

Carthage College
Democratic Action Plan
Fall 2024

Executive Summary

This plan has been developed by Carthage College students, faculty, and staff to clearly outline goals and efforts to increase voter registration and educated voter turnout for all elections. The plan is in effect on an ongoing basis, but events are more specifically hosted during the calendar year of an election.

Leadership

The following individuals and entities play a role in increasing democratic engagement at Carthage College.

Carthage College Faculty and Staff

- President John Swallow
- Provost David Timmerman
- Abby Hanna, Executive Vice President for Administration
- Elizabeth Young, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications
- Elizabeth Snider, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Involvement
- Ryan Colvin, Director of Residential Life
- Tamela Broesch, Department Assistant- Office of Student Life
- Dr. Jeffrey Roberg, Professor of Political Science
- Michael Polzin, Director of Public Safety
- Cole Stramer, Events Coordinator
- Cameron Swallow, First Lady of Carthage College

Carthage College Students

- 15 student employees in the Office of Student Life are responsible for producing Voter ID cards to comply with the State of Wisconsin requirements for voter identification
- TJ McVey '26, President of the Carthage College Republicans
- Zack Roper '26, President of the Carthage College Democrats
- Lorin Bucur '26, President of Carthage College Model UN

Community/National Organizations

- Braver Angels
- Campus Vote Project
- The Wisco Project
- All In Campus Democracy Challenge

- TurboVote via Anthology’s Engage Platform
- Christina Oppenheer, Kenosha County Deputy City Clerk

Commitment

Carthage College is deeply committed to improving democratic engagement and dialogue on campus and amongst our student population. This is visible and communicated in the following ways:

- Carthage College was restored as a Kenosha County polling location in November 2023 enabling Carthage students to vote in person on campus for all elections.
- Carthage College closely partners with [Braver Angels](#), whose expressed mission is to “bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic.” Carthage College served as the host site for the 2024 Braver Angels [national convention](#). Braver Angels works with student representatives from the Carthage Democrats and Carthage Republicans to host on campus debates focusing on a range of political topics.
- Carthage College maintains two up to date webpages providing resources for Carthage College students, faculty, and staff related to understanding the election process and the electoral college and understanding the process and requirements for registering to vote.
 - [Carthage College Election Resources](#)
 - [Carthage College Voting & Civic Engagement](#)
- Campus wide email messages are sent from President John Swallow and Dean of Students Nick Winkler related to upcoming elections. These messages include information about civil discourse, voter registration, and election day logistics.
 - Please see attached appendices A and B for email content.
- The Office of Student Involvement, the Political Science Department, the Carthage College Democrats and the Carthage College Republicans hosted campus wide watch parties for both the presidential debate between candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump and vice-presidential candidates Tim Walz and JD Vance.
- The Office of Student Involvement produces voter identification cards for students that are compliant with the State of Wisconsin ID requirements free of charge for any interested students. Students can obtain a voter ID Monday-Friday from 8am to 6pm with hours expanded during the week prior to the election and on election day.
- Carthage College utilizes Anthology’s Engage online student engagement platform to promote co-curricular opportunities on campus. Engage has partnered with TurboVote to offer a pop-up notification encouraging users to prepare to vote and directing them to voter registration resources. This is a new feature that Carthage College opted into this year and we have received anecdotal feedback from students that they found this reminder valuable.
 - Please see attached appendix C for documentation related to Engage and TurboVote.
- Carthage College faculty and staff are encouraged to ask students if they are registered to vote during academic advising appointments. All faculty and staff are provided information about voter registration to direct students

- A Carthage College staff person is a notary and offers their services to students who are voting absentee in states that require absentee ballots to be notarized.

Landscape

Following each election, we aim to analyze the following data.

- Voter ID cards
 - How many voter ID cards were issued to students during the semester leading up to the election?
 - How many voter ID cards issued to the previous election were still valid and usable by students wishing to vote?
- Absentee Voting Support
 - How many students utilized on campus notary resources if required for their absentee ballot?
 - How many absentee ballots were received for outbound mail in the on-campus student mail room?
- Voter Registration Efforts
 - How many tabling events did organizations host to share information about voter registration?
 - How many voter registration packets were distributed by campus departments?
- Voter Participation Data
 - Of the voters registered in the College's election ward, how many voters participated in the election. (Information collected via election results)
 - NSLVE Report Data
 - How many full -time students participated in the election?
 - How many part-time students participated in the election?
 - Evaluation of gender, race/ethnicity, field of study

Goals

Short Term Goals

- Increase overall student voter participation to exceed 2022 voting rate as reported by NSLVE report
- Increase the number of voter ID cards issued more than 7 days prior to Election Day

Long Term Goals

- Increase student voter participation to regularly meet or exceed "all voting rate" for all NSLVE participating institutions for each election.
- Refine campus voter registration and election resources to provide more inclusive formats (translated to Spanish, audio recording, short video clips with explanations)

- Expand voter registration and participation resources for specific academic departments to increase voter registration for all fields of study for each election

NSLVE

We utilized data from our 2020 and 2022 campus reports to determine areas where we saw decreases in voter participation to better target messages to students who currently fall into those categories. We hope to continue to increase targeted outreach to students based on the data received in future reports.

Strategy

The overall strategy to increase voter registration and voter turnout is to include students, faculty, and staff in the planning and delivery of all efforts to ensure transparency and effectiveness in all that we do.

Reporting

Our plan is shared amongst campus departments and with those who play a direct role in the civic engagement efforts of our campus community. Outcomes associated with achieving goals or improving metrics are shared more publicly.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the success of our campus wide efforts takes place during monthly meetings of the voter engagement team on campus, comprised of the individuals listed in the “leadership” section of this report. Plans are regularly adjusted with the goal of offering the most effective programs, services, and resources available to the Carthage College community.



Engaging in an election year

2 messages

President John Swallow <president@carthage.edu>
To: students@carthage.edu

Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 9:45 AM

Dear Students,

With Election Day less than two months away, I am inspired to share with you a brief summary of the many opportunities and resources Carthage has available for you during this election year.

For most of you, this will be the first presidential election in which you are able to vote. This is an exciting and important milestone! Your engagement and informed participation in the political process are essential to our country's future. And so, in this presidential election year, I hope we will find ourselves in a great many conversations about politics, whether about specific issues or about the overall direction of this country.

We live in an especially divisive time, and having productive conversations — in which different views are discussed in a mutually respectful manner — has become very challenging. Nevertheless, that is what we must always work toward at Carthage. I hope you take advantage of the resources below to engage issues, prepare for conversations, work to understand others across political lines, and ultimately engage in the political process by voting.

Reach out to Carthage faculty.

Your Carthage professors — especially those you know closely — are always a wonderful resource for students. Political science professors Jerry Mast and Jeff Roberg, history professor Stephanie Mitchell, English professor Annette Duncan, and management professor and Carthage Mock Trial program director Michael Phegley, along with many others, will be glad to answer your questions about the electoral process and to offer guidance on how to have productive conversations. I encourage you to share with these faculty members or others any challenges you feel in talking about politics and to work on how to overcome them.

Explore issues at a Braver Angels debate.

Carthage will again hold a Braver Angels debate on campus this semester. [Braver Angels](#) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to political depolarization. A Braver Angels debate is a structured conversation in which groups of people engage each other on a political topic, working to listen and learn from each other. The event will be held on the evening of October 29 and will be chaired by Cameron Swallow, my wife, who is a coordinator for Braver Angels. Our College Democrats and College Republicans are together choosing the topic, and members will help open the session. I encourage you to participate.

Respect college policies.

The College has policies for [political campaigns, candidates, and events](#) and for [campus demonstrations](#). I have reviewed these with leaders of student political organizations as well as faculty leaders, and Provost David Timmerman has distributed these to faculty and staff. If you have any questions about what Carthage students, faculty, and staff can do and what you should be able to expect from others, please consult these links, and if you have follow-up questions, please contact [Liz Snider](#), Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Involvement.

Vote!

Carthage will be a polling place for the general election on Nov. 5. You can learn more about how and where to vote at www.carthage.edu/election-information.

We will send more information about what you will need to bring to vote in the presidential election. For now, know that same-day registration is possible in Wisconsin. Should you have any general questions, please contact [Liz Snider](#), who can help point you in the right direction.

I know that Carthage can be a model of effective discussion of difficult topics in an election year, and I will bring to bear all the resources I can on this effort.

John Swallow
President

President John Swallow <president@carthage.edu>
To: Faculty Staff <faculty-staff@carthage.edu>

Mon, Sep 23, 2024 at 9:49 AM

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I sent the following message to students this morning about engaging fully and respectfully in an election year, and I wanted to share it with you so that you know what they have received.

John Swallow
[Quoted text hidden]

Appendix B



Elizabeth Snider <esnider@carthage.edu>

Upcoming Election and Voter Registration

7 messages

Office of Student Life <studentlife@carthage.edu>
To: students <students@carthage.edu>
Cc: Office of Student Life <studentlife@carthage.edu>
Bcc: esnider@carthage.edu

Tue, Oct 8, 2024 at 9:15 AM

Dear Students,

The Presidential election is four weeks away on November 5th, 2024 and we want to make sure that you have important information to participate and exercise your right to vote. Anyone wishing to vote in any government election, including the presidential election, must register to vote. Information about voter registration, depending on where and how you plan to vote can be found [here](#).

If you are a residential student who wishes to register to vote in Kenosha using your Carthage College address, you must complete your voter registration either by mail or in person at the Kenosha City Clerk's office by October 16, 2024. You are also able to register to vote in person at the poll on election day. Students who register to vote using their Carthage address and who do not have a valid Wisconsin driver's license or state ID card will need to obtain a Voter ID. Voter IDs are available in the TWC Office of Student Life between the hours of 8am-6pm Monday through Friday. If you need a voter ID, we encourage you to come to the office prior to election day.

If you are a commuter student planning to register to vote using your home address or a residential student who wishes to vote in your home district, information about voter registration and requesting an absentee ballot can be found [here](#). Deadlines for requesting an absentee ballot vary by state, so be sure to plan ahead and confirm the timeline based on your specific home address.

Carthage College will be serving as a polling location on November 5. Anyone voting using their Carthage address will vote in the TARC lower level lobby. In addition to Carthage students, community members will be coming to campus to vote at this polling location, so keep an eye out for information from Public Safety about parking changes in the South lower lot on election day.

If you have additional questions regarding the registration or voting process, please come by the Office of Student Life or email studentlife@carthage.edu. We hope that you have been and will continue to be engaged in the various events informing about candidates and items on the upcoming ballot. Civic engagement through our right to vote is an important value of our country and we encourage you to exercise this ability now and in whatever community you are a part of in the future.

Sincerely,

Nick Winkler
Dean of Students

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Office of Student Life
Carthage College
[2001 Alford Park Drive, Kenosha, WI 53140](#)



Voter Engagement

Support democracy and civic participation by linking to TurboVote, a nonpartisan voter engagement tool in key locations within Engage.

TurboVote Link Settings

Choose when TurboVote links appear to your users.

Show TurboVote link next time users log into Engage

When selected a popup will display once to each user the next time they log into Engage. Users who interact with the popup won't see it again unless you reset the feature. A link to "Get ready to vote" will also appear in the user drawer at all times when this extension is enabled.

Reset Feature

(Last Reset: 7/3/2024 at 11:20:57 AM)

It may take up to 24 hours for a reset to affect all users.

TurboVote Partner Settings

Find out if your institution is already a TurboVote partner. [Click here](#)

TurboVote partner URL

TurboVote partners will see a new referral code for campuslabs-engage in your user export that represent TurboVote signups from this extension

About TurboVote



TurboVote is a product of Democracy Works, a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the idea that voting should fit the way we live.

Within Engage, you have the opportunity to prompt your students to sign up for TurboVote, where they can receive voter registration and absentee ballot request assistance, as well as sign up for nonpartisan election reminders.

Consider [partnering with TurboVote](#) to fully equip students with additional resources. Each TurboVote partner campus has a co-branded website that guides students through the registration and absentee voting processes of the state in which they vote. TurboVote will mail students the forms they need to register or request an absentee ballot (if they can't register online), send election notifications, and provide nonpartisan voter information into email reminders. Furthermore, campus implementers have access to data and a TurboVote support team in order to assess and improve upon campus voter engagement efforts.