



## **2018 Voting Education & Engagement Plan**

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### **Summary**

Over the past three years, we have participated in the NASPA Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Lead Initiative. As part of this consortium of institutions, we are committed to working to institutionalize civic engagement throughout our campus and to share back with other campuses our insights, work, and best practices. We have made significant strides in a number of focus areas. However, voting engagement has not historically been an area of focus for our campus and one that we identified as an area of potential growth. We subsequently began exploring what was currently happening across campus and how we might best support, coordinate, and grow those efforts.

Through the CLDE cohort, we have had opportunities to participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), which has provided valuable data to inform our efforts as we begin to explore voting engagement, and the All-In Democracy Challenge, which has connected us with valuable resources on best practices and planning.

Over the past year, we have been gathering data, identifying existing voter engagement work, and connecting with potential partners. As we look to the coming year, we plan to convene key stakeholders and begin ongoing conversations relating to existing and potential initiatives. We anticipate the creation of a working group that can create a comprehensive action plan, bolster support & publicity for departmental and organizational events, as well as coordinate and collaborate on larger campus-wide efforts to boost voting literacy, registration, and turnout among our students.

### **Reflecting on the past year: Identified Goals & Progress Notes**

- *Gather NSLVE data on campus voting & voter registration rates.*  
Institutional reports were shared with key administrators and disseminated across campus through presentations and email. From the NSLVE data, we have learned that over 80% of our students are registered to vote, yet just over 40% actually voted. While our voting rates did increase 8.5% from 2012 to 2016, we still are below the national average and still below the 50% mark. We attribute the gains we have seen to existing programs and anticipate further gains as we coordinate & grow collective campus efforts.
- *Connect with other institutions working on voter engagement efforts and build our knowledge base on best practices in getting started in this work.*

This year will be our third year as part of the NASPA Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Lead Initiative. We also joined the All-In Democracy Challenge to connect specifically with best practices relating to voter engagement. Both of these collaboratives have been valuable learning communities for us as we plot our way forward.

- Identify key groups or individuals working on voter engagement efforts.

So far, we have generated reports identifying all voter registration drives hosted by Baylor student organizations. We plan to continue follow up with these organizations and to increase outreach to faculty and staff colleagues working in this area. We also supported students interested in chartering a chapter of Ignite on campus, a national organization that promotes political participation for women. Below is a list of identified stakeholders and potential partners:

- Baylor Public Deliberation Initiative
- David Clinton, Political Science, General Education Committee, Civic Education Chair
- Debbie Davendonis-Todd, W.R. Poage Legislative Library
- Amy Dickerson & Hannah Causey, Student Government
- Department of New Student Programs
- Student organizations (voting registration drives)
  - Baylor Ignite
  - Baylor Democrats
  - Baylor Republicans
  - Young Conservatives of Texas
  - NAACP
  - Baylor Ambassadors
  - Alpha Kappa Alpha
  - Alpha Phi Alpha
- Open Table Coalition

- Host campus forums on public issues through our Baylor Public Deliberation Initiative (PDI).

Last fall, we hosted a special series of 3 PDI forums on issues relevant to the 2016 national election, as well as other forums throughout the year. The Community Engagement & Service office also began offering civic immersion trips to fund student travel to policy workshops on state and national issues. Below is the calendar of events held from fall 2016 – fall 2017.

- 8/24-10/11 Voter registration drives sponsored by student organizations
- 9/19 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 9/27 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 9/29 BBLCC Presidential Election Event
- 10/24 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 11/14 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 2/23 Baylor PDI Campus Forum

- 2/28-3/1 Christian Life Commission Advocacy Workshop student immersive learning trip
- 3/23 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 6/1-6/2 Baylor PDI Civic Life Summit (community conference)
- 9/20 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 9/22-9/24 Texas Tribune Festival student immersive learning trip
- 10/11 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
- 10/26 Interest meeting for Baylor Ignite
- 11/8 Baylor PDI Campus Forum

**Looking Ahead: Goals for the New Year**

- Make voter registration forms available in Community Engagement & Service office, residential halls, Living & Learning Communities, and academic buildings.
- Explore opportunities with New Student Programs to promote voting information through orientation or Welcome Week.
- Convene meeting of key stakeholders, potential partners, and student organizations engaged in voting efforts (see list below).
- Develop potential programming and joint calendar for fall election cycle. Below is a list of planned programs and the calendar of events for spring 2018.
  - 1/8-5/4 LDS3308: Civic & Interfaith Leadership (new academic course)
  - 2/13 League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, 5:30 – 7:00 pm
  - 2/17 Ignite Student Conference – Boosting political participation in women
  - 2/27 Baylor PDI Campus Forum
  - 2/28-3/1 Christian Life Commission Advocacy Day
  - 4/9 Baylor PDI Campus Forum