



CLAREMONT  
MCKENNA  

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COLLEGE

**2024 ALL IN** Campus  
Democracy  
Challenge

**Democratic Engagement Action Plan**

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## **Executive Summary**

This nonpartisan democratic engagement ALL IN Action Plan has been developed by Claremont McKenna College (CMC) in California for the 2024 U.S. general election. The short-term goal is to register 90% of eligible CMC students by the 2024 general election. Beyond voter registration, we are committed to increasing voter turnout to 85%. While we are fortunate that CMC has historically had a high voting participation rate, our long-term goal is to continue to improve these rates and deepen civic engagement and leadership across the institution.

Building on our previous successes, where CMC earned recognition from ALL IN with the Bronze Seal in 2016, and Gold Seals in 2018 and 2020, this Action Plan represents a renewed commitment to civic leadership. The Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership, a new initiative from the Dean of Students Office, has developed the ALL IN Action Plan in collaboration with the student group CIVES.

Our plan, reinvigorated for the 2024 election season, will be implemented on the CMC campus and across the Claremont Consortium student body through the student-led CIVES program. Beginning in spring 2024, the Action Plan will continue through the election season and into the post-election period, extending into spring 2025. CMC, widely known for being a civically engaged campus, prioritizes civic leadership, public affairs, and active participation in civic life as part of its mission. This Action Plan is a sustainable, growing initiative that aligns with the college's core values.

CMC's Action Plan will be driven by collaboration among multiple leadership teams. It aims to foster a community of civically engaged students through robust educational opportunities that develop essential skills and inspire civic participation. To meet these goals, CMC will provide extensive student voter registration opportunities in partnership with CIVES and the student-led group EVC, ensuring widespread student engagement in the democratic process.

## **Leadership**

CMC has developed a strong network of leaders who are collaborating to accomplish its Action Plan 2024. Below is a breakdown of the key players in leadership surrounding the collaborative

efforts, followed by their position titles.

Ahead of the 2024 election, Claremont McKenna College launched the Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership (KLCL), an initiative focused on cultivating civic knowledge, enhancing civic skills, and inspiring student engagement in public life. As the central hub for the November 2024 election and related civic opportunities, KLCL provides comprehensive financial, operational, and administrative support for the ALL IN Action Plan, empowering students to participate meaningfully in the electoral process and broader civic initiatives.

**Vernon C. Grigg III**, Executive Director of Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership

**Paige B. Omokawa**, Assistant Director of Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership

**Valerie Cubias**, Program Coordinator of Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership

On-campus student groups, such as Claremont Initiative Voter Engagement Strategies (CIVES), in partnership with Every Vote Counts (EVC) Claremont, the 5C chapter of the national organization, lead the charge in promoting voter participation. These groups coordinate voter registration drives, host weekly tabling events, and organize student activities designed to encourage and increase voter engagement among the student body.

**Olivia Wee**, Co-President of Every Vote Counts (EVC) Claremont, Co-Director and Co-Founder of CIVES, Vice President of EVC National

**Isabel Apfel**, Co-President of Every Vote Counts (EVC) Claremont, Co-Director and Co-Founder of CIVES

**Kaitlyn Chang**, Public Relations for CIVES

**Ava Reichman**, Treasurer for CIVES

**Nico Burlinson**, Operations for CIVES

**Ella Debenham**, EVC Claremont Executive Board, EVC National Sponsored Campus Ambassador for Claremont Consortium

**Malia McColl**, EVC Claremont Executive Board, Director of Social Media and Technology

CMC Administration

**Hiram Chodosh**, President of Claremont McKenna College

**Dianna Graves**, Vice President of Student Affairs

**Vince Greer**, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Dialogue and Diversity

CMC Student Government Student Body President

**Ava Kopp**, Claremont McKenna College Student Body President

The Open Academy (OA)

“Reinforces CMC's commitments to freedom of expression, viewpoint diversity, and constructive dialogue. These commitments are interdependent—freedom of expression alone without a commitment to listen to different viewpoints cannot overcome the challenges of our time. Arguments without the commitment to constructive dialogue to find common ground cannot bridge what divides us. Consensus that shuts down full expression and debate cannot create durable solutions” (<https://www.cmc.edu/the-open-academy>). The OA provides faculty, staff, and student support in facilitating student election-related discussion opportunities.

**Heather Ferguson**, History Faculty and Open Academy Faculty Advisor

**Jon Shields**, American Politics Faculty, Chair of the Government Department, Open Academy Faculty Advisor

**Brian Davidson**, Director of Athenaeum and Director of Fellowship Advising

**Alejandro Villegas**, Program Coordinator for The Open Academy

**Abhi Gray**, Student Lead for The Open Academy

**Rowan Gray**, Student Lead for The Open Academy

The Rose Institute for State and Local Government

**Ken Miller**, Rose Professor of State and Local Government & Director of the Rose Institute

**Ryan Lenney**, Lead Student Manager Rose Institute for State and Local Government

Every Vote Counts (EVC) National

EVC National is a student-led, nonpartisan organization committed to increasing voter turnout and expanding voter access nationwide. Focused on empowering student voters and leaders, EVC aims to create civic hubs on college campuses. It provides student-led clubs and organizations

with resources such as financial support through its semesterly mini-grant program and access to educational materials, event templates, and guides. Additionally, EVC offers personalized support through an assigned liaison for the academic year and opportunities to connect with a nationwide network of peers and participate in cross-campus national initiatives. Currently, the network spans over 90 chapters and partners nationwide.

**Jason Vados**, EVC National Campus Liaison, EVC National Student Board Director of Engagement

**Atiksh Chandra**, EVC National Student Board Director of Grants

NAACP Collegiate Voter Engagement Committee

**Jerry Fenning**, Chair of NAACP Pomona Valley Branch

### **Institutional Commitments**

Claremont McKenna College's mission is to "prepare its students for thoughtful and productive lives and responsible leadership in business, government, and the professions." CMC's commitment to responsible leadership aligns with students' civic duty to vote and be civically engaged. Multiple organizations on campus provide educational opportunities regarding voting for students. In this section, we will demonstrate how several elements of our commitment to increase civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation.

[The Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership](#) (KLCL) launched several new initiatives this semester after a successful pilot semester in spring 2024. KLCL fulfills Claremont McKenna College's mission of preparing students for thoughtful and productive lives and responsible leadership in business, government, and the professions. KLCL provides experiences and programming that build and enhance students' civic readiness in preparation for their role as civic leaders. We foster creative, collaborative, and courageous public leaders by building the knowledge, habits, and skills needed to be thoughtful, engaged, and impactful members of a democratic society. The new initiatives provide students with opportunities to expand their knowledge around civics, learn and hone civic skills, and provide students with unique opportunities to be civically inspired.

The [Claremont Initiative for Voter Engagement Strategies](#) (CIVES) is a dynamic, student-led

program dedicated to increasing voter turnout and fostering enthusiasm for civic participation on CMC's campus and beyond. CIVES aims to facilitate open dialogue around civic issues and provide valuable voter education resources to the campus community. By combining student research with community outreach, CIVES creates immersive, hands-on experiences for students to actively engage in civic life.

CIVES hosts weekly office hours to assist students with all aspects of the voting process, from registration to accessing election information. The program is supported by the Voting Lab, a student team responsible for producing voter education materials such as a semesterly election tracker that keeps the campus informed on key election dates and issues. Additionally, CIVES organizes on-campus and off-campus voter registration drives and campaigns to encourage broader student participation.

As a growing initiative, CIVES is committed to leadership development. The Co-Directors actively mentor and train younger members, preparing them to take on leadership roles and continue the mission of increasing civic engagement on campus.

[CMC's Open Academy](#) reinforces the College's commitments to freedom of expression, viewpoint diversity, and constructive dialogue, which are essential in advancing political issues. Open Academy and KLCL collaborate to put on the *Cookies & Convo* weekly student discussions.

[The Rose Institute of State and Local Government's](#) mission is to enhance the education of CMC students, produce high-quality research, and promote public understanding of issues of state and local government, politics, and policy, with an emphasis on California.

The Rose Institute creates and promotes its annual nonpartisan voter guide video, which explains the propositions on California's ballot. It will do the same for the 2024 election.

#### Cross Campus Partnerships

The 5C chapter of [Every Vote Counts](#) has taken an active role in CMC's commitment to students since its inception in 2018. It has created significant momentum across the consortium in the

lead-up to the 2022 U.S. Midterm Elections and now the 2024 U.S. General Election. Every Vote Counts (EVC) Claremont has provided CMC students with free stamps for mail-in ballots, regular election reminders, non-partisan voter guides, and multiple campus events each semester to assist students with mail-in voting or registering to vote. EVC Claremont also worked alongside CIVES to integrate voter registration as part of its freshman and transfer orientations at CMC. In summer 2023, voter registration became part of CMC's freshman and transfer orientation experience. It was very successful, with over 50 freshmen registering to vote at CIVES and EVC Claremont's joint pop-up booth at CMC's orientation open house.

CIVES and EVC Claremont, with CMC's support, have continued together and independently to host meaningful events to assist students with voting and promote civic education, including a joint trivia night and a giveaway for answering questions from the U.S. citizenship exam. This year, the organizations collaborated on two orientation events, including a social for freshmen with 150 attendees, and assisted over 80 freshmen with the voting process. In addition, EVC

Claremont and CIVES are throwing the biggest GOTV event in CMC and Claremont Consortium history, a voting carnival for National Voter Education Week. The event will reach a broad audience of students, promote civic awareness, provide voter assistance, and create a fun, educational opportunity for students to be civically engaged.

### **Landscape**

Claremont McKenna College is a highly selective, independent, coeducational, residential, undergraduate private liberal arts college. "Renowned for expertise in economics and government, CMC features accomplished scholars who are committed teachers in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences" ([www.cmc.edu/about](http://www.cmc.edu/about)). CMC has 1,383 students.

In reviewing our NSLVE data, one can see that the student body demographic consists of the following, as seen in Figure 1:

- 35.4% White
- 16.3% Hispanic
- 15.5% Asian



- 15.2% Nonresident
- 7.1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 5.9% Black or African American
- 4.2% two or more races

We plan to use this information to strategically plan events and opportunities for students that reach all demographics.

**Figure 1: Data Set Comparison from 2016, 2018, and 2020.**

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	140	49	35	142	44	31	168	120	71	↑ 36
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	60	27	45	54	22	41	61	49	80	↑ 35
Hispanic	188	100	53	198	77	39	211	175	83	↑ 30
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	77	40	52	73	30	41	84	68	81	↑ 29
White	557	329	59	535	263	49	469	387	83	↑ 23
Race Unknown	80	41	51	81	34	42	67	42	63	↑ 11

**NSLVE**

Figure 2 depicts the average age of all students is 20, and the percentage of students 25 and older is 0.07% as well as the student body housing makeup of:

- 42.4% reside in states outside of California
- 40% California residents
- 17.6% of students have a non-US permanent address

Claremont McKenna College has authorized NSLVE and receives NSLVE data each election year. Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 79.3%, a 2020 voter registration rate of 88.4%, and a 2020 voting rate of registered students of 90%. Our institution had a 2018 voter turnout rate of 43.4% and a 2018 voter registration rate of 79.5%, as seen in Figure 2.

*Figure 2: Data Set Comparison from 2016, 2018, and 2020.*

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
<b>Total Student Enrollment</b>	1,327	1,293	1,234	↓ -93
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	225	210	174	↓ -51
(FERPA records blocked)	-	-	-	-
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total eligible voters</b>	1,102	1,083	1,060	↓ -42
<b>Number of students who registered</b>	888	861	937	↑ 49
<b>Number of students who voted</b>	586	470	841	↑ 255
<b>Registration Rate %</b>	81	80	88	↑ 8
<b>Voting Rate of Registered Students %</b>	66	55	90	↑ 24
<b>Voting Rate %</b>	53	43	79	↑ 26

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## Goals

This Action Plan aims to advance civic engagement, voter participation, and leadership development at CMC, aligning with our broader mission of cultivating leaders for the public good. To achieve this, we have established three primary goals for the 2024 U.S. general election and beyond:

1. **Increase Voter Registration to 90% by November 2024:**

We aim to register 90% of eligible CMC students by the 2024 general election. Through expanded access to voter resources and education, we will empower students to take an active role in the democratic process. A key focus will be reaching underrepresented student populations through targeted outreach and creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students to register and engage.

2. **Boost Voter Turnout to 85% in the 2024 General Election:**

Beyond registration, we are committed to increasing voter turnout to 85%. We will accomplish this by implementing exciting and robust programming, expanding access to voting resources, and offering civically engaging opportunities for students to participate. Voter engagement initiatives will focus on breaking down barriers to participation,

providing accurate information on the voting process, and making civic participation both accessible and motivating.

### 3. **Deepen Civic Engagement and Leadership Across the Institution:**

We are dedicated to laying a strong foundation for long-term civic leadership at CMC, fostering a community that values civic responsibility. This includes increasing collaboration with leadership and exploring new partnerships on campus to enhance the reach and impact of our efforts. We will promote an open dialogue around civic issues, encourage student leadership in civic activities, and offer continuous opportunities for involvement through the academic year and beyond. Our efforts will not stop after the November election; the plan will extend into the spring semester with a focus on voter education and developing the next generation of civic leaders.

### **Strategy**

Our strategies have been developed to outline and achieve our goals to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

### **Kravis Lab for Civic Leadership**

- Open house in spring and fall semesters to grow student interest in civic action (spring 2024, fall 2024, spring 2025, and fall 2025)
- Collaborate with [The Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum](#) at CMC to host dinner talks from civic leaders:
  - Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and recognized national leader in election administration, will reflect on administering elections in the largest, most diverse jurisdiction in the United States -- how Los Angeles County developed and implemented a publicly-owned voting system and designed a voting model focused on a meaningful, accessible voting experience. (fall 2024)
  - Rajiv Vinnakota will share his journey as President of the Institute for Citizens & Scholars, leading its mission to cultivate the talent, ideas, and networks that develop lifelong, effective citizens. (fall 2024)
- In collaboration with CMC faculty, KLCL introduced *The Civitas Series*. These 75-

minute guest speaker lunch seminars and Q&A lunches are hosted by KLCL Executive Director, Vernon C. Grigg III. *The Civitas Series* provides students with a low barrier of entry to participate in growing their civic knowledge by Providing timely, practical information to understand the institutions and systems that are at the centre of many questions we face in modern life with a welcoming ‘come-as-you-are’ atmosphere, the Civitas Sessions focus on the stuff you need to know before it becomes the stuff I wish I had known...KLCL will be hosting five sessions in spring 2024, four sessions in fall 2024, and four sessions in spring 2025). Below are a sample of the topics and leadership partners for the past sessions.

- *The Fundamentals of American Employment Law: What You Need To Know To Employ/Manage People And Stay Out Of The Headlines And The Courts* with CMC HR and Chief Diversity Officer Nyree Gray (spring 2024)
  - *Super Tuesday and The American Electoral System: It's More Complicated Than You May Think!* With three-time winner of the Huntoon Teaching Award, CMC Professor of American Politics, Jack Pitney (spring 2024)
  - *Reclaiming the Power of Our Founding to Build a Better Tomorrow: How the Declaration of Independence Resides at the Core of Today's Most Challenging Questions!* with Alice Tweed Tuohy Professor of Government and Ethics, Ioannis “Yannis” Evrigenis (spring 2024)
  - *Articles I, II, and III of the Constitution: Why is the Structure of the American Government So Important in Times Like These?* with Professor of Government George Thomas (spring 2024)
  - *Executive Orders: What They Are and Why Are They so Important in America's Democracy?* with Professor of Government Andy Busch (spring 2024)
  - *The Civic Implications of School Choice and Private Education in the United States* with Professor of History, Lily Geismer (fall 2024)
- KLCL conducts civic skills workshops to help students develop and practice valuable civic skills. KLCL will have three workshops in the fall 2024 and three workshops for Spring 2025. Below is a sample of workshops
    - Facilitating Meaningful Conversations
    - Understanding the CA Ballot for 2024 November election
    - Discerning Real versus Fake News
  - In collaboration with The Open Academy, KLCL facilitates *Cookies & Convo* once a week for the 2024 Fall and 2025 Spring semesters.
    - These are informal, student-led events designed to spark meaningful discussions on current political events. These pop-up gatherings offer a relaxed space where

participants can share their perspectives and listen to others. The goal is to cultivate a sense of community and encourage open dialogue, allowing students to engage with civic issues in a supportive and inclusive environment. Whether you're deeply invested in politics or simply curious, these conversations provide an opportunity to connect, learn, and contribute to the civic discourse on campus.

- Hosting the Presidential Debate and Vice President Debate Live Watch Events and Discussion.
- Hosting the 2024 November Election Watch Event & Speaker Series, inviting civic leaders, faculty, and student research presentations.
- For 2025, KLCL is planning a student historical trip to Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, Alabama, for an immersive voter education experience led by a tour guide who participated in the Selma March with Martin Luther King Jr.
- Actively encouraging CMC President Hiram E. Chodosh to sign a commitment and make a statement supporting voting across campus.

#### Dean of Students

- The CMC Dean of Students (DOS) sends an email informing the student body of upcoming elections and encourages students to vote with attached resources on registering to vote.

#### CIVES and EVC Claremont

- Collaborating with CMC DOS to integrate voter registration information announcements at freshman orientation and provide marketing materials on the new student portal and planning two events for orientation week.
- CIVES hosted two events with EVC Claremont for CMC freshmen orientation. At these events, new students could register to vote and learn about the voting resources offered on campus and opportunities to get involved with civic engagement at CMC. In particular, the orientation ice cream social had around 150 freshmen in attendance and assisted over 80 new students with voting.
- The CMC Dean of Students will work with both CIVES and EVC Claremont to send out resources to the student body, including past resources like a mail-in voting fact sheet for

the 2022 Midterm elections or a primary election tracker for the 2024 primary elections. Both of these resources had direct links for students to access and rules and deadlines listed for each state.

- CIVES will provide free postage stamps for students who need to vote by mail. CIVES will host events on campus to celebrate civic holidays and larger events to foster meaningful dialogue and awareness around civic engagement and voter education, including its capstone National Voter Education Week carnival and election day event on November 5th.
- CIVES and EVC Claremont secured a significant financial contribution from the Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College (ASCMC), CMC's official student government. The contribution is designated for National Voter Registration Day and National Voter Education Week Carnival, which we believe is important for the support to continue in future years.
- During National Voter Registration Day, Every Vote Counts Claremont and CIVES hosted a boba pop-up booth during the lunch rush and checked in with over 110 students on their plans to vote. We helped students register to vote and request their mail-in ballots using nonpartisan platforms like [rockthevote.org](https://rockthevote.org) or [Vote.org](https://Vote.org).
- During National Voter Education Week, CIVES and EVC Claremont alongside 6 other campus organizations and student government buy-in is hosting a 5C voting carnival on CMC's campus to promote greater civic awareness, help students request absentee ballots and provide a fun, educational experience. We will be having dessert food trucks and civic education game booths like "Citizenship Exam Cornhole" and "Con-Pong" (Constitution Water Pong) with raffle prizes for students.
- For October, EVC Claremont will be hosting events at popular spots across the 5C campuses to help students register to vote, request their mail-in ballots, and answer any other voting-related questions. EVC Claremont has engaging high attendance events for the last push including *Voterween* with pumpkin painting and early voting, community walks to the post office to submit absentee ballots and a civic tailgate for the annual Sixth Street Rivalry game between CMS and PP football. Our tailgate will include tabling at each student section entrance to check-in with students on

their voter registration and have a pledge to vote competition between rival campuses.

- In the weeks leading up to the election, EVC Claremont will host events where students can bring their ballots and have a space to fill them out in secrecy, with club members present to answer any questions or provide non-partisan resources for students to research their ballot and free stamps for mailing. We will similarly host fun community walks to the local post office to bring students together and celebrate the act of voting.
- CIVES and EVC plan to schedule engaging and informative social media posts throughout the voting season, including state voting deadlines, connecting students to resources to learn more about their candidates, and promoting voter registration.
- Building off success in the 2022 Midterms, EVC Claremont will be re-launching the 5C Pledge to Vote initiative and collaborating with student leaders from Claremont Colleges to get out the vote in the 2024 elections. Previously, the 5C pledge initiative was a project where EVC recorded and compiled student leaders across the 5C campuses pledging to vote, including student body presidents from each Claremont College and sports teams. This video encouraged other students on campus to vote and received over 1,200 views within 48 hours. EVC Claremont plans to film a similar video with student leaders and provide student leaders with resources in the lead-up to the 2024 general election to promote awareness and voter turnout. 5C Pledge to Vote video that will engage and feature student leaders across the Claremont Colleges, particularly CMC student leaders like student government, student athletes and club leaders, to inspire a larger audience of students and promote civic ambassadorship among other important actors on campus.
- CIVES is working with Pomona Valley Unified School District to establish a program to connect CMC students with local high school students. The two will collaborate on engaging sessions for high schoolers on how to vote and other aspects of civic education.
- CIVES plans to host a series of events on Election Day to promote voter turnout and then later on in the day promote election resilience and support with a “Day on Democracy” style celebration and reflection event.

## **Reporting**

Our campus Action Plan will be posted on [ALL IN's website](#). Our institution has also given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports, which are also posted on our campus page.

The EVC Claremont Executive Board and the Dean of Students have access to our campus Action Plan and NSLVE reports, and students can see the reports upon request.

## **Evaluation**

In addition to utilizing our NSLVE voting data, the EVC Claremont Executive Board maintains a detailed spreadsheet to track the number of students engaging with voter registration and related activities. This includes those who attend events, successfully register to vote, request absentee ballots, pick up stamps, or inquire about the voting process. The CIVES team employs a similar system to measure student engagement with our events, voter registration, and each step of the voting process. Additionally, the KLCL tracks student participation in its program offerings throughout the semester.

By leveraging these data sets and partnering with an on-campus quantitative lab, we plan to analyze and cross-reference the findings with 2022 data to identify trends. These insights will help refine our next ALL IN Action Plan for future election cycles.

## **Future Collaborations**

Throughout the development and refinement of our 2024 ALL IN Action Plan, KLCL has initiated collaborative efforts with the [Rose Institute of State and Local Government](#), the [Mgrublian Center for Human Rights](#), and the [Salvatori Center](#). We are actively exploring ways to deepen civic engagement and leadership through these partnerships, strengthening the institution's commitment to civic participation.