



WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY

All In Campus Democracy Challenge



Overview

Weber State University students voted at 49% in 2012 and 15% in 2014. That is better than all institutions for the presidential election and worse than all institutions for the midterm election. Our registered students had turnout rates at 66% in 2012 and 54% in 2014 so one of our goals is to register more students as we know they will vote.



Field of Study Breakdown

Given this data, we need to work in all fields of study in midterm elections. In a presidential election year, we need to focus more specifically on Biological, Computer Science, Humanities, and Technology as the other fields are performing at better than the University average, which is better than all institutions. Our goal is to create a culture of voter education on our campus which will lead to voter interest that we hope to maintain throughout the next election cycle, thus increasing our numbers in both 2016 and 2018.

Field of Study	2012	2014
Biological	46	12
Business	56	13
Communication	-	18
Computer	44	14
Education	62	17
Engineering	-	13
Health	56	14
Humanities	47	24
General Studies	52	14
Math	-	11
Science	-	14
Professions	56	16
Psychology	55	11
Social Sciences	67	18
Technology	38	13
Trade	61	15
Visual Arts	60	11

Point of Contact

Leah A. Murray

Professor, Political Science and Philosophy

Democratic Engagement Coordinator, Center
for Community Engaged Learning

Weber State University

Ogden, Utah

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Coalition

Team Members

- Sheldon Cheshire, Assistant Director, Student Involvement and Leadership
- Carol McNamara, Director, Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service
- Colt Jarvis, Student Chair of Democratic Engagement Team
- Timothy Isom, Student Chair of American Democracy Project



Coalition

Student Leaders

Each of these student leaders has financial support from the University through scholarship or activity waiver

- Myla Andersen, Student Leader
- Jen Willden, Student Leader
- Bret Alexander, Student Leader
- Erin Dominguez, Student Leader
- AJ Franks, Student Leader
- Ezekiel Lee, Student Leader



Leadership Responsibilities

- Leah Murray
- Sheldon Cheshire
- Carol McNamara
- Shelly Jackson
- Colt Jarvis
- Timothy Isom



Community Partners

- Shelly Jackson, Assistant Elections Director, Weber County Clerk/Auditor
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Utah State Debate Commission
- United Way of Northern Utah
- iCitizen



Campus Partners

- Landon Bickley, Vice-President of Leadership, Weber State University Student Association
- Mark Denniston, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
- Kyle Reinhardt, Weber State University Housing
- Community Engaged Learning Series
- Weber State University Convocations
- Political Science Department
- Campus Athletics



Best Practices Plan

Voter Registration

Voter Education

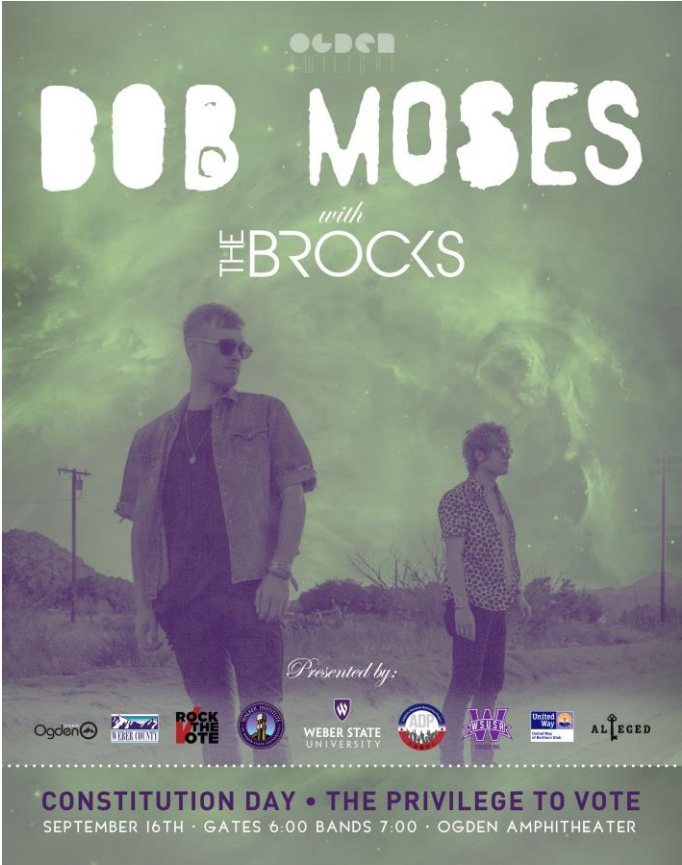
Ballot Access

Get out the Vote

Voter Registration

- Voter Registration Simulation
 - We will conduct a registration simulation in the residence halls September 15 to demonstrate to students how difficult it can be to register to vote
- Constitution Day: The Privilege to Vote
 - We will host a Rock the Vote Concert September 16 in collaboration with Ogden City at which Weber County Elections office will open a hotspot so students can register online
- National Voter Registration Day
 - We will table during the day on campus September 27; this event will include the Weber County Elections office staff so that students meet the people responsible for the work
- Voter Registration Tabling
 - At every event of the American Democracy Project in the fall, we will have voter registration forms that we will collect and deliver to the Weber County Elections office





Rock the Vote Poster

Best Practices Plan

Voter Registration

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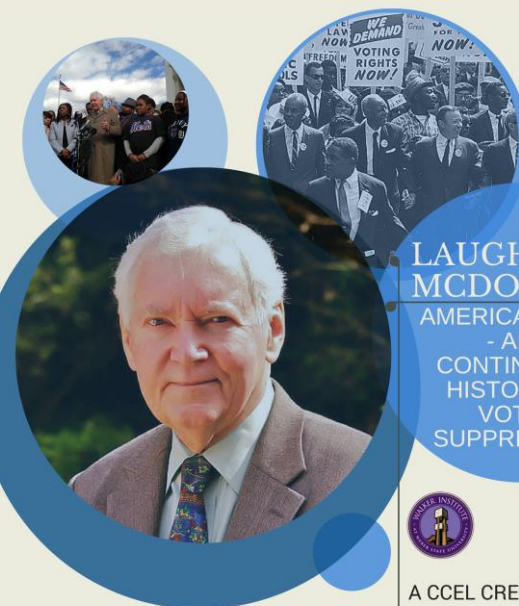
Get out the Vote

Voter Education

- Constitution Week Keynote
 - We will host American Civil Liberties Union national litigator Laughlin McDonald to discuss voting rights in Utah as well as the nation September 14
- Presidential Debate Watches
 - We will host two watches, depending on the topics chosen we will choose the night and will coordinate with iCitizen to join a national conversation
- Utah 1st District Congressional Debate
 - Utah Debate Commission will host a congressional debate on campus October 17
- Election Night Party
 - We will host a party to watch returns come in and political scientist Leah Murray will explain results November 8




Constitution Day Address






LAUGHLIN MCDONALD
 AMERICA'S PAST
 - AND
 CONTINUING -
 HISTORY OF
 VOTER
 SUPPRESSION

Special Counsel & Director Emeritus
 -Voting Rights Project-



WED., SEPT. 14, 11:30 AM
WILDCAT THEATER

A CCEL CREDIT EVENT

 /thewalkerinstitute
 @WSUWalkerInst
 @WSUWalkerInst

FOR MORE INFO:
 CARLA PRICE
 CPRICE@WEBER.EDU
 801-626-4252
 WEBER.EDU/WALKERINSTITUTE/CAL
 ENDAR.HTML

Constitution Week Keynote Poster

Best Practices Plan

Voter Registration

Voter Education

Ballot Access

Get out the Vote

Ballot Access

- Vote By Mail
 - In the most recent election, 95% of people used vote by mail so we will encourage the use of vote by mail by our students with information about when to get their ballots in the mail, which is November 7
 - We asked Weber County Elections office if we could have a ballot drop box but they cannot coordinate the logistics with the three counties that our campus services so they were unable to accommodate us



Best Practices Plan

Voter Registration

Voter Education

Ballot Access

Get Out the Vote

Get Out the Vote

- Pledge to Vote
 - Throughout the months of August, September, and October, our students will collect pledges to vote from students
- Constitution Day: the Privilege to Vote
 - Since our registered students had voter turnout rate of 66%, we consider our Rock the Vote concert event September 16 as a mobilization effort as well
 - We will run shuttles from campus to the Ogden Amphitheatre to bring students to the event



Resources Available

- Weber County Elections hot spot for online registration
- Weber County Elections registration forms
- Ogden City providing police for Rock the Vote Concert
- Jared Allen is a local entrepreneur who found us the band for Rock the Vote and paid for the opening act as well
- Campus partners are contributing funds to pay for all events in the fall



Additional Resources

Weber County Elections

- Our university chose not to purchase Turbo Vote this year as we have a strong community partner in our elections office in the county. They are doing the work to make it possible for us to track our efforts.
- This office has been working with us for more than two years and will continue to work with us as we implement our field plan throughout the next years.



Additional Resources

Center for Community Engaged Learning, Student Involvement and Leadership, Walker Institute for Politics and Public Policy

- The most important set of resources are the three offices on campus that are coming together to increase democratic engagement among our students. These three centers are committed in the long term to work together and keep engaging our students over the long term.



No Significant Implementation Challenges

Our University President, Charles Wight, has made democratic engagement a priority on our campus so there are no implementation challenges. In addition to our president, our Vice President for Student Affairs, our Provost, and our Vice President for University Advancement are supporting the president in his prioritizing democratic engagement.



Coalition Meetings

- Our team has been meeting every other week since the spring to plan out the fall.
- Our student leaders and Sheldon Cheshire and Leah Murray attended the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement conference in June to plan out our year of democratic engagement.
- We will continue to meet throughout the fall at a pace of at least twice a month and then dial it back in the spring to once a month.



Timeline

August 15

- All programming scheduled
- Let Colleges know specific voter turnout rates

October Events

- Debriefing after each event

Spring Semester

- NSLVE data shared with comparison analysis on campus

September Events

- Hotspot in place
- Coordination with iCitizen
- Debriefing after each event

November Events

- Debriefing after each event



Evaluation Process

- When the NSLVE data is released we will assess how this particular year went compared to 2012.
 - We will examine individual colleges and report to them if the work this year helped them increase their numbers.
 - For colleges that underperform, we will ask for ideas as to how to target their student population for 2018.



Evaluation Process

- After each event we will debrief specifically, discussing the successes and challenges so that we have a plan for next year's activities.



January Report

- Qualitative analysis
 - We will submit reports based on the debriefings that happened after each event, looking for commonalities.
- Quantitative analysis
 - We will report our NSLVE data if available.
 - We will report numbers of students registered and which events were most successful.



2017 Election Cycle

In Utah, 2017 is a municipal election cycle, so we will ramp up our efforts on a local level, thus solidifying WSU's commitment to being a space for democratic engagement.

