



SACRAMENTO STATE

All-In Democracy Challenge
Action Plan: 2022-2023

I. Executive Summary

Recognizing the need for continual campus oversight and coordination of civic engagement activities but given campus staffing vacancies, Student Organizations & Leadership convened a University Voter Engagement working group in 2022. The All In 2022-2023 Action Plan has been compiled by members of the University Voter Engagement working group. The University Voter Engagement working group includes students, faculty, staff, and community partners. The group continues the work began during the 2019/2020 academic year to incorporate more student voices and broaden the scope of the mission to larger civic engagement collaborations.

This academic-year (2022-2023) plan focuses on short-term goals around the 2022 Election. The future goals center around our campus Anchor Institution commitment and an established home for civic engagement efforts long-term. Sacramento State continues to have a vested interest in the well-being of the Sacramento Region and strives to support and improve the quality of life in the community in which we serve.

This action plan was developed by individuals in our voter engagement working group to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at California State University, Sacramento. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023, on and around our campus in Sacramento, California.

II. Leadership

Working with Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Division, the University Voter Engagement working group meets monthly to discuss voter outreach events on campus and in the local community. Partnerships across the institution include representatives from Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Public Affairs and Advocacy. We will continue to review our participant list to ensure the broadest possible representation across campus. In addition, we will also consult with Public Affairs and Advocacy to obtain their recommendations for additional external partners who should be involved. For 2022, Nicki Croly, Director for Student Organizations & Leadership will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Campus representatives
 - Nathan Dietrich, Rita Gallardo Good, Nancy Griggs- Public Affairs and Advocacy*
 - Salma Elliessy and Lisa Dalton- Associated Students Inc*
 - Alan Figueroa-Camarena- Serna Center
 - Tranh Pham- Pride Center
 - Sam Church and Jessica Vernone- University Communications
 - Noel Mora and Sherell Branch- Community Engagement Center*
 - Danielle Martin- Dept. of Political Science*
 - Nadia Navarro Brown- Center for California Studies*
 - Zenia LaPorte- UNIQUE (student union programming)
 - Adam Dowrie- University Housing Services
 - Kimberly Nalder- Project for the Informed Electorate (PIE)/ Dept. of Political Science*
- Community representatives
 - Andrea Bacy- County of Sacramento
 - Sue McGinty- CA Youth Voter Engagement

- The Secretary of State's office

All of the above are involved because they fundamentally believe in our efforts. The folks with * have an explicit role in this work via job duties. If we were to dream big- a designated office to lead these efforts would be our hope.

Our group meets Monthly at Every second Monday at 11am via Zoom to increase access.

III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. As stated in our mission statement, As California's capital university, we transform lives by preparing students for leadership, service, and success. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, "Student Success; Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity; Diversity and Inclusion; Community Engagement; Innovation; Integrity; and Accountability."

Civic engagement is enthusiastically supported at the highest level of administration at Sacramento State. The University works to increase voter registration and voter turnout among its students and in the broader community. President Robert Nelsen emails all members of the campus community a few weeks prior to the registration deadline and Fall election reaffirming Sacramento State's deep commitment to the civic engagement of our students and attesting that the simple act of voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. His message provided students with instructions on how to register to vote and where they could vote on-campus. This messaging is reiterated by emails sent to students by the Associated Students Incorporated Student Body President, Salma Elliessy, and to faculty, staff, and students by the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carlos Nevarez.

Educating for civic learning and democratic engagement is reflected in the campus Mission, Vision and Values statements:

- Mission: As California's capital university, we transform lives by preparing students for leadership, service, and success.
- Vision: Sacramento State will be a recognized leader in education, innovation, and engagement.
- Values: Student Success; Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity; Diversity and Inclusion; Community Engagement; Innovation; Integrity; and Accountability.
- The University's overall civic, democratic, and/or political learning outcomes are reflected in the Baccalaureate Learning Goals:
 - Personal and Social Responsibility, Including: civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

The University's General Education Learning Outcomes reflect educating for civic learning and democratic engagement though several GE Areas. Examples:

American Institutions-1: US History. Students will be able to:

- Explain and analyze the causes and consequences of significant events in the US historical context relating to political, economic, geographic, and social change.
- Explain and evaluate the historical development of US institutions and ideals in relation to the Constitution and American democracy.
- Analyze and evaluate the United States in its global context, with particular attention to its historical derivation from other cultures and its incorporation of immigrants into American society.

Area US-2: US Constitution. Students will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics, operation, and interaction of institutions in the US Constitution. A. Congress: Legislative process, operation and structure, and elections. B. Executive: Electoral College, unitary executive, exercise of executive power, and the functioning of the bureaucracy. C. Judicial: Judicial review, decision making, and selection.
- Explain the rights and obligations of citizens under the US Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, and the incorporation of rights via the 14th Amendment.
- Explain and analyze the history and legacy of civil rights and civil rights movements in relation to the US Constitution and legislation.
- Explain and evaluate the function, role, and impact of campaigns and elections, interest groups, political parties, mass media, social movements, and public opinion on democracy in the United States.
- Explain the relationship between state, local, and federal government, including enumerated, reserved, and concurrent powers under the US Constitution over time.

Area US-3: California State and Local Government. Students will be able to:

- Explain the structure and functions of California's constitution, including plural executive, legislative and judicial branches, local governments, and the function and history of direct democracy in California politics and government.
- Describe the historical development of California's political institutions, including California's finance and budgetary processes, as well as its electoral system.
- Explain the contributions of diverse groups to California's political evolution.

GE AREA B5: Further Studies. Students will be able to:

- Recognize evidence-based conclusions and form reasoned opinions about science-related matters of personal, public and ethical concern.

The campus commitment to community engagement is reflected through the Tenure and Promotion Process. All tenure-track faculty are required, as a part of tenure and promotion, to engage in, document and assess their participation in "community service."

We continue to host a Vote Center on campus, to staff the site, and to advertise its existence and purpose. The Center is open for four days for both June and November Elections, allowing voters to drop off ballots or vote in person. The Vote Center moved from Modoc Hall to The newly opened Welcome Center which increases accessibility and visibility to both campus and community members.

We also worked with Information Resources & Technology (IRT) to have our Voter Engagement website be visible year-round, not just during traditional voting periods. This website (csus.edu/vote) is comprehensive of our efforts and features information about registration, voting, events, and resources.

IV. Landscape

Sacramento State's Baccalaureate Learning Goals include an explicit reference to Civic Engagement:

Personal and Social Responsibility, Including: civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges. In their annual assessments, departments are invited to include their inclusion and assessments of this Learning Goal.

The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. This information is based on data collected from 2021 when our total student enrollment was 31,573.

Enrollment Data:

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
28,904.00%	2,669.00%	20.00%	80.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
97.00%	1.00%	2.00%	10.00%	90.00%

Gender Demographics:

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender
58.00%	42.00%	0.08%	

Age:

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+
48.00%	26.00%	15.00%	7.00%	2.00%	1.00%

Racial Demographics:

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
6.00%	1.00%	6.00%	36.00%	1.00%	25.00%	6.00%

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:

- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
- We have trouble engaging student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to LEAD the civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

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

- 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.
- We have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.

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

1. Ensure the Voter Engagement Working Group meets once a quarter in 2023 to ensure the University is well prepared for the March 2024 Primary and November 2024 General Election.
2. Begin the process of identifying a staff member to organize civic engagement efforts on campus.
3. Use the NSLV data from 2022 to develop a data driven plan for 2024, paying particular attention to marginalized groups.

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

1. Win the CSU portion of the California Secretary of State Ballot Bowl by having 1,000 students register to vote online.
2. Have the on-campus Vote Center be one of the top 25% of most used Vote Center in Sacramento County.
3. Have more than 50% of faculty post register to vote and voting reminders in their Canvas course calendar.

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):

- Providing Voter Registration cards in various locations on campus including: ASI Government office, Residence Hall buildings, Library, Serna Center, Community Engagement Center
- Send out campus-wide email from ASI Student Government President and University President regarding registration and voting dates.
- Civic Engagement Resource Fair during Constitution Week
- Hosting a Vote Center and ballot drop-box
- ASI hosted voter registration tables across campus and conducted an active campaign on social media through the 2022 election cycle. The University participated in the “Ballot Bowl” voter registration contest, in which campuses competed to register students to vote.
- The University also hosted or promoted various events in Fall 2022. These were as follows:

September 20, 2022

National Voter Registration Day: Sacramento County, Student Organizations & Leadership, Associated Students Inc, Community Engagement Center, and the Pride Center tabled in the Library Quad on voter registration, civic engagement opportunities and jobs!

September 28, 2022

Voting Rights Town Hall. The campus was invited to join California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, Sacramento State, and community members for a voting rights conversation. Topics include the 1965 Voting Rights Act and current efforts to protect voting rights in California and nationwide. This was a hybrid event and live streamed to the public.

Project for an Informed Electorate's 2022 Initiative Explainer with the Legislative Analyst's Office and Sacramento Public Library. We explain each measure, offer information on endorsements and campaign spending, and open it up for questions on Zoom.

October 4, 2022

Project for an Informed Electorate's Preparing for the November Election: Researching Ballot Measures and Elections. Provided information about how to research ballot measures.

October 11, 2022

Community Engagement Center's Civic Engagement Resource Fair. Community change makers were present to discuss important topics of policy change, equity and equality, and to provide valuable resources on opportunities for student involvement in civic affairs.

October 27, 2022

Perspectives on Black voters: Results from opinion survey. A presentation by Dr. Christopher Towler, associate professor of Political Science, on research findings from the Black Voter Project series, including a 2021 statewide study of Black Californians and a 2022 national pre-election study. This event was both in person and livestreamed.

November 2, 2022

Department of History's Midterms 2022: A Referendum of Democracy. Joseph Palermo, Ph.D., Professor of History, Sacramento State (moderator/panelist) Kevin

McCarty, Assemblymember, California Assembly 7th District (panelist) Jack Ohman, Senior Associate Editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, Sacramento Bee (panelist)

The 2022 midterm elections are shaping up to be a referendum on the future of American democracy. The baseless claims of voter fraud in the 2020 elections have succeeded in undermining confidence in the fairness of our elections to the point where many state legislatures have passed new restrictive voting laws as a corrective for a problem that doesn't really exist. With the enormous campaign contributions coming from super PACs, individual billionaires, and untraceable dark-money sources, 2022 will be the most expensive midterm election cycle in U.S. history. The stakes are high in 2022, especially for young people, and could determine, in a very real sense, the future of our democracy. Folks were invited to join our panelists who will be discussing the issues at stake and taking questions about the outsized significance of the upcoming November 8th elections.

November 8, 2022

The Sacramento Kings and When We All Vote present Rally the Vote: Student Edition

The Sacramento Kings and When We All Vote invited students to an afternoon of food, entertainment and more with the California Secretary of State. They had the chance to learn more about the importance of voting and other opportunities to make a difference in our community and have fun while doing it.

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

- Consider if there are higher profile places on campus that would be better suited for a Vote Center and Drop Box than either Modoc Hall or The Welcome Center.
- Increase use of additional social media platforms to reach students (TikToc, Instagram, etc.).
- Update Sacramento State's formal Civic and Voter Empowerment Plan for the Secretary of State's office.

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

- Ensure the Voting Engagement Working Group meets during non-election years to keep momentum and energy around civic engagement.

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

- Providing Voter Registration cards in various locations on campus including: ASI Government office, Residence Hall buildings, Library, Serna Center, Community Engagement Center.
- Send out campus-wide email from ASI Student Government President and University President regarding registration and voting dates.
- Civic Engagement Resource Fair during Constitution Week.
- Host a Vote Center and ballot drop-box making voting easy for students, the campus, and community

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

- Raise awareness of issues on the ballot by hosting at least 5 events related to the election each election year.
- Dedicate a staff member to organizing voting efforts on campus, potentially the future Government Relations Associate in Public Affairs and Advocacy or TBD staff in the Community Engagement Center.

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

- Host events with well-known musical acts, celebrities, or elected officials that would help raise voting awareness.
- Making voting and supporting democracy one of the Anchor University priority issue areas.
- Raise awareness of issues on the ballot by hosting one event each week in the two months leading up to Election Day.
- Incorporate more faculty in encouraging students to register to vote and to remind students to vote.

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 2020. In 2020 our registration rate was 85.7. In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate increased.

In 2020, our voting rate was 71 and our voting rate among registered students was 82.8. During this year, our voting rate was higher than the national average.

In our NSLVE report, we had racial data for the following groups and, in ALL groups, we had an increase in voter turnout compared to four years ago:

- Asian
- American Indian / Alaska Native
- Black
- Hispanic
- Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- White
- 2 or More Races

VIII.Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete emailing it to members of our campus coalition and campus administration, including the President. We will share this Action Plan externally when it is complete on the csus.edu/vote website

We will collect feedback on this plan by regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect. And will evaluate our success by reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year.