

ALL IN Challenge and Voter Friendly Campus 2024 Action Plan

Barry University – Miami Shores, FL

Campus Democracy Project (CDP)

I. Executive Summary:

Barry University's civic engagement and voter education efforts are led by a campus-wide committee called Campus Democracy Project (CDP). CDP has planned, organized, and implemented Barry's successful Voter Friendly Campus plan in 2020 and 2022. The purpose of this 2024 plan is to maintain continuity with the accomplishments of the CDP efforts over the past decade and to continue to provide leadership and visibility on campus and to reach more students. The plan is largely implemented on campus through a variety of events, activities, and communications. It also includes collaboration with external partners on voter registration and education efforts. The goals of the plan include maintaining of level of involvement, increasing our measurable impact, and growing the interest and inclusion of more students and groups in our voter engagement efforts. The duration of this plan is for the 2024 election cycle, pre-and-post the 2024 election and activities in early 2025. The plan will be implemented through collaboration with diverse student groups on campus and external community partners. The CDP will oversee portions of the plan while encouraging additional stake holders across campus to engage in civic activities and to report their results to be included in CDP's 2024 summary plans.

II. Leadership:

Barry University's Campus Democracy Project Coordinates a nonpartisan initiative that promotes civic learning and democratic engagement through get-out-the-vote activities, including voter registration, education, and mobilization.

2024-2025 Membership as of September 2024

- Dr. Leah Blumenfeld Co-Chair of the Committee
- Gabriel Bouani Co-Chair of the Committee
- Dr. Paula Dias Administrative Liaison
- Dr. Jacob Ausderan Political Science Faculty
- Crystal Carbonell Campus Democracy Fellow
- Viviana Rivas Campus Democracy Fellow
- Imani McClammy Graduate Student/Alumna
- **Intentional expansion:** We commonly work with various community partners including the League of Women Voters, NAACP Greater Miami Chapter, Engage Miami, and ACLU of Florida. These partnerships are geared toward expanding the reach to people from historically marginalized communities.

Leadership succession plan: The CDP has used a faculty-staff-student leadership model for the past several years. This allows for new student leadership to be promoted each year. The student leaders help to mentor and train their successors. The faculty co-chair is now Dr. Leah Blumenfeld, Associate Professor of Political Science, as identified by Dr. Sean Foreman upon his departure from the university. In addition, Barry has had significant divisional reorganization over the past five years. The Division of Enrollment, Engagement, and Outreach now oversees the department of Ministry and Community Outreach (MCO). MCO is in the lead with CDP logistics, budgets, and program planning. This year, two members of the division will serve as co-chair and administrative liaison for the CDP. This will allow for new leadership and a refreshing of the ideas and activities pursued on campus.

III. Commitment:

The CDP has worked to enhance the civic engagement and voter education opportunities afforded to Barry University students and staff over the past decade. Barry was proud to be a 2020 and 2022 recipient of Voter Friendly Campus (VFC) designation. We also earned a Gold Seal in 2018 and a Silver Seal Campus in the ALL In Voter Challenge. We earned the Bronze Seal Campus from the ALL In Voter Challenge for the 2022 Midterm Election.

Barry has institutional level support led from the president's office. University President Dr. Michael Allen signed the president's pledge in 2020 and 2022. The CDP has representation from various departments and liaisons to administrators across the university.

The CDP has been housed under the Center for Community Service Initiatives (CCSI) for the past decade. Events are promoted, students through the Community Engagement Leaders. These student leaders are encouraged to attend, participate, and promote our events. CDP is now being housed under the department of Ministry and Community Outreach

IV. Landscape:

Barry University is in Miami Shores, FL, just north of downtown Miami in an urbanized area. Founded in 1940 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters and originally called Barry College for Women, Barry is now a coeducational university that remains faithful to its Catholic intellectual tradition.

In 2024, Barry University is known as one of the most diverse campus communities in the southern US. More than 60% of our students are female, 86% identify as BIPOC, 71% of our students receive financial aid, and students on campus represent more than 100 countries.

V. Goals:

We have three specific goals for this action plan. They build upon the goals identified in the prior plan and expand involvement of different groups of students on campus.

1. Implement voter registration into university's orientation programming.

Voter registration has only occasionally been included during the university's student orientation programs. Over the years, there may have been some student leaders providing voter registration opportunities on an ad hoc basis. We are now working with our Orientation team leaders to implement voter registration as part of the program. The orientation process is being reimagined by new staff members and they are open and eager to implement ways for providing students with opportunities to register to vote during orientation.

CDP members partnered with NAACP of Greater Miami and the 16+Vote groups to staff a table from 10:00am to 3:30 pm on January 15, 2024 for the Spring Orientation. We made a QR code available to all students; to print helpful voter information in the orientation materials, and to post it on a web page. There were about two dozen students and family members engaged, many changed their voter registration status.

Tabling for voter registration is integrated into every event sponsored by the CDP during the fall semester and while registration is open in the state of Florida. We also join other events to offer voter registration; for example the Student Leadership Conference and the Peace Week panels in September.

2. Continue to work to implement the Ask Every Student program at Barry

University. Design and disseminate materials to provide to professors to use in their classes and post on their course sites. Ensure voter information is available to all students and staff on various platforms. In 2020 and 2022 we engaged in the Ask Every Student process. But the efforts were limited to a few classes and departments across campus. In 2024, we will be creating and distributing information for faculty and staff to share with students in attempt to ask every student and give them an opportunity to vote. We will make use of many materials from the partner toolkits as well as relying on students to share information by word of mouth. We will use tools like the All In to Vote Check you voter registration status web site: [Check Your Registration | ALL IN To Vote](#) .

Professors in each of the colleges and schools in the university will be provided with the information and encouraged to share it with their students. A section of ORI 100 Student Orientation will focus on this material.

Through a collaboration of departments on campus such as Ministry and Community Outreach, Career and Experiential Learning, Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, History and Political Science, Honors Program, and other organizations with a focus on activities targeted for students and various social issues. Our focus would primarily be on engaging students to be involved in their democracy and through this, spread awareness to other students. This can be a campaign titled "YourVoteCounts" in

which all organizations on campus and Dr. Allen's cabinet are involved in a media led campaign).

Advertising will be done both physically on campus and through social media efforts. Enticing fliers created by students to appeal to students will be posted on campus especially in the housing, dining, classroom, and common areas.

- 3. Based on 2020 NSLVE data, work on increasing the voter registration and voter turnout of 18-21 year-old voters, and of Black voters, Hispanic voters, and two or more races voters.** Further develop the BucsVote student civic leadership initiative to assist with this goal. Barry's 2020 NSLVE report showed an increase in our institution's voting rate to 63.2%. This was an increase by 4.9% over our 2016 voting rate. While we showed a nearly 5% increase from one presidential election to the next, we were slightly lower than the national average of 66% voting rate. We would like to meet or exceed the rate in 2024.

Compared to midterm elections we have had greater success. In 2018 our voting rate was 42.6%, a 13.1% increase from 2014 and 3.5% higher than the national average for all institutions. We seek to continue the overall positive trends during the decade and streak of being near or above the national average for several cycles. Specifically, we want to focus on engaging students of color and from historically minority and marginalized communities. Our student body population is racially and ethnically diverse. The 2021 incoming class of students was 49% Black, Non-Hispanic, 22% Caucasian, Hispanic, 10% Caucasian, Non-Hispanic, and 9% Black, Hispanic with another 6% reporting as Hispanic/Latino only. While the rate of voting among Barry students who identify as Black or Hispanic as reported in the NSLVE report is higher than the national median, there is still more room for growth among these key demographics in south Florida.

One area where we will focus is on students that identify as Two or More Races where our average was below the national score. We will also be mindful that voting among Whites was below the national average in the 2020 election. Strategies will be incorporated to try to appeal to voters both based on racial and ethnic cues as well as issue and policy focus.

Engagement events will be planned for U.S. Constitution Day (September 17); National Voter Registration Day (September 20); and National Vote Early Day (October 29). These will be in person but may also have an online component. Registration, attendance tracking, and post event surveys will be incorporated using the Corq application.

CDP will host Debate Watch Parties for US President, Vice President, and Miami-Dade County Sheriff campaign.

4. Strategy:

We will continue to work to build connections across campus and engage both new and returning to register and vote. We have had both massive structural reorganization on campus and staff turnover in involved positions. We need to continue to maintain our past connections and to build new collaborations.

5. NSLVE:

Barry University received the bronze seal from the 2022 NSLVE results. The bronze seal indicates that Barry University had a 20-29 percent voting rate based on the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report from Tufts University. Our goals for this semester are to reach silver because individuals on campus will be more eager to vote given that it is the presidential election. Comparing this year with 2020 Barry University received the silver seal based on a higher voting turnout because of the presidential election.

6. Reporting:

Our reporting is internal with the Director of Ministry and Community Outreach. Currently the Director of Ministry and Community Outreach position is unfilled so in place of the director the Associate VP of Engagement and Outreach is serving as the director of the office. We post some of the results on our CDP web site and others are recorded in a monthly newsletter. Data will also be reported during university divisional quarterly reports. We track voter registration, voter pledge cards, and classroom visits for reporting purposes.

7. Evaluation:

We will continue to use the feedback from ALL IN to improve our plan, reporting, and execution. We will evaluate number of student volunteer participants, number of voter registrations facilitated, number of classrooms visited, number of social media posts, and attendance at various activities and events. We will compare these points against past data we have collected unsystematically over the years.

Appendix A: CDP 2024-25 Calendar of Events

Fall 2024

Tuesday, September 10- Presidential Debate Watch Party

Tuesday, September 17 – U.S. Constitution Day, “What is the Electoral College?”

11:00 am-12:30 pm, Kostka Room (part of Peace Week)

Friday, September 20 – Voting Rights panel (Dr. Blumenfeld – part of Peace Week)

Tuesday, October 1- Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party

Monday, October 7 – Deadline to register to vote in Florida on November 5, 2024

October 7-13 – National Voter Education Week

Thursday October 17th - Florida 2024 Ballot Forum

Tuesday October 22nd - Sheriff’s Candidate forum in conjunction with the Miami Foundation, United Way, and the League of Women Voters Miami-Dade

Tuesday, October 29 – Dialogue hosted by Share Our America

Wednesday, October 30th Witches Brew & Ballots Too: Decoding The Ballot with the League of Women Voters Miami-Dade

Wednesday, October 30th Y.A.L.L Bad Faith Movie Night

Monday, November 4 – Election Hero Day

Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day Walk to Barry University’s Polling location Sibley K-8 Center

Wednesday, November 6 – Post-Election debrief and discussion

Spring 2025

January TBD – Post election (Update with elected officials on state and local issues) Room TBD, 4-6 pm

February 8 – Possible Democracy Forum – Topic TBD, 4:00-5:30 pm

March 4 – May 2, 2025: Florida Legislative Session

Items in red = CDP hosted events/cohosted events

