

College of Marin Action Plan for California Community Colleges Civic Engagement  
Pilot Project 2016-2017

Background:

The Students for Social Justice, a student club at the College of Marin seeks to create a more active citizenry. Our mission is:

*“Students for Social Justice is a group dedicated to envisioning and implementing social justice at College of Marin, in the local community and globally. We seek to raise awareness of relevant issues through events such as film screening and discussions with students, faculty, staff and local community members and by taking more direct forms of action such as attending protests and organizing fundraisers. All are welcome to attend our meetings.”*

This mission tasks implies that the job of raising the awareness about political issues both local and global of the college of Marin community is part of our work. The 2016 elections are less than a month away and our club will be spending the next month hosting voter awareness events and conducting registration drive. With the help of the Civic Engagement Grant received some of the action will now be funded in a way that would otherwise not be possible.

Action:

Our action plan includes a grassroots voter registration drive with the use of the tablets and wireless routers received yesterday from the Civic Impact Grant. Students hit the pavement on 10/13/16 in a last minute push to register students by the October 24<sup>th</sup> deadline. Our President is issuing an announcement to all faculty requesting they give the students time to enter into as many classes as possible to do rapid registration and to announce our big October 24<sup>th</sup> event.

October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm will be our first awareness/last chance to register event. This evening event will feature non-partisan speakers who will overview the propositions, discuss candidate platforms and help students think about how the issues will affect them and their communities. We will provide dinner and have games and prizes. Students will have break out sessions after the larger gathering to focus on particular issues that are most important to them.

We will continue with weekly events up until the election on November 8<sup>th</sup> and have an Election Day party to watch results together.

We will be participating in the *All In Campus Democracy Challenge* organized by the Young Invincibles. We will be connecting with them via social media and will be issuing the press release highlighting our upcoming events.

We will participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, a part of Tufts University's Institute for Democracy and Higher Education which studies student political learning and engagement in democracy. As a participant in

NSLVE, we will be modeling some of our civic engagement events and actions on work that they are doing.

Throughout the process we will follow the best practices identified by the California Student Votes Project to assure we are acting in accordance with the terms of the grant.

Following the election, we will spend the rest of the year hosting events that raise awareness about different political issues from very local to global. We will attend local conferences on a variety of topics including: climate change, immigration, mass incarceration and preparation for the 2018 election.

We will follow many of the state propositions and see what the impact of their outcome will be. A series of weekly forums will be held to address the following topics:

Prop 51 affords 9 billion for schools, what will happen if it passes, what will happen if it does not and how that affects the students will be an important issue to pay attention to.

Prop 55 involving a continued tax for Californians who earn over \$250,00 will also be important. If the tax goes away, what funding will also disappear?

Prop 57 grants parole to some non-violent offenders, looking at our system of mass incarceration, how will this affect the lives of all people who are a part of the system, whether as an incarcerated individual or an employee of the legal system.

Prop 59 touches on campaign finance reform, which is a very important issue in terms of student's perception of and faith in the electoral process.

Prop 62 repeals the death penalty. How will its passage affect the criminal justice system?

Because of the ever-changing nature of politics, there likely will be other pressing issues that come up in the next 12 months that we will tackle as well.

Knowledge is power and the Students for Social Justice seek to learn as much as we can and with the support of the Civic Impact Grant we are able to allocate resources we would otherwise not have to do so.