



**Eastern Washington University  
ALL IN CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE  
Action Plan 2022**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The AVP for Student Equity, Belonging, and Voice in Student Affairs is the lead for EWU's action plan. In partnership with College of Social Sciences Faculty, Director of Student Engagement, and ASEWU (Student Government), Eastern Washington University (EWU) implemented its 2020 action plan. This team led the implementation through coordinating campus-wide efforts.

The three core goals of our plan were:

- (1) educate students on the issues surrounding this election;
- (2) provide an opportunity to register/vote on campus; and
- (3) increase student voter participation.

The 2022 action plan will be implemented on EWU's main campus (Cheney) and last through the 2024 Election. EWU is planning to hire a full-time advisor for student government this Spring, and this position will have duties regarding student voter engagement. The implementation of this plan will be primary through the work of the advisor for student government and ASEWU.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Nick Franco, AVP for Student Equity, Belonging, and Voice, has worked collaboratively on this action plan with faculty and staff from the College of Social Sciences, Chris Hoppe, Director of Student Engagement and Recreation, and student leaders involved in student government (ASEWU). We partner with Vicky Dalton and Mike McLaughlin from Spokane County Auditor's office to host the "Student Engagement Hub," a voting day facilitated in our student union building. Student leaders from ASEWU cycle off this team each year and we are hoping that the hiring of a full-time advisor for student government will provide consistency moving forward in our planning and execution of the plan.

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 have 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 academic year, EWU stakeholders 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, Dr. Sam Armstrong, pulled all the campus initiatives together to develop a plan and be participants in the ALL-IN-Challenge and NSLVE in 2020. There has been a hand off to Nick Franco, AVP for Student Equity, Belonging, and Voice. 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. We are excited to be adding these responsibilities to a full-time advisor for student government with the anticipated start date being July 2022.

## **NSLVE DATA**

## Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

### YOUR INSTITUTION

**71.3%**

2020 Voting Rate

**+22.2**

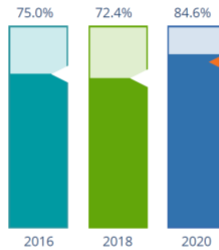
Change From 2016

### ALL INSTITUTIONS

**66%**

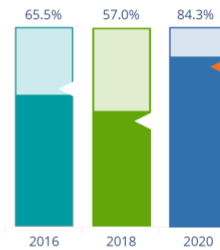
2020 Voting Rate

### REGISTRATION RATE



The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

### VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the “yield” rate.

## By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	41%	34%	67%
22-24	46%	39%	69%
25-29	53%	45%	68%
30-39	60%	58%	74%
40-49	77%	64%	84%
50+	77%	74%	89%

## GOALS

### LONG-TERM GOALS

- Partner with other university departments and faculty to plan and execute an “Eags Vote Day” where students can learn more about voter and civic engagement.
- Partner with organizations in the Cheney/Spokane community to provide more volunteer opportunities for our students.
- Implement voter engagement presentations into our first-year experience course starting Fall 2023.

- Continue partnership with the Associated Press.

## SHORT-TERM GOALS

- Establish race and ethnicity metrics for future planning by Fall 2023.
- Expand resources and opportunities on the [www.ewu.edu/vote](http://www.ewu.edu/vote) website by Fall 2023.

## STRATEGY

Our strategy for 2022-2024 Action Plan includes the following:

- Build a central website for students, faculty, and staff regarding civic engagement and the election: [www.ewu.edu/vote](http://www.ewu.edu/vote).
- Continue expanding the Student Engagement Hub. In collaboration with Spokane County and EWU Information Technology, our student government (ASEWU) has hosted onsite voter registration, printing of ballots, and a voter drop off box in our student union the day of the election. We hope to expand our marketing and communications of this opportunity and increase our voter turnout.
- Continue our partnership with the Associated Press. We have partnered with them every two years since 2000 to assist with the election.
- Develop education focused teach-ins for the Fall 2024 election. Possible teach-in topics include:
  - Securing your vote*
  - Your Future, Your Vote*
  - Private Militias and the State: Past, Present, and Future*
  - Be Strong, But Not Too Strong: Gendered Politics & American Elections*
  - Make Your Vote Count – Addressing Voter Suppression in the United States*
  - “Why not our votes? The rationale for the Electoral College”*

EWU recognizes that the 2024 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 aftermath of the election. Some of these resources are dedicated to helping students find a place to process their 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

### MULTICULTURAL CENTER

The Multicultural Center will host a peer support space for Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color. The purpose of the space will be to provide BIPOC students a place to freely discuss and process their thoughts/feelings regarding the 2024 election.

### **PRIDE CENTER**

The Pride Center will host a peer support space for LGBTQ+ students after the election. The purpose of the space will be to provide LGBTQ+ students a place to freely discuss and process their thoughts/feelings regarding the 2024 election.

### **DISTRACTION/STRESS RELIEF/CONNECTION FOCUS**

#### **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RECREATION**

The Student Engagement and Recreation team will provide programming to assist students in stress relief and facilitate community. The events will range from entertainment to recreation and the outdoors.

### **REPORTING & EVALUATION**

We will post this plan, as well as the campus NSLVE reports, to the [www.ewu.edu/vote](http://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 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 benchmark that we can use for future goals. This plan, its modifications, and data on its effectiveness, will be shared with the VP for Student Affairs and members of the planning team.