdd/about/>

all academic disciplines with community affiliates to address prominent issues using processes to improve qualities of civic discourse, specifically: inclusiveness, equality, reciprocity, reflection, reasoning, and shared decision-making.

Student education and co-curricular activities reinforce “civic learning” and “democratic engagement.” While those phrases are not commonly featured in published descriptions of many programs, one outcome of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge can be to explicitly state the relationship of our communally supported values of inclusion, leadership, diversity, and engagement to the values of participatory democracy. We will use election participation as a seasonal focus for democratic engagement, reinforced by renovated campus policies and practices to support a culture of active, civil inquiry on all public issues. Putting this into motion will require an honest assessment of the current campus climate for participation that surpasses professional or academic obligations.

LANDSCAPE – ASSETS AND GAPS

Within its campus programming, Kansas State University demonstrates numerous strengths and weaknesses regarding student involvement in civic learning and democratic engagement. One overall strength is the demonstration of core democratic values, such as inclusion and participation among representative bodies and programs of the institution. Additional democratic values of diversity, freedom of expression, and civility are widely referenced through the Principles of Community⁷ and demonstrated through #KSUnite, an on-going campus-wide movement to counter political intolerance and hate campaigns⁸.

An overall weakness is the isolation and separateness of programs that implement these values. Often described as “silos,” there remains infrequent collaboration between groups most engaged in civic learning and democratic engagement. A second weakness, one that can be immediately addressed in this Action Plan, is a lack of common definitions for key concepts of civic learning and democratic engagement.

The following definitions are submitted for the purposes of this Action Plan only:

- *Democratic engagement*: participating in the processes of an electoral democracy, e.g. voting, deliberating, organizing, advocating, volunteering/observing at election polls, serving public office.
- *Civic learning*: reading, discussing, organizing, disseminating, and applying knowledge pertaining to public issues (topics requiring choices made by and for the *civitas*, or broader public – not by and for specific individuals or groups).

A sample listing of some institutional assets to be employed in this Action Plan demonstrates Kansas State University’s potential for addressing gaps between the current situation and a post-2020 election future.

⁷ <https://www.k-state.edu/about/values/community/>

⁸ <https://www.k-state.edu/diversity-inclusion/ksunite/>

Wildcats Vote – Officially registered as a student organization in September 2019, Wildcats Vote emerged from an informal, nonpartisan coalition of students, faculty, staff, and community partners working to increase voter registration rates in 2018. That year, KSU authorized participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE)⁹. This recent work in increasing student voter registration and turnout resulted in significant gains in two successive NSLVE reports.¹⁰ However, summer intervals and annual turnover in student involvement present gaps in participation that the organization (which also includes faculty, staff, and community members) is aimed to lessen. Another gap to be bridged is between grassroots efforts generated by Wildcats Vote and initiatives led by campus administration.

Housing and Dining Services – In 2017-2018, a strong relationship between Housing and Dining Services and the Student Governing Association resulted in a pivotal proposal to increase student voter registration rates. While new students attended Orientation and Enrollment, obtained their student ID cards, and moved into residence halls, they were encouraged to visit ksvotes.org to quickly and easily register to vote or update their voting information using their cell phone or computer. In response, the Manhattan/Riley County League of Women Voters offered training to Resident Assistants during the weeks before fall move-in began. These trained students were also recruited to help with off-campus summer events, including Juneteenth, Everybody Counts, and Purple Power Play rallies. Since 2018, Housing and Dining Services has offered significant publicity resources, but efforts to train and follow up with RAs on voter registration tactics need strengthening and further commitment. Additional gaps to be closed include outreach to off-campus and distance-learning students.

HandsOn K-State¹¹ – Housed in the Staley School of Leadership Studies, this program activates a large network of student volunteers and articulates a vision of civic learning through community service. Positive relationships are forged through service learning, and a wide range of off-campus public constituencies are included in their projects. More could be done to make civic learning (as defined above) a part of the volunteer experience, with the exercise of citizenship through voter registration and election participation becoming a more pervasive focus of annual activities.

K-State First – Student success begins during the first semester, and K-State First is the focus of a cross-disciplinary, highly interactive program that can play an important role in civic learning and democratic engagement. Students are presented with a profound choice when they register to vote for the first time: *where* they choose to vote signals a commitment to place, candidates, and salient issues. Conversations with students during voter registration drives can reveal tension or confusion about their “home” address versus their address for the purpose of voting. As students begin to identify with communities and issues encountered in their campus life, they begin to exhibit agency in organizing, petitioning, and participating in wider community realms. Raising this participation to the local, state, and national elections requires more than election season prompts from faculty. The K-State First peer networks, small-group seminars, common book reads, and mentorships offer tools that can ground students’ identity and motivation in civic domains, regardless of their career ambitions.

Many more institutional assets will be brought to the task of improving civic learning and democratic engagement, not only for students but support staff, faculty, administrators, and extension workers.

⁹ <https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve>

¹⁰ <https://www.k-state.edu/icdd/2014%20and%202018%20NSLVE%20Report-Kansas%20State%20University.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.k-state.edu/leadership/programs/handson/>

GOALS

In alignment with the mission of KSU to “develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry”, this Action Plan addresses the overarching goal of cultivating an *engaged* citizenship, characterized by active participation in democratic decision-making — not only during, but between election cycles. Our goals constitute a three-fold approach to expanding and focusing the practices of citizenship among students, faculty, staff, and affiliates:

- 1. Educate all on voter registration and election participation**
- 2. Remove barriers to election participation by focusing on low-propensity voters**
- 3. Cultivate a campus culture that promotes civic engagement and political learning**

Election participation is an essential measure of engaged citizenship, yet the legal framework and procedural arrangements for participation are not widely understood and require education on a continuous basis. For example, few citizens remember to update their voter registration when they move to a new address or remember the deadline to request an advance ballot by mail. Given our highly decentralized election administration at the federal level, variation among county and state regulations demonstrate a need for stronger civic literacy rates nationwide. Such literacy includes a strong understanding of where to locate credible information regarding election deadlines, polling places/processes, and what candidates and issues are featured on the ballot.

In supporting the democratic values of inclusion and equity, we must address what additional barriers constrain low-propensity voters from election participation. NSLVE reports specify participation rates among students grouped by voting method, age group, education level, race/ethnicity, and field of study. For example, the 2018 NSLVE report for KSU illustrated a 28.1% voting rate among Agriculture majors compared with a 44.2% voting rate among Education majors, and comparative voting rates of self-identified white (35.6%), Hispanic (31.8%) and black voters (29.2%). Ahead of 2020, Wildcats Vote has proposed an overall goal for a student voting rate of 60%, to which each of these groups could contribute through targeted efforts. The League of Women Voters has also formulated proven strategies for improving low-propensity voting rates and has designed a statewide *March to the Polls* campaign¹² for increasing their participation that we can support.

Creating a campus where civic engagement is understood and enacted from administration, to academics, to co-curricular activities is no small task, but it can build from the first two goals if they are viewed as a means, not the end, to civic learning and democratic engagement. A useful framework for approaching this goal has been offered by the Institute for Democracy in Higher Education.¹³

¹² <https://lwvk.org/centennial>

¹³ <https://idhe.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/ElectionImperatives-v2.pdf>

STRATEGIES

The following strategies for implementing the ALL IN Action Plan represent approaches to each goal proposed by contributing units of the leadership committee, with detailed actions to be developed in consultation with additional campus and community groups with which they are affiliated.

Goal 1: Educate all on voter registration and election participation

Leadership Strategies:

- **ICDD:** Educate voters on dealing with COVID-19 barriers.
- **Wildcats Vote:** Recruit student volunteers to engage with Wildcats Vote and voter registration campaigns.
- **CECD:** Use social media to reach out through community partnerships.
- **DSL:** Collaborate with Housing and Dining Services to disseminate information about voter registration and election information in residence halls.
- **Faculty Senate:** Educate students, staff and faculty about advance ballots.
- **OSS:** Integrate democratic engagement within the academic spaces of OSS

ICDD: Educate voters on dealing with COVID-19 barriers

ICDD will consult with KS county elections offices to confirm mail-in advance ballot deadlines and application procedures and will work with the ALL IN Leadership Committee to formulate a common message urging voters to apply for and use mail-in ballots to avoid polling places during the COVID-19 pandemic. The common message will be distributed on websites, newsletters, and social media of each leadership team unit and campus affiliates, along with channels to low-propensity voting groups identified in the KSU NSLVE reports for 2018 and 2016. Strategic scheduling of the common message will be crafted to coincide with campus and community events through summer and fall (e.g. Juneteenth, July 4th, county and state fairs, student orientation/enrollment, National Voter Registration Day). Early encouragement of the mail-in strategy will motivate local election offices to stock inventory of paper ballots and reconfigure polling station protocols and assignments to reduce exposure to contagion.

Wildcats Vote: Recruit student volunteers to engage with Wildcats Vote and voter registration campaigns

This strategy focuses on contacting students who are interested in increasing campus voter participation, and Wildcats Vote will be the primary unit responsible for executing this work. In reaching out to student organizations whose mission aligns with that of Wildcats Vote, we will especially focus on including organizations representing low-propensity voters. Connections will be established year-round through emails and face-to-face meetings, particularly during the organization's group meetings, but will be emphasized during the weeks before voter registration events. This strategy works to provide Wildcats Vote the student volunteer commitment to better educate, engage, and inform students on democratic engagement and civic learning.

CECD: Use social media to reach out through community partnerships.

CECD utilizes two social media platforms: Facebook and Twitter. These *reach broad audiences across the state* and beyond Kansas, citizens working with faculty on projects such as healthy food, climate change, and water quality. Signature partnerships identified by CECD between K-State and public, private, and nonprofit entities can reinforce their collaboration by election-year emphasis on democratic engagement. Posts through these partnerships on Facebook and Twitter accounts will increase citizens' attention to voter registration guidelines and approaching deadlines. Furthermore, this network connects to individuals and organizations across the United States and can influence other states' election participation. The timing and substance of each of these posts will be coordinated with Wildcats Vote.

DSL: Collaborate with Housing and Dining Services to disseminate information about voter registration and election information in residence halls.

Housing and Dining will engage RA's and residential staff in providing first year students and the entire K-State housing community with voter information through educational materials via a "Bulletin in a Bag" strategy. *As a part of the move-in experience and followed up with hall meetings*, information regarding voter registration and turnout will be disseminated accompanied by continuous dialogue leading up the November election. Dining Services will utilize bulletin boards, monitors, and other means to promote and share voter information in the dining facilities. Residence Life staff and RA's of the Derby, Kramer, and Strong communities, as well as Jardine Apartments will actively participate in this effort. Additionally, Housing leadership will utilize the K-State Association of Residence Halls, National Residence Hall Honorary, the Social Justice Alliance, Housing and Dining Ambassadors, Residence Learning Assistants, and Hall Governing Board to push this campaign.

Faculty Senate: Educate students, staff and faculty about advance ballots.

The primary work involves disseminating information about *what an advance ballot is, how to obtain one, and why it is important* to vote early. A volunteer working group of faculty and staff across campus, in collaboration with other groups on this committee, will disseminate this information. All three campus senates (Faculty, University Support Staff, and Student) will be targeted with special emphasis on reaching groups identified as low-propensity voters in the NSLVE reports for KSU. The work will occur both on-campus and globally through emails and social media (K-State Today, etc.) The emphasis on education will occur in the two months leading up to primaries and elections, reminding voters of critical deadlines as the election day approaches.

OSS: Integrate democratic engagement within the academic spaces of OSS

The Office of Student Success will work with the ALL IN Leadership Team to *formulate a common message and strategy* encouraging voters to apply for and use mail-in ballots. This message will be disseminated across our various offices/programs to publish via the multiple mediums including social media accounts, list-servs, email groups, courses, and training opportunities. The messaging will be most heavily delivered at least a week before election deadlines, including voter registration deadlines, absentee ballot registration deadlines, and election day. All students that commonly utilize the diverse services under OSS will be reached.

Goal 2: Remove barriers to election participation by focusing on low-propensity voters

Leadership Strategies:

- **ICDD:** Report on voting disparities and track the campaign for low-propensity voters.
- **Wildcats Vote:** Collaborate with student organizations and campus units who affiliate with traditionally underrepresented communities.
- **CECD:** Provide support for candidate and issue forums on salient Kansas issues.
- **DSL:** Partner with MSOs, DMSA DSO's, and K-State Athletics to get students to the polls for communities with historically low turnout rates.
- **Faculty Senate:** Pursue a policy that allows students and faculty/staff official time off to vote on Election Day.
- **OSS:** Utilize targeted community spaces to provide and promote resources needed to register to vote.

ICDD: Report on voting disparities and track the campaign for low-propensity voters

ICDD will publicize the NSLVE reports of K-State student voting rates from its website, which will serve as a reporting platform to feature campus activities addressing disparities in participation. In collaboration with Wildcats Vote and other members of the ALL IN Leadership Committee, ICDD will track commitments from faculty and staff leadership affiliated with student groups organizing to reduce barriers to participation. Students in political communication seminars will post their work (see Evaluation, below) on the ICDD website under Democratic Engagement.

Wildcats Vote: Collaborate with student organizations and campus units who affiliate with traditionally underrepresented communities

The first step of this strategy includes identifying, contacting, and partnering with student organizations or university offices that affiliate with traditionally underrepresented communities. This work is directly related to increasing voter accessibility to diverse populations and serves the purpose of making our organization and campus more inclusive. Collaboration will take place on campus through email and in-person meetings and will focus on multicultural student organizations, creating and building on relationships established over the past year. This strategy will be executed year-round to promote continuous democratic engagement but will be emphasized ahead of the November 2020 election.

CECD: Provide support for candidate and issue forums on salient Kansas issues.

Building on the partnerships between faculty and communities and working with ICDD, CECD will encourage and publicize the work of groups convening candidate forums, particularly those structured to encourage dialogue on issues impacting local communities. These forums are held in public spaces both on and off campus, in collaboration with nonpartisan civic organizations such as the League of Women Voters. CECD will use data from its projects to identify underrepresented groups of low-propensity voters for solicitation to participate in these public forums. These same groups are frequently key stakeholders in issues of healthy food access, affordable housing, and water quality.

DSL: Partner with MSOs, DMSA DSO's, and K-State Athletics to get students to the polls for communities with historically low turnout rates.

In an effort to remove barriers to election participation by focusing on low-propensity voters, the Division of Multicultural and Student Affairs (DMSA) engage its departmental Multicultural Student Organizations (MSO's) and Departmental Student Organizations (DSO's) in educating for voter registration and facilitating turnout amongst this population on election day. In an effort to cast a wide net, DMSA will also engage many College departmental MSO's, as well as K-State Athletics in this effort. DMSA will utilize the Multicultural Student Organization Leadership Council and also team with the Student Governing Association and Intercultural Leadership Council in educating students on the barriers to election participation. DMSA will *lead a campaign to engage marginalized communities and those who represent low-propensity voter populations* to get out the vote on election day.

Faculty Senate: Pursue a policy that allows students and faculty/staff official time off to vote on Election Day.

Review the University Policy and Procedures Manual¹⁴ and University Handbook¹⁵ and consult with Human Capital Services to uncover, develop, or extend policies to *allow official time off to vote on election day*. A group composed of Faculty Senate and University Support Staff Senate membership will work with various multicultural organizations on campus and the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs over the summer to implement the policy recommendation by October 15, 2020. Preparation will require constituent groups signing off on the policy proposal.

OSS: Utilize targeted community spaces to provide and promote resources needed to register to vote.

The Office of Student Success can *utilize targeted community spaces* to promote increased voter registration, particularly among identified low-propensity voters. For examples, the First-generation Student Lounge and the Tutoring Center in Holtz Hall, various programs within Holton Hall that include the Academic Coaching Program, Scholar services and TRIO Programs, K-State First courses, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry, and other spaces that students frequent. If students are enrolled online, we will offer virtual modes of conversation and resource provision for voter registration and civic learning.

Goal 3: Cultivate a campus culture that promotes civic engagement and political learning year-round

Leadership Strategies:

- **ICDD:** Set standards and offer guidance for candidate/issue forums.
- **Wildcats Vote:** Establish year-round civic learning through the annual Kansas Voter Registration Day (KVRD).
- **CECD:** Work with Extension to connect community issue discussions from 4H youth and adults to campus.

¹⁴ <https://www.k-state.edu/policies/ppm/>

¹⁵ <https://www.k-state.edu/provost/universityhb/>

- **DSL:** Lead communications with all registered K-State departmental student organizations regarding civic engagement and voter participation.
- **Faculty Senate:** Publicize campus events and lectures that are occurring within colleges, departments and units.
- **OSS:** Foster an environment conducive to dialogue about civic engagement through student interactions.

ICDD: Set standards and offer guidance for candidate/issue forums

In collaboration with the ALL IN Leadership Committee, ICDD will assist nonpartisan civic organizations to develop and convene online Zoom issue and candidate forums in September and October. *A prototype agenda and planning outline for local forums will be designed for inclusive, informative, civil interaction.* KSU students will be engaged to contribute to planning, background candidate/issue research, and publicity/marketing efforts. Training will be offered for moderators and technical hosts for management of the forums. Applied research may be conducted by students and faculty examining the quality of participation. ICDD will work with the ALL IN Leadership Committee to craft criteria for evaluating the success of these forum preparation and delivery services in contributing models for civic learning. By developing standards for the planning and conduct of public forums, the campus community encourages issue engagement as a cognitive as well as civic pursuit.

Wildcats Vote: Establish year-round civic learning through the annual Kansas Voter Registration Day (KVRD)

April 14th, 2020 was the first-ever Kansas Voter Registration Day (KVRD). The purpose of KVRD is to *create a campus-wide culture that prioritizes conversations on voter registration and participation ahead of upcoming primaries and general elections*, as well as creating a year-round emphasis on civic learning. Planning KVRD includes organizing a campus-wide voter registration drive, reaching out to Kansas Board of Regents institutions, and connecting organizations/voters across the state with these shared values. Wildcats Vote will lead these efforts in an expanded coalition to include volunteers from Multicultural Student Organizations and campus units that represent or affiliate with low propensity voters.

CECD: Work with Extension to connect community issue discussions from 4H youth and adults to campus

The historic role of Extension in developing citizen forums is being revived at Kansas State University. Faculty are working in communities to identify factors that contribute to productive deliberation, and the impacts of cultural communication differences on dialogue. They are coaching Kansas 4H Youth and assisting county Extension specialists in working with adults to convene local issue forums in diverse communities. This work needs to be more widely shared with on-campus units and student organizations. Demonstrations of deliberation by citizens of many ages, vocations, and regions can inspire replication on campus, with applications to a wide range of institutional and social issues. *CECD's relationship with Extension and other statewide organizations will be used to share models and strategies with campus units engaged in the ALL IN campaign.*

DSL: Lead communications with all registered K-State departmental student organizations regarding civic engagement and voter participation.

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) will develop and implement a communications plan to inform all K-State registered departmental student organizations about the importance of civic engagement and voter participation through direct email communication, the student organization portal, listservs, and social media. Additionally, CSI will meet with Fraternity and Sorority Life leadership to discuss ideas on how to reach Inter Fraternity Council and Pan Hellenic Council chapters, as well as engage the Student Governing Association regarding their active involvement in the promotion of civic engagement and voter participation.

Faculty Senate: Promote campus events and lectures on issues that impact students, staff, and faculty

Each Senate will be provided with information on public issues salient to Manhattan, Riley County and Kansas that impact students, staff and faculty. Related lectures and campus events will be announced at meetings of SGA, FS, USS, Graduate Student Council. Their respective Presidents will employ multiple communication channels to spread the word and encourage curricular and co-curricular participation in these discussions year-round.

OSS: Foster an environment conducive to dialogue about civic engagement through student interactions.

During our numerous student interactions, from one-on-one visits to teaching courses and seminar classes, the Office of Student Success staff and faculty will enable spaces for dialogue about civic engagement. Staff and faculty will be informed by the shared message of the ALL IN Action Plan and may contribute strategies for creating conversational opportunities.

REPORTING

This 2020 All IN Campus Democracy Action Plan for Kansas State University is an official university document created by the ALL IN Leadership Committee representing six campus units listed in the Leadership section, pg. 2. This and successive Action Plans will be maintained in four locations:

1. Prominently featured on the University's home page, <https://www.k-state.edu/>, under the "Student Life" heading with a new subheading titled "Democratic Engagement." This will also be the location where the University's NSLVE Reports and previous ALL IN Action Plans will be featured.
2. The Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy (ICDD) will publish the dated, finalized plan on its website as a .PDF file. The corresponding final version in Microsoft Word will be housed for future updates in the ICDD *Catfiles* working directory along with archived NSLVE participation authorization agreements (2016, 2018, 2020) and ALL IN awards and press releases.
3. Wildcats Vote will archive replicates of the current action plan in .PDF and .DOC formats for future updates.
4. K-State Research Exchange (K-REx), the official institutional repository for Kansas State University, will archive the annual Action Plan.

Disseminating the 2020 Action Plan will be the shared responsibility of the Leadership Committee. Members of each unit will communicate with affiliated campus and community organizations to disseminate the plan and succeeding news or solicitations. A joint press release with a link to the full report will be made on the date of submission, no later than mid-May 2020. Thereafter, the ALL IN Leadership Committee will work with its network of units to align publicity of the action plan with annual events that feature voter registration activities (e.g. Juneteenth, Everybody Counts, National Voter Registration Day, Kansas Voter Registration Day, etc.).

EVALUATION

After the conclusion of the 2020 Election, it will be imperative to evaluate the progress that Kansas State University has made regarding its voter registration and turnout rates, the campus culture and discussion around such topics, and how to most effectively proceed into future elections. Using the framework established by the Institute for Democracy in Higher Education's [Election Imperatives 2.0](#)¹⁶, we have consulted ten recommendations offered to increase civic learning and participation on college campuses. As a leadership committee, three of these ten recommendations have been selected as a basis for evaluating our progress this fall. They are as follows:

1. Remove barriers to student voting (Imperative #2)
2. Develop informed voters (Imperative #3)
3. Empower students to create a buzz around the election (Imperative #10)

In consultation with the ALL IN Leadership Committee, the graduate-level Political Communication seminar (COMM 850) will develop a survey to assess factors relevant to the aforementioned election imperatives. This survey will be sent to a sample of the campus community using *Qualtrics*, administered as an exit survey at polling locations near campus, or both. Additionally, experts on program evaluation will be consulted as this step of the evaluation process is being completed.

After the survey responses have been collected, students enrolled in this seminar course will be responsible with executing and analyzing the survey post-election. Once this step has been completed, a report for the ALL IN Leadership Committee will be written, completed, and distributed before the start of the Spring 2021 semester. This evaluation report will be shared and stored in the same locations as the 2020 ALL IN Action Plan, as listed in this document.

The final step of the evaluation will be to reconvene the ALL IN Leadership Committee at the start of the Spring 2021 semester. It will be the responsibility of the members of this committee to discuss the evaluation report, reflect on the success of the implemented initiatives, and proceed with a revised ALL IN Action Plan. Pending the publication of the 2020 NSLVE report, it would be ideal to announce our evaluation findings by Kansas Voter Registration Day, the second Tuesday of April, and allow that date to trigger a new annual cycle of action planning for future elections.

¹⁶ <https://idhe.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/ElectionImperatives-v2.pdf>