

College of the Redwoods 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Kintay Johnson

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by College of the Redwoods in California for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for College of the Redwoods for the 2024 election are: to increase civic learning, student voter registration, and voter participation amongst our student body and campus community.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Kintay Johnson, Director, CEVE Coordinator
Andrew Nichols, Director, SASS
Pywua Bommelyn, Director, NASSSP
Irene Gonzalez, Assistant Director
Stephanie Freyermuth, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Katrina Hanson, Manager of Retention, Basic Needs, and Wellbeing
Sible Godfrey, ASCR President
Erin Wall, Academic Senate President
Lauren Cortez, Student Services Specialist IV
Misty Knight, Klamath Trinity Site Manager
Shauna Burdick, Interim Dean of Del Norte Education Center/Pelican Bay
Morrigan Burke-Martin, Marketing & Communications

Commitment:

Mission:

College of the Redwoods puts the success of each student at the forefront of every strategic effort. The college provides accessible and relevant educational programs that promote student academic achievement, career readiness, and lifelong learning so that our students may thrive in a rapidly changing world. We endeavor to meet the diverse needs of the communities we serve and to be a nimble and pioneering partner in the educational, civic, cultural, and economic development of the region. We recognize the future of learning will require flexibility and resiliency and we are committed to developing and expanding innovative in-person and online programs and responsive student services. Through assessment and evidence-based research, we continuously improve programs and address equity gaps to ensure that each student has the opportunity and support to succeed. We are dedicated to a just and sustainable world, to fostering a safe and inclusive educational community, and to advancing the values and goals of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Vision:

College of the Redwoods will create and sustain the conditions that will enable all students to experience an educational journey that is intellectually, socially, and personally transformative. We will inspire participatory citizenship grounded in critical thinking and an engaged student body.

Core Values:

The following core values are our ethical principles and guide our institutional decision-making:

- **Student Success and Access:** We put students first, ensuring that student learning, advancement, and access are pivotal to all we do.
- **Educational Excellence and Innovation:** We value ongoing and systematic planning and evaluating methods that move us toward excellence.
- **Honoring Diversity:** We value all members of our community and strive to create a diverse, nurturing, honest, and open environment.
- **Participatory Governance:** We value ethical behavior and strive to create a culture where all students, staff, faculty and administrators engage in inclusive, ongoing and self-reflective decision-making processes.
- **Environmental Awareness:** We value the environment and the need to minimize our impacts upon it, utilizing sustainable practices and acting as global citizens.
- **Community Development:** We value the economic and intellectual development of the various communities we serve.

- **Supportive Culture:** We strive to create a supportive, problem-solving culture, and we recognize the proven usefulness of an interest-based approach (IBA) for achieving trust, cooperation and effective problem solving.

Civic engagement and voter empowerment are essential to the college experience, further democratic participation in our society. College of the Redwoods provides students opportunities to become civically engaged on and off campus through instruction, extracurricular activities, student clubs, internships, and peer-to-peer interactions.

The College of the Redwoods Corsairs' Civic Engagement & Voter Empowerment Plan (CEVE Plan) outlines the strategy to achieve College of the Redwoods (CR) goal of becoming a leading institution for voter engagement and remaining committed to helping CR students become active and confident political citizens in a rapidly changing world.

The College of the Redwoods CEVE aims to help demystify civic engagement and the election process by connecting students with resources, services, and partnerships to help them become active and empowered global citizens in a rapidly changing world.

College of the Redwoods is committed to offering a wide variety of accessible learning opportunities, including online classes and other distance education options, events, and engaging programs to our community in Humboldt, Del Norte and the Western edge of Trinity Counties. From Campus Pride Month to hosting Festejando, and the Latino Film Festival, CR offers new and diverse learning opportunities for all. As denoted in CR's Core Values, the college is committed to a creating a culture of participatory governance and environmental awareness, including civic engagement and voter empowerment, which is foundational to CR's identity.

In collaboration with the California Secretary of State and respective registrar offices, the Eureka campus was a designated vote center for the 2020 General Election. The CEVE Workgroup will develop this as an ongoing and sustained relationship.

Our President, Dr. Keith Flamer, is committed to ensuring that our students are prepared and active citizens in the democratic process and has signed the ALL IN Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation and authorized the college to participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

Landscape:

College of the Redwoods (CR) has one of the most stunning campuses in the country. We are located in Humboldt, Del Norte and the Western edge of Trinity Counties, bordered by the Pacific Ocean, and home to powerful rivers, lakes, and impressive wildlife. The area is also world renowned for its state and national parks. The main campus is located in Eureka,

California, with additional instructional sites in Crescent City, CA, the Hoopa Reservation, and Pelican Bay State Prison. In addition to offering 86 degrees and certificates, the College provides a broad range of Community Education and Non Credit Education courses. CR has over 485 employees in four locations across its 10,000 square mile service area. The remote and rural region has a population of over 177,000 people, including over 23 Tribal Nations and a significant Hispanic/Latino population.

The California Constitution recognizes two types of counties: general law counties and charter counties. General law counties adhere to state law as to the number and duties of county elected officials. Charter counties, on the other hand, have a limited degree of “home rule” authority that may provide for the election, compensation, terms, removal, and salary of the governing board; for the election or appointment (except the sheriff, district attorney, and assessor who must be elected), compensation, terms, and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers; and for consolidation and segregation of county offices. Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity counties are general law counties.

One challenge facing our community is its vast rural area, which may prohibit some members from traveling to polling locations. Another challenge is the ability to find out information on where to turn in your ballots or where to vote on Election Day. Since each county is responsible for making the information available to the public, not all counties in our region have information readily accessible so that our community can be more aware and educated on the issues that matter locally, statewide, and nationally. This CEVE plan aims to help increase voter awareness, voter registration, and participation.

California Civic and Election Dates:

Please note that all active registered voters in California will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2024 Primary and General Elections. Make sure to register or update your voter registration information as needed at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/?t=s>.

2024 Primary Election (March 5, 2024)

- Monday, February 5, 2024: No later than this date, county elections officials shall begin mailing each registered voter a vote-by-mail ballot.
- Monday, February 5, 2024: Counties offer early voting sites - to find a location and available times, please visit <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov>.
- Tuesday, February 20, 2024: Last day to register to vote online or by mail ahead of the Primary Election.
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Same Day Voter Registration is available - voters can “conditionally” register and vote at a county elections office or polling location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.

- Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Last day for county elections officials to send a registered voter a vote-by-mail ballot.
- Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Primary Election - polls shall be open throughout the state from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

2024 General Election (November 5, 2024)

- Monday, October 7: No later than this date, county elections officials shall begin mailing each registered voter a vote-by-mail ballot.
- Tuesday, October 8, 2024: Counties offer early voting sites - to find a location and available times, please visit <https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov>.
- Monday, October 21, 2024: Last day to register to vote online or by mail ahead of the General Election.
- Tuesday, October 22, 2024 – Tuesday, November 5, 2024: Same Day Voter Registration is available - voters can “conditionally” register and vote at a county elections office or polling location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day.
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024: Last day for county elections officials to send a registered voter a vote-by-mail ballot.
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024: General Election - polls are open throughout the state from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For information on Same Day Voter Registration, please visit:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/same-day-reg>

For specific dates and deadlines in a county, please contact that specific county’s elections office:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices>

For information on dates for upcoming elections and special elections, please visit:

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections>

Vote by Mail

Pursuant to Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the Elections Code, a voter may apply to vote by mail at any time until after the **seventh** day prior to the election, and that a vote by mail voter may vote

in person at the county office of elections official or at a satellite location established by the county elections official on or before the day of the election.

2024 Key Civic and Election Dates:

Ballot Bowl 2024, Monday August 12, 2024 – Tuesday, November 5, 2024

What is the California University and College Ballot Bowl?

The California University and College Ballot Bowl is not just a competition but a platform where higher education campuses can showcase their commitment to civic engagement and voter participation. It's a chance for us to stand out and make a difference. The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project hosts the Ballot Bowl only during an even numbered year ahead of the general election.

The purpose of the California University and College Ballot Bowl is to:

- Engage students to become active participants in our democracy.
- Motivate campuses to adopt and implement policies that boost civic engagement and participation.
- Showcase best practices and civic engagement efforts on California campuses.

How to Play

For a comprehensive overview of the competition, view the [2024 California University and College Ballot Bowl Outreach Toolkit](#).

Eligible campuses include:

- 116+ California Community Colleges (CCC)
- 23 California State Universities (CSU)
- 10 University of California campuses (UC)
- 80+ Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU)

The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project tracks college student voter registration with the following tools:

Online voter registration

- <https://registertovote.ca.gov/?t=s>
- [TurboVote](#)
- castudentvote.org

**Registration for TurboVote and castudentvote.org will be tracked through the college student voter registration link.*

How can your campus win?

The California University and College Ballot Bowl competition provides an opportunity for campuses to showcase their commitment to civic engagement and voter participation. Campuses are awarded points based on the categories below. Each category is worth up to 234 points.

- **Categories:**
 - Number of students registered to vote
 - Percentage of student body registered to vote
 - Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan (CVEAP) Score
- **Awards:**
 - *Overall Champion*
 - The overall champion is determined by the college with the highest total number of points accumulated between all three categories.
 - *Category Winners*
 - There will be four winners per category. Each winner will be from a different higher education system.

Show your school spirit and help College of the Redwoods show the rest of the state how we do things here behind the Redwood curtain!

Register to vote NOW at one of the following links:

- <https://registertovote.ca.gov/?t=s>
- [TurboVote](#)
- castudentvote.org

2024 Other Key Civic and Election Dates

National Voter Registration Day

- **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, is National Voter Registration Day. We will host district-wide opportunities for students to register to vote on this day. People will be stationed on campus to assist you with registering for the General Election on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. To help increase the number of students who are registered voters and to highlight our civic engagement efforts, College of the Redwoods is participating in the California University and College Ballot Bowl!

Early Voting

- Early voting days begin **October 6, 2024 through November 4, 2024** pursuant to Section 3018 of the Elections Code. The dates, times, and locations for early voting may be confirmed on the internet website of the Secretary of State or at the county elections office.

National Voter Education Week

- National Voter Education Week is **Monday, October 7, 2024 – Friday, October 11, 2024.**

Vote Early Day 2024

- National Vote Early Day 2024 is **Tuesday, October 29, 2024.**

Election Hero Day

- Election Hero Day is California is **Wednesday, November 6, 2024.**

Campus Demographics

College of the Redwoods is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2024. Our 2023-2024 campus demographics are as follows:

2023 - 2024 Academic Year - Headcount of Students In-State vs. Out of State

Category	Student Headcount	%
In-state	6,764	97.6%
Out of state	168	2.4%
Grand Total:	6,932	100.0%

Note: Students are counted as in-state if they have established CA residency, otherwise they are counted as out of state.

2023 - 2024 Academic Year - Headcount of Students Residential vs. Commuter

Category	Student Headcount	%
Residential	196	2.8%
Commuter	6,736	97.2%
Grand Total:	6,932	100.0%

Note: Students are counted as "Residential" if they lived in on-campus / Bear River student housing during AY 2023-2024. Otherwise, they are counted as "Commuter."

2023 - 2024 Academic Year - Student Headcount by IPEDS Race / Ethnicity

IPEDS Race/Ethnicity	Student Headcount	%
American Indian	377	5.4%
Asian	176	2.5%

Black or African American	204	2.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	53	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino	1,297	18.7%
Two or More Races	608	8.8%
Unknown	777	11.2%
White	3,440	49.6%
Grand Total:	6,932	100.0%

2023 - 2024 Academic Year - Student Headcount by Gender

Gender	Student Headcount	%
Female	3,482	50.2%
Male	3,246	46.8%
Uncollected/Unreported	204	2.9%
Grand Total:	6,932	100.0%

2023 - 2024 Academic Year - Student Headcount by Age Group

Age Group	Student Headcount	%
17 and younger	804	11.6%
18-20	1,480	21.4%
21-24	991	14.3%
25-29	831	12.0%
30-39	1,439	20.8%
40-49	815	11.8%
50 and older	572	8.3%
Grand Total:	6,932	100.0%

Our current voting data is unknown; however, we have recently joined the NSLVE and will be able to establish a baseline. Once that baseline has been established, we will work with ALL IN and other partners to increase voter registration and voter participation amongst our students. We have recently authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to access campus voting data so that we can better understand the landscape and make impactful goals that help our students become informed citizens who understand the importance of their role in the democratic process.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

Goal I: Build stronger relationships with the campus and instructional sites within the District

Specific	Coordinate efforts between the Eureka campus and the two other instructional sites to meet AB 963 requirements.
Measurable	Evaluate and reestablish partnerships each year to ensure the partnership achieves its goal.
Achievable	Host active and/or passive programs at each campus location-that are tied to national civic/voter events as per AB 963.
Relevant	Aligns with the mission of College of the Redwoods and encourages students to think critically and actively participate in the civic engagement process, which may challenge their perspectives and values.
Time-Based	Plan nonpartisan calendar events during the Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025 semesters. Implement in Fall 2024.
Inclusive	Partner with our diverse faculty, student organizations, and community partners to ensure all voices are represented.
Equitable	Collaborate with EOPS/CARE/NextUp, DSPS, TRiO, and the Basic Needs Center to connect students to civic engagement and voter empowerment opportunities.

Goal II: Sustain partnerships and collaboration with community partners and student organizations

Specific	Create partnership with the League of Women Voters-Humboldt along with students and faculty.
Measurable	Create at least one formal partnership with a community organization and the student body.
Achievable	The CEVE Workgroup will co-host at least one event with each group and invite such groups to be members of the CEVE Workgroup
Relevant	Create formal partnerships with outside groups to model civic engagement by creating more robust connections to promote political awareness and create avenues for student groups to organize.
Time-Based	Sustain these partnerships from at least 2024 to 2026.
Inclusive	Continue partnership with the bipartisan group, composed of diverse constituents who are mindful of intersectional identities.
Equitable	CEVE Workgroup prioritizes partnerships and collaborations have demonstrated records of voter empowerment, equitable practices, and nonpartisan civic engagement.

Goal III: Increase 2026 voter registration from 2025 baseline data provided by NSLVE by 10%

Specific	Use data received in 2025 to increase voter participation in 2026 by 10%.
Measurable	Create at least one formal partnership with a community organization and the student body to help achieve this outcome.
Achievable	The CEVE Workgroup will host at least four events within the district to increase student voter registration.

Relevant	Create formal partnerships with outside groups to help students realize the importance of registering to vote.
Time-Based	Create these partnerships in 2024 and have them in place by spring 2025.
Inclusive	Continue partnership with the bipartisan group, composed of diverse constituents who are mindful of intersectional identities.
Equitable	CEVE Workgroup will prioritize partnerships and collaborations that have demonstrated records of voter empowerment, equitable practices, and nonpartisan civic engagement.

Strategy:

College of the Redwoods will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation:

Civic Engagement Events

National Voter Registration Day

- **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, is National Voter Registration Day. We will host district-wide opportunities for students to register to vote on this day.

Part of our CVEAP also requires that we host at least *three* nonpartisan civic and voter engagement activities prior to the general election. To help ensure our students are empowered and engaged civically, we will be hosting the Dolores Huerta Civic and Voter Engagement Speaker Series starting *September 18, 2024*. Each week, a different speaker will talk about different topics geared around civic engagement, voter education, and voter participation. These talks will be hybrid and recorded so that students and the CR community will have the information needed to be prepared and actively engaged participants in the democratic process.

Dolores Huerta Civic Engagement Speaker Series Schedule

- **September 18, 2024-12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: How I Got Into Government feat. Juan Pablo Cervantes, Humboldt County Clerk, Recorder, Registrar**
- **September 24, 2024-11:00 am – 12:00 pm: What’s on Your Ballot? feat. Genevieve Serna, Humboldt County Office of Elections Administrative Analyst**
- **October 2, 2024-The Road to Elections feat. Genevieve Serna, Humboldt County Office of Elections Administrative Analyst & Nicole Goldbach, Humboldt County Office of Elections Manager 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

- **October 8, 2024- Project 2025 feat. Dr. Ryan Emenaker, Professor, Political Science, College of the Redwoods, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**
- **October 15, 2024- Marginalized Voices feat. Mark Taylor, Coordinator, Project Rebound & Matthew McKinley, Student Support Specialist II, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**
- **October 22, 2024-Student Voices feat. Danny Jimenez, ASCR VP of Communications, Christopher Wilson, ASCR Senator, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

Other Civic Engagement Events

- **October 29, 2024-Vote Early Day, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
- **November 4, 2024-National Election Hero Day, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Collaboration with Cal Poly Humboldt

We are also partnering with Cal Poly Humboldt on several events simultaneously on our campuses. We will use these opportunities to engage, inform, and register students to vote. Here are the dates and our planned activities.

- **September 10, 2024-Tentative* Presidential Debate** - will transition to a voter education event if no debate. Host Campus Watch Party in Movie Lounge/KBR@ CPH and CR Theater
- Voter Registration
- **October 1, 2024 -Vice President Debate** -Host Campus Watch Party in Movie Lounge/KBR@ CPH and CR Theater
- Voter Registration
- Ballot overview with Elections Commissioner
- **October 3, 2024-Trivia Night! It's a Political Party!** - Election themed trivia night. Movie Lounge/KBR @ CPH and CR Theater

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- Evaluate civic engagement activities and impacts by collecting and assessing data on student voter registration and voter turnout in partnership with the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engaging (NSLVE) to strengthen and implement our best practices. The two primary metrics we will track and evaluate are voter registration and voter participation.

- Provide students with the instrument to evaluate voter empowerment events/programs. Link to evaluation form will be sent to all participants for virtual events.
- Ensure civic engagement and voter empowerment are sustained by cultivating campus and off-campus partners, such as the League of Women Voters. Cultivating civic engagement includes providing campus incentives for carrying out this plan through all the “All In Democracy Challenge.”
- Work with the California Secretary of State to properly implement and evaluate College of the Redwoods’ CEVE Plan.
- The CEVE Workgroup will elevate the action plan every semester to ensure that goals are met and accomplished.

Reporting:

The College of the Redwoods CEVE action plan and NSLVE data will be shared publicly via the CEV webpage. The CEVE Workgroup will work with the Communications Office to showcase accomplishments via social media platforms and co-write press releases. Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN’s website.