



## City Colleges of Chicago 2024 Action Plan

### Executive Summary:

The City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) is a system of seven public community colleges and five satellite sites that provide learning opportunities for residents of the Chicagoland area. Programs offered include two-year associate degrees, occupational certificates, high school equivalency courses, and English as a second language. The CCC system serves nearly 70,000 students annually and provides financial and student services support to all students across the seven colleges: Richard J. Daley College, Harold Washington College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Truman College, and Wilbur Wright College.

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs (LCA) strives to maintain positive relations between government offices, campus departments, and neighbors and works collaboratively with community groups to improve the educational experience of CCC students. LCA also cultivates community partnerships that are designed to give students opportunities to explore pathways to community involvement, leadership development, and civic engagement. This action plan seeks to uphold the values and objectives of the department alongside leadership across all 7 City Colleges through intentional programs that aim to inform, prepare, and support all members of the community to participate in the democratic process.

City Colleges intends to promote civic engagement through institutional platforms year-round and is devoted to preparing students to engage in local, state, and national civic discourse. The action plan will serve as a guide to prioritize voter registration, educational programming, values of equity and social justice, and overall personal empowerment. Through campaigns and complementary programming, City Colleges will foster civic education, voter literacy awareness, and facilitate increased student voter turnout in each election.

### Leadership:

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs (LCA) will support programming at each of the 7 City Colleges. Implementation will be overseen by the Director of Civic Engagement with the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs and supported by dedicated civic engagement leads at each College. The Director will maintain and continue to manage local and national partnerships and will work collaboratively with College Leads to foster relationships across Chicago to increase democratic engagement on campus.

Through active participation across all 7 Colleges, Colleges will provide students with a safe forum to explore relevant election topics and discuss candidate platforms. Through programming, students will be better prepared to vote for candidates that will have an impact on their communities and the future of Illinois. College leads will work with Student Government and other social student organizations with the mission to advance social advocacy and awareness and engage students in potential civic engagement programming. Student voices are welcomed and are encouraged to hold events throughout the year centered around local and national elections.

In the absence of the Director of Civic Engagement, the responsibility to foster civic programming will be led by the Vice Chancellor of Legislative and Community Affairs.

**Campus Leads:**

Aja Humphreys, Director of Student Activities, Harold Washington College  
Joseph Hinton, Associate Dean, Career Programs, Harold Washington College  
Linh-Trang Williams, College Director – Events and Programming, Harold Washington College  
Jerica Turek-Johnson, Director of Student Activities, Harry S. Truman College  
Michael Johns, Director of Student Activities, Kennedy King College  
Chrishawn Young, Director of Student Activities, Malcolm X College  
Aziza Darwish, Executive Director - Strategic Initiatives, Olive-Harvey College  
Monice Purnell, Director of Student Activities, Olive-Harvey College  
Beverly Hicks, Director of Student Activities, Richard J. Daley College  
Gabe Estill, Interim Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs, Wilbur Wright College  
Katie Ordinario, Director of Student Activities, Wilbur Wright College  
Merry Mayer, Assistant Professor, Social and Psych Science, Wilbur Wright College  
Angelynn Jimenez, Student, Newman Fellow, Wilbur Wright College  
Jen Mason, Vice Chancellor of Legislative and Community Affairs  
Elvis Guzman, District Director of Civic Engagement, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs  
Sandra Payan Cataño, Community Strategist, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs  
Niaina Pandhare, Student Intern, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs  
Levitica Crawford, Student Intern, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs

**Commitment:**

City Colleges of Chicago is determined to improve civic learning and democratic engagement in communities across the city through meaningful programming. Presidents of each College are dedicated to improving voter outcomes and are committed to supporting students, staff, and faculty participate in local and national democratic processes. As of today, five presidents have signed the All In commitment to full students voter participation.

Harold Washington College and The Citizens Campaign announced the launch of a Citizen Leadership Center designed to train students and members of the community in no-blame, pragmatic problem-solving skills and provide opportunities for them to put their training to use as “citizen leaders” working to better Chicago and our country. Harold Washington College is one of 11 community colleges around the nation where model Citizen Leadership Centers are first being developed in partnership with The Citizens Campaign.

Additionally, Wilbur Wright College (“Wright”) is a member of Campus Compact, a national organization that enable campuses to develop students’ citizenship skills and forge community partnerships. Campus Compact supports administrators, faculty, staff, and students as they pursue community-based teaching, scholarship, and action in the service of public good. Through this partnership, Wright College is committed to educating students to become responsible social change agents in ways that both deepen their education and improve the quality of communities. Wright also hosts a Newman Civic Fellow. Sponsored by Campus Compact, the student Fellow serves as a civic engagement ambassador for the College. This Fellow will be involved in get-out-the-vote efforts at the campus level by visiting classrooms, hosting forums, and related college activities.

Student Government (SG) also plays a major role in engaging students in voter registration, voter readiness, and electoral education. SG promotes democratic engagement year-round through

programming and partnerships that help inform the student body of candidates and election processes. SG will continue to provide opportunities and serve as the conduit between students and administrators.

*All In Campus Democracy Challenge: Presidents' Commitment Signatories*

Harold Washington College  
Harry S. Truman College  
Kennedy King College  
Olive-Harvey College  
Wilbur Wright College

**Recognitions:**

*All In: Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting 2022*

Harold Washington College  
Truman College  
Kennedy-King College  
Olive-Harvey College  
Wright College

*Washington Monthly's list of "Best Colleges for Student Voting"*

Harold Washington College  
Truman College  
Kennedy-King College  
Olive-Harvey College  
Wright College

*Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project & NASPA: Voter Friendly Campus*

Wilbur Wright College

**Landscape:**

City Colleges of Chicago is one of the nation's largest community college districts and the largest in Illinois. About 5,000 thousand faculty and staff help prepare over 70,000 students each year to enter the workforce, pursue higher education and advance their careers. In 2020, five of the seven City Colleges participated in the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education study to better understand voting habits of students enrolled at CCC. The full report presented data on student voter participation compared to institutions across the nation, which in 2020 averaged 66%. The student voting rates – percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day - for City Colleges are as follows:

City Colleges of Chicago – Harold Washington College: 55.3%  
City Colleges of Chicago – Kennedy-King College: 54.1%  
City Colleges of Chicago – Wilbur Wright College: 52%  
City Colleges of Chicago – Olive-Harvey College: 50.2%  
City Colleges of Chicago – Harry S Truman College: 47.9%

Results from the study highlighted opportunities to increase voter turnout. In an effort to increase student voting rates, CCC has increased voter registration programming and awareness of voting sites. Leads from each College continue to ensure students have a plan to vote and take the All In to Vote Pledge, which will hold students accountable to voting in future elections. Today, Olive-Harvey College and Truman College serve as voting sites, which make voting

accessible to students, staff, faculty, and community members from the local wards. Through intentional programming and partnership with the CCC Marketing team, CCC will increase visibility and awareness of this voting option and hold programs to increase voter turnout across the district.

City Colleges of Chicago is student demographic is comprised of 75% of students who are Black or Latine. CCC is strengthened by the diversity of the community college system.

Fall 2023 Enrollment Data:

	<b>Fall 2023 Headcount</b>	<b>Fall 2023 Online Enrollment</b>	<b>Fall 2023 Adult Basic Education</b>	<b>Fall 2023 Dual Credit</b>
<b>City Colleges of Chicago</b>	39,221	18,419	1,785	3,968
<b>Harold Washington</b>	5,861	3,689	0	819
<b>Harry S Truman</b>	6,191	2,373	397	359
<b>Kennedy-King</b>	2,780	1,332	237	514
<b>Malcolm X</b>	8,011	4,401	416	246
<b>Olive-Harvey</b>	2,746	1,213	182	561
<b>Richard J. Daley</b>	5,842	2,175	324	924
<b>Wilbur Wright</b>	7,790	3,236	229	545

Source of Date: ICCB Centralized Data System

**Goals:**

Through a concerted effort amongst City Colleges and a strong campaign centered around the national and local elections, CCC aims to increase voter registration, voter turnout, and voter education programming throughout the academic year.

**Goals:**

- Build a strong network of partners across the Chicagoland area to provide voter registration and voter education programming at all Colleges
- Improve consistency of voter registration communication across the district; include links to register to vote, All In Take the Pledge, and upcoming college civic events
- Hire student interns to increase peer-to-peer communication on upcoming election deadlines, candidates, and resources
- Invite social advocacy organizations & guest speakers to the Colleges that directly correlate to issues being experienced by the student body and how voting impacts decisions that affect their communities
- Increase student participation in voter education events by creating a new voter education series titled “Civic Tuesdays”

Through intentional partnership and programming, City Colleges strives to increase the voting rate at each college by 2% from the 2020 election. Data captured in the campus report provided by the National Student of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) conducted by Tufts University will be used as CCC point of reference.

<b>College</b>	<b>Voting Rate 2020</b>	<b>2024 Goal</b>
Harold Washington College	55% of eligible students	57% of eligible students
Harry S Truman	48% of eligible students	50% of eligible students
Kennedy King College	54% of eligible students	56% of eligible students
Malcolm X College	n/a	53% of eligible students
Olive-Harvey College	50% of eligible students	52% of eligible students
Richard J Daley College	n/a	53% of eligible students
Wilbur Wright College	52% of eligible students	54% of eligible students
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>72% of eligible residents</b>	
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>73% of eligible residents</b>	

Generally, City Colleges will strive to keep voter registration within 5% of 2020 levels in NSLVE report, make at least one contact with students throughout the academic year, and maintain constant outreach with occasional voters.

**Strategy:**

City Colleges will coordinate events online and in-person. This hybrid approach will allow students to engage in programming whether they are enrolled in online courses or in-person. Virtual voter education events will include streaming debates, lectures, and social media engagement.

This year, City Colleges will focus on educational programming, voter registration, and the pledge to vote campaign. Voter registration will be led by the following organizations:

- Chicago Votes
- The League of Women Voters
- The Rainbow Push Coalition
- Board of Elections

These organizations will visit college monthly to encourage students, staff, and faculty to register to vote, check registration status, and update contact information that align with Illinois voter policies. These organizations will be supported by the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs, Student Activities, Campus Leads, and Student Government at each campus, respectively.

The “Take the Pledge” campaign will be in partnership with the All In Democracy Challenge. The marketing department will create messaging to project across campus tv screens, newsletters, in addition to email correspondences with deadline reminders and voter registration links. College Leads will assist LCA through promotional social media posts, and student outreach, which include engaging Student Government and student clubs on campus.

**Programming Outline: 2023 - 2024**

- Monthly on-campus Voter Registration tables
- Guest Lecturers, focused on educational topics relevant to democratic engagement
- Student Government led programming at each campus
- Hold program on Primary Election Day (observance messages)
- Coordinate voter registration tabling National Voter Registration Day
- Hold programming during National Voter Education Week
- Parade to the polls

**NSLVE:**

City Colleges of Chicago aims to have all 7 City Colleges participate in receiving a campus report. According to the 2020 report, 5 of the 7 colleges participating in the study, all of which demonstrated lower voter rates than peer institutions, as shown below. City Colleges aims to address the gaps in voting rates to match the average voting rate across peer institutions.

College	Voting Rate
<b>Peer Institutions</b>	<b>56%</b>
Harry S Truman	48%
Harold Washington College	55%
Kennedy King	54%
Olive-Harvey	53%
Wright College	52%

**Evaluation:**

Each civic engagement lead at each Colleges will evaluate student engagement through attendance during on campus events. Partners will collect voter registration totals per visit and photos will shared via social media posts.

Additionally, all “Civic Tuesday” events and programs will count student engagement and report to the Director of Civic Engagement. Data collected will be used to create end of the year report to highlight student engagement and explore gaps in participation.

Lastly, City Colleges will monitor the All In Take the Pledge Campaign through weekly reports provided by the All In Democracy Campus Democracy Challenge.

**Reporting:**

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs website is undergoing development. The website will be used to promote civic engagement and allow staff to centralize educational efforts surrounding local and national elections.

College Leads at each campus will be responsible for monitoring attendance at events and will use data retrieved from the dashboard to influence further programming on campus.

Finally, we will rely on the NSLVE report to assess voter rates and to evaluate goal attainment.