

Allegany College

ALL IN ONE CAMPUS PLAN TO INCREASE VOTER REGISTRATION

Overview:

The Democracy Commitment (TDC) committee of Allegany College of Maryland continues to meet monthly. One of our goals is to promote voter registration activities within events, voting registration drives, presidential campaign watching activities, and democracy cafes with the support of targeted student clubs and the student government association.

History:

For the past two years, we have been working to boost voter registration as part of our commitment to our democracy education goals, as a community college that is an active participant of the national TDC. This includes working in the past with the student government association members to sponsor voter registration drives and including it within class curriculum and voter education projects.

This year we are considering a partnership with Frostburg State University to promote collaboration activities. This includes a September 20th cross campus peace dialogue that will invite students to become more civically involved in opportunities that build connections between our institutions and within the community.

Voter Education:

When possible voter education will include invitations for students to become trained voter registration facilitators. We have held several trainings in the past. This year the local NAACP will join with us in a voter registration training. This will help them as they outreach to other students and educate them about the history of voter registration. This will include emphasizing that those who register others to vote must be US citizens. We will also confirm that no one is permitted to tamper with the voter registration forms. As part of the voter education process, we will also post fliers across campus reminding students about the location of polling sites and inviting them to register using the online process.

This year we advertised voter registration on our Service Learning and Civic Engagement Facebook page – to help connect students to voter registration information.

We also intend to encourage incoming freshmen students to consider signing up to vote.

Anticipated Challenges:

We are considering partnering with Frostburg State University to purchase TurboVote. However, we are concerned about the cost and we lack the funds needed to maintain it yearly. We also have questions about how it might help our students.

We will continue to encourage students to use Rock the Vote to learn more about how to register to vote.

Democracy Commitment Meetings:

We will work to integrate voter registration into our ongoing events and activities. This year we held several events – including presidential debate watch parties, local candidate forums, democracy cafes, and international day of peace activities in which we promoted civic engagement through voting within our events.

Timeline:

We would like to register at least 100 students to vote this fall.

Evaluation of Goals:

We will evaluate our progress at Democracy Commitment meetings, determining what is working and what is not working. We will have information generated by our NSLVE report that we can discuss with our TDC committee and plan for next year.