

Otterbein University

Democratic Engagement Plan

Background

- Otterbein University is a private, four-year liberal arts institution in Central Ohio. The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) at Otterbein is the primary office for democratic engagement on campus. A student from the CCE leads Raise Your Voice, a bi-partisan student group focused on civic engagement. The student leader, with guidance and support of professional staff members, spearheaded efforts this fall to get students registered to vote, educated on issues and candidates, as well as provided access to the polls on Election Day.

Voter Registration

- In the middle of September, the CCE provided voter registration forms to every student that lived on campus and information on how to correctly register for their residence hall. These forms were distributed through Resident Assistants (RAs). Students were able to turn their forms into the Center for Community Engagement at tables in the Campus Center and Library. Additionally, students were able to drop them off at the Center for Community Engagement. CCE staff delivered all forms to the County Board of Elections prior to the registration deadline.
- The Center for Community Engagement provided zero-balance utility bills to all students on campus. These utility bills were a form of voter identification that students could use at the polls if they registered with their campus address.

Voter Education

- The Center for Community Engagement hosted debate watch parties for each of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates. These watch parties allowed students to learn about the candidates and their stances on a variety of issues.
- Tables were set up throughout the fall with bipartisan information on state and national candidates.
- The CSPAN Campaign Bus came to Otterbein on Thursday September 15th. The CSPAN Campaign Bus provided in-depth public affairs event coverage, interactive quizzes to test student knowledge about the political process, videos, etc. The Bus helped promote excitement about civic engagement in the community.

Election Day

- The CCE provided shuttles to voting locations for students living on campus.