

## **Furman University's Democratic Engagement Plan**

With the United States being ranked 139<sup>th</sup> in democratic involvement and having a low turnout among the youth, Furman University commit itself to creating an information hub for voter registration -which in turn will increase turn out rates. A collective push by various student organizations and academic departments under the name "Dins Vote", will craft an environment for the University to attain its goal of increasing turnout for this general election.

**Goals:** Increase voter registration and turnout by Furman Students.

1. Develop a vested interest in politics and political advocacy.
2. Increase voter turnout by Furman students by easing registration efforts.
3. Emphasize competitive nature of project to propel student interest.
4. Inform students about voter laws in Greenville, SC.

### **Recommendations:**

1. CLP Events
  - a. Cultural Life Programs (CLPs) are hour long lectures for specific topics ranging from various issues, ideas, and artistic expressions. The purpose of these events are to educate students and foster discussion. Each CLP event contributes one point towards the students' collective thirty-two points, which are necessary for graduation.
  - b. Collaborate with College Democrats, College Republicans, and various organizations to craft interesting CLP events to attract attention to the Dins Vote Competition. Register students at events.
  - c. Contact: College Democrats, College Republicans, etc.
    - i. Work with the Riley Institute. "The Riley Institute at Furman broadens student and community perspective about issues critical to South Carolina's progress. It builds and engages present and future leaders, creates and shares data-supported

information about the state's core challenges, and links the leadership body to those solutions to drive sustainable solutions.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Utilize various Riley CLP events, such as the Constitution Day CLP in mid-September.
  - ii. Work with the Political Science Department.
    1. CLP events such as, The Youth Vote in 2016 will be aimed specifically to address the Dins Vote Competition.
    2. The CLP event “A Political Conversation” involving Representative Trey Gowdy and Senator Tim Scott along with their challengers will be held, informing voters about who they are voting for and how.
  - iii. Work with the Communications Department and their Debate Watch Events
    1. The Communications Department at Furman University will be hosting Presidential Debate Watch Events. At these events attention will be directed towards the Dins Vote Competition and information in regards to voter registration will be handed out.
    2. These debates will occur on: September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Contact: Communications Department
2. Participation in Pizza and Politics
    - a. Pizza and Politics is an opportunity for students to engage with professors regarding various political topics while enjoying pizza. This event occurs twice per month. Information about the Dins Vote Project will be handed out at these meetings.
    - b. Contact: Political Science Department
  3. Design Fliers and Stickers about Dins Vote Competition

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<sup>1</sup> <https://riley.furman.edu/riley/about/about-institute>

- a. Disperse fliers and stickers around campus on September 27<sup>th</sup> – National Voter Registration Day.
4. Establish Table at Activities Fair
  - a. The Activities Fair occurs during the first week in August and provides information for first year students as to the various organizations on campus. Each organization has a separate table to sign up students and answer questions.
  - b. Provide information to first year students in regards to our initiative and the competition.
  - c. Contact: Student Life
5. Email Political Science Students
  - a. Mass email Political Science students regarding absentee voting information and the Dins Vote Project.
  - b. Contact: Political Science Department
6. Establish Student Group for Project
  - a. This student group will be called Dins Vote and will be a temporary organization to propel the campaign. It will consist of volunteers willing to support the registration effort on campus.
  - b. Canvas dormitories to ensure that students are receiving information in regards to absentee voting.
  - c. Contact: Student Life
7. Furman University Library Support
  - a. Place information in regards to the election competition across the library, as well as display various books on politics and elections to craft a dialogue.
  - b. Contact: Furman University Library
8. Create Website Through Furman University Library
  - a. As part of our efforts to raise awareness, Dins Vote will utilize Furman University's Library page to direct students to registration information.

- b. Easy to access information via the Furman Library Website that involves a pull down menu listing each state, their website, and respective deadlines.
- c. Contact: Furman University Library