



Eastern Washington University
ALL IN CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE
Action Plan 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through collaboration between College of Social Sciences, Student Life, Campus Life, ASEWU, Eastern Washington University (EWU) implemented its action plan for the 2020 election in September, October, and November of 2020. This team led the implementation through coordinating campus-wide efforts. The three (3) core goals of our plan: (1) educate students on the issues surrounding this election; (2) provide an opportunity to register/vote on campus, and; (3) support services leading up to the election and after. The Division of Student Affairs worked in partnership with ASEWU, College of Social Sciences, Counseling Services, Spokane County and others to plan and execute the action steps outlined below. This is EWU's first year participating in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

LEADERSHIP

Student Affairs has worked collaboratively on this action plan with faculty and staff from the College of Social Sciences, Student Life, Campus Life, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Marketing and Communications, and students involved in student government (ASEWU). The Eagles Engage team developed the initial plan and pulled everything together from other units on campus into a central civic engagement website, www.ewu.edu/vote.

The Chair of this working team is a staff member from the Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership Office. The Campus Life team, in collaboration with ASEWU, have taken the lead in making sure that students on campus and in the Cheney community know how to register to vote and the opportunity to vote on campus in our student union. Eastern Washington University believes that civic engagement is an important part of the student experience and encourages all members of the EWU community to be active and involved citizens.

COMMITMENT

Eastern Washington University has a strong reputation of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni serving the Cheney/Spokane communities. Over 100,000 alumni work and serve in their communities within the Inland Northwest after graduating from EWU. The vision statement of EWU states "EWU is a driving force for the culture, economy, workforce and vitality of

Washington state.” As an institution with over 50% of its students identifying as first-generation college students, we are focused on helping our graduates have meaningful contributions to both their career fields and their communities. We have maintained a strong commitment to educate and engage students when it comes to elections. EWU has partnered every two (2) years with the Associated Press and hosted them on our campus since 2000.

LANDSCAPE

Navigating COVID-19 this past Spring and Fall, EWU knew we would need to approach the elections from multiple perspectives when developing education, engagement opportunities, and support for our students. With significant changes at our institution, EWU’s Dean of Students, Sam Armstrong pulled all the campus initiatives together to develop a plan and be participants in the ALL-IN-Challenge and NSLVE. One of the barriers for EWU has been a designated staff position dedicated to civic engagement. We have relied on student government, faculty, and staff to lead these efforts. Not having a dedicated position or home for civic engagement make it difficult as we have transitions within the students, faculty, and staff.

STRATEGY

Our strategy for Fall 2020 includes the following:

- Build a central website for students, faculty, and staff regarding civic engagement and the election www.ewu.edu/vote.
- Implement a Student Engagement HUB. In collaboration with Spokane County our student government (ASEWU) will be hosting onsite voter registration, printing of ballots, and a voter drop off box in our student union the day of the election (November 3rd).
- Continue our partnership with the Associated Press. We have partnered with them every two years since 2000 to assist with the election. Students are working remotely this year but in the past the Associated Press would be onsite at EWU.

EDUCATION FOCUS

Oct 19th

Teach-in from 11-11.50am

Securing your vote

Vicky Dalton, CPA, Spokane County Auditor

A narrative about voter and mail-in ballot fraud, as well as efforts to reduce the voter accessibility, is increasingly being pushed in some quarters. This presentation will discuss elections administration, including the security of ballots, integrity of the voter registration and ballot handling processes, and describe some efforts to make voting more accessible.

Keynote Address from noon to 1pm

Your Future, Your Vote

Breean Beggs, J.D., City Council President, Spokane City

Oct 20th

Teach-in from 11-11.50am

Private Militias and the State: Past, Present, and Future

John Collins, PhD., Chertok Endowed Professor and Senior Lecturer of History, EWU

This presentation will explore the rise of private militias within American society and their relationship to the Constitution, in particular to the first amendment. It will discuss how private militias have made their presence felt during protests in many American cities, and their potential impact at polling stations and in the aftermath of a contested election. It also discusses legal issues relating to militias, including the state's right to police its citizens.

Virtual Town Hall from noon to 1pm

Chief Loren Culp, *Candidate for Office of Governor*

Oct 21st

Teach-in from 11-11.50am

Be Strong, But Not Too Strong: Gendered Politics & American Elections

Jacki Tyler, PhD., Asst. Prof of History and Director of Social Studies Education Program, EWU

This presentation will address the ways in which female candidates are described and evaluated in American elections. Beginning with an overview of gendered discourse in American politics, we will explore how the portrayal of female candidates has changed in recent decades, as well as the challenges women face when running for an elected office in the United States today.

Virtual Town Hall from noon to 1pm

Dave Wilson, *Candidate for WA 5th Congressional District*

Oct 22nd

Teach-in from 11-11.50am

Make Your Vote Count – Addressing Voter Suppression in the United States

Travis N. Ridout, PhD.

Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy
Director, School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs
Washington State University
Co-director, Wesleyan Media Project

This presentation will explore the many ways in which voting rights have expanded over time in the United States—and have contracted in recent years, at least in some places. These efforts to suppress the vote have occurred through state legislation, because of court decisions and by the efforts of campaigns themselves. At the same time, some states have taken dramatic steps toward making the vote more accessible in recent years, such as through automatic voter registration and “vote at home” ballots.

Virtual Town Hall from noon to 1pm

Gov. Jay Inslee, *Candidate for Office of Governor*

Oct 23rd

Teach-in from 11-11.50am

“Why not our votes? The rationale for the Electoral College”

Kevin Pirch, PhD., Professor of Political Science, EWU

Immediate Past President, and Ex-Officio, Pacific Northwest Political Science Association

Every four years, the American public is reminded of the indirect nature of Presidential elections. Despite being unpopular in modern times, the founders believed that the system was near perfect. This talk will explore the reasons why the Founders chose to have an indirect presidential election, the benefits and the drawbacks of the system.

EWU recognizes that the 2020 election has the potential to cause additional stress for students as they attempt to complete their course work. We’ve put together a number of resources for students to access in the lead up to and the aftermath of the election. Some of these resources are dedicated to helping you find a place to process your thoughts and feelings with others. Other resources are designed to provide an alternative set of activities for students who’ve just had enough ‘political stuff’ and want to do something other than talk about the election.

PROCESSING FOCUS

CAPS – LET’S TALK ABOUT THE ELECTION

- Monday Nov 2, 9-10am | [TAO Connect](#)
- Tuesday Nov 3, 11:30-12:30 | [TAO Connect](#)
- Wednesday Nov 4, 3-4pm | [TAO Connect](#)
- Monday Nov 9, 9-10am | [TAO Connect](#)
- Tuesday Nov 10, 11:30-12:30 | [TAO Connect](#)

- Monday Nov 16, 9-10am | [TAO Connect](#)
- Tuesday Nov 17, 11:30-12:30 | [TAO Connect](#)
- Wednesday Nov 18, 3-4pm | [TAO Connect](#)

MULTICULTURAL CENTER

The Multicultural Center will host a Zoom peer support space on November 4th for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color. The purpose of our virtual space is to provide BIPOC students a place to freely discuss and process their thoughts/feelings regarding the 2020 election. The space will be facilitated by our Equity Educators and is reserved exclusively for BIPOC students. Zoom Link: [MCC Election Processing Space](#)

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Office for Diversity & Inclusion will maintain additional availability for students on November 4th and November 5th. Any student needing support and who wishes to reach out and talk about the election is encouraged to call 509.359.4705.

PRIDE CENTER

The Pride Center will use its existing virtual lounge spaces (<https://inside.ewu.edu/pridecenter/virtual-lounges>) to provide processing spaces for students during and after the election. In addition, a Zoom session ([click here](#)) will be available on November 3rd for students. Please log in using your EWU login.

WAGE CENTER

On November 3rd, the WAGE Center will host a Contemporary Issues in Feminist Research presentation by Russell Kolts, PhD entitled “*True Strength: Compassion, Gender, and What it Really Means to be Strong*” from 12:00 to 12:50. Students can attend virtually via Zoom [HERE](#).

In addition, the WAGE Center will host virtual processing sessions

- November 4th: 9am -2pm (<https://ewu.zoom.us/j/98256284119>)
- November 5th: 11am – 12pm (<https://ewu.zoom.us/j/99176471533>)

DISTRACTION/STRESS RELIEF/CONNECTION FOCUS

- Tuesday 11/3 @ 4:00pm-6:00pm Archery Tag
- Tuesday 11/3 @ 6:00pm-8:00pm Smash Brothers Tournament
- Tuesday 11/3 @ 6:00pm-8:00pm Game Night
- Wednesday 11/4 @ 7:00pm - 9:00pm Open Pool Slackline
- Wednesday 11/4 @ 4:00pm - 7:00pm Club & Org Fair
- Thursday 11/5 @ 11:00am - 3:00pm Free Mountain Bike Rentals
- Friday 11/6 @ 5:00pm - 9:00pm Sunset Hike at Palisades Park

- Friday 11/6 @ 6:00pm - 8:00pm Escape Room
- Saturday 11/7 @ 12:00pm - 4:00pm Mountain Biking Day Trip at Cheney Wetlands

We will continue to foster our current partnerships and programs as we move forward. EWU has built a strong civic engagement presence on its campus and by identifying a staff member within Student Activities Involvement and Leadership to facilitate our efforts even more strategically will enhance our student's commitment.

GOALS

LONG-TERM GOALS

1. Assess what students want and need in terms of civic and voter engagement opportunities on campus, with a primary focus on, how to engage voter registration and participation in under- served populations.
2. Partner with other university departments and faculty to plan and execute a "Eags Vote Day" where students can learn more about voter and civic engagement.
3. Partner with organizations in the Cheney/Spokane community to provide more volunteer opportunities for our students
4. Implement voter engagement presentations into our first year experience course starting Fall 2021
5. Continue partnership with the Associate Press

SHORT-TERM GOALS

1. Establish Goals/Metrics for future planning
2. Get 80% participating in voting by our EWU athletic teams
3. Expand resources and opportunities on the www.ewu.edu/vote website

REPORTING & EVALUATION

We will post this plan, as well as the campus NSLVE reports, to the www.ewu.edu/vote webpage and share the links with the campus community. This plan will evolve as we continue to develop coordinated efforts by having a point person in the future. All participating individuals and campus units will be requested to share attendance numbers, voter registration numbers, and planned events with the SAIL team so that the campaign can be fully documented and evaluated in the future. Athletics will keep track of how many athletes vote and we will expand this to clubs/organizations in the future. We will use the NSLVE report to establish a bench mark that we can set future goals from the data within that report. This plan, its modifications, and data on its effectiveness, will be shared with the VP for Student Affairs and members of the planning team.