



Campus Life

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

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## Arizona Western College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Shara Skinner

### Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Arizona Western College in Arizona for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Arizona Western College for the 2024 election are:

- Use preexisting AWC events to promote voting information
- Utilize existing voting strategies and resources
- Include information in English and Spanish

### Leadership:

Our Arizona Western College leadership team includes the following:

Office of the President, Representative for Advancement, Student Government Association President, Director of Housing, Associate Dean of South Yuma County, Associate Dean of Marketing and Public Relations, Director of Library Services, Associate Dean of Career and Advising, Associate Dean of La Paz County, Dean of Students

### Commitment:

Arizona Western College (AWC) recognizes the value and importance that the Voting plays in our community and thus will take an active role in supporting the collection of data from the Arizona Western College population.

For many of the AWC students, voting in 2024 is the first time that they may be voting themselves as opposed to with their parents. Making sure that they are aware voting rules and its importance is a key strategy to getting each student votes counted.

AWC is devoted to “Transforming lives through education and partnerships to create thriving communities” Civic engagement plays a vital role in the way our community connects.

AWC currently serves as a polling place on the Yuma Campus. Civic engagement on our campus is an important value for AWC. The Federal Higher Education Act requires us as a college to make a “good faith effort” to distribute voter registration materials to all students, encourage voter turnout, educate students on the Constitution particularly by programming for Constitution day on or around September 17th.

Here are the ways each year that we have and will continue to assist in campus community registration, civic engagement, and information on voting rights.

- We provide year-round information and resources on voting in our state including pamphlets, stickers, giveaways etc. to encourage registering to vote and voting.
  - This information is provided to us by the Campus Election Engagement Project whom we work with every year to receive updated information involving election engagement
- Yearly we provide Constitution Day programming on or around September 17<sup>th</sup> on all of our campuses. This year on the Yuma Campus was September 15<sup>th</sup> in the LR and included the Yuma County Recorder’s Office will be on-site to assist with voter registration questions, including how to change your registration from out of State to AZ and how to look up to see if you are currently registered. We also engaged in student quizzes and gave out voting and Constitution related giveaways.
- On our South Yuma County Campuses we work directly with the CHISPA organization to table at events and give information on voting
- We work with Facilities to provide pocket Constitutions in each classroom and most conference rooms on campus. Additionally we hand them out during yearly events and have them on hand.
- Voting information is provided in the Employee Handbook, in the Student Handbook and on the students right to know page  
<https://www.azwestern.edu/student-life/student-right-to-know>
  - This information specifically goes out through an annual update to our students and is available on our webpages permanently
- Last year we added to our efforts a membership to the CAMPUS VOTE PROJECT: BECOME A VOTER FRIENDLY CAMPUS the following is our progress through this project so far

- o Will elect 2 students to join the Democracy Fellowship
  - These students are charged with helping peers register and vote and engage them in dialogue around democracy. The Campus Vote Project has been helpful to us as they are dedicated to helping students gain access to the ballot and increasing voter turnout particularly with traditional college age students in mind
  - Our two students will their training and onboarding for *election law training* in October and will complete their duties through out the year

**As a reminder the information above helps us fulfil our AACRAO commitment to Constitution Day and Voter Registration requirements.**

Arizona Western College has a current signatory to ALL IN's Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

## Landscape:

### Voter Turnout

**As a border town and a college that is Hispanic serving the following** election laws impact our campus community specifically:

HCR 2056-and effort to get final election results in a timelier fashion. However insufficient funding to purchase tabulators may make it more difficult to get votes counted.

The proof of citizenship to register to vote on a border town, means that young college students are disproportionately affected and potentially disenfranchised by these laws.

### Upcoming Elections:

#### July 30, 2024 - Primary Election

- [Official Write-In Candidate List](#)
- Logic and Accuracy Tests will be held at the Yuma County Recorder's Office location at 102 S. Main Street.
  - o County/City/Town Offices: June 26th at 10:00 a.m.
  - o State/Federal Offices: June 27th at 8:20 a.m.
- Voter Registration Deadline: July 1, 2024
- Early voting period: July 3 through July 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
  - o Friday, July 26, 2024 will remain open until 7:00 p.m

#### November 5, 2024 - General Election

- Candidate Filing Dates: June 10 through July 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Candidate Challenge Period: July 9, 2024 through July 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Write-in Candidates for Election Subject to Cancellation Date: July 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Write-in Candidates Date: September 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Voter Registration Deadline: October 7, 2024

- Early voting period: October 9 through November 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
  - o Friday, November 1, 2024 will remain open until 7:00 p.m.

## **Demographics**

Arizona Western College is a <<Campus Governance>> <<Campus Type>> and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2024. Our institution is designated as the following: Minority-Serving Institution, Hispanic-Serving Institution

Our campus demographic:

Arizona Western College has 6,487 students.

### **Student Headcount by Race/Ethnicity**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
African American	215	2%
American Indian	138	1%
Asian	101	1%
Caucasian	1,706	14%
International	130	1%
Latino/Hispanic	7,777	63%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	15	<0.5%
Two or More	188	2%
Unspecified	2,072	17%

### **Student Headcount by Age Group**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 20	4,885	40%
20 – 24	3,624	29%
25 – 29	1,344	11%
30 – 39	1,447	12%
40 – 49	645	5%
50+	381	3%
Unknown	16	>0.5%

### **Student Headcount by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	5,314	43%
Female	6,896	56%
Unspecified	132	1%

## Student Headcount by Student Characteristics

Student Characteristic	Number	Percentage
First Generation	7,681	62%
Developmental	1,456	12%
English as a Second Language	407	3%
Awarded Financial Aid	10,896	88%
First Time	4,883	40%
Continuing	7,459	60%
Degree/Certificate Seeking	10,677	87%

### Current Practices

Arizona Western College participates in Constitution Day programming and the CAMPUS VOTE PROJECT. We currently partner with the Yuma County Voter and Election Services Office. We are a poll place on both the Yuma and Wellton Campuses. As well as we working with voting officials in South Yuma County and La Paz County.

### Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voter registration rate by 5% from 2024 to 2026.
- Increase student voter engagement events from 1 to 3 for 2024.
- Add voter registration to Discover AWC for fall 2024.
- Have our president/chancellor sign the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#) by August 2024.

### Strategy:

Arizona Western College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

### Initial Promotion:

Presentations for the following meetings:

- Department meetings
- Professional Development
- Cabinet meeting
- Division Chair meetings
- Classified Committee
- Leadership Advisory Board

**Marketing:** Fall Semester Campaign

- Website slider
- Informational Display in Library on voting
- Screen Savers for student computers
- All Social Media outlets-including Social Media campaign
- Email to all students, faculty, and staff
  - Official voting videos, info graphics, information on how and where to register to vote etc.
- Canvas Message
- Matador Monday-Voting Addition
- KAWC Radio Public Service Announcements
- Ad in the Yuma Sun showing AWC's support to the process of voting

Print Information will include:

- How and where to register to vote and where to vote
- Dates of important voting dates
- Why it is important to YOU (student friendly centered message)
  - Explain to students how and why getting your vote out matters

Print Marketing:

- Banners in 3C, AS, LR, South Yuma County, La Paz County
- Posters for Residence Halls, common areas and student lounges
- Postcards for departments to hand out

President's Office:

- Corr Report Voting Edition

**AWC Event and Voting Promotion:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
August	Prepare voting information in student trainings, orientation, check-ins etc.
August	SGA President speech to Faculty, staff and students at <i>All College Address</i>
August	Send email to all students about voting, when it is coming, dates, etc.
August	Announce voting information to all clubs and organization (competition?)
September	Ad in paper, local community showing AWC's support for voting
September	Voting Booth or announcement at Professional Development opportunities, fall events, Hispanic heritage celebrations, transfer and career
September	Have census, voter registration and local entities come out for Constitution Day

September 10	Presidential Debate watching Party
October	Voting information and support on Matador Monday
October	Health and Wellness, Halloween Celebrations booths
November 5	Presidential Election

**Evaluation:**

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Arizona Western College has sent in our information to authorize the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) in order to receive campus voting data to help with the evaluation of our action plan and nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts.

**Reporting:**

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/arizona-western-college/>.

Arizona Western College has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.

Our action plan will be reviewed by the leadership team then made available on the AWC website along with the demographics and NSLVE report. We are trying to devise a plan to track how many students engage with campus voting programs and collect data on how many students attend AWC polling place during elections.