

Basic Information

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Coalition

Asha Binbek, Civic Engagement Fellow (Student Leader)

Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services

Dick Simpson, Professor

Department of Political Science

Joseph Hoereth, Director

Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement

Norma Ramos, Director for Marketing and Communications

Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement

Michael Crumbock, Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives

Department of Public and Government Affairs

Martha Gutierrez, Senior Director

Department of Public and Government Affairs

Scott Braam, Graduate Student

Department of Political Science

Leadership Responsibilities within Coalition

Joe Hoereth, Coordinator of the Civic Action Plan

Dick Simpson, Coordinator of Constitution Day, National Student Issues Convention, Speakers on Government and Politics

Spencer Long and Asha Binbek, Coordinators of Student Organizations, Voter Registration, Civic Engagement Yearly Calendar, and Debate Watch Parties

Michael Crumbock, Coordinator of Polling Places and Election Day Activities

Asha Binbek, Norma Ramos, and Martha Gutierrez, Public Relations and Social Media Team

Community Partners

Rock the Vote, Illinois Campus Compact, Illinois Connection (University of Illinois Alumni Association legislative advocacy network), Chicago Votes, Illinois Public Interest Group, and the Chicago Board of Elections Commission

Checklist

Voter Registration Implementation

- **Voter Registration at Orientation**
 - We currently have staff attending all first year and transfer orientation sessions to encourage students to register to vote during their orientation process. During this time, we will also be confirming students are registered to vote, noting they are not eligible, or prefer not to vote.
- **Debate Watch Parties**
 - Students will be able to register to vote at our debate watch parties throughout the semester, prior to October 12, the last day to register in Illinois. We will have staff in attendance walking around and asking students to register. There will also be a booth near the door for students to go to register to vote, get more information on voting, and access non-partisan candidate issue guides. After each debate watch party, we will ask students to participate in a short survey regarding civic engagement and whether or not students feel more civically engaged after watching the debates.
 - Dates: Monday, September 26, Tuesday, October 4, Sunday, October 9, and Wednesday, October 19
- **Constitution Day**
 - Hosted by the UIC Department of Political Science every September, the Constitution Day program includes a lecture from a distinguished civic scholar, a series of engagement opportunities offered by departments around campus, and the chance to network with students and professionals interested in government, law and society. We will have voter registration booths available throughout the duration of the event.
- **Rock the Vote & National Voter Registration Day**
 - We will be hosting an event on campus to get as many students as we can registered to vote on National Voter Registration Day, partnering with Rock the Vote.
 - We are working with several offices around campus to have a unified front along with entertainment to bring students to our event.
- **Reserved Table Space in Student Centers**
 - Collaborating with Undergraduate Student Government, Political Science Student Union, and other non-partisan organizations we will provide students with the opportunity to register to and obtain information on voting. We plan to reserve table space throughout September in different locations across campus in order to reach as many students as possible.
- **Spark in the Park**
 - UIC hosts a music festival for current students in the fall and voter registration will be available for attendees.
- **National Student Issues Convention**
 - UIC hosts a convention of students from a half dozen universities in collaboration with other universities in the Chicago region and other universities around the country to create an agenda of student issues before the November election to which candidates and government officials respond. About 400 students participate in the half-day event.
- **Faculty Involvement**
 - We plan to coordinate with faculty members to encourage their students to register to vote in the first week of classes.

- **Increasing Availability of Information**
 - We plan to create bulletin boards that have voter registration forms, voter guides, sample ballots, and issue guides that will go to different offices and student heavy locations around the university.
- **Forms in Employment Documents**
 - Over the course of the school year, we will be working with the Student Employment Office with the goal of including voter registration forms in new hire paperwork.

Voter Education Implementation

- **UIC Voter Information Website**
 - We have a website that students can visit for civic engagement. We plan to update this site to provide information about voter registration, information for voting, sample ballots, candidate issue guides, upcoming events, and other resources that may prove helpful to students.
- **University Mass Email**
 - We will send a mass email regarding voter information and registration in the beginning weeks of the fall 2016 semester. The mass email will include links to our website and other resources on voting, as well as information for upcoming events surrounding civic engagement.
- **Voter Information Flyers**
 - We plan to regularly distribute voter information flyers with non-partisan details on candidate issues, voter registration information, and promotions for early voting.
- **Voter Information Lunch with the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement**
 - We will host a lunch in partnership with the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement to teach interested students the ins and outs of voting mid-October. This includes voter registration, discussing candidate issues and stances (non-partisan), discussing concerns first time voters may have, informing participants of ballot access laws for Illinois, and simulations of polling stations and ballots. We will conclude with lunch and an open forum for students to get questions answered and discuss their experiences.
- **Calendar of Events**
 - May 26 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration Begins
 - May 27 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - May 28 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 1 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 3 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration Begins
 - June 7 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 8 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 10 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 14 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 15 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 17 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 21 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 22 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
 - June 24 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration

- June 28 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- June 29 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
- July 12 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- July 13 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
- July 15 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- July 19 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- July 20 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
- July 22 – Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- July 26 – Final Freshman Orientation Voter Registration
- July 27 – Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
- July 28 – Final Transfer Orientation Voter Registration
- August 22 – [EMAIL] Welcome Back & Reminder for Voter Registration at Spark
- August 22 – Voter Boards distributed to offices around campus
- August 22 – Faculty Members Distribute Voter Registration Forms During First Week
- August 29 – [MASS EMAIL] About Voter Registration, Events, and Resources
- September 1 – Spark in the Park Voter Registration Booth
- September 5 – Voter registration table begins in Student Center East (Once weekly)
- September 7 – Voter registration table in Quad
- September 12 – Voter registration table in Richard J Daley Library
- September 19 – Constitution Day Event
- September 26 – [OFFICIAL EMAIL] Debate Watch Party and Rock the Vote
- September 26 – Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Party
- September 27 – Rock the Vote/National Voter Registration Day Event
- September 27 – Voter registration table ends in Student Services Building
- October 4 – Vice Presidential Candidate Watch Party
- October 7 – National Student Issues Convention
- October 9 – Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Party [Last Voter Registration Event on Campus]
- October 11 – [EMAIL] Last Day to Register to Vote in Illinois
- October 19 – Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Party
- October 25 – Voter Information Lunch with the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement
- November 2 – Early Voting BEGINS
- November 3 – Early Voting
- November 4 - Early Voting ENDS
- November 7 – [MASS EMAIL] Election Day is Tomorrow
- November 8 – Election Day
- November 8 – Election Day Results Watch Party

Ballot Access Implementation

- **Early Voting**

- Early voting will be available at UIC's Student Center East on November 2 through November 4 from 10am until 5pm for anyone that is registered to vote in the City of Chicago.

- **Ballot Access Information**
 - We plan to coordinate with local election officials or an affiliated organization to plan ballot access information sessions with hopes that students will know exactly what to anticipate when they go to vote and know their rights when they do.
- **Election Day**
 - University of Illinois at Chicago is an Election Day voting site

Get Out the Vote Implementation

- **University Mass Email/ Targeted Emailing/Election Engagement Strategy**
 - We plan to send a mass email regarding voter information and registration in the beginning weeks of the fall 2016 semester. The mass email will include links to website and other resources on voting as well as information for upcoming events surrounding civic engagement. November 7 we will send another email to students reminding them vote day is tomorrow and provide information on how they can find their polling place
 - Another email will be sent to students close to early voting time, absentee ballot deadlines, and Election Day to remind students of important dates. Since there are a number of students that are registered to vote outside of Illinois, we will send emails to remind them of deadlines for voter registration and absentee ballot submissions
 - Students will be able to send emails to our office with questions or concerns they have regarding the elections. We will have staff read and respond to said emails as quickly as they can.
- **Bulletin Boards**
 - We plan to create bulletin boards that have voter registration forms, voter guides, sample ballots, and issue guides that will go to different offices and student heavy locations around the university.
- **Flyer Distribution**
 - In the days closing in on Election Day, we will post and distribute flyers encouraging students to get out and vote.
- **Social Media**
 - We plan to organize social media campaigns to get students active and voting on campus. This would involve sending regular updates through various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to remind student of important deadlines and other pertinent information regarding the elections, deadlines, and the candidates

Available Resources

- In partnership with the Illinois Campus Compact, we were awarded a \$1,000 grant to be used towards our Civic Engagement efforts.
- We will be co-sponsoring a number of events with other offices across campus, including the Center for Student Involvement and the six cultural centers at UIC.
- We will be co-sponsoring a number of events with student organizations across campus, including the Undergraduate Student Government, Political Science Student Union, College Democrats, and College Republicans.
- The various offices and departments in the university under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor for Public and Government Affairs will provide the funding for the different activities from within their own budgets

Additional Resources Required

- While additional funding in the form of grants from outside the university would be helpful, we have not had the opportunity to seek funding.

Challenges and Navigation

- Many UIC students are very involved on campus and in our community. However, for the students that aren't, it is a bit challenging to get them engaged in much of anything. In order to navigate through that, we think it would be pertinent to use the students leaders that are actively involved on campus to get other students engaged civically as well as in their own student organizations. Students with the desire and passion to lead also make sure that other students' voices are heard.
- Mid May, Illinois legislation approved the automatic voter registration bill which will hopefully positively impact our plan to get students more involved. We will need to push that being registered to vote is worth more than having a piece of card stock in your wallet, it is about making change in the communities and in the US. Moving forward, should this be enacted within the next year, we will be working to see if there are ways we can do automatic registration when students get their student ID on campus through creating or using an interface that will be used to register Illinois residents.

Timeline

Coalition Meetings

- Our coalition plans to meet once a month throughout the year.

Halfway Point Goals – Now and November

- Our half way goal is to increase the number students registered to vote. One specific goal is to register at least 90% of eligible voters within the incoming class to vote.
- Since UIC just recently joined the Tufts University National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), we will be using the results of the primary election data to chart and set goals regarding voter registration and civic engagement on campus.
- Encourage students to participate, lobby, and contact their legislation about their issues and concerns in the government
- To execute the plan that we have set in place regarding voter registration, voter education, ballot access, and Get Out the Vote implementation outlined in this application.

Evaluation of Successes and Challenges of the Expected in the Next Year

- **Evaluation of Successes**
 - The Tufts University National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) will let us know how many students at our university are registered to vote and how many actually voted in the primary elections
 - Turnout for lobby day and letter writing campaigns would be a good evaluation of how many students are becoming more civically engaged on campus
 - By March, we will evaluate all student civic engagement activities and develop measures for the future along with a concrete action plan for future years.
- **Evaluation of Challenges Expected**
 - Keeping up the momentum post Presidential Elections
 - Educating students on the importance of midterm elections
 - Continuing to meet with governmental officials on the needs and concerns of students throughout the year based on the priorities set at the National Student Issues Convention.