



ACC VOTES ACTION PLAN

2024



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Executive Summary

The ACC Votes Action Plan outlines the college district's short and long-term goals for boosting student voter registration and turnout, as well as ACC's strategies for imbedding democratic and civic engagement across our 11 campuses in Austin, Cedar Park, Leander, Round Rock, Elgin and Kyle, Texas.

These efforts tie directly to ACC's new Theory of Change, which is focused on increasing completion rates by helping our students start strong, enroll full time and meet their basic needs while wrapping them in a culture of belonging and connection. We believe that cultivating a sense of purpose among our students is critical to their success, and that ACC students have an important role to play in our democracy. While ACC strives to eliminate disparities and help all students meet their educational and career goals, we hope to also address disparities in voter engagement and ultimately create a democracy that is more reflective of and responsive to student needs and priorities.

Short Term Goals and Strategies

Voter Registration

Increase the percentage of eligible ACC students who are registered to vote by 10 percentage points, from 77 percent in 2020 to 87 percent in 2024.

- **Student Voting Ambassadors**
- **Cultural Center VDR Training**
- **National Voter Registration Day events**
- **League of Women Voters and MOVE Texas Tabling**

Voter Turnout

By 2024, student voting rates at ACC will increase by 10 percentage points over 2020 turnout levels, with significant increases among students of color.

- **Emails to Students, Faculty and Staff**
- **National Voter Education Week events**
- **Stroll to the Polls events**
- **Vote Early Day events**

Civic Learning and Engagement

By 2028, ACC's general curriculum will incorporate more civic learning and democratic engagement principles.

- **ACC Votes Webpage**
- **Student Poll Workers**
- **Local Candidate Debates**
- **Speaker Series**
- **Civic Fluency Microcredential**
- **Constitution Day**

Polling Sites

By 2028, at least one campus in each ACC region will have an on-campus polling site.

- **Reducing Polling Gaps**
- **Transportation Assistance**

ACC Votes 2024 Action Plan was co-created by Cassie Fitzgerald, ACC's Director of Public Affairs, Elections & Voter Registration and the ACC Votes Coalition, a team of students, faculty, staff and community partners from various nonpartisan civic engagement organizations and local elections offices. ACC's Department of Community & Public Affairs will lead implementation of the strategies outlined in this plan and will facilitate the assignment of roles and responsibilities to ACC Votes Coalition members to ensure each activity is completed in an effective and timely manner.

Although the ACC Votes Action Plan is largely focused on increasing student engagement in the November 2024 General Election, ACC Community & Public Affairs sees this plan as a living document that will be regularly updated as we learn which strategies are most effective and continue to identify emerging needs. The ACC Votes Coalition will utilize an ongoing process of assessment and improvement throughout the Action Plan's 2024-2025 life cycle to ensure all short and long-term goals are met.

ACC Votes 2024 Action Plan

Austin Community College District (ACC) is a nationally recognized public institution of higher education. It's among the largest colleges in the nation with 11, soon to be 13, campuses located across Central Texas.

ACC is committed to ensuring college is for everyone, and all students have a clear path to success with support along the way. The college works to meet students where they are, providing flexible learning opportunities and real-world experiences to help them complete their education on time and graduate workforce ready. ACC students can earn an associate degree, university transfer credit, career certificates, or one of our select bachelor's degrees.

ACC strives to go beyond equipping students with the career and technical skills they need to join the modern workforce to also empower students with all the tools and resources they need to become informed voters who can elect federal, state and local leaders to best represent their interests. The ACC Votes 2024 Action Plan is a roadmap for creating lifelong voters who will shape the future of our region and our democracy for years to come.

Leadership

The ACC Votes Coalition is a working group made up of students, faculty, staff and community-based partners that co-created this action plan. Coalition members include:

- **ACC's Department of Community & Public Affairs**
- **ACC's Student Government Association**
- **ACC's Government and Political Science Initiative**
- **ACC Government faculty**
- **ACC's Service-Learning Program Coordinator**
- **ACC Student Life staff**
- **Travis County Clerk's Office**
- **Travis County Tax-Assessor Collector's Office**
- **Austin Area League of Women Voters volunteers**
- **Williamson County League of Women Voters President**
- **MOVE Texas staff**
- **VoteRiders**
- **Texas Rising Regional Coordinator**
- **Apartments Vote! Alliance**

Senior Administration

Senior leaders, including ACC's Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor of Operations and Public Affairs and Vice Chancellor of Community & Public Affairs, are all deeply committed to expanding non-partisan democratic engagement across ACC's [11 campuses](#). The Executive Vice Chancellor of Operations & Public Affairs currently sends a collegewide email to all students, faculty and staff at the start of Early Voting and every Election Day to provide resources from our [ACC Votes](#) webpage and remind everyone to vote. Our Vice Chancellor of Community and Public Affairs also works closely with county elections offices in our region to coordinate and promote on-campus polling sites that make it easier for our students to vote.

Faculty

ACC Votes is working closely with our [Office of Experiential Learning](#) to develop voting and civics-related service-learning and internship opportunities with our local elections offices and non-partisan voter registration and outreach groups. [ACC's Government Department](#) is also well represented within the ACC Votes Coalition with three active members. The department hosted a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training at their April 2024 meeting where over 15 Government professors became certified to register their students to vote. ACC Votes hopes to build upon these coordinated voter registration efforts to create opportunities for our new Student Voting Ambassadors to conduct peer-to-peer registration in additional classrooms, especially in STEM courses.

Student Organizations

The administrator of [ACC's Civics Lab](#), an incubator for political internships and other tangible experiences with public policy for ACC students, is a member of the ACC Votes Coalition. The Civics Lab will be a key part of our plans to institutionalize year-round democratic engagement through expansion of their internship and civics learning opportunities.

A new Texas state law passed in 2023 bans Diversity Equity & Inclusion offices at all public colleges and universities. However, recognizing that students with different backgrounds and experiences may need culturally-specific civic engagement resources, the ACC Votes Coalition plans to work with our [African American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Latin American Cultural Centers](#) on targeting critical gaps in voter registration and turnout among these specific student populations.

[ACC's Student Government Association](#) (SGA) has been actively involved in ACC Votes action planning and many of the strategies included in this plan are based directly on SGA members' feedback. Although SGA membership is fluid with

students joining and leaving periodically as they transfer or graduate from our two-year programs, SGA officers are deeply connected to student experiences and needs, making them a critical part of our planning and evaluation.

ACC's Government and Political Science Initiative, a student-led non-partisan political club that hosts a speaker series featuring local elected officials, is also part of the coalition and will help inform and plan our events featuring local elected officials or debates.

ACC's Department of Community & Public Affairs (CPA) staff also recruited students to join the ACC Votes Coalition at ACC Sustainability Fairs and other student events.

Community Partners

League of Women Voters

Volunteers with both the [Austin Area](#) and [Williamson County League of Women Voters](#) (LWV) are members of the ACC Votes Coalition and have been tabling on ACC campuses to offer voter registration to students for years. A LWV registration table can generally be found on at least one ACC campus during every day of the Fall or Spring semesters. During general elections, ACC also distributes non-partisan LWV Voter Guides featuring plain language explanations of ballot initiatives and candidate responses to key questions about where they stand on issues that help students become educated voters. Both the Austin Area and Williamson County LWVs will help us connect new student VDRs with volunteer opportunities across our region.

MOVE Texas

[MOVE Texas](#) is a non-profit dedicated to building the political power of young people in underrepresented communities through civic engagement, leadership development, and issue advocacy. Like LWV, MOVE Texas registers ACC students to vote by tabling on our campuses, but they also coordinate in-class presentations and registration with many of our professors and will offer key insights and organizational framework for our new Student Voter Ambassadors.

VoteRiders

[VoteRiders](#) provides information and voter ID assistance to students who need help obtaining one of the seven forms of ID that are required to vote in Texas. ACC distributes VoteRider Voter ID Info Cards in all of the libraries and Student Life Lounges across our 11 campuses to help inform students about recent changes to ID requirements. VoteRiders also hosts virtual Voter ID clinics to help ACC students prepare alternative accepted forms of ID when needed, and has also given voter education presentations to SGA and other student groups.

Texas Rising

[Texas Rising](#) builds the power of young people at the ballot box through an intersectional social justice framework focused on organizing on college campuses, youth development and training. Texas Rising will help us register voters and instill year-round nonpartisan democratic engagement through issue advocacy.

Apartments Vote! Alliance

The Apartments Vote! Alliance focuses on door-to-door registration at multifamily housing complexes that other canvassers tend to miss. ACC Votes will work with Apartments Vote! Alliance to place voter registration materials in apartments where ACC students are residents. As more and more ACC students become trained and certified VDRs, we plan to work with Apartments Vote! to create volunteer and service learning opportunities that allow students to register voters throughout our community.

Local Election Offices

ACC partners with the [Travis County Tax Assessor's Office](#) to provide Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training and certification to our Student Voting Ambassadors and faculty, making them a critical part of our peer-to-peer registration strategy. The [Travis County Clerk's Office](#) works with ACC to provide polling locations on ACC campuses to ensure access to voting for ACC students, as well as the broader community. The Clerk's office has also started recruiting ACC students to become poll workers during local elections, offering students flexible part-time employment that allows them to get more involved in their democracy.

Accountability and Sustainability

Accountability

ACC's Director of Public Affairs, Elections and Voter Registration will lead this work but will remain accountable to members of the ACC Votes Coalition, as well as the Vice Chancellor of Community & Public Affairs she reports to. Members of the ACC Votes Coalition will be responsible and transparent in their actions, and to complete any deliverables they have agreed to take on..

Recruitment

The ACC Votes Coalition has an open door policy that will allow us to take an iterative approach to the recruitment of new members. We will continually ask ourselves who is missing and make efforts to prioritize student and marginalized voices by meeting folks where they are, offering low-commitment ways to get involved or offer feedback and compensating student organizers whenever possible.

Meeting and Update Cadence

The ACC Votes Coalition drafted this action plan over the course of four virtual meetings in April and May 2024. Over the following summer, the coalition received monthly email updates on various grant applications and strategy plans from ACC's Director of Public Affairs, Elections & Voter Registration. The Coalition resumed biweekly meetings in August with a shifted focus toward plan implementation.

Addressing Turnover

Members of the ACC Votes Coalition who can no longer attend meetings or respond to email surveys will be offered an opportunity to nominate a replacement.

Commitment

ACC Votes' student outreach efforts align well with Austin Community College's mission to promote student success and community development through affordable access to higher education and workforce training. Our student voter registration and turnout initiatives promote our students' success by connecting them with the tools and resources they need to become informed citizens who know how to make their community a better place. These initiatives also support community development by strengthening our democracy and making it more...

ACC's vision of becoming not only our region's preferred gateway to higher education and training, but also a catalyst for social equity and personal enrichment can be realized by empowering students to take an active role in decision making at federal, state and local levels. ACC Votes ultimately hopes to go beyond ensuring all of our eligible students are registered to vote to creating future leaders by teaching our students how to advocate for the change they want to see in the world.

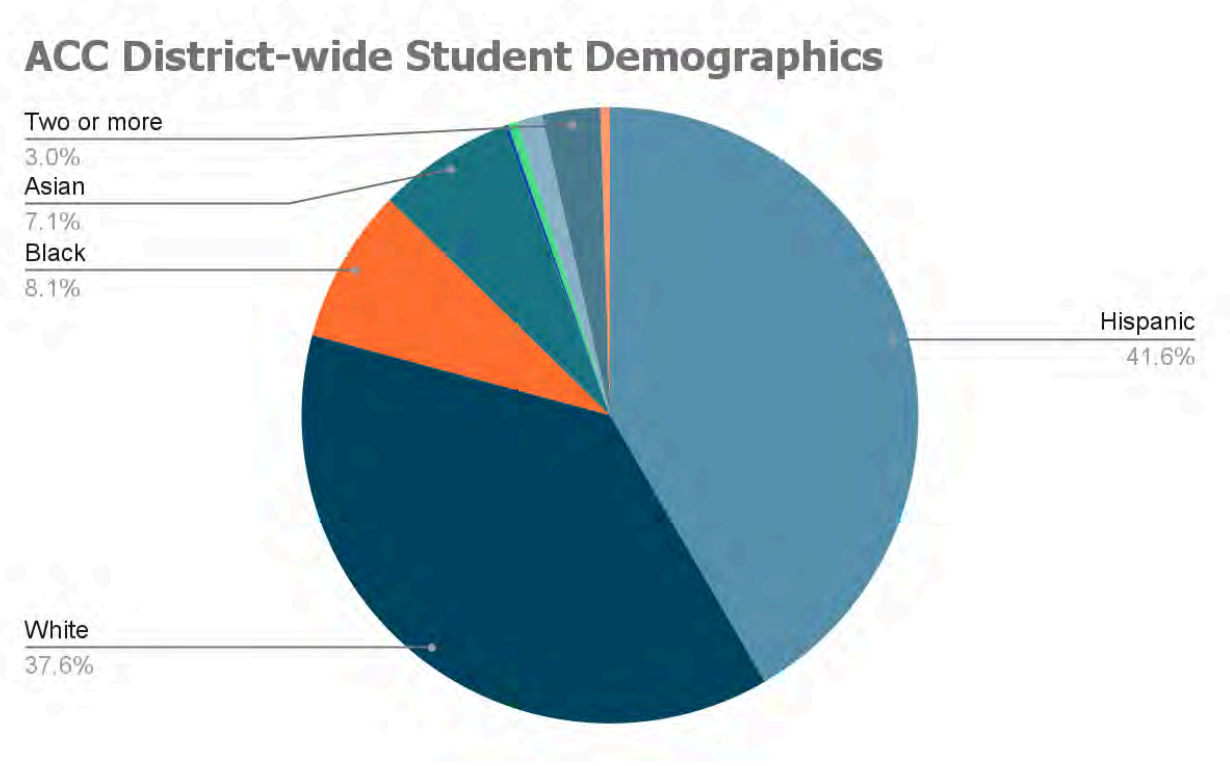
ACC communicates its commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement by emailing all ACC students, faculty and staff before each voter registration deadline, at the start of every Early Voting period and on all Election Days. ACC Administrative Rule 6.09.005 also states that "Employees are encouraged to participate in any local, state and national electoral process," and that those wishing to vote during their regularly scheduled working hours may use up to two hours of administrative leave.

ACC's Chancellor, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, has signed on to the ALL IN President's Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation and is committed to ensuring that all eligible students are given the opportunity to engage in elections and voting-related learning opportunities. Dr. Lowery-Hart's new Theory of Change for the ACC District is focused on loving our students to success, and empowering them at the ballot box is very much a part of that mission.

Landscape

Student Demographics

ACC had a total, districtwide enrollment of 35,600 students as of Fall 2023. Of that total, 41 percent are Hispanic, 38 percent are white, 8 percent are Black and 7 percent are Asian.



Data from ACC’s 2020 National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement Report (NSLVE Report) indicates that voting rates among Black, Hispanic, and Native students all lagged behind their white counterparts, but the biggest turnout gap is seen among Asian students. ACC plans to target these gaps by specifically tailoring outreach and engagement to reach these specific populations.

Learning Outcomes

ACC’s General Education Competencies include social responsibility, as well as civic and cultural awareness, while democratic engagement is a key component of Government/Political Science core curriculum. ACC strives to help all students become well-informed, knowledgeable and engaged citizens.

Campus Climate

ACC's 2021 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) indicates that over 88% of our students did not participate in any college-sponsored activities, 85 percent did not have any involvement with student organizations, and 83 percent did not participate in any kind of community-based project. Campus closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic clearly had a strong impact on student engagement in 2021, but almost 45 percent of ACC students remain fully online and have limited opportunities to engage politically or civically outside of class. Even students who are on campus tend to work full time and have family caretaking responsibilities, making participation in college activities difficult.

Internal Barriers

The transition to remote classes during the pandemic led to a decline in Student Life activities that ACC is still working on rebuilding, but other internal barriers, such as our large service area and the transience of students, persist. The ACC Service Area is currently about the size of the state of Connecticut. Having so many students sprawled out across 11 (soon to be 13) campuses spanning more than 7,000 square miles makes it difficult to engage and connect, especially since ACC leadership and administration are largely concentrated at one central location. Students generally only attend ACC for a short while before transferring to a four-year institution or completing their degree or certificate, so turnover among SGA officers and members of other student groups is high, which in turn makes student organizing a challenge.

ACC recently welcomed a new Chancellor, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, in September 2023. This is an exciting, yet ongoing, transition for the college. ACC is now completely reimagining our systems with a new Theory of Change that will take time to fully implement. Although we are thrilled about the new directions ACC is heading, it is difficult to connect and leverage college-wide initiatives while so many things are in flux.

External Barriers

Texas election law has made it increasingly difficult for ACC students to vote over recent years. Texas' 2011 voter ID law requires voters to show government- issued identification that does not include student IDs, which is the most common form of photo identification that ACC students possess. Approximately 12 percent of people aged 18-24 do not have a Driver's License and young adults are less likely to have access to any form of photo ID. ACC students often have a difficult time finding a valid form of identification for voting, especially because they tend to move often, making it harder for them to establish residency.

Although Texans are lucky to still have Early Voting for 12 days before Election Day, 2019 saw the passage of a statewide prohibition on temporary or mobile polling sites that had a huge impact on campus voting. Whereas counties were previously able to host Early Voting at different ACC campuses one day a week, counties are now required to keep each polling location open for the entire Early Voting period, making it cost-prohibitive for counties to administer voting at all the different sites (mostly college campuses and community hubs like grocery stores) where it used to be available.

More recently, Texas instituted severe mail-in-ballot restrictions that bans the solicitation or distribution of Vote-by-Mail (VBM) applications and limits how colleges can promote voting by mail among their students. Texas already limited mail-in voting to seniors and voters with disabilities, but now voters are also required to provide either a driver's license number or Social Security number on their VBM application.

Finally, the biggest barrier that ACC students continue to face is Texas' lack of automatic, same-day or online voter registration.

Opportunities

In coming elections, ACC's CPA Department will ideally be able to expand the ACC Votes webpage to include more non-partisan information about candidates and proposed measures on the ballot to help students become more informed voters.

ACC Votes is working on closer coordination with the college's Office of College Relations and Marketing (OCRM) to get help with campus-wide communications and outreach. OCRM is currently reimagining ACC's Get Out the Vote campaign, previously known as "Make Your Mark," to include fun and colorful local, community focused materials that highlight the importance of voting, but also make it seem fun and easy.

In the future, the ACC Votes coalition hopes to explore the feasibility of establishing every General Election Day as an instruction-free holiday and fully integrating voting reminders and resources into Blackboard, ACC's learning management system.

Goals

Short Term Goals

Voter Registration

Increase the percentage of eligible ACC students who are registered to vote by 10 percentage points, from 77 percent in 2020 to 87 percent in 2024.

Voter Turnout

By 2024, student voting rates at ACC will increase by 10 percentage points over 2020 turnout levels, with significant increases among students of color.

Long Term Goals

Civic Learning and Engagement

By 2028, ACC's general curriculum will incorporate more civic learning and democratic engagement principles.

Polling Sites

By 2028, at least one campus in each ACC region will have an on-campus polling site.

Strategy

Voter Registration

Student Voting Ambassadors

ACC's CPA Department will be onboarding three federal work-study students as Student Voting Ambassadors at the beginning of the semester. These students will become VDRs and will deliver short presentations on Voter ID requirements and other critical information at the beginning of US Government, TX Government, English and US History classes.

Cultural Center VDR Training

ACC's CPA Department will coordinate with the Travis County Tax Assessor's Office to host three in-person and hybrid VDR training sessions for students in partnership with our African American, AAPI and Latin American Cultural Centers to grow the

number of students who can help ensure their classmates and broader communities are ready to vote.

National Voter Registration Day (September 17, 2024)

On National Voter Registration Day, the ACC Votes Coalition plans to hold five non-partisan resource fairs featuring all of our partner organizations where students can register to vote, learn about voter ID requirements, figure out what is on their ballot and more. Gift cards will be used to compensate student volunteers who help with organizing and set-up. Food such as popcorn, pizza and other snacks will be purchased to draw attendance, and swag like t-shirts, buttons and stickers will be used to encourage engagement, but will be awarded to all students who participate in the event, not just those who register to vote.

League of Women Voters and MOVE Texas Tabling

ACC partners with MOVE Texas and the Austin Area and Williamson County League of Women Voters to register students to vote on campus. Both organizations table at ACC campuses to register students to vote while providing nonpartisan information on upcoming elections, polling locations, and transportation resources. ACC will also invite service-learning classes to assist with partner voter registration in an effort to include more students at all levels of voter outreach.

Voter Turnout

Emails to Students, Faculty and Staff

ACC's CPA Department sends out emails to all registered students, faculty and staff at the following times:

- Three to five days before registration deadlines (30 days before every election)
- The start of Early Voting (15 days before Election Day)
- Election Day (General, Primaries, local and runoff)

These emails serve as important reminders about key deadlines and include links to all of the registration, polling location and sample ballot resources featured on the ACC Votes webpage.

National Voter Education Week (October 7-11, 2024)

During National Voter Education Week, the ACC Votes Coalition plans to hold virtual and in-person speaker events and presentations focused on Voter ID laws, how to vote, how elections are conducted, and what is on the ballot across multiple campuses. We plan to coordinate extra credit opportunities for students who attend with the Government Department and other faculty.

Parade to the Polls Events

Early Voting in Texas runs from October 21 to November 1, 2024. During this period, the ACC Votes Coalition will organize Parade to the Polls events where groups of students, faculty and staff can head to the polls together in a fun parade featuring ACC's mascot, RB the Riverbat. Although we will have to wait until Early Voting polling sites are designated by Travis, Williamson and Hays Counties before determining which campuses and polling sites to target, ACC Votes hopes to identify two or three campuses where polling sites are within a 10-to-15 minute walk, but are in places students might be unlikely to visit on their own, such as the Austin Permitting and Development Office, which is close to ACC's Highland Campus, but is a location that many students may be unfamiliar with.

Vote Early Day

The ACC Votes Coalition plans to take full advantage of Texas' 12 days of Early Voting by celebrating Vote Early Day across multiple campuses. We hope to activate spaces such as parks and recreation centers that are near Early Voting sites that are close to ACC campuses to draw students towards polling locations and encourage them to vote. For example, we plan on recruiting local food trucks and other vendors to set up shop in St. Johns Encampment Commons, a park that lies in between ACC's Highland Campus and the likely polling site at the Austin Permitting and Development Office.

Civic Learning and Engagement

ACC Votes Webpage

ACC's Department of Community & Public Affairs (CPA) currently maintains a voting resource hub for students, the [ACC Votes webpage](#), that serves as a one-stop-shop where members of the ACC community can find voter registration information, sample ballots and other resources for all six counties in the ACC service area. The page also features an interactive map of ACC campuses and Early Voting locations to help students, faculty and staff make a plan to vote.

Student Poll Workers

The Travis County Clerk's Office started recruiting ACC students to become poll workers in November 2023, but has a long-standing Student Poll Worker Program that offers temporary Election Day positions to students who are 16 years of age or older. This program allows students to help check in voters and assist them with equipment as needed and get paid \$20 an hour for their service. We hope to expand ACC's participation in the Student Poll Worker Program so more students can have this kind of direct role in their democracy.

Local Candidate Debates

ACC's Student Government Association (SGA) and other student clubs have expressed interest in hosting a debate for mayoral candidates and those running for other local races. ACC's Highland Campus is co-located with Austin's PBS station, which often holds debates in conjunction with our local public radio station, and ACC Votes plans to coordinate with these hosts to help ACC students get an opportunity to ask candidates questions about issues that are important to them.

Speaker Series

ACC's Government and Political Science Initiative (GPSI) invites local elected officials such as State Representatives, City Council members and candidates for Tax-Assessor Collector, to speaking events on ACC campuses that give students a chance to ask questions, learn more about these state and local offices and the path these leaders took to get where they are today. ACC Votes will work to expand these types of events year round so students can continue to meet and be inspired by local elected officials who make decisions that directly affect our day-to-day lives.

Civic Fluency Microcredential

ACC currently offers a Microcredential in Digital Fluency that the ACC Votes Coalition hopes to replicate in our eventual creation of a Civic Fluency Microcredential or Badge. This program will offer free, bite-sized and competency based lessons that can be completed in five weeks or less.

Constitution Day

ACC's Civic Lab is planning to partner with [ACC's Great Questions Project](#) on a community seminar focused on constitutional texts and other documents that are foundational to American democracy. Great Questions Seminars allow students, faculty, staff and community members to come together to discuss fundamental questions we all share as human beings in fun and interactive ways.

Polling Sites

Reducing Polling Gaps

ACC is proud to serve as a polling location for students and the larger community as often as possible. Although many of our campuses are within a 10-minute walk or drive of an Early Voting or Election Day polling site, ACC Votes will continue to monitor these drives and walksheds and work with the Travis, Williamson and Hays County Clerk Offices to reduce these gaps whenever possible.

Early Voting Locations Near ACC Campuses - November 2023 Constitutional Amendment Election

Region	Campus	Closest Early Voting Site	Distance
North	SGC	Leander Public Library	2.7 mi (8 min drive, 1 hr walk)
	RRC	Williamson County Annex	2.7 mi (6 min drive, 1 hr walk)
	CYP	Randalls Cedar Park	0.8 mi (3 min drive, 10 min walk)
	NRG	RRISD Performing Arts Center	5.3 mi (11 min drive, 2 hr walk)
Central	HLC	COA Permitting and Development Center	0.2 mi (1 min drive, 4 min walk)
	EVC	Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex	0.6 mi (2 min drive, 14 min walk)
	RGC	Austin Recreation Center	0.4 mi (2 min drive, 5 min walk)
	EGN	Elgin Parks and Recreation Center	1.8 mi (5 min drive, 1 hr walk)
South	RVS	Ruiz Branch, Austin Public Library	0.4 mi (1 min drive, 9 min walk)
	SAC	Austin Oaks Church/ S Austin Rec Center	4.3 mi (11 min drive, 1 hr walk)
	HYS	HCISD Old Print Shop Admin Building	3.5 mi (9 min drive, 46 min walk)

Election Day Polling Sites Near ACC Campuses - November 2023 Constitutional Amendment Election

Region	Campus	Closest Early Voting Site	Distance
North	SGC	SGC Multipurpose Room	0 mi
	RRC	RRC Room 31103	0 mi
	CYP	Cedar Park Middle School	1 mi (4 min drive, 12 min walk)
	NRG	Disability Rights Texas	1 mi (3 min drive, 22 min walk)
Central	HLC	COA Permitting and Development Center	0.2 mi (1 min drive, 4 min walk)
	EVC	Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex	0.6 mi (2 min drive, 14 min walk)
	RGC	Austin Recreation Center	0.4 mi (2 min drive, 5 min walk)
	EGN	EGN Room 1143	0 mi

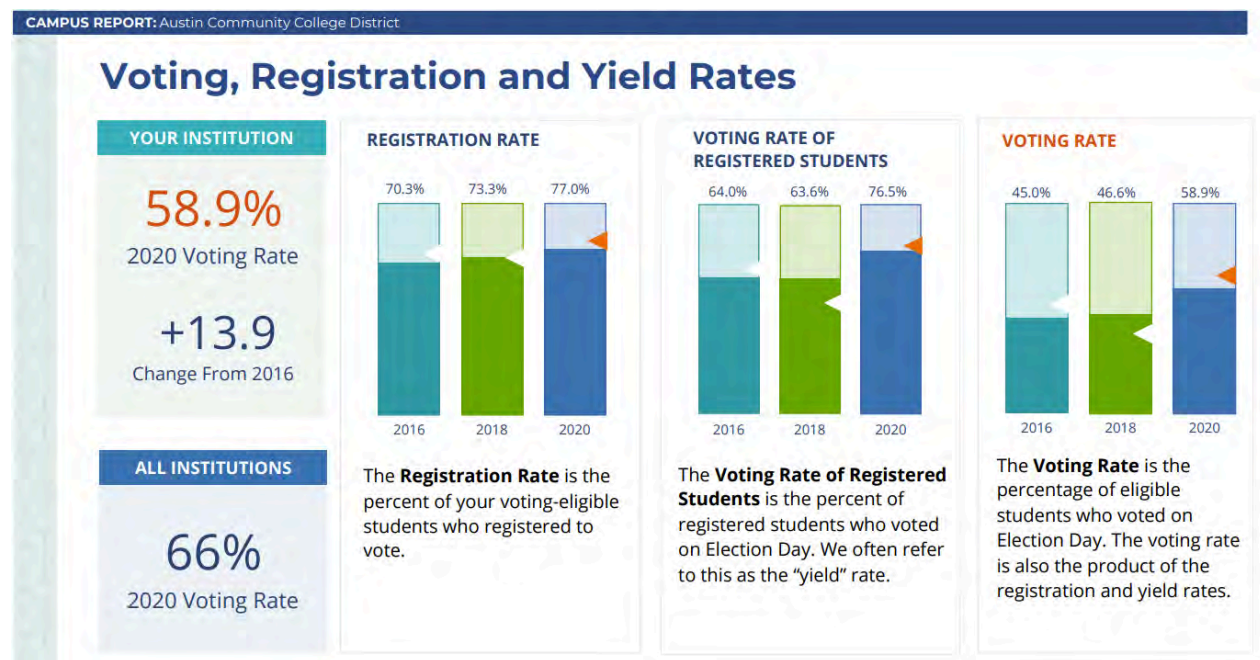
South	RVS	Ruiz Branch, Austin Public Library	0.4 mi (1 min drive, 9 min walk)
	SAC	Menchaca Branch, Austin Public Library	0.2 mi (1 min drive, 9 min walk)
	HYS	HYS Campus	0 mi

Transportation Assistance

ACC's CPA Department is currently exploring the feasibility of offering transportation assistance to students who may not live or take classes close to an Early Voting location and could use help getting to the polls. Potential options include chartering buses or other types of vehicles, coordinating a carpool program, or offering free or discounted rides through Uber or Lyft.

NSLVE

The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) conducted by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University allows ACC to track student registration and voting rates and use disaggregated data on turnout by race and ethnicity to target critical gaps in democratic participation among our student body to help ensure all our students' voices are heard.



ACC's overall registration and voting rates have improved over recent years, but still lag slightly behind national averages.

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	34,206	32,723	31,249	↓ -2,957
(Age under 18/Unknown)	140	212	293	↑ 153
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	646	518	407	↓ -239
(FERPA records blocked)	-	-	-	-
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	-	-	-
Total eligible voters	33,420	31,989	30,541	↓ -2,878
Number of students who registered	23,482	23,433	23,508	↑ 26
Number of students who voted	15,023	14,895	17,980	↑ 2,957
Registration Rate %	70	73	77	↑ 7
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	64	64	76	↑ 13
Voting Rate %	45	47	59	↑ 14

This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.

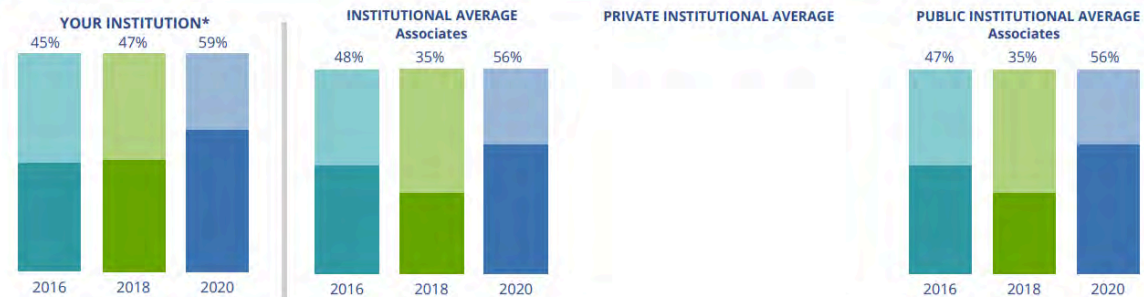
We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This estimate is given by "IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens" on this page. If you believe the number of international students reported on this report is incorrect, you can manually adjust your institution's voting rates by using our recalculation tool. <https://id-he.tufts.edu/nsive/nsive-recalculation-tool>.

ACC's enrollment has declined since 2016, and although it is on the rise, it has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

By Institution Types

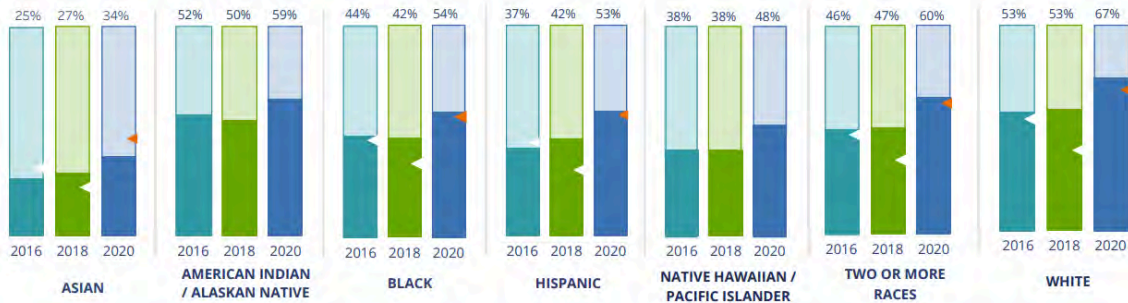


These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. **Your Institution* chart is presented at a different scale.



Compared to students in other public Associate's Degree programs, ACC students vote at a slightly higher rate. However, this delta was much higher in 2018 than it was in 2020.

By Race / Ethnicity



These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail on why we cannot report national benchmark for some of the demographic groups:

<https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq>

If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

* <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes>

Asian students attending ACC lag far behind their peers, as well as the national average, when it comes to registration and turnout rates.

Looking Closer

By Race/Ethnicity

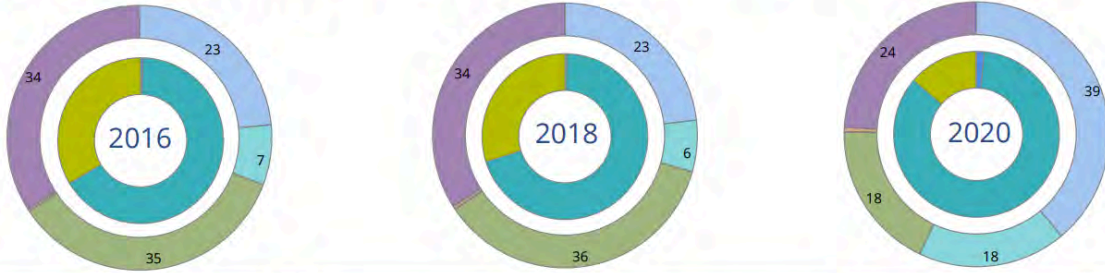
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	2,095	523	25	2,024	553	27	1,961	674	34	↑ 9
American Indian/ Alaska Native	269	141	52	221	110	50	137	81	59	↑ 7
Black	2,637	1,148	44	2,475	1,047	42	2,503	1,349	54	↑ 10
Hispanic	12,457	4,653	37	12,161	5,043	41	11,938	6,364	53	↑ 16
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	64	24	38	58	22	38	64	31	48	↑ 11
2 or More Races	1,106	509	46	1,156	537	46	1,165	698	60	↑ 14
White	15,008	7,881	53	14,033	7,448	53	12,868	8,638	67	↑ 15
Race Unknown	338	144	43	292	135	46	232	145	63	↑ 20

Although ACC has made meaningful progress in voting rates among Black and Hispanic students, with an increase of 10% and 16% prospectively from 2016 to 2020, Black and Hispanic students still have lower voting rates than their White counterparts.

By Voting Method

Not-In-Person Early Vote In-Person Other Provisional Unknown



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)
Early Vote	9,901	66	10,387	70	15,256	85	19 ↑
In-Person on Election Day	5,049	34	4,447	30	2,440	14	-20 ↓
Not-In-Person	72	1	53	0	271	2	1 ↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Voting Method Unknown	-	-	-	-	13	0	-

These are estimated rates for vote method utilization, the number of students utilizing each method, and the percent of students utilizing each method. Not all U.S. states provide information on vote method; voting method for voter files from these states are classified "Voting Method Unknown." For a list of these states, see our FAQ. <https://dhe.tufts.edu/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

ACC students tend to vote early, especially in 2020, while their Election Day voting numbers have declined since 2016.

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	40%	43%	57%
22-24	38%	40%	53%
25-29	42%	44%	56%
30-39	53%	50%	63%
40-49	62%	61%	68%
50+	73%	78%	79%

Voting is habit-forming and young voters will usually continue as voters in subsequent elections.

Also, young voters are more likely to be contacted by campaigns and are visible, and therefore significant, to elected officials. While in the past, we have seen voting rates increase across age groups, in recent cycles, the most significant increases have been among first-time and the youngest voters. Some colleges serve primarily young students, traditionally viewed as students in the 18-21 or 22-24 categories here. Others have much higher numbers of enrolled older undergraduate or graduate students.

ACC students aged 22-24 have the lowest voting rate, while younger students (18-22 years old) vote at slightly higher rates. Students between the ages of 25 to 29 are somewhat more likely to vote as well.

Looking Closer

By Age Group

Here, we provide the numbers of students in each age category and the voting rates for each group. These are based on the student's age on the day of the election, as calculated by the National Student Clearinghouse using data from student enrollment records.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	14,731	5,931	40	14,269	6,138	43	13,114	7,434	57	↑ 16
22-24	5,516	2,077	38	5,173	2,052	40	5,150	2,730	53	↑ 15
25-29	5,629	2,356	42	5,248	2,287	44	5,030	2,829	56	↑ 14
30-39	5,075	2,666	53	4,657	2,349	50	4,887	3,064	63	↑ 10
40-49	1,955	1,209	62	1,876	1,138	61	1,854	1,269	68	↑ 7
50+	1,068	784	73	1,197	931	78	833	654	79	↑ 5

Students between the ages of 18 to 21 make up an overwhelming majority of the total ACC student body. Although they vote at slightly higher rates than their 22-24 year old peers, almost 10,000 of them did not vote in 2020 even though they were eligible.

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Female	18,528	8,636	47	18,004	8,656	48	18,502	10,916	59	↑ 12
Male	15,445	6,387	41	14,415	6,239	43	12,366	7,064	57	↑ 16

These are estimated voting rates for sex groups and the numbers we used to calculate their voting rates. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following the reporting procedures defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Presently, NCES requires institutions to report students as "Male" or "Female" only.*

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

*<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/survey-materials/faq?faqid=11>

NSLVE data indicates that students identifying as female are more likely to vote than their male counterparts.

Looking Closer

By Education Level / Undergraduate Class Year

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	30,892	13,684	44	30,807	14,133	46	29,305	17,037	58	↑ 14
Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Class Unknown	3,082	1,148	37	1,613	716	44	1,563	927	59	↑ 22
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	19,071	41	7,735	17,118	42	7,239	15,055	55	8,272	↑ 14
Second Year	10,004	46	4,644	10,203	48	4,894	11,837	60	7,045	↑ 13
Upper Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	9,326	4,040	43	9,116	4,034	44	9,007	4,966	55	↑ 12
Part-time	24,648	10,983	45	23,304	10,861	47	21,861	13,014	60	↑ 15

These are estimated voting rates by Education Level (undergraduate/graduate), Class Year, and Enrollment Status (full-time/part-time), and the numbers we used to calculate these rates.

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

Students who are in their second year at ACC vote at a higher rate than students who started attending ACC more recently. Interestingly, NSLVE data suggests that part-time students are more likely to vote than students who attend ACC full time.

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Education	1,118	503	45	878	414	47	898	538	60	↑ 15
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	2,258	872	39	2,021	794	39	1,705	913	54	↑ 15
English Language and Literature	889	427	48	691	386	56	643	430	67	↑ 19
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	271	125	46	197	92	47	132	71	54	↑ 8
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	442	255	58	435	254	58	399	269	67	↑ 10
Health Professions	3,971	1,687	42	2,425	1,088	45	2,125	1,272	60	↑ 17
History	296	194	66	234	142	61	217	161	74	↑ 9
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	1,026	413	40	837	333	40	700	377	54	↑ 14
Legal Professions and Studies	197	116	59	186	115	62	218	140	64	↑ 5
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	7,205	3,336	46	10,199	4,585	45	10,354	5,936	57	↑ 11
Mathematics and Statistics	190	93	49	198	103	52	158	97	61	↑ 12
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Techni..	436	156	36	349	122	35	282	146	52	↑ 16
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	-	-	-	19	-	-	40	31	78	-
Natural Resources and Conservation	142	80	56	117	63	54	140	99	71	↑ 14

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,232	459	37	499	208	42	229	126	55	↑ 18
Personal and Culinary Services	214	101	47	143	70	49	121	80	66	↑ 19
Philosophy and Religious Studies	70	33	47	61	34	56	71	42	59	↑ 12
Physical Sciences	395	196	50	328	168	51	252	158	63	↑ 13
Precision Production	266	114	43	256	101	39	200	114	57	↑ 14
Psychology	1,032	442	43	954	486	51	1,075	637	59	↑ 16
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	304	125	41	341	168	49	349	217	62	↑ 21
Science Technologies/Technicians	141	72	51	65	27	42	47	23	49	↓ -2
Social Sciences	746	401	54	647	388	60	586	389	66	↑ 13
Visual and Performing Arts	1,781	889	50	1,828	1,009	55	1,869	1,230	66	↑ 16
Unknown	36	-	-	16	-	-	30	11	37	-

Students majoring in History and Social Sciences have the highest voting rates, while there is a potential gap among STEM students.

Evaluation

In addition to tracking impact on NSLVE-reported student registration and turnout rates, the effectiveness of this plan will be evaluated through surveys, attendance data and by tracking the number of voter registration applications received by our student and partner VDRs.

ACC Votes Coalition members will be regularly asked to complete brief reflection surveys about the effectiveness of our strategies and potential changes that could enhance our impact. We also plan to survey students attending VDR trainings or smaller-scale speaker events to learn whether they found our efforts helpful or informative and if they have any recommendations for improvement.

Specific strategies will also be evaluated via the following measures:

Goal	Strategy	Measure
Voter Registration	Student Voting Ambassadors	# of class visits, # of registration applications collected
	Cultural Center VDR Training	Attendance
	National Voter Registration Day	Attendance, # of registration applications collected
	LWV + MOVE TX Tabling	# of registration applications collected
Voter Turnout	Student + Fac/Staff Emails	Open rate, ACC Votes web traffic
	National Voter Education Week	Attendance
	Parade to the Polls Events	Attendance
	Vote Early Day	Attendance
Civic Learning and Engagement	ACC Votes Webpage	ACC Votes web traffic
	Student Poll Workers	# of students hired
	Local Candidate Debates	Attendance
	Speaker Series	Attendance
	Civic Fluency Microcredential	Registration/Completion
Polling Places	Reducing Polling Gaps	Attendance
	Transportation Assistance	# of requests received/ completed

Reporting

ACC's NSLVE data will be shared on ACC's [Office of Institutional Research and Analytics \(OIRA\) website](#), which houses all student data, metric dashboards and federal reports related to various ACC, state and federal initiatives.

In addition to serving as a roadmap for ACC's non-partisan civic and democratic engagement over the next four years, this action plan will be submitted to the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) and the [Voter Friendly Campus Initiative](#). It will also be shared with ACC Votes Coalition members, ACC's Chancellor and Cabinet and others by request.