



Office of
Civic Engagement

ALL IN Democracy Challenge Action Plan

2024 - 2025 for Voter Friendly Campus

I. Executive Summary

The Office of Civic Engagement, housed in the College of Education and Public Affairs (formally the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs), serves the entire Cleveland State University campus community regarding voter and civic engagement. Cleveland State University is an urban, public research university in Cleveland, Ohio. Established in 1964, Cleveland State University has nearly 14,000 students (difference in enrollment of -2,000 since the OCE submitted our last ALL IN Democracy Action Plan in 2022) and has one of the most racially and ethnically diverse student bodies among Ohio universities. Our student profile is as follows: 55 percent women, 45 percent men, approximately 27 percent minorities, of which two-thirds are African American. More than 1,400 are international students. The average age of a student is 27. About one-third of the 14,000 students are in graduate school or law school. CSU has 8 colleges and more than 175 academic programs. The Division of Continuing of Education offers noncredit courses to thousands of students each year. Project 60 offers free classes to senior citizens. Engaged Learning and civic engagement is at the center of Cleveland State University's mission along with creating meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships with the communities around campus. Preparing students to be active and engaged citizens in the communities they call home is part of Cleveland State University's mission.

Anita Ruf-Young, Director in The Office of Civic Engagement developed this plan with support from her new Program Coordinator, Gabi Pridemore. The purpose of this plan is to support the civic engagement of Cleveland State University students and is implemented across its 8 colleges. The Office of Civic Engagement drafts and implements an ALL IN Action Plan with the goals of evaluating voter and civic engagement efforts on campus and in the surrounding community and fostering a well-informed student population that understands issues surrounding voting and why their votes matter. The intended duration of the plan exists in phases. There is

the academic year plan as well as plans looking two years and four years into the future in sync with Midterm and General Election schedules.

This plan seeks to implement many different nonpartisan programs and activities to ensure that students are registered, informed, and show up at the voting booth. The Office of Civic Engagement works in partnership with CSU students, faculty, and staff. Our leadership head is further partnered with staff from Campus Vote Project (CVP), Civic Influencers, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (CCBOE), Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters, Cleveland NAACP, CSU's Student Government Association, Cleveland State Athletics, the CSU's Men's Basketball Team, Cleveland Votes, Protect Choice Ohio, CSU Division of Belonging and Success, CSU's Michael Schwartz Library, CSU's First Year Experience, CSU Center for Department of Campus Engagement, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Department of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement, Alpha Kappa Alpha, CSU's Diversity Institute, the College of Education and Public Affairs (formally the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs), CSU's Communications and Marketing Department, campaign managers and government officials, National Voter Registration Day, Vote Early Day, and Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA) to ensure that the goals of this action plan are met. Resources provided by these partners are volunteers, funds to hire Democracy Fellows and sponsor events, paid opportunities to become Poll Workers and Ballot Box openers, data, marketing, and much more.

II. Leadership

Anita Ruf-Young, Director of the The Office of Civic Engagement, will direct and coordinate all events, programs and activities surrounding voter engagement held at Cleveland State University. She will collaborate with community organizations as well as CSU students, faculty, and staff to create programming surrounding voter issues. In addition to our extensive partner coalition, Anita will be assisted by one newly hired Office of Civic Engagement part-time Coordinator, Gabriella Pridemore, who will be focused on both community and civic engagement and one undergraduate Student Assistant, Jared Allyn, who will be focused on civic engagement, Democracy Fellows through Campus Vote Project to conduct voter registration events, activities, and programs. Currently, her budget funds the part-time Coordinator position for 20 hours per week but this position will become full-time on July 1, 2024. This will be the first time in 5 years that the CSU Office of Civic Engagement will again have two full-time staff members dedicated to civic and community engagement efforts. In the Fall of 2024, if budgeting permits, The Office of Civic Engagement would like to hire a Graduate Assistant for 20 hours a week. Our department is small and mighty but will be able to do so much more with this additional staff member once they are full-time. This part-time, soon to be full-time Coordinator position will help ensure that the initiatives and institutionalization of civic engagement at CSU the current director, Anita Ruf-Young, has developed and implemented could be carried forward

if necessary until an additional staff member or director could be hired to lead the Office of Civic Engagement using the Democracy Action Plan and other systems Anita Ruf-Young has put into place.

Coalition partners are selected by Anita Ruf-Young to ensure they are nonpartisan in their approach and passionate about voter engagement with the CSU community. Partners commit to providing strategies and programs on campus that create involvement for students. These partnerships will vary in their degree of overall mutuality. Partner responsibility will vary depending on the level of commitment agreed upon by Anita Ruf-Young and the partner. Some members may provide resources and data, while other members will volunteer at events or help in launching different programming. This group meets at varying intervals depending on the partnership. For example, meetings with Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA) happen several times a week. Other meetings occur when deemed necessary by Anita Ruf-Young or other coalition partners. A detailed listing of our partnerships is as follows:

Office of Civic Engagement Leadership Coalition Head

The Office of Civic Engagement Director, Anita Ruf-Young

In-Office Support

Coordinator, Gabriella Pridemore

Cleveland State University Students

Arab Student Union & Lebanese Student Organization

College Democrats Club

College Republicans Club

Democracy Fellow, Jared Allyn

Democracy Fellow, Justin Samsa

Democracy Fellow, Kaylee Gutierrez

221 students recruited to work as election night ballot box openers in calendar year 2022.

94 students recruited to work as election night ballot box openers in calendar year 2023.

Undergraduate Office of Civic Engagement Student Assistant, Jared Allyn

Student Socialist Society

The Political Science Club

Cleveland State University President

Dr. Laura J. Bloomberg Ph.D

CSU Leadership

Dean, Hostetler Chair & Professor College of Law, Dean, Lee Fisher

Provost & Senior VP Academic Affairs, Nigamanth Sridhar

VP Legal & Compliance, General Counsel, Sonali V. Wilson

Executive in Residence College of Education & Public Affairs, Armond Budish
Executive Director of Government Affairs & Special Assistant, Caryn B. Candisky

Cleveland State University Faculty

Associate Professor, College of Law, Abigail, R. Moncrieff
Interim Director & Associate Professor, Urban Studies, R. Clayton Wukitch
Assistant College Lecturer of Planning Practice, Dr. Beth Nagy
Associate Professor Emerita & Alpha Kappa Alpha Member, Dr. Mittie Jones
Associate Professor of Graphic Design & AIGA Faculty Advisor, Sarah Rutherford
Diversity Institute Director & Assoc. Professor of Urban Studies, Dr. Ronnie Dunn
Dean of the College of Education & Public Affairs, Dr. Roland Anglin
Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Marius Boboc

Cleveland State University Student Affairs and Other Campus Departments

First Year Experience Program Manager, Samantha Phillips
Athletics Department Men's Basketball Team Players and Coaches - Head Coach Daniel
Robinson, Assistant Coach Travis Lewis
Magnus T. Viking, Mascot
Campus Police Department Officer, Toni Jones & Campus K-9 Emotional Support Animal, Rune
Michael Schwartz Library, Amanda Goodsett
Office of Campus Engagement, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Office of Inclusion &
Multicultural Engagement, Jared Pratt and Stephanie Palmer
Office of Sustainability Director, Jennifer McMillian
Latinos Unidos, Emily Morales and Kaylee Gutierrez
Lift Up Vikes! Food Pantry, Megan Ashwill
Resident Life Director, Uliana Spiridonova
Student Government Chief of Staff, Adam Royko
Student Government Association Advisor, Daniel Lenhart
SGA President, Kayland Morris & SGA Director of Student Affairs, Justin Samsa

Community/National Organizations

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge
Impact & State Networks Director, Ryan Drysdale
Alpha Kappa Alpha, Mittie Jones
Cleveland Asian Festival
Cleveland Votes, Angelique Gates and Brianna Zgodinski
Campus Vote Project
Ohio State Coordinator, Alexis Crosby
Campus Election Engagement Project
State Director, Nate Hall

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Civic Influencers

Operations Manager, Brenna Limbrick
Congressional District 11 Campaign Managers
Congresswoman Shontel Brown & Former Ohio State Senator Nina Turner
League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Catherine Ryan
Voter Service Coordinator, Catherine Ryan
NAACP Cleveland Chapter
Member, El Jay'em
Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates
Representatives, Susan Alcorn, Maddie Haughton, Cid Standifer & Meredith Hellmer
NSLVE - Tufts Institute for Democracy & Higher Education
Ohio Environmental Council
Vice President of Public Affairs, Emily Bacha
Ohio Student Association
One World Day Cleveland Festival Sponsor
Protect Choice Ohio
Mary Boyle, Volunteer Richard Margolius, Volunteer
Values in Action - Be Kindland - Stuart Muszynski, Shaun Sweet, & Amanda Guarnieri

Local Elections Office Coordination - Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

Board of Elections Director, Anthony Perlatti
Board of Elections Human Resource Manager, Lori Acosta
Board of Elections Manager of Candidate & Petition Services, Brent Lawler

Cleveland State University Staff

University Marketing Executive Director, Reena Arora
University Social Media Manager, Anthony Pero

Local/Campus Media

Cleveland Plain Dealer/Cleveland.com, Peter Chakerian
IdeaStream Public Media, Emma MacNiven
Cleveland Conversations Classic Teleproducts, Armond Buddish and Richard Whitbred
Axios Cleveland Reporter, Troy Smith
Signal Cleveland Reporter, Amy Morona
The Cauldron Student Newspaper
The Cleveland Stater Newspaper
The Vindicator - CSU Students' Arts & Culture Magazine

III. Commitment

Cleveland State University (CSU) has developed a strong reputation for its level of engagement and commitment to serve the Greater Cleveland Community and Northeast Ohio region. This commitment to work with the community to address its most significant challenges is part of the identity of Cleveland State University and is clearly exhibited by the efforts of our staff, faculty, colleges, student organizations and leadership to focus resources and intellectual capital to make Cleveland an ideal place to live, work and play.

On April 26, 2022, CSU hired a new President, Dr. Laura Bloomberg. Anita Ruf-Young from the Office of Civic Engagement reached out to Dr. Bloomberg and asked if she would sign the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation on August 23, 2022. She signed it that day!

The Office of Civic Engagement provides support to staff, faculty, students, and administrators by developing, expanding and sustaining collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships with community residents, organizations, and institutions. Rather than serving as a gatekeeper for all engagement activities, the Office works to create an infrastructure to track our civic and community engagement activities with six key objectives:

- 1) Establishing and upholding an institution-wide framework for defining civic engagement;
- 2) Creating a consistent process to comprehensively inventory voter engagement across campus;
- 3) Developing and tracking metrics that quantify and qualify the internal and external impact of Office of Civic Engagement civic and community engagement activities;
- 4) Communicating Office of Civic Engagement civic and community engagement efforts consistently to the campus community and broader community;
- 5) Encouraging and promoting work of faculty, students and staff who successfully advance civic engagement;
- 6) Continuously work to expand our civic internal and external network.

The Office of Civic Engagement leads several efforts to achieve these objectives, including:

Created an action plan for democratic engagement which results in our consecutive awards of Voter Friendly Campus through 2023-2024.

Requested and achieved the signature of CSU President, Dr. Laura Bloomberg for Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation on August 23, 2022.

Cleveland State University and the Office of Civic Engagement are often recognized for high turn out college student voting.

Consistently increased voter registration and participation earning the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Certificate of Excellence in Student Voter Engagement Gold Campus rating which increased from Silver in 2016. We again earned the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge - National Gold Campus Award for Cleveland State University for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement for the 2018 Midterm Election and the 2020 Presidential Election.

Earned the 2022 ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting.

Earned the Inaugural 2022 ALL IN Democracy Challenge Highly Established Action Plan.

Earned Ohio Campus Compact 2023 David Hoch Memorial Award for Excellence in Service awarded to Office of Civic Engagement Director Anita Ruf-Young.

Named one of Washington Monthly's "America's Best Colleges for Student Voting: *The schools doing the most to turn students into citizens.*" in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Continued to hire Democracy Fellows through Campus Vote Project, who work to provide nonpartisan information, register students to vote, and promote civic engagement on campus.

One of CSU's General Education requirements is Introduction to University Life Seminar, ASC101, which is part of The First Year Experience (FYE). Anita Ruf-Young, with her Graduate Assistants, created a "Vikes! Vote" initiative which includes a curriculum to be taught in all First Year Experience sections to engage CSU's incoming freshman and transfer students with under 30 credit hours. This initiative was implemented in the Spring 2020 semester, updated for 2021, and in the first year we introduced this curriculum to FYE ASC101, 92.8% of all course sections agreed that the curriculum and call to action were, "valuable and should be continued". It was retooled for the Fall 2022 semester. There were 49 sections of FYE ASC 101 being taught in Fall 2022 and the OCE supplied the Vikes! Vote PowerPoint curriculum and 1,355 voter information packets to these sections that included voter registrations, vote-by-mail forms, and instructions on how to fill out each. In Fall 2023, 50 FYE ASC 101 sections were supplied with the Vikes! Vote Powerpoint along with 1,115 voter information packets including voter registrations, vote-by-mail application forms, and instructions on how to fill out each. We continue to advocate and actively work with the FYE Program Manager to make Vikes! Vote

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curriculum a mandatory module in The First Year Experience (FYE) seminar. Anita Ruf-Young and Gabi Pridemore created a training module video for FYE ASC 101 instructors on how to teach the Vikes! Vote curriculum for all instructors, no matter their background, so they would be comfortable teaching the material.

Developed and continually expanding CSU Men's Basketball partnership with the OCE. Entire CSU Men's Basketball Team showed up in shifts to support our National Voter Registration Day activities, walked to the polls with the team so players that were eligible to vote could cast their ballot for the first time, the entire team attended our September 2022 Student Civic Dialogue: Knowledge + Action = Power with local government leaders, we volunteer together at the local food insecurity organizations such as the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and St. Augustine Hunger Center.

Established and deepened each election cycle the relationship with Cuyahoga County Board of Elections to not only promote Election Day Poll Workers or Election Night Ballot Box Openers jobs for CSU students, but also promote internships or other election related jobs the CCBOE offers. This mutually beneficial partnership shares election information and data, such as Election Night Ballot Box Openers of our CSU students that sign-up.

In an effort to further weave civic engagement into institutional culture, our Office of Civic Engagement Director sat on a committee for the creation of a Civic Engagement Certificate with the Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Marius Boboc, and Senior Faculty Fellow for Civic Engagement & Associate Professor, Dr. Mamadou Seck. If approved it will join other skill area certificate programs at CSU. The skill area of civic engagement has also been approved as a Gen Ed area. The mission of the General Education program at Cleveland State is to empower students by providing all undergraduates with the knowledge and skills they need to build successful careers, act as responsible members of our society, and lead fulfilling lives. These skill areas are Civic Engagement, Critical Thinking, Group Work, Information Literacy, Oral Communication, Quantitative Literacy, and Writing. For a student to receive a Civic Engagement Certificate, they would need to complete four courses on an approved course list and a Capstone project in which students demonstrate mastery of the civic engagement skill area.

OCE Director, Anita Ruf-Young was asked to be a member of the Ad Hoc Center for Civics, Culture, and Society Working Group at the request of CSU President, Dr. Laura Bloomberg. SB 117 outlined the creation of Centers for Civics, Culture, and Society at CSU and a few other Ohio colleges/universities. This new Center will further embed civic engagement into the DNA of CSU and the Office of Civic Engagement plans to investigate how to collaborate with it once it is up and running.

Have partnerships with faculty, The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, The League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland, The U.S. Census Bureau, Campus Vote Project, Campus Election Engagement Project, CSU Democrats, CSU Republicans, CSU Student Government, Ohio Student Association, Cleveland NAACP, the CSU Diversity Institute, CSU Office of Sustainability, NOVA, American Institute of Graphic Arts, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and local news media to enhance our efforts within CSU as well as throughout the Greater Cleveland community.

Collaborated with The League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland to create a student chapter at CSU which will allow students to act on issues they are passionate about and partnered to host the Student Civic Engagement Dialogue: Knowledge + Action = Power that connected CSU students, the entire CSU Men's Basketball Team, with local elected officials.

Hosted annual events for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) in partnership with The Board of Elections, Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters, Cleveland NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha, CSU Student Government, Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellows, CSU PD K-9 Emotional Support Animal, Rune, CSU Mascot, Magnus T. Viking, CSU President, Dr. Laura Bloomberg, CSU Men's Basketball Players, NOVA, and local media where students were registered to vote, applied to vote-by-mail, received nonpartisan voter and election information, signed up to be an Election Day Poll Worker, or Election Night Ballot Box Opener.

IV. Landscape

Cleveland State University has a strong political climate and is passionate about democratic engagement efforts that inform students on voting issues, the process of voting and why their votes matter. CSU is a highly diverse campus with many passionate students who want to have their voices heard. Our student profile is as follows: 55 percent women, 45 percent men, approximately 27 percent minorities, of which two-thirds are African American. More than 1,400 are international students. The average age of a student is 27. About one-third of the 14,000 students are in graduate school or law school.

The university as a whole also stresses the need for civic and community engagement on campus in order to provide students the skills they need to be successful community leaders. NSLVE data shows that Cleveland State University's voting rate is higher than the average institution's. Also, in 2020 our voter registration rates were at an all time high of 89%. This does however pose the question, what is happening to all of the students who register and do not vote? Because of these discrepancies, The Office of Civic Engagement has implemented a voter engagement course within the Introduction to University Life courses that is required for every freshman and transfer student with under 30 credit hours that attends the University. Providing voter information to freshmen and transfer students is a great way to reach the incoming voter population and light a fire of civic passion within these students, so that they will continue to be

civically and democratically engaged their whole lives.

Although Cleveland State University is highly engaged democratically, there are a few barriers that prevent the university from reaching as many students as it could. The main barrier that CSU faces is the fact that it is primarily a commuter school. Many students commute to campus from home and are only on campus when they need to be for class. It is difficult to identify times when large groups of students might gather together on campus and plan events around those times. We do use the one time that is designated for this purpose called the Common Hour to hold many of our events and activities. Another barrier is that The Office of Civic Engagement currently has only one full-time employee who has only been supported by student assistants until November 22, 2023, when one of those student assistants was hired on as a part-time Coordinator. With 14,000 students on campus, this is a heavy lift for the staff currently in place. It is difficult to take on additional voter engagement projects on top of all of the other programs run in the office. With that being said, the OCE has created many long-term and deep connections throughout the CSU and with outside organizations that support and volunteer for many of the events we plan. With these partnerships and programs, the university has built a strong civic and democratic presence on campus and in the larger Cleveland community. With the continued support, democratic engagement is becoming second nature to all CSU students.

- Promoted our democratic engagement efforts on all of our social media platforms. The data these platforms provide gives us instant feedback as to how our posts are performing as well as opportunities to improve their performance, engagement, and reach. See results from some of these creative social media posts in the “Reporting” section of this plan.
- Provided community service-learning opportunities for CSU students through the Office of Civic Engagement Viking Corps & CPL America Reads each academic year that result in thousands of community service hours with thousands of community members by CSU students.
- Created and launched the “Meet the Candidates” video series. First, with the Cleveland Mayoral Race, and most recently with the 11th Congressional District race in Ohio. Candidates’ videos enable CSU students to learn more about candidates in the races and learn how they can get engaged with a campaign.
<https://cepa.csuohio.edu/oce/2021-cleveland-mayoral-race-information>
- Anita Ruf-Young, Director for CSU’s Office of Civic Engagement, housed in the Levin College of Public Affairs and Education, was interviewed by Cleveland 19 News in their story about the 2021 Cleveland mayoral election. She discussed candidates who filed to run in the September primary election, and CSU’s efforts in promoting civic engagement on campus. *Making Sense of the Crowded Mayoral Field* <https://youtu.be/6dy3CcFxyXw>
- Regularly and consistently update our Office of Civic Engagement website that provides information on election days, deadlines, vote by mail, where to find nonpartisan information, opportunities to become an election night ballot box opener, election day poll worker, and much more.
<https://cepa.csuohio.edu/oce/election-resources-and-information>
- We provided **221 Ballot Box Openers** in 2022 to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and will strive to increase that number through wider outreach efforts.

- **94 CSU students were recruited to work as Election Night Ballot Box Openers** in the calendar year of 2023.
- The Office of Civic Engagement at Cleveland State University has and continues to work hard along with our community and university partners to increase democratic and civic engagement on campus by consistently hosting multiple registration tables all year-long. In Spring 2023, we held 10 voter registration and vote-by-mail application tables to prepare for the May 2023 Primary Election. In Summer 2023, we held 4 “Summer Freshman Orientation Days” voter registration tables along with attending the Cleveland Asian Festival to prepare for the August 2023 Special Election. In Fall 2023, we hosted 22 voter registration and vote-by-mail tables to prepare for the November 2023 General Election. We held a total of 38 voter registration and vote-by-mail tables in 2023 and we have scheduled 14 tables for the Spring 2024 Semester as we prepare for a Presidential Election Year.
- Provided parking sponsorship at the Cleveland Asian Festival each year and set up voter registration tables at the event and our civic partner NOVA helps us staff it each day of the festival.
- The Office of Civic Engagement was tapped by CSU President, Dr. Bloomberg as the point of contact for the 2023 Kindland Summit being held at CSU in partnership with Values in Action. This event brings leaders together from the business, faith, media, education, and government sectors to campus. The OCE connected the CSU SGA with these leaders during the event and organized an “Act of Kindness” for the day by having all participants bring a donation for the CSU Lift Up Vikes Food Pantry. The donations received was the largest donation Lift Up Vikes had received. This community service brought a lot of attention to our social media handles which in turn introduced many individuals to our civic and voter engagement information and activities.

V. Goals

LONG-TERM GOALS - in the next decade or two election cycles

1. Institutionalize voter engagement efforts through ASC 101: Introduction to University Life courses by providing each class with voter engagement presentations (49 sections for Fall ‘22, 50 sections for Fall ‘23, & varies by semester). This course is a General Education requirement for all incoming students and transfer students with under 30 credit hours and is taught every semester. The module includes an evaluation for the participants at the end of the presentation so we can gather feedback and measure our efforts at registering students, updating their information, allowing them to request a vote by mail application, and finding out why they might not choose to vote.

2. In an effort to further weave civic engagement into institutional culture, our Office of Civic Engagement Director sat on a committee for the creation of a Civic Engagement Certificate with the Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Marius Boboc, and Senior Faculty Fellow for Civic Engagement & Associate Professor, Dr. Mamadou Seck. If approved, it will join other skill area certificate programs at CSU. The skill area of civic engagement has already been approved as a Gen Ed area. The mission of the General Education program at Cleveland State is to empower students by providing all undergraduates with the knowledge and skills they need to build successful careers, act as responsible members of our society, and lead fulfilling lives. These skill areas are Civic Engagement, Critical Thinking, Group Work, Information Literacy, Oral Communication, Quantitative Literacy, and Writing. For a student to receive a Civic Engagement Certificate, they would need to complete four courses on an approved course list and a Capstone project in which students demonstrate mastery of the civic engagement skill area.
3. Continue to find strategies to maximize our small office's ways to reach Cleveland State University students around civic and voter engagement with a primary focus on how to engage voter registration and participation in under-served populations.
4. Partner with other university departments and faculty to plan and execute a "Vikes! Vote Day" where students can come to have fun and learn more about voter and civic engagement.
5. Include "Election Days" as university holidays to give students, staff, and faculty the opportunity to participate in elections with no barriers.
6. In 2024, we will again work with to recruit Work Election Fellows. In 2020, we recruited 187.

SHORT-TERM GOALS - by next election

1. One of CSU's General Education requirements is Introduction to University Life Seminar which is part of The First Year Experience. Our department created a "Vikes! Vote" initiative which includes a course to be taught in all First Year Experience sections to engage CSU's incoming freshman. This initiative was implemented in the Spring 2020 semester, and has been updated for 2021, 2022, and 2023, and will be retooled for the upcoming Fall 2024 semester. We continued to actively advocate and work with the Academic Planning Staff to eventually make the Vikes! Vote curriculum, a mandatory module in The First Year Experience seminar.
2. Aim to have one "Meet the Candidates" video series each election cycle to engage CSU students and the entire CSU campus community or have an educational focus on a

particular ballot measure/issue or Special Election as we did for Ohio Issue 1 and the August 8, 2023 Special Election.

3. We are planning to have another “Thick Engagement” civic dialogue for Fall 2024 that would mirror the event we hosted with the Cleveland Chapter of the LWV based on their model of “Thick Engagement” in September 2022. We will determine if we will have local officials meet with students again to discuss how the students can be effective in advocating for their most pressing issues or if the focus will be around the act of voting and being engaged in the election side of elections. The goals are to transform civic engagement from an abstract concept to meaningful, specific actions students can take to effect change about the things that matter to them and give students an opportunity to have a dialog with or learn from local elected officials or board of election staff.
4. Keep our website current on local, state, and national elections, deadlines, and how to get civically engaged and keep it one of the highest visited webpages in our Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs.
5. Actively continue to strive to create engaging civic social media content around candidates, ballot issues and measures (Issues 1, 2, 3, and 38 for Special Election and General Election for 2023), and voter education information (deadlines and other mechanics of voting), and all elections by again utilizing trending social media content templates and featuring local officials, the CSU mascot, CSU President, CSU athletes, SGA members, Democracy Fellows, and collaborating with CSU Marketing and Communications. This will help to increase the high metrics we have already achieved on our social media channels and in certain areas like recruiting Election Night Ballot Box Openers for all elections in 2022 and 2023.
6. Continue to promote employment opportunities with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections on our social media and Office of Civic Engagement website.
7. Increase the number of students in STEM majors that are registered and informed on voting as they tend to have low registration and voter turnout rates according to our 2020 NSLVE Campus Report. **The Office of Civic Engagement is still waiting for our 2022 NSLVE Campus Data Report by Tufts University. Included in this ALL IN Democracy Action Plan in place of the 2022 NSLVE Data is our 2020 NSLVE Campus Data as recommended by Mr. Drysdale.** The specific majors with the lowest rates were Computer & Information Sciences and Physical Sciences. In 2022 and continued in 2023, we scheduled voter registration tables at the Monte Ahuja College of Business, the Washkewicz College of Engineering, and the College of Health to expand our reach and increase our voting rates over all majors.

8. Continue to maintain a database of voter registrations and vote-by-mails we collect every year.
9. Fund and brought on an undergraduate student assistant whose focus will be to assist the Office of Civic Engagement with these goals.
10. Continue to fill the Democracy Fellows positions at CSU.
11. Continue to have successful NVRD events. For our September 19, 2023 National Voter Registration Day, we collected 50 voter registrations and 27 vote by mail applications.

VI. NSLVE

With record turnout for the 2020 General Election and the Midterm Elections NSLVE Data not released yet, it is still crucial to implement a plan and to find strategies on how to get students to the polls in 2024. These efforts seem to be working when data is considered:

In 2018, a midterm election year, 85.1% of CSU's students eligible to register to vote were registered to vote compared to 75% in 2014. Even better is that CSU's voting rate of registered students was 58% for the 2018 midterm elections, up from 24% in 2014! That is a double-digit increase in 4 years and nicely above the 39% voting rate for all other institutions in the NSLVE report. Voting rate in presidential election year 2016 for CSU students was 65% compared to 53% voting rate for all other institutions in the NSLVE report. In the 2020 presidential election year, 89% of CSU's students eligible to register to vote were registered, which was a +5 change from midterm election year 2018. The CSU student voting rate in the 2020 presidential election was 73.5% compared to 64.8% in the 2016 presidential election, up +8.7%. CSU's voting rate is +7.5 higher than the voting rate of all institutions tracked by NSLVE which sat at 66% in 2020. The OCE is expecting record turnout for the 2024 General Election among our CSU student population given the political climate in our country around several issues such as student debt, inflation, climate change, immigration and the border, crime, fentanyl, budget spending and involvement on international stage with wars in Ukraine and Israel, and many others. Our goal for the 2024 General Election is to maintain, if not increase, our 73.5% CSU voting rate.

It is clear that the civic engagement work happening in The Office of Civic Engagement and across Cleveland State University's campus, including participating in the ALL IN Democracy Challenge, is working but there are always areas for improvement.

Even more impressive is that 89% of CSU's students who were voting eligible were registered to vote in 2020 and of that percentage, 82.6% actually voted on Election Day. While voting rates are increasing across all age groups, recently, the most significant increases are being seen across all higher education institutions among first-time and the youngest eligible voters. This

demonstrates that civic engagement around voter registration and get out the vote efforts on university campuses are having an impact. Voting rates are up among undergraduate (>8%) and graduate (>12%) student populations and all fields of study, except history. This trend is important for two reasons, first, younger voters used to significantly lag behind older voting populations and second, it is proven that if someone is voter engaged at a young age, they are more likely to continue having a voting habit for the rest of their lives. Although CSU does have fairly high voting rates, there is still work to be done so that all students are informed and choose to vote.

The Office of Civic Engagement continues to try to address low voter turnout for off-season elections. The following data is provided to depict the gap between voter turnout in Presidential Elections and Midterm Elections. In the 2014 Midterm Election, 74.8% of students were registered to vote, and 13% of those who were registered, voted. In the 2018 Midterm Elections, 28.2% of youth, 18 - 29, voted according to CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. It is clear that during off-season elections, less people are informed on what is going on or they feel as though it is not important to vote during those times. This plan seeks to bridge the gap and make sure students are staying informed and engaged during Midterm and local elections. 2023 was an off year election year but in Ohio with Issue 1 and Issue 2 on the ballot, Ohioans turned out in numbers that were comparable to the 2022 Midterm Election with almost 4 million Ohioans casting a ballot, 49.63%. The 18 - 29 youth vote definitely played a significant role in November 7, 2023 voter turnout since polls showed overwhelmingly that the issues on the ballot were ones young voters were concerned about. The November 7, 2023 turnout surpassed the August 8, 2023 Special Election turnout. This indicates that issues on the ballot may be more indicative of youth voter turnout more than anything else.

Three Democracy Fellows hired through Campus Vote Project will work with student organizations, community organizations, faculty, and staff to promote the goals of this action plan. In collaboration with The Office of Civic Engagement, the Democracy Fellows will help execute strategies, activities and programs that will target different populations within the university. The Office of Civic Engagement will continue to work to institutionalize voting within freshman Introduction to University Life courses so that students are engaged and informed as they enter their college careers.

In addition to the voter engagement curriculum developed by Anita Ruf-Young, OCE Director, and Program Coordinator, Gabriella Pridemore, for the Introduction to University Life course, voter registration tabling (38 voter registration and vote by mail tables in 2023), classroom presentations, constantly updated social media and website content, civic holiday events, candidate video series, and other civic engagement events will regularly occur. Through these initiatives, the Office of Civic Engagement will successfully increase voter engagement and

participation on campus and create an informed student body that will continue to be civically engaged far beyond their college years.

VII. Strategy

In order to achieve the goals set forth above, it is important to create a strategy for how the work will be accomplished and by whom. For Fall 2023, we already executed 17 voter registration and information tables, 3 vote by mail only tabling events, and 2 tables on September 19, 2023 for National Voter Registration day. Recruited 46 CSU Election Night Ballot Box Openers for the August 8, 2023 Special Election and 33 for the November 7, 2023 General Election for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. We will continue to recruit Election Night Ballot Box Openers for the March 19, 2024 Primary Election, if there is an August 6, 2024 Special Election, and for the November 5, 2024 General Election. The Vikes! Vote curriculum has already been updated for the Spring 2024 semester to provide information for the entire 2024 election cycle. Planning for the 2024 - 2025 academic year is already underway as well. We have scheduled 14 voter registration tabling dates, times, and locations for Spring Semester 2024. We continue to have 3 Democracy Fellows from CVP to work with us on campus. Two of our Democracy Fellows have been with the OCE since Fall 2022 and 1 started Fall 2023. Social media content, including reels, are being planned on a schedule around the upcoming election cycle, voter registration and vote by mail deadlines, civic holidays, and races students should be paying attention to. Our community civic partner, NOVA, is already scheduled to help us staff our voter registration and information tables around campus to target hard to reach populations like STEM or theater majors so as to ensure all populations are being served. The Office of Civic Engagement will be in charge of overseeing each event and ensuring all resources are distributed for each event.

We are currently discussing an event with the Cleveland Chapter of the LWV based on their model of “Thick Engagement” for Fall 2024 where government officials or Cuyahoga County Board of Elections staff will meet with students to discuss how the students can be effective in advocating for their most pressing issues or how to be more engaged with elections. The goals are to transform civic engagement from an abstract concept to meaningful, specific actions students can take to effect change about the things that matter to them or to participate in our democracy mechanics.

Short-term tactics for the upcoming school year:

Multiple Voter Registration Activities

- Tabled at Freshman Orientations called “See You at CSU Days” - voter registration and vote by mail results are included in our 2023 Annual Report. Hosted 4 voter registration

and vote-by-mail tables during the “2023 Summer Freshman Orientation Days” - results will be included in our 2024 Annual Report.

- Tabling at our MagnusFest Back to School event each year - results are included in our Annual Reports each year.
- The OCE along with its community partner NOVA staffed a voter registration table at One World Day (OWD), Sunday, August 28, 2022, in the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. OWD has been the official event of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens since 1946, celebrating over 100 years of Peace Through Mutual Understanding. This tabling was a new opportunity for the OCE in 2022 but unfortunately we could not sponsor a table in 2023. We hope to again in 2024 if our budget allows.
- Tabling at the Cleveland Asian Festival in 2022 - 18 voter registrations and 67 vote by mail forms were collected. In 2023, we collected 21 voter registrations and 64 vote by mail applications.
- In 2023 we hosted 38 voter registration and vote by mail tables on campus and in the community. During the 2021-2022 Academic Year our total number of voter registration cards was 285, total vote by mail applications was 216 , and interactions with 374 unique voters this year. Since February 28, 2023 until December 15, 2023 we have collected 512 voter registration cards and 518 vote by mail applications.
- Each year we signed up to participate in National Voter Registration Day. First, we had tremendous success in 2021 and again on September 20, 2022! The OCE reached out and organized a large coalition of partners to join the NVRD events on campus for 2021’s National Voter Registration Day on September 28, 2021. Partners included: Campus Vote Project, Northeast Ohio Voting Advocates, NAACP Greater Cleveland, LWV Greater Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and National Voter Registration Day. The OCE drafted a press release for CSU University Marketing and Communications contact, Alison Bibb-Carson, to promote the event which was picked up by Cleveland 19 News and Spectrum News 1 Ohio. Both news outlets came to campus to film and interview the OCE. In three hours, the OCE and our partners interacted with hundreds of CSU students and collected 60 voter registrations and 14 vote by mail applications. “CSU Hosts National Voter Registration Day Event on September 28” posted on CSU website September 27, 2021 in the News & Announcement section.
<https://www.csuohio.edu/news/csu-hosts-national-voter-registration-day-event-september-28>

Multiple Voter Education Activities

- Curriculum developed called Vikes! Vote that is a module to be taught to all first-year students and transfer students with under 30 credit hours. It provides civic education as well as an opportunity to register to vote.
- Robust social media campaign posting election information and Board of Election Poll Worker and Ballot Box Opener requests on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. QR codes utilized to facilitate student sign ups with the Board of Elections.
- Developed a new initiative for the OCE website and social media accounts during 2021 - 2022 called “Meet the Candidates Video Series” as a way to get the CSU Community excited, informed, and engaged with the local elections happening that impact their day to day lives. The series started with the 2021 Cleveland Mayoral Race and was followed up by the 11th Congressional District Race. Candidates were all given the same questions and information for participation. This series and information about the races were linked to our larger Election Resource and Information pages to give visitors a one stop shop for election information.
- We created an informational Social Media Interview Series related to the 2020 election cycle. Speakers in this series were community professionals who had expertise in a topic related to voting and civic engagement. The series was promoted on our social media pages and over its five week run it received nearly 1,200 views from our campus community. Our social media posts also received support from local and on-campus businesses. The posts covered a variety of important topics and were presented in an informative, nonpartisan, and timely manner.
- OCE created a strong educational social media campaign around the Ohio August 8, 2023 Special Election that just had Ohio Issue 1 on the ballot. This campaign reminded CSU students and our campus community what the implications would be if Ohio Issue 1 passed or failed. The campaign also included voter registration deadlines, early in-person voting information, vote-by-mail deadlines, and what IDs were valid after House Bill 458 passed earlier in 2023. To capture students’ attention, we included everyday CSU students, the CSU Senator of the College of Health, CSU SGA Representatives, and CSU Student Athletes who each talked about the importance of GOTV for the Special Election. CSU PD K-9 Emotional Support Dog, Rune, also made an appearance. These 4 Reels alone garnered 36,850 plays.

Multiple Voter Turnout Activities

- Vote Early Day was promoted on OCE social media with a Reel by our OCE Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow, Justin Samsa using a script developed by the OCE.

- The OCE partnered with Lori Acosta from the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections on a plan for the OCE to walk with the CSU Men's Basketball Team and CSU Mascot, Magnus T. Viking, to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections where players that were eligible to vote were able to cast a vote for the first time. This activity, along with Vote Early In-Person days and times information, was posted on our social media as a way to encourage other CSU students to take advantage of voting early.
- Due to our partnership with the CSU Men's Basketball Team, Assistant Coach, Travis Lewis, had 10 of the CSU Men's Basketball team players send us 6 Instagram stories that our Office was mentioned in to post on our social media as a way to GOTV and to support the OCE's upcoming National Voter Registration Day activities. In the OCE, we know we are having an impact when young athletes and their coaches do this without you asking because you have engaged them consistently both civically and in the community.
- Hosted voter registration and information tables and vote-by-mail only tables around CSU campus leading up to elections and heavily posted on our social media as a way to promote voter turnout in the CSU community.
- Cross promoted our civic partners (NOVA, Cleveland Votes) GOTV events on our social media to amplify their efforts along with ours to get individuals to show up to the polls.
- Recruited Election Night Ballot Box Openers - students, faculty, and staff to work for the Board of Elections on election night and witness our democracy in action for 2022 (221) and 2023 (94). Individuals who participate in our democracy in this way are also more likely to cast a ballot.
- Our Work Elections Fellow recruited 187 poll workers in 2020, and we are looking to work with them again in 2024.
- Collaborated with Bird Micro-Electric Mobility: Electric Bikes & Scooters so that students had a free ride to the polls thus eliminating transportation barriers.
- Collaborated with RideShare2Vote so that students had an additional, free way to get to the polls thus eliminating transportation barriers.
- Partnered with Protect Choice Ohio (attempted to partner with Protect Women Ohio for a balanced representation on campus but they did not respond to our requests) who wanted to engage CSU students on campus around Ohio Issue 1, Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative. They collected 698 signatures during 11 on campus tables we set up for them. We made sure our OCE website had information from both sides of this issue and links to their organizations in case students wanted to educate themselves and get involved on either side of Ohio Issue 1. This level of activity on campus also encourages the CSU campus community to turnout to vote.
- Partnered with CSU Michael Schwartz Librarian, Amanda Goodsett, to develop a nonpartisan voter information guide, how to find and utilize reputable sources, and recognize bias. Click here:

<https://csuohio.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=91eeb0c5-c910-45d1-9760-af1f010c3fa3>

Long-term Strategies

- Many of our students end up staffing polling places and ballot box openings multiple times during their time at CSU. This established relationship is one that we hope they continue after graduating from CSU. We have yet to develop a way to track the continuation of these relationships but we do track how many CSU students sign up for these opportunities for each election, who they are, and see trends of individual students signing up for multiple elections.
- Reach out to local news media such as Fox 8, Spectrum 1 Ohio, Axios Cleveland, Ideastream, and 19 News that have covered our events in the past to join us again for further promotion and coverage.

VIII. Reporting

This plan along with the NSLVE data cited in the plan will be shared on our Office of Civic Engagement homepage. Any results and accomplishments will be marketed through press releases on the Cleveland State University website Engaged Blog and The Office of Civic Engagement's Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. Our NSLVE 2022 Report will also be shared with ALL IN Democracy Challenge and Campus Vote Project. It will also be highlighted in our Annual Reports, see sample here:

Our Annual Report is posted here:

<https://cepa.csuohio.edu/oce/america-reads-and-viking-corps-year-in-review-2021-2022#end-of-year-statistics>.

One of our many achievements that we were proud to share was the OCE's Cleveland Mayoral Race "Meet the Candidates" video series. It was **the most viewed webpage** on the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs website during the months of August and September 2021, with a combined total of 12,703 page views.

For the months of June, July, October, and November 2021, **the OCE website remained the second most viewed webpage** on the Levin Maxine Goodman College of Urban Affairs, earning nearly 12,000 views combined.

Unfortunately, the new CSU website format no longer provides metrics on page views but we assume the OCE website still trends high given our social media engagements that always promote our website for more information.

The OCE's "Meet the Candidates Series" for the 2021 Cleveland Mayoral Race was featured on Campus Election Engagement Project's website.

The OCE's "Meet the Candidates Series" was utilized as a template by the University of Cincinnati for their 2021 Mayoral Election.

The work of the OCE led to CSU being named one of, "America's Best Colleges for Student Voting: The schools doing the most to turn students into citizens," by Daniel Block of the Washington Monthly, on August 29, 2021.

<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2021/08/29/americas-best-colleges-for-student-voting-3/>

"CSU Hosts National Voter Registration Day Event on September 28" posted on CSU website September 27, 2021 in the News & Announcement section.

<https://www.csuohio.edu/news/csu-hosts-national-voter-registration-day-event-september-28>

"CSU Rocks the Vote with Critical Civic Engagement," posted on CSU website October 26, 2021 in the News & Announcement section.

https://www.csuohio.edu/news/csu-rocks-vote-with-critical-civic-engagement?_ga=2.128453829.854221109.1655141356-696484580.1622325879

"Cleveland State Helps Community Get Engaged In Elections," by Ryan Schmelz published on Spectrum News 1 website October 4, 2021 in the Politics section.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/cleveland/news/2021/10/04/csu-encourages-community-to-vote>

Please visit our CSU OCE Instagram account to view these Reels and see the reach they achieved: @csucivicengagement

Magnus T. Viking "Power in Voting and Change in IDs for Special Election", Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 11/6/2023, 10.1K views, 245 likes

Justin Sama's "Vote Early Day", Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Campus Vote Project on 10/25/2023, 1,104 views, 20 likes

OCE, Values in Action, CSU President's Office, "Kindland Summit", Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 9/22/2023, 4,754 accounts reached, 408 likes

OCE’s “2023 NVRD with Civic Partners”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 11/19/2023, 4,067 views, 102 likes

OCE Democracy Fellow, Kaylee Gutierrez’s “Reminder of NVRD”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 9/18/2023, 4,625 views, 180 likes

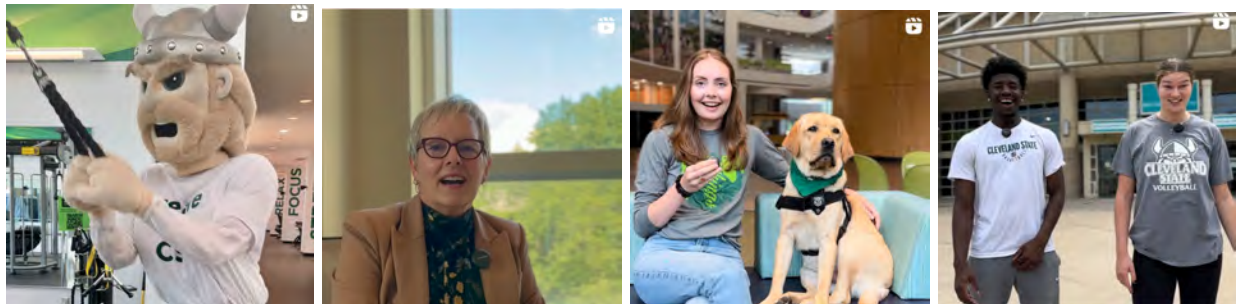
OCE Director Anita Ruf-Young and Democracy Fellow, Justin Samsa’s “Reminder for NVRD”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 9/14/2023, 8,960 views, 278 likes

CSU Student, Maddie Young, and CSU Police Department Emotional Support Dog, Rune, on “General Information about Ohio Issue 1 and Special Election”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University and CSU Police Department on 8/7/2023, 11.4K views, 443 likes

CSU Student, “Early Voting for Special Election”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 10/11/2023, 9,901 views, 347 likes

CSU Students, “Last Day to Register to Vote for Special Election”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University on 07/10/2023, 7,854 views, 290 likes

CSU Women’s Basketball Player, “Special Election Coming Up”, Office of Civic Engagement collaborated with Cleveland State University Marketing and Communications on 7/6/2023, 8,432 views, 275 likes





OCE featured on CSU Homepage Slider, “Reminder for August 8th Special Election Coming Up” on 7/10/2023, 156 accounts reached,
<https://www.csuohio.edu/news/exercising-right-vote%C2%A0ohios-special-election-power-viking-voice>

Axios Cleveland Article

Office of Civic Engagement Director Anita Ruf-Young was interviewed by Troy Smith at Axios Cleveland. <https://www.axios.com/local/cleveland/2023/04/04/voter-id-law-ohio>

Signal Cleveland Article

Office of Civic Engagement Director Anita Ruf-Young, and OCE Democracy Fellow, Justin Samsa, were interviewed by Amy Morona Signal Cleveland,
<https://signalcleveland.org/new-ohio-voting-law-could-add-another-barrier-for-college-students/>

Cleveland.com Article

<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2023/11/cannabis-abortion-rights-may-hinge-on-young-ohio-voters-will-they-turn-out.html>

Cleveland Conversations Interview

Office of Civic Engagement Director Anita Ruf-Young and Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Deputy Director, Anthony Perlatti were interviewed by Armond Buddish, host of Cleveland Conversations, <https://www.youtube.com/@ClevelandConversations>

IX. Evaluation

This plan will be evaluated every year to ensure that goals are being met. Annually, we will administer surveys to our students and community and civic engagement partners regarding events to improve our offerings and to get their feedback. If goals and priorities need to be

changed, the plan will be altered to meet those changes as needed. Here are some examples of what our civic engagement partners had to say about the Office of Civic Engagements work on our variety of civic engagement activities, efforts, and initiative for the 2022-2023 academic year:

“Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA) prioritizes our partnership with the CSU Office of Civic Engagement (OCE), as we continue to accomplish our shared goals of increased voter registration and increased voter turnout on CSU's campus. In the 2022-23 school year, NOVA helped train the OCE Democracy Fellows and worked with them to promote voting in the November general election as well as the May primary election. In turn, these fellows held their own voter registration events, engaging their friends and classmates directly. Our partnership has produced some of NOVA’s highest registration numbers from a single voter registration event. The OCE also sponsors tables at events held at CSU and in the community, where NOVA is invited to work on voter registration; these efforts demonstrate how our partnership is mutually beneficial. NOVA would not have the opportunity to attend these events without the OCE and, because of our partnership, the OCE can rely on NOVA to provide volunteers to conduct voter registration. The work we are doing makes voting visible at CSU, and NOVA looks forward to aiding the OCE with its pursuit of a more engaged student population.”

- Maddie Haughton, Lead Organizer, Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA)

“Our Basketball program’s partnership with the Office of Civic Engagement was a tremendous opportunity for our student-athletes to get out in the community and make a positive impact. We’re very grateful to Anita for helping make it all possible, from being our partner in “Athletes Vote,” to setting up opportunities for our young men to serve at a local food bank. Our program goes beyond just basketball. Our role as coaches is to help mold young men, and working with the OCE was a tremendous experience that allowed us to do just that.”

- Head Coach, CSU Men’s Basketball Team, Daniyal Robinson, Cleveland State University

“CSU Director, Anita Ruf-Young, and her Office of Civic Engagement continue to champion the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections in our efforts to recruit quality help to staff election night processes. The Board typically recruits upwards of 150 individuals to work behind the scenes unpacking election day supplies on Election Nights, and Anita and her staff always promote CSU student participation. Anita and her staff also work to promote student participation in the democratic process. This past fall Anita and her team spearheaded a CSU Viking Basketball Team voter drive which resulted in approximately a dozen team members voting at the Board during Early In-Person voting hours. We look forward to continuing our important relationship with CSU and election-related programs that help grow the important participation of students, who are the future of our country, in our local democratic systems.”

- Lori Acosta, Manager Human Resources Department, Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

“Cleveland VOTES had the privilege of partnering with CSU's Office of Civic Engagement to boost student voter registration while offering other ways to engage. A highlight of our continued collaboration with the OCE was the invitation for multiple CV teammates to facilitate conversations during a large civic education event held before the General Election. This particular event drew several students from their athletic department and allowed for us to have an open dialogue around various topics, such as education and reproductive rights. The format of the event created space for the students to work together to solve the issues that they care about. Having an open and safe environment (like the one provided by the OCE) helped the students realize that, while they may have differing interests, they are all connected by a common thread: the power of their vote. We look forward to working with the OCE in the future!”

- Angelique Gates & Brianna Zgodinski, Cleveland VOTES

"I'm beyond grateful to the Office of Civic Engagement for helping Cleveland State students discover City Year and the opportunity to be an AmeriCorps member. Anita and Gabi are determined to foster a civic identity in the culture at CSU and go above and beyond to help make connections and offer resources for our community. So many students at Cleveland State are from the city of Cleveland, and City Year prioritizes bringing in candidates from the community we serve. They are a powerful representation of the possibilities for students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. In a state and national climate that demonstrates our nation's vulnerable democracy, the OCE office has taken on the work of inspiring the next generation of civic leaders."

- Todd Marsh, AmeriCorps Talent Acquisition Recruiter, City Year Cleveland

"As students make voting decisions in the face of increased political division and rampant misinformation, the work of the CSU Office of Civic Engagement is vitally important for getting students the information they need to be well-informed voters. It has been very rewarding for the Michael Schwartz Library to partner with Anita and the Office of Civic Engagement to meet our shared goals of combating misinformation and increasing student voter turnout. We look forward to future partnership opportunities!"

-Mandi Goodsett, Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library

"The League of Women Voters have partnered with the CSU Office of Civic Engagement to register students on campus for National Voter Registration Day for several years now. It is always a well-run event full of energy and great participation from students. Last fall we also collaborated on a civic engagement forum for students. Attendees broke up into small groups facilitated by local government officials to share their perspectives on issues impactful to them and discuss what actions they might take. This was an untried format but Anita and her staff jumped right and provided tremendous support and direction - it would not have happened without them!"

- Catherine Ryan, Cleveland's League of Women Voters

We are creating a library of best practices found on various civic learning and democratic engagement websites and publications such as the ALL IN Challenge's Strengthening American Democracy Guide, Tufts University's Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, Civic Influencers, and the Higher Education - Student Voter Engagement Listserv to name a few.

The Office of Civic Engagement collects all voter registrations so that a database can be kept on how many registrations the university has achieved. We will also rely on NSLVE data to provide voter turnout data so that success can be measured based on voting rates. Reports and press releases will demonstrate the results of these evaluations.

We also currently benchmark our social media followers and take a deeper dive analyzing postings when there is increased engagement.

- Earned **ALL IN Democracy Challenge - National Gold Campus Award** for CSU for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement for the **2018 Midterm** Election and again for the **2020 Presidential** Election.
- **Earned ALL IN Democracy Challenge Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting.** ALL IN is a national awards program which recognizes colleges and universities for their commitment to increasing student voting rates.
- **Earned the inaugural 2022 Highly Established Action Plan for the OCE Action Plan** I submitted - earned a 34.5/36 for the plan. I submit a Democracy Action Plan each year for CSU:

<https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/cleveland-state-university/>

- "Cleveland State University and our Office of Civic Engagement are committed to providing our students with the information they need to become registered voters and active citizens. We stress to our students the importance of their participation in the voting process. CSU is honored to receive this recognition from ALL IN and proud that our students are voicing their opinions with their votes." - **CSU President Dr. Laura Bloomberg**
- "The Office of Civic Engagement is honored to again have our nonpartisan democratic student engagement efforts recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. The OCE works all year long to ensure our campus community is registered to vote and informed on local, state, and national voting issues. Our engagement is successful because we go beyond one off interactions. We are embedding civic engagement into the DNA of CSU by institutionalizing it in campus events and in the curriculum that reaches the desks of every first year student. Our work is made possible through our civic and academic allies such as Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Campus Vote Project, CSU's First Year Experience program, the Michael

Schwartz Library, our Athletics' Department, and CSU President Dr. Laura Bloomberg," said Anita Ruf-Young, Director, CSU's Office of Civic Engagement. "Our annual submissions to receive these designations provides us opportunities to sharpen our Campus Democracy Action Plan to increase CSU student voter turnout. With 89% of our student body registered to vote, we look forward to receiving our Midterm 2022 Election data." - Anita Ruf-Young

- Voting rate for the 2020 Presidential Election for CSU was in the 70-79% range.
- **Earned CSU first NASPA and Campus Vote Project Voter Friendly Campus Designation in 2019 and have earned this designation each year through our current designation for 2023-2024.**