



City Colleges of Chicago 2020 Action Plan

Developed by: Katharine McCormick

Executive Summary:

The Civic Engagement Committee at City Colleges of Chicago developed this action plan, coordinated by the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs and the District Director of Civic Engagement. This action plan will be implemented at Richard J. Daley College, Harold Washington College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Truman College, and Wilbur Wright College, the seven Colleges of the City Colleges of Chicago.

This action plan seeks to generate momentum leading up to the 2020 General Election, providing information about the candidates at all levels, encouraging students to exercise their right to vote by delving into voting rights challenges in the past, engaging with elected officials, using art as communication, and creating a community feel, albeit wholly virtual, during the time of a pandemic and civil unrest.

This action plan kicks off in September 2020 and ends November 6, 2020, with a post-election wrap-up panel webinar. It is overseen and implemented by Katharine McCormick, District Director of Civic Engagement with the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs, and supported by dedicated civic engagement leads at each campus, listed below. Our short-term goal is to boost engagement and turnout and to give our student body a safe forum to discuss topics and situate them in our past and present. Our long-term goal is to weave civic engagement into our institutional goals around education and equity and economic development. We aim to arm students with content in order to make informed choices when voting, with tools in order to continue engagement outside of elections and to hone the knowledge and skills they are developing through their coursework and other activities, and with a voice and support to give them the confidence to engage in their own interests and in those of their communities.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Beverly Hicks, Director of Student Activities, Richard J. Daley College
Dalila Duarte, Ed.D., Vice President & Dean of Student Affairs, Harold Washington College
Aja Humphreys, Director of Student Activities, Harold Washington College
Bernadette Limos, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Harold Washington College
Marcus Williams, Veterans Services Specialist, Harold Washington College
Michael Crawford, Dean of Student Services, Kennedy-King College
Michael Johns, Director of Student Activities, Kennedy-King College
Jerica Turek-Johnson, Ph.D., Director of Student Activities, Malcolm X College
Michelle Adams, Dean of Student Services, Olive-Harvey College
Monice Purnell, Director of Student Activities, Olive-Harvey College
Julie Dockery, Director of Civic Engagement, Truman College
Denika Wilson, Director of Student Activities, Truman College
Gabe Estill, Associate Dean of Instruction, Wilbur Wright College
Katie Ordinario, Director of Student Activities, Wilbur Wright College
Katharine McCormick, District Director of Civic Engagement, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs

Commitment:

Our campus has not yet signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, but we hope it will be signed soon.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

We do not have a central campus, but are made up of 7 campus and 2 satellite locations with all students commuting. There were about 77,000 students enrolled in 2019. 31,200 identified as male, 45,200 as female. 50,600 were enrolled in our credit programs, 7,800 for continuing education, and about 21,500 participated in our adult education. 14.0% of our students are white, 48.4% are Hispanic, 27.2% are Black, 0.1% are American Indian, 0.1% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 1.9% are multi-racial non-Hispanic.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

For the 2020 election, we aim to engage students and give them the tools they need to show up and turn out and vote: registration, information on voting history and regulations, access to debates and other information. For 2022, we aim to develop a series of events and resources to equip students to engage beyond elections, to hold elected officials accountable, advocate for their needs, and motivate others.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.), We have held deputy registrar trainings in coordination with the Chicago Board of Elections and have coordinated opportunities for those deputy registrars to be deployed, at our infrequent in-person events, like at CityKey handouts at our campus, at which students, faculty, and staff can pick up a City of Chicago ID card.

This election season, we focused on virtual events to build community, provide information and a forum for discussion, and keep a drumbeat going in the weeks leading up to the election. We also coordinated with the City of Chicago on deputy registrar trainings and other events that would sporadically bring people together in person and provide an opportunity to do civic engagement outreach like voter registration. We included reminders about the election and resources to learn more in weekly "411" communications institution-wide, and each College included information about the voting process and reminders in their Brightspace pages, the internal learning platform that our students engage with frequently. Many faculty and staff also updated their email signatures and away messages and Zoom backgrounds with reminders to research, engage, and vote. A list of the events held from 10/5-11/6 is below.

Deputy Registrar Trainings (virtual) with the Chicago Board of Elections, in order to train >50 individuals to help register people before the October 18th Illinois deadline.

League of Women Voters hosted "The Importance of Voting and Women's Rights" virtually at Olive-Harvey College.

Professor Curtis Keyes, Political Science and Government, "The Black Vote and its relevance" hosted virtually at Olive-Harvey College

Virtual watch party for the Vice Presidential Debate hosted by Kennedy-King College

In-person voter registration at CityKey ID Distributions at Daley College and Malcolm X College

Virtual watch Party for Presidential Debate at both Malcolm X College and Daley College

Student Government Organization's Racial Justice Committee at Wright College hosted "Voting While Brown"

Professor Khaldoun Sweis, Ph.D., Philosophy, "Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian Parties" hosted by Olive-Harvey College

Virtual Voting 101 Workshop hosted by Harold Washington College

OLAS Election Information Session hosted virtually at Harold Washington College

"You Have the Right to Vote: The Importance of the Black Vote" hosted virtually at Harold Washington College

"Voters Rock! Voter 101 Workshop" hosted virtually at Harold Washington College

Chicago Humanities Festival partnered with Kennedy-King College to present "What's Next: Deon Taylor on the Youth Vote"

An election day watch party was hosted virtually by Truman College

The Office of Legislative Affairs is hosting a post-election event on 11/6/20, called "Election 2020: What happened, and Moving Forward," in which City Colleges professors and department staff will share insights into the 2020 General Election results, discussing the presidential and local contests, the long fight for voting rights in this country's history, and both how to engage and how to take care of yourself during these busy times.

NSLVE:

City Colleges of Chicago has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

We will measure the turnout at each of our virtual events, as well as any engagement with social media and other electronic communications. Each of our civic engagement leads at our Colleges, including our Directors of Student Activities, will be able to evaluate student engagement.

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

We will coordinate this by College until a new City Colleges website is designed and launched, and this might look different across the seven Colleges. We will be sharing widely with all members of the campus community. We will coordinate this by College until a new City Colleges website is designed and launched, and this might look different across the seven Colleges. We will be sharing widely with all members of the campus community. We hope to share this out in a broad communication once received, allowing us to set specific goals for engagement and build momentum.