



# Carleton College Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2024 academic years

*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 Robert Healy, Student to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Carleton College. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2024 academic years, on and around our campus in Northfield, Minnesota.

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

- Undergraduate Students
- Faculty
- Civic/Political/Community Engagement Center

The mission of our initiative is:

- Penguins for Political Participation seeks to increase student voter participation at Carleton College by registering students to vote, removing barriers to voting, and providing resources to help students make educated decisions at the ballot box. Long-term goals include institutionalizing voter registration, fostering increased civic engagement, and creating space for constructive dialogue on campus. Eventually, we hope our efforts will allow Carleton to take the number 1 spot in voter turnout in the nation from St. Olaf.

This action plan will be largely implemented in three phases. The first phase is the setup and outreach phase from now until the 2022 midterm elections on November 8th. In this time period, we aim to boost support for our goals, register people to vote, and get people interested in the election. The second phase will start after the election and will seek to institutionalize our efforts and engrain them into the campus culture and structure. The third phase will take place leading up to the 2024 election. Here we aim to enact our phase two work and beat St.Olaf, our cross-town rivals in voting turnout on campus.

***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

Brian Harrison, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Quinn Buhman, student body treasurer, treasurer PPP
- Robert Healy, Student, president PPP
- Sydney Tirschwell, head of comms PPP
- Maxwell Serota, CCCE communications fellow, Head of engagement PPP
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- Sinda Nichols, CCCE– works with civil engagement more broadly
- Dean Flemming, associate dean of students– can help activate college resources
- Michelle Mattson, Provost – Can provide insight into the structure of the college and help us institutionalize
- Todd Jamison, IRA – will help with privacy and data gathering

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

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

Our group plans to meet 2 twice a week at unknown

In the event that our leadership leaves campus or is no longer involved in this work, we have a succession plan in place. Students will take over and work with relevant offices to continue this effort.

We are also partnering with the following organizations from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition to support our efforts on campus:

- LeadMN

***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

As stated in our mission statement, “Carleton develops qualities of mind and character that prepare its graduates to become citizens and leaders, capable of finding inventive solutions to local, national, and global challenges.” We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, ““The College works to embody the values of freedom of inquiry and expression and is vigilant in protecting these values within a culture of academic integrity, civil deliberation, and ethical action.””

On campus, we've seen:

- Political clubs or student organizations
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- Voter registration tables
- Protests / rallies / walkouts
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On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Political speakers
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- Registering to vote
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The emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement could be increased.

***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

We do not have access to comprehensive demographic information about our student body at this time.

Our institution has also utilized the following data gathering tools:

- Ask Every Student First Step Form
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They help to inform our institution's civic learning and democratic engagement efforts by N/a, unknown.

***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.



- We have a working relationship with our local election office.
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With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

Get the administration to participate in NSLVE

Register 100-150 more students

embed our organization in multiple offices on campus, make it a club and a part of the CCCE, as well as part of other offices.

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

Incorporate voter registration and civic engagement into new student week

Have all first-year students give a presentation about voter registration and voting in Northfield Beat St.Olaf College in voter turnout in 2024.

***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):

- Registering friends to vote, tabling around campus

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

- Classroom presentations, social media engagement, flyers around campus, opinion pieces

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

- dorm storms, food registration event, lunch room registration drives

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

- Communicating with campus offices and engaging with college leadership, creating a club dedicated to pursuing engagement in the long term.

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

- Civil engagement talks during new student week, having advisors do a registration talk during the first week of school, bringing in speakers to talk about the importance of civic engagement

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

- Embed ourselves in staffed offices and push to have a staff member working full time on registration and civil discourse. Creating an academic center for pursuing scholarly work in civic engagement and discourse

***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)

We are not currently enrolled in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

***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:

- Email to members of our campus coalition
- Email to campus administration
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We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

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- Release in a public statement
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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

- Sending a post-election survey to students
- Sending a post-election survey to faculty
- Regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect
- Integrating feedback collection into individual campus efforts
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We plan to evaluate our success by:

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- Seeking out feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside of our action planning team
- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
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***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.