



# Bucknell University Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2023

*This plan was created using the Votes & Ballots Action Planning Form. We highly recommend editing and expanding upon this draft before submitting for review.*

*Throughout this document, we mention the Strengthening American Democracy Guide as a resource for your review. We encourage you to turn to that resource for guidance and support as you complete your action plan!*

## I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by LYNN PIERSON, Interim Director to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Bucknell University. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023, on and around our campus in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

The following groups will be leading this work at Bucknell University in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Undergraduate Students
- Civic/Political/Community Engagement Center

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the Strengthening American Democracy Guide and review the Guiding Questions to ensure your Executive Summary includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## II. Leadership

Lynn Pierson, Interim Director will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Matt Paddock and Paul Danenberg, dedicated students. They have reached out to other campus offices to spread education and information.

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Leaders who can help with outreach and power building by bringing more people across campus in to our work

Our group plans to meet once a week at OCE - when the students have their shifts

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Leadership Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

### III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. As stated in our mission statement, Bucknell seeks to educate our students to serve the common good and to promote justice in ways sensitive to the moral and ethical dimensions of life. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, “ ”

In addition, our campus has mentioned civic learning and democratic engagement in their strategic plan, stating Bucknell will prepare students for informed and engaged citizenship, from the local to the global; implement additional leadership development programs; and offer intentional, structured learning opportunities afforded by the University's location in the Susquehanna River Valley. By 2019 Bucknell will finalize and begin to implementing the Civic Action Plan. We also have had a senior leader commit to civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

On campus, we've seen:

- Voter education resources
- Political clubs or student organizations
- Campus leaders promoting voting
- Voter registration tables

On campus, we've experienced:

- Walks / rides to polls
- Registering to vote

We can point to the above institutional commitments to support our work.

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Commitment Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## IV. Landscape

The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. This information is based on data collected from fall 2021 when our total student enrollment was 3,757.

### Enrollment Data:

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
99.00%	1.00%		100.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
23.00%	72.00%	5.00%	100.00%	

### Gender Demographics:

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender
53.00%	48.00%	1.00%	1.00%

### Age:

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+
100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

### Racial Demographics:

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
5.00%	0.00%	4.00%	7.00%	0.00%	75.00%	4.00%

Our institution has also utilized the following data gathering tools:

- National Survey of Student Engagement

They help to inform our institution's civic learning and democratic engagement efforts by I don't know

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Landscape Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## V. Goals

Before setting our civic learning and democratic engagement goals on campus, we took the following information into consideration.

We know our campus faces following challenges internally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- The voter engagement work on our campus is very siloed within one office.
- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.

We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- 

With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

- Our institution's mission statement, values, and strategic plan mention civic learning and democratic engagement.
- We have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- We have ways in which we communicate voting information to our students.
- We use the resources readily available to develop and implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- The voter engagement work on our campus is distributed throughout many offices and areas of expertise.
- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.

With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

I cannot realistically answer this at this time. We are doing the best we can with the student effort.

We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

I cannot realistically answer this at this time. We are doing the best we can with the student effort.

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Goals Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined a strategy describing how we will bring this vision to life in the coming months and years.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** in the **short term** (within the next year):

- Our students created a program with the TurboVote software for voter registration events on campus.

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **short term**:

- Our students created a program with the TurboVote software for voter registration events on campus.

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **short term**:

- Our students created a program with the TurboVote software for voter registration events on campus.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** for the **long term** (beyond the next year):

- I can't answer this at this time. █

These are tactics that we **want to do** in the **long term**:

- I can't answer this at this time. █

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **long term**:

- I can't answer this at this time. █

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Strategy Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## VII. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

Our campus has access to our National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data for . In our registration rate was . In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate .

In , our voting rate was and our voting rate among registered students was . During this year, our voting rate was .

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your NSLVE section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.



## VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- I don't know

We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- I don't know

We will collect feedback on this plan by:

- I don't know

We plan to evaluate our success by:

- I don't know

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Reporting & Evaluation Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.