

## Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan AY 2023-2026

Campus: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

#### **Leadership Team:**

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#### I. Executive Summary

The nonpartisan Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan, developed by Cal Poly Pomona's (CPP) Bronco Advocacy League (BAL), aims to enhance democratic engagement and increase student voter registration, education and turnout for the 2024 November General Election and sets the groundwork for the 2026 Midterm Election. The Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Government and External Affairs jointly facilitate the work of the Bronco Advocacy League to ensure the campus community (students, faculty and staff) are invited to participate and inform bi-annual changes to the action plan. This action plan outlines efforts achieved and future goals to implement targeted outreach to first year, transfer students, and students living on-campus. It also outlines strategics and tactics to engage faculty, staff, administrators and community organizations in initiatives to empower everyone to vote.

#### **II. Vision & Commitment**

Cal Poly Pomona has a long-standing commitment to civic engagement, fostering a campus culture that encourages students to positively impact the civic life of our communities. This commitment involves developing the necessary knowledge, skills, values and motivation through initiatives that address community concerns and regional needs. In alignment with the California Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA), the Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan embodies this commitment through a multi-pronged approach: (1) educating the campus community, especially students, on the significance of civic engagement; (2) enhancing voter education efforts to boost voter turnout; and (3) integrating civic and voter empowerment initiatives with community-building efforts. The action plan will be implemented starting Fall 2023 and continue each semester thereafter. In 2022, Cal Poly Pomona President Soraya Coley endorsed the All IN Campus Democracy Challenge Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

#### III. Leadership & Campus-wide Partnerships

The development and execution of the Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan is led by the Bronco Advocacy League – a campus coalition co-led by the Office of Government and External Affairs (GEA) and the Division of Student Affairs and representing a diverse cross-section of campus stakeholders from the following offices and departments: Associated Students, Inc. (ASI); Intercollegiate Athletics; Division of Student Affairs; Bronco Leadership Center; Centers for Transformation, Retention, Equity & Empowerment; New Student Programs & Family Engagement; Office of Student Success; Center for Community Engagement; Hermanas Unidas; Hermanos Unidos; Department of Political Science; Kellogg Honors College; Strategic Communications; the California Center for Ethics and Policy; University Housing Services and the Office of Government and External Affairs. In 2022, the league was 28 members strong with a few departments or student groups represented by multiple student leaders, staff and faculty. Membership dropped to 18 in 2023 and continues to fluctuate depending on new priorities, turnover and capacity constraints that continue to occur annually within student clubs, offices and departments.

Bronco Advocacy League meetings typically take place bi-weekly during the semester when an election is scheduled to take place and are subject to the capacity of the representatives involved. Cal Poly Pomona's Student Civic and Voter Empowerment coordinator distributes a survey each semester to assess interest, as well as departmental turnover and capacity to develop a recurring meeting schedule that is based on the availability of those involved. The meeting schedule following an election is determined by the league and takes place at least once a quarter every academic year. No meetings take place during Winter sessions.

Campus-wide civic and voter empowerment outreach informed by the league aims to affirm everyone's right to free speech, foster a climate of inclusion, promote information that is non-partisan and care for the well-being of every member of our campus community. By grounding all outreach on these four principles, the Bronco Advocacy League aspires to increase civic learning and democratic participation among the entire campus community.

### IV. Landscape

Cal Poly Pomona is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. Our institution is recognized as a Minority Serving, Hispanic-Serving, and AANAPISI-eligible institution. As of the Fall 2023 semester, a total of 26,415 full-time equivalent students were enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona.

#### AY 2023 Campus Demographics:<sup>1</sup>

Enrollment Type – 93% Undergraduate; 7% Post-bac	First Generation – 55%
<b>Gender</b> – 45% Female; 55% Male; 0% (52) Nonbinary	First Time Freshman – 16%
U.S. Nonresident – 2%	New Transfers – 10%
Ethnicity – 53% Hispanic/Latino; 22% Asian; 13%	<b>Age 18-24</b> – 77%
White; 4% Multi-race; 3% Black/African American	<b>Age 25-39</b> – 19%
	<b>Age 40-64+</b> – 3%

#### National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) Data:

The university participates in Institute for Democracy & Higher Education's (IDHE) National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Based on the reports provided by IDHE, Cal Poly Pomona's voter registration and voter participation rates in 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 are as follows:

Election Year	Voter-Eligible Registration Rate	Voting Rate	National Student Voting Rate
2022	35.3%	26.6%	30.6%
2020	83.7%	70%	66%
2018	75%	40.8%	40.3%
2016	71.7%	47.4%	48.3%

#### V. Goals

As noted by the NSLVE reports provided, Cal Poly Pomona students exceeded national voter registration averages in 2018 and 2020. However, the campus stands to improve in ensuring that students are also ready

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cal Poly Pomona IRPA Fall Student Characteristics: <u>https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/irpa/viz/FallStudentCharacteristics/TermEnrollmentSummary</u>

and confident to vote during each election after they register, especially during mid-term election years. With that in mind, the university's student civic and voter empowerment goals between 2023 and 2026 are to:

- (1) Increase CPP's overall student voter registration rate by 85.4% and voter turnout rate by 72% in 2024;<sup>2</sup>
- (2) Continue the Bronco Advocacy League Ambassador program to empower students to inform their peers about upcoming elections;
- (3) Develop voter information media catered to students living on-campus, first-year students, and transfer students.
- (4) Annually host voter registration and information booths on campus during move-in day, Weeks of Welcome, New Student Orientation and at least four athletics events.
- (5) Partner with student clubs and cultural centers to evaluate NSLVE data and develop targeted outreach plans for key student groups; and
- (6) Partner with the NAACP of Pomona Valley, neighboring colleges/universities, and non-partisan organizations to leverage opportunities to engage the local community in voter mobilization efforts on campus.

### VI. Strategy and Tactics

Cal Poly Pomona will implement the following strategies and tactics to increase non- partisan civic engagement and student voter participation.

#### **Bronco Advocacy League Ambassadors**

As co-chairs of the Bronco Advocacy League at Cal Poly Pomona, the Office of Government and External Affairs (GEA) and the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) partnered to launch the inaugural Bronco Advocacy League ambassador program in 2022. The goal of this program is to provide students with a paid opportunity of up to 20 hours per week to help influence and implement Cal Poly Pomona's voter empowerment initiatives, help alleviate financial barriers for students with competing responsibilities and recognize that their engagement is valued.

Ambassadors serve as a resource to provide non-partisan information outlined within California's Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) to their peers, while supporting the university's commitment to civic engagement and voter empowerment. Prior experience is not required for the position and students are provided with training about the election process. Since 2022, at least two students are hired to work up to 20 hours a week to assist with the following initiatives:

- a. Support Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Election Day events and programing, as needed;
- b. Give presentations about key election day deadlines, voter information resources to clubs and organizations, fraternity sorority life, University Housing Services students, University Village students and/or classroom presentations;
- c. Tabling throughout campus to provide students with civic engagement promotional items and remind them about key dates, in partnership with ASI BEAT;
- d. Provide feedback during Bronco Advocacy League meetings;
- e. Support social media engagement initiatives, participate in developing information videos, and assist with creating additional media targeted to students.

Additional student assistants from the Office of Government and External Affairs support these initiatives when schedules allow. Both GEA and Student Affairs will continue to explore additional funding support and grant opportunities to continue to support this program and hire more students in the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The 2024 voter registration and voter turnout rate goal is based 2% increase from the outcomes of the 2020 Presidential Election.

#### **Campus Activities and Events**

Campus-wide civic engagement and voter mobilization activities and events launch every academic year during Constitution Week. The Bronco Advocacy League will host a minimum of three election outreach events to increase civic learning, democratic participation, civic engagement, and voter turnout each academic year. Campus offices and departments represented in the coalition will alternate in coordinating each event, while members help provide additional planning and logistical support. Coalition meetings are open to the campus community and all students will continuously be invited to help coordinate and attend these events. During an election year, an outreach event will take place within the final 30 days preceding a statewide primary and general election. *Between 2023 and 2024, the coalition members have partnered to host the following events with internal and external partners:* 

Event Name	Event Date	Lead Dept.	Event Description/Outcome	
Civic Engagement Week: National Voter Registration & Constitution Day Rally	9/19/23	ASI BEAT	In collaboration with Student Engagement Leadership and Success and the Office of Government and External Affairs, ASI Beat encouraged Cal Poly Pomona students to register to vote for the 2024 Primary and General Election at a rally that included a petting zoo, free constitution books, and free burritos for the first 100 students who attended.	
Civic Engagement Week: Pop-Up Museum on the Constitution	9/20/23	University Library	University library visitors learned about the U.S. Constitution and key Amendments. Free Constitution books and healthy snacks were distributed to all guests.	
Civic Engagement Week Discussion Panel: Challenges Under the Constitution	9/21/23	CA Center for Ethics & Policy (CCEP)	CCEP partnered with the CPP Democracy Institute and the Philosophy Department to host a faculty panel discussion on topics like the right to privacy, the First Amendment, and equal protection. Free sandwiches were provided to the first 50 students who attended. A total of 85 students participated.	
53rd Assembly District Candidate Forum	2/9/24	Government & External Affairs	CPP partnered with the NAACP of Pomona Valley, Latina/o Roundtable of Pomona Valley, and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce to host a forum featuring candidates for the 53rd Assembly District in California. The event was livestreamed and open to the public. Over 100 residents of the assembly district registered for the event and there were 240 views on Youtube the next day.	
National Voter Registration & Constitution Day Carnival	9/17/24	ASI Beat	In collaboration with the Bronco Leadership Center, Center for Community Engagement, Male Success Initiatives, Government Affairs, and various student clubs, ASI Beat hosted carnival games to register students to vote and learn about the U.S. Constitution.	
Latinx Votes: A Legacy of Change	9/24/24	Centers for Transformation, Retention, Equity & Empowerment	Community discussion led by CPP political science alum Dr. Lisa Magaña focused on the Latinx community's relationship with voting in the past and how that impacts Latinx voters in the present.	
El Voto es Nuestra Voz y Nuestro Poder	10/2/24	Centers for Transformation, Retention,	Community discussion led by Dr. Adrian D. Pantoja, professor of Political Studies and Chicano Studies at Pitzer College focused on the importance of the Latinx	

Event Name	Event Date	Lead Dept.	Event Description/Outcome
		Equity & Empowerment	community to show up by voting and uplifting students to use their voice this fall.
CCEP Election Fair 2024	10/11/24	CA Center for Ethics & Policy (CCEP)	An event featuring a series of engaging discussions and activities aimed at promoting civic engagement and informed voting. The event will include sessions with Elizabeth Muños from ABC7, focusing on political polarization and election coverage and Jackie Wu, an author and election official, will share her experiences on protecting the vote in 2020. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with political representatives, participate in various activities, and receive a free signed copy of Jackie Wu's book (see appendix A).

Cal Poly Pomona also hosts annual events for students and members of the broader community that everyone looks forward to every fall semester and often engages thousands upon thousands of attendees. The Bronco Advocacy League will continue to ensure that ambassadors or league representatives are present at major university events to provide students, faculty, staff and neighboring communities with key voter and elections information, as well as voter registration opportunities. These events include:

- a. Transfer & New Student Orientation (January/June-July): Incoming freshmen and transfer students must attend mandatory New Student Orientation, which includes the completion of three online modules focused on preparing students for their new journey at Cal Poly Pomona. In 2023, we worked with the Office of New Student Programs and Family Engagement to include a dedicated slide within this module on the Bronco Advocacy League, the importance of registering to vote and similar messaging encouraging students to take action and get involved. As a result, all incoming students were introduced to the BAL and the cpp.edu/vote website at the start of their college journey. See appendix for screenshots from the module (1.1 and 1.2).
- b. Weeks of Welcome (Late August): Hosted by the Division of Student Affairs, Weeks of Welcome is Cal Poly Pomona's ongoing programming for incoming first year and transfer students. The goal of these weeks is to provide ample opportunities for students to find a sense of belonging and have a strong start on campus, beginning with New Student Convocation. During the first full week of the fall semester, various student affairs departments host resource and club fairs, pep rallies, movie nights, department visits and socials to offer opportunities to help students find their way around campus and encourage them to participate in activities to learn about resources on campus and meet other students.
- c. BroncoFusion (Late August): Hosted by Associated Students Inc., at Cal Poly Pomona (ASI), BroncoFusion is open to all students, and features the annual BroncoFusion concert and club fair. This year, our ASI Beat civic engagement coordinators provided student attendees with information about the CA Secretary of State's Ballot bowl competition and encouraged students to register to vote during the event.
- d. Pumpkin Fest (October 1<sup>st</sup> October 30<sup>th</sup>): Hosted by the College of Agriculture and AGRIscapes, the Pumpkin Festival began almost 30 years ago and has grown into a month-long series of events and activities in October. The festival has become hugely popular, drawing as many as 120,000 visitors to pick pumpkins from a patch near the Farm Store. The festival features fun activities for people of all ages, such as live music, farm demonstrations, festival food vendors, a marketplace of craft vendors, a petting farm, and more. Ambassadors typically attend the final Saturday in October to provide information about the Los Angeles County Vote Center at Cal Poly Pomona's Bronco Student Union.

#### **Annual Communication Efforts**

Communication efforts for student civic engagement opportunities and voter empowerment are intentionally designed to be collaborative, using a variety of channels, media, and platforms to cross-promote messaging and key themes, especially during an Election Year. These tactics include:

- **Civic and Voter Empowerment Website:** Accessible at <u>www.cpp.edu/vote</u>, this website serves as the sole campus portal for information related to civic engagement and Election information. Managed through Student Affairs, it is continually updated throughout the academic year as needed. The site consists of the following modules:
  - Important Dates and Deadlines: Important dates related to the Election
  - *Why is Voting Important?:* A breakdown of reasons to vote meant to encourage students to participate.
  - *Register to Vote:* Links to the CA SoS/Turbovote voter registration site and provides key information about voter eligibility in CA.
  - *How to Vote:* Provides information on various voting methods and procedures.
  - Understanding the Issues: Provides a breakdown of party nominated offices, measures, nonpartisan offices, and more.
  - **Understanding Election Results:** Provides information on how and when election results are posted, including information on the Electoral College.
  - **Resources and Events:** Updated with CPP events and on-campus locations for involvement. Also includes voting information resources for each county in Southern California.
- Mass Email Communications: A campus-wide email is distributed from the Division of Student Affairs the first month of each academic semester to all students providing civic and election dates as well as information stipulated in Education Code Section 66852. When relevant, this email also includes information about upcoming events and engagement opportunities. During an Election Year, a second email is sent one month before each primary and general election reiterating the dates and information included in the academic term email communication. Certain events (such as an Election Fair) are also cross promoted through smaller email listservs, including (but not limited to) myBAR (student engagement portal) and newsletters such as Bronco Bytes.
- **New Student Orientation:** Campus civic engagement opportunities and key election dates and deadlines are integrated into student orientation programming each semester.
- Academic Calendar: The primary online academic calendar will include National Voter Registration Day, Constitution Day, Voter Registration deadlines, Early Voting dates, and Election Day. This calendar will also include a link to the Secretary of State's website for the campus community to confirm additional dates, times and locations for early voting and conditional voter registration.
- Social Media: Cal Poly Pomona has a robust network of social media accounts with unique audiences and followers. As such, our goal is to collaborate across channels for wider reach. Social media accounts that are involved in content creation and planning efforts include:
  - o Broncos Belong: Managed by Division of Student Affairs
  - **Student Affairs:** Managed by Division of Student Affairs
  - o Bronco Advising Center (BAC): Managed by Academic Affairs
  - Associated Students, Inc. (ASI): Managed by ASI Marketing
  - o Cal Poly Pomona: Main university accounts
  - Various Campus Affinity Group Accounts: This includes student clubs and organizations as well as cultural and identity centers
  - Social media content is developed with the student audience in mind, with different media types considered based on the content's message. When applicable, we approach student groups to

collaborate on content creation. Content ranges from information based to motivational to encourage participation and engagement.

- As an example, during an Election Year, we make use of various types of media. Media types considered include:
  - Long form video
  - Short form video (Reels, TikTok style)
  - Swipe through infographics
  - Custom designed static images
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Custom designed images for IG story format  $\;$
  - o Connection to Linktree for quick access to links
- **Print Media:** This includes information related to events or Elections on coffee cup sleeves, stickers, flyers, A-frame signage across campus, and/ or targeted messaging including informational door hangers for residence halls (see appendix D). The media is provided to student leaders, departments and clubs hosting voter registration booths across campus and during their events.

#### Los Angeles County Vote Center & Vote-by-Mail Drop Box

The university is committed to provide the campus community with ample opportunities vote in every election by serving as a Los Angeles County Voter Center during every primary and general election. In 2022, 336 voters visited and casted their ballots at the 4-day vote center inside of the Bronco Student Union. For the 2024 election, Bronco Advocacy League members, student leaders, university housing staff and facilities management were consulted to identify the best location to also host an L.A. County Ballot Drop Box for subsequent election years.

#### VII. Evaluation & Reporting

#### **Evaluation**

Cal Poly Pomona's voter registration and participation rate provided by Tuft University's Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE) is instrumental in helping the campus identify its successes in engaging key student groups and in helping us determine areas of improvement. The university also serves as a Los Angeles County Vote Center annually and collects vote center visitor numbers from the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters. In addition to utilizing results from IDHE's the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), the Bronco Advocacy League will identify and implement additional measures we can use to determine how many students registered and voted. A few ideas we will be implementing includes:

- a. Conducting exit poll surveys while tabling and during campus events to collect data from voters on their majors at Cal Poly Pomona to measure voting by major, school, and unit; and
- b. Continuing to monitor and utilize the CA Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl rankings to identify opportunities to improve student engagement the semester when an election is scheduled to take place.

#### Reporting

Cal Poly Pomona's action plan will be shared and accessible to all campus community members, as well as our local, statewide, and national partners. Our partners include the NAACP of Pomona Valley and the ALL IN Democracy Challenge. Our campus action plan will be posted online and accessible on the following websites:

- a. Cal Poly Pomona's Civic and Voter Empowerment Website (www.cpp.edu/vote); and
- b. Cal Poly Pomona's campus page on ALL IN's website.

Updates regarding the university's progress in meeting its goals are proactively shared during Bronco Advocacy league meetings and student voter engagement outcomes following each election are provided to Cal Poly Pomona's Cabinet, the Associated Students Executive Board, and the NAACP of Pomona Valley's Collegiate Voter

Connections leadership team. Once the university receives its NSLVE report from Tufts University, the league publishes the data on the Civic and Voter Empowerment website and on the Division of Student Affairs social media accounts. Our institution has also given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

#### **VIII. Reflection**

The 2022 election marked a significant period of transition for Cal Poly Pomona, following an unprecedented phase of remote learning and virtual engagement. That year the university reintroduced numerous in-person events that had been paused during the pandemic, providing ample opportunities for face-to-face engagement during major events and athletic games. The Bronco Advocacy League members hosted and participated in various campus events focused on civic engagement and voter empowerment, engaging hundreds of Cal Poly Pomona students and 250 high school students. The League also implemented a robust communications plan for the 2022 and 2024 General Elections, which included print materials, Instagram posts, and informational stories and reels.

In 2023 and 2024, Cal Poly Pomona continued to build on these efforts with impactful events such as Civic Engagement Week, which included a National Voter Registration & Constitution Day Rally, a Pop-Up Museum on the Constitution, and a Discussion Panel on Challenges Under the Constitution. A standout event was the 53rd Assembly District Candidate Forum in February 2024, which exemplified the campus's commitment to engaging the community in voter mobilization efforts. The forum, held in partnership with the NAACP of Pomona Valley, Latina/o Roundtable of Pomona Valley, and the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, featured candidates for the 53rd Assembly District and was livestreamed to the public, attracting over 100 residents and 240 views on YouTube the next day.

Moreover, Cal Poly Pomona's communication efforts in 2023-2024 were significantly enhanced to promote voter engagement. The university implemented a new voter empowerment module during Transfer and New Student Orientation, ensuring that all incoming students are well-informed about their voting rights and responsibilities. Additionally, targeted social and print media campaigns were launched for students living on campus, providing them with essential voter information. Creative initiatives, such as the use of coffee sleeves with voting reminders this year, further exemplifies the university's commitment to exploring creative ways to increase voter turnout. These efforts, combined with the planned CCEP Election Fair in October 2024, underscore Cal Poly Pomona's dedication to fostering civic engagement and informed voting among its students. Overall, student engagement and strategic partnerships have continued to strengthen in preparation for the 2024 General Election.

## Appendices

#### A. 2024 CCEP Election Fair Flyer

# 2024 CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR ETHICS & POLICY ELECTION FAIR



Learn from experts in organizing, digital media and officiating elections. Interact with representatives from political campaigns and groups both supporting and opposing the measures on the November ballot and participate in featured activities!



Presented by the CPP Digital Humanities Consortium (DHC), History Club, Phi Alpha Theta, the Poly Post, Society of Professional Journalists and the Student Initiative for Justice.

#### You're an Organizer: How to Leverage Relationships to Change the World

#### 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. BSC - Ursa Major A

Join us for a discussion with Lacey Davidson, Director of the Center for Ethics and Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Indianapolis, about how students can work through their social networks to get out the vote and make a difference.

Facilitated by the California Center for Ethics & Policy (CCEP).

#### **Election Reporting in the Digital Age**

#### 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. BSC - Ursa Major A

Join us for a Q&A with Elizabeth Muños, digital producer for ABC7, Los Angeles, on the subject of political polarization and election coverage in our current digital media landscape.

Moderated by Kristine Pascual, Communications.

# **Keynote Event**

On the Front Lines of Democracy: An Election Official's Story of Protecting the Vote in 2020

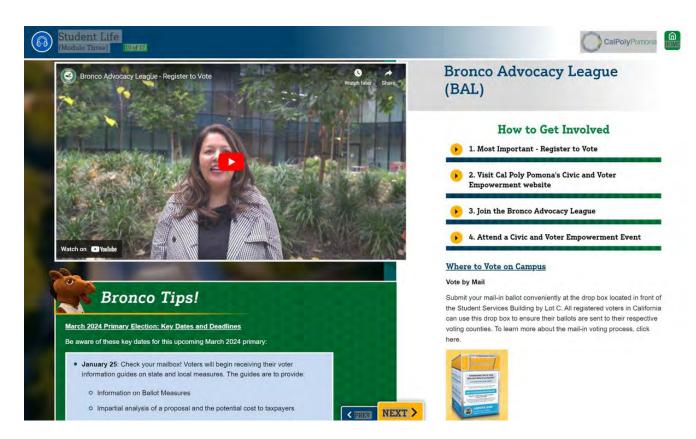
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. BSC - Ursa Major A

# Author

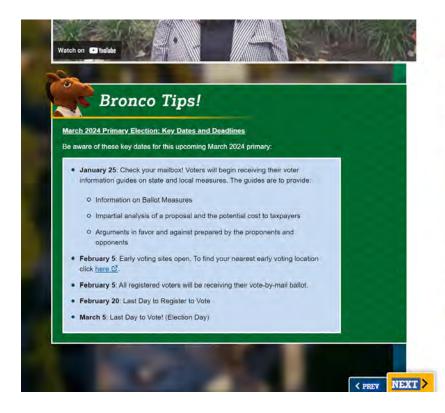
Join us for a discussion with Jackie Wu, author and Orange County Registrar Office official during the 2020 election. Learn insights into the challenges faced by election officials and the importance of civic engagement, followed by a book signing!

Presented by Male Success Initiatives.





#### C. 1.2: Orientation Module



#### 4. Attend a Civic and Voter Empowerment Event

#### Where to Vote on Campus

Vote by Mail

Submit your mail-in ballot conveniently at the drop box located in front of the Student Services Building by Lot C. All registered voters in California can use this drop box to ensure their ballots are sent to their respective voting counties. To learn more about the mail-in voting process, click here.



#### Vote in Person

An in-person voting center will be available on campus from March 1, 2024, through March 5, 2024, located in Room 1967 of the Student Services Building.



#### D. Print Media for 2024 November General Election

#### Handbills & A-Frame Posters:



#### **Coffee Sleeves:**



#### Social Media Posts:



#### Email Signature:

