



Farmingdale
State College
State University of New York

NEXUS CENTER OFFICE OF
**COMMUNITY &
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

ALL IN Campus
Democracy
Challenge

Farmingdale State College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Yetunde Odugbesan-Omede, Ph.D

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Farmingdale State College in New York 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 Farmingdale State College for the 2024 election are:

The goals for Farmingdale State College's 2024 election initiative reflect a commitment to fostering civic engagement, particularly among the student population. Each goal is aligned with enhancing nonpartisan democratic participation and creating a more informed and active student body. Our goals are the following:

1. Increase Voter Engagement Among Students

The primary objective is to boost awareness and enthusiasm for voting among students. Our ongoing plan and strategy is to implement educational campaigns, holding discussions on the importance of civic duty, and emphasizing the tangible impacts of voting on both national and local issues. We have held numerous forums and voter education events to better help our student understand how their voices can shape policies and the future. Additionally, the college will leverage social media campaigns, peer-to-peer outreach, and faculty involvement to emphasize the significance of voter participation, thereby driving higher turnout.

2. Create a Nonpartisan Student Voter Coalition: Ramp Up the Vote! And Ramp Up the Vote Student Ambassadors

A nonpartisan student voter coalition will focus on bringing together students from diverse political backgrounds, promoting dialogue, and collaborating to ensure that the voting process remains inclusive and equitable. Delivering on these plans we created Ramp Up the Vote. Ramp Up the Vote! is a nonpartisan voter outreach initiative spearheaded by the FSC Office of Community Engagement at Farmingdale State College (FSC). The program aims to increase student participation in local, state, and national elections by fostering civic education, raising awareness about voter registration deadlines, and emphasizing the importance of every vote.

Through these efforts, Ramp Up the Vote! aims to cultivate a culture of civic responsibility at FSC, empowering students to become active participants in their communities and the democratic process. Delivering further on our action plan we established the Ramp Up the Vote

Student Ambassadors will visit classes and on campus events to pass out voting information, do peer to peer voter registration and champion our social media campaigns. This will and attend a voting 411 workshop. maintaining a nonpartisan stance, the coalition would work to unify the student body under the shared goal of increasing political awareness and involvement, regardless of political affiliation.

3. Increase the Number of Voter Registration Opportunities for Students

A critical goal for us was to expand voter registration for students. We expanded Constitution Day this year to a week long celebration which included daily voter registration drives on campus. We partnered with League of Women Voters-Huntington Chapter, Nassau County Board of Elections and a number of external civic partners to be present at more campus events to to amplify our efforts. In addition to increasing the number of voter registration opportunities we ensured that we created an online platform to provide clear instructions about the voting process, and offering campus wide support to ensure they meet registration deadlines in order to increase the number of students eligible to vote. These plans in motion will ultimately foster a culture of active participation on campus. By focusing on these three goals, Farmingdale State College aims to establish itself as a leader in promoting democratic engagement and ensuring its student body is both well-informed and actively involved in the electoral process.

Leadership:

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

FSC Campus Individuals and Groups

- Laura Joseph, Ed.D., Senior Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Rena Varghese, Esq., Executive Director, Nexus Center for Applied Learning and Career Development
- Yetunde Odugbesan-Omede, Ph.D., Director, Office of the Community and Civic Engagement; Co-Chair of the Community Engagement Committee
- Shahpar Islam, Instructional Support Associate, Office of Community and Civic Engagement
- FSC Long Island Educational Opportunity Fund
- Kevin Jordan, Ed.D, Vice President Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence
- FSC Community Engagement Committee:
 - Kate Calabrese, Office of Finance
 - Kimberly Chong, College Prevention Specialist
 - Matthew Colson, Vice President of Development and Communication
 - Karen Contino, Government Relations & Deputy Communications Director
 - LaNina Cook, PhD., Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
 - Deanna Devlin, Assistant Professor Criminal Justice
 - Michael Figuccio, PhD., Associate Professor and Chair of Psychology Department
 - Keri Franklin, Assistant Vice President for Finance & Controller
 - Dylan Gafarian, PhD., Director, Research Aligned Mentorship Program
 - Karen Gelles, Director, Greenley Library
 - Ramon Gonzalez, PhD., Associate Professor of Aviation
 - Wenhai Li, PhD., Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Technology
 - Patricia Lind-Gonzalez, Chief Officer for Institutional Research and Effectiveness

- Jennifer Jaiswal, Director, Faculty Center
- Lukas Miedrich, Director, Office of Student Affairs
- Michael Motta, PhD., Associate Professor of Politics
- Jairo Orozco, President, Student Government Association
- Frank Rampello, Student Advocate
- Maia Roseval, Director, Office of Sustainability
- Deana Ward, Senior Associate Director/SWA Athletics
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Civic Partners

- League of Women Voters-Huntington Chapter
- Nassau County Board of Elections
- Campus Compact
- ALL In to Vote
- New York State Board of Elections
- Elected officials in state and local office

Commitment:

Farmingdale State College has made a strong commitment to student voter engagement, which is interwoven into the institution’s culture, mission, and academic structure. The college emphasizes civic responsibility and democratic participation as core components of its mission, aiming to develop students who are actively engaged in their communities. The Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE), created less than three years ago, is a pivotal part of this initiative. The OCCE provides resources, programming, and support to encourage student involvement in civic activities, including voter registration and education. This office not only drives voter engagement but also offers students opportunities to participate in local, state, and national elections, as well as broader community service projects.

In terms of curriculum and learning outcomes, Farmingdale integrates civic engagement into its educational framework. The college encourages students to develop a broad understanding of their role in a democratic society through interdisciplinary courses that focus on political science, public policy, and ethics. The college emphasizes civic responsibility and democratic participation as core components of its mission, aiming to develop students who are actively engaged in their communities. The Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE), created in 2022, is a pivotal part of this initiative. The OCCE provides resources, programming, and support to encourage student involvement in civic activities, including voter registration and education. This office not only drives voter engagement but also offers students opportunities to participate in local, state, and national elections, as well as broader community service projects.

In terms of curriculum and learning outcomes, Farmingdale integrates civic engagement into its educational framework. The college encourages students to develop a broad understanding of their role in a democratic society through interdisciplinary courses that focus on political science, public policy, and ethics. Co-curricular activities further promote these values, with student organizations often partnering with the OCCE to host events, debates, and voter drives. By aligning its mission, learning outcomes, curriculum, and co-curricular activities with civic

engagement, Farmingdale State College fosters a campus culture where student voter participation is not only encouraged but seen as an essential part of the educational experience. For more details, I recommend visiting [Farmingdale State College's Office of Community and Civic Engagement](<http://www.farmingdale.edu/occe>) for current programs and initiatives.

How is the commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement communicated to the campus community?

Farmingdale State College communicates its commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement through a comprehensive strategy that involves key offices, including the Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE), and the Office of Marketing and Communications. This effort is reinforced by the college's strategic plan and mission, which emphasize the importance of civic responsibility and democratic participation. The establishment of OCCE marked a significant step in expanding civic engagement efforts across campus. OCCE plays a central role in organizing voter education initiatives, nonpartisan voter registration drives, and civic forums.

These efforts are designed to engage students in the democratic process while maintaining a neutral stance on political issues. The Office of Marketing and Communications amplifies these efforts by promoting civic engagement events, resources, and opportunities across multiple communication channels, ensuring widespread visibility and participation. Through social media, campus newsletters, and digital platforms, the college keeps students informed about election-related deadlines, nonpartisan information, and ways to get involved in civic life. Civic engagement is also embedded in Farmingdale's strategic plan and mission, where the college commits to preparing students for responsible citizenship. By integrating democratic engagement into the curriculum, co-curricular activities, and applied learning opportunities, the institution encourages students to understand and fulfill their civic responsibilities. This collaborative approach ensures that nonpartisan democratic engagement is consistently communicated and promoted throughout the campus, creating a culture that values active and informed participation in the democratic process.

In addition to the establishment of the Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE), Farmingdale State College has further strengthened its commitment to civic and community engagement through the creation of the Carnegie Community Engagement Committee. This 24-member committee, composed of students, faculty, and staff, plays a crucial role in institutionalizing community engagement across the campus. The committee focuses on integrating community engagement into the core of the college's operations, ensuring that civic and community involvement are not only encouraged but also systematically embedded within the institution's framework. By intertwining the mandates of both community and civic engagement, the college has been able to create a holistic approach that connects classroom learning with real-world community service and democratic participation. This alignment allows for collaborative initiatives that promote student voter engagement, community-based projects, and partnerships with local organizations. The committee's work enhances the efforts of the OCCE and helps further the college's strategic goals related to preparing students for lifelong civic participation. Through the collaborative efforts of the Carnegie Community Engagement Committee, OCCE, and the Office of Marketing and Communications, Farmingdale State

College has successfully fostered a campus culture where civic and community engagement are key components of the student experience and institutional mission.

Farmingdale State College does have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Previously, our institution has developed and submitted an action plan to ALL IN for 2020, which can be found on our ALL IN campus page: <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/farmingdale-state-college/>

Landscape:

Farmingdale State College is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. Farmingdale State College has an enrollment of 10,018 students (undergraduate and graduate), making it one of the largest colleges in the SUNY system. Our student body is diverse, with significant representation of students from various racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. About 30-35% of the student population identifies as minority students. Farmingdale State College (FSC) is both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI). FSC is also has designation as a Higher Education Excellence and Diversity (HEED) campus and received the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification for excellence in community engagement. At FSC we have a fairly even gender distribution, with a slightly higher proportion of male students with most of our students coming from New York, especially Long Island and the surrounding regions. As a public institution within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, FSC adheres to SUNY's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), shaping its approach to community engagement.

Farmingdale State College offers a carefully curated and engaging student experience, a highly inclusive campus, and a unique program mix that positions our students for a very bright future. Together with a strong commitment to accessibility, affordability, and student support, FSC is one of the best values in higher education.

As SUNY's largest college of applied science and technology, FSC offers 46 degree programs focused on emerging, high-demand, and relevant careers. More than half of our students graduate debt-free and 82% are employed six months after graduation or enrolled in graduate school. FSC ranks fifth nationally in graduate early career earnings.

For more information visit www.farmingdale.edu

Farmingdale State College has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and will receive campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023. Our NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

Our 2022 campus voting rate was 28.3%

Our 2022 campus voter registration rate was 68.6%

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 61.2%.
Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 78.8%.

Our 2018 campus voting rate was 35.4%.
Our 2018 campus voter registration rate was 70.7%.

Farmingdale State College has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2016 Bronze, 2018 Silver, 2020 Silver, 2022 Bronze,

Farmingdale State College participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: National Voter Registration Day, Constitution Day, Constitution Week, including all civic holidays and celebrations.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Goal: Increase student voter turnout rate to 30% in 2024 and 50% in 2026.
- Goal: Increase student voter registration rate to 62% in 2024 and 80% in 2026.
- Goal: Add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation for fall 2025

The following expanded goals outline key strategies to increase student voter turnout and registration, while also integrating voter education into student experiences:

Goal 1: Increase Student Voter Turnout Rate to 30% in 2024 and 50% in 2026

- **Campus-Wide Partnerships:** Collaborate with faculty across disciplines to integrate discussions about civic responsibility and voting into the curriculum. Faculty members can encourage students to vote by connecting course content to current political issues.
- **Peer-to-Peer Mobilization:** Grow our Ramp Up the Vote Student Ambassadors to 100 students to increase our peer-led voter engagement initiative where student ambassadors encourage their peers to vote. This group would lead voter pledge drives, host voter registration tables, and provide resources on where, when, and how to vote.
- **Election Day Engagement:** Provide incentives for student participation, such as "I Voted" events, and offer campus resources, like transportation to polling stations. Create visibility on election day by making it a recognized event on campus, possibly with a holiday or flexible attendance for students to vote.

Goal 2: Increase Student Voter Registration Rate to 62% in 2024 and 80% in 2026

- **Incorporate Voter Registration into Key Campus Events:** Ensure voter registration is a prominent part of major campus activities like orientation (new and transfer students) and homecoming events.

- **Simplified Online Registration:** Create our own FSC online voter registration through the institution's main website and not only through the OCCE website, student portal, and social media platforms. Include easy access to registration information and deadlines in emails and announcements from student affairs and academic departments.
- **Incentives and Contests:** Encourage voter registration by creating campus-wide competitions between academic departments or student organizations to see who can register the most students, offering prizes or recognition to the winners.

Goal 3: Add Voter Registration to New and Transfer Student Orientation for Fall 2025

- **Orientation Sessions:** Incorporate a specific session dedicated to voter education and registration into new and transfer student orientations, starting in Fall 2025. The session can cover the importance of civic participation, the process of registering to vote, and how students can get involved in local elections.
- **Technology Integration:** Utilize the institution's orientation app or online portal to include voter registration forms and information on deadlines and polling locations as part of the orientation process. Offer a digital pledge for students to sign, committing to vote in upcoming elections.
- **Peer Engagement:** Feature current students involved in voter engagement initiatives during orientation to create a peer connection and promote the importance of participation.
- **Ongoing Support:** Establish a follow-up process where voter registration reminders are sent via email or text as students settle into their first semester, ensuring no opportunities are missed before registration deadlines.

These initiatives collectively aim to foster a culture of civic responsibility and increase both voter turnout and registration rates among students. By integrating voter engagement into the student experience, the institution will contribute to developing informed, active citizens prepared to participate in the democratic process.

Strategy:

Farmingdale State College will implement a multifaceted approach to increasing nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation, leveraging key institutional resources and partnerships to maximize impact. Below are the comprehensive strategies the college will employ:

1. **Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE)** - Fully operationalized in 2022, the OCCE will be central to voter engagement efforts. The office will continue to organize voter registration drives, educational campaigns, and civic forums to encourage student participation in the democratic process. It will also ensure that all resources provided are nonpartisan and accessible, focusing on educating students about their voting rights, election dates, and procedures without aligning with any political viewpoint.
2. **Office of Marketing and Communications**- The Office of Marketing and Communications will play a pivotal role in promoting voter registration deadlines, election events, and nonpartisan information through social media, campus-wide emails, newsletters, and digital signage. This

broad outreach ensures that all students are informed and encouraged to participate in both local and national elections.

3. Carnegie Community Engagement Committee - The 24-member Carnegie Community Engagement Committee, consisting of students, faculty, and staff, will help institutionalize community engagement throughout the college. By embedding civic participation within community-focused initiatives, the committee ensures that voter engagement aligns with Farmingdale's broader mission of service and community impact. The committee will also play a role in pursuing the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, tying voter engagement to national community standards.
4. Partnerships with External Organizations - FSC will strengthen partnerships with local and national civic organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, Campus Vote Project, and All In Campus Democracy Challenge. These partnerships will provide the campus with additional resources, voter education materials, and support for organizing registration drives and voter education campaigns. Collaborating with nonpartisan civic groups will expand the college's reach, ensuring students have access to up-to-date, accurate information. Also, partnering with local election boards will ensure that students are informed about early voting locations, polling places, absentee ballot procedures, and other key election logistics.
5. Civic Internships and Applied Learning- The college will expand its applied learning opportunities by offering civic internships, allowing students to work with local government agencies, nonprofits, advocacy groups, and political campaigns. These internships provide hands-on experience and help students better understand the democratic process while contributing to the community. The internships will be aligned with course objectives to integrate civic learning into academic experiences.
6. Data Collection and Evaluation- The college will utilize several tools to measure the success of its voter engagement efforts:
 - NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement): This will measure the overall involvement of students in civic and democratic activities, providing insight into how engaged the campus is in nonpartisan efforts.
 - NSLVE (National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement)

Through this study, the college can track voter registration and turnout rates in comparison to past elections. These insights will help measure progress in increasing student voter participation. FSC will gather internal data on the success of voter registration drives, voter turnout, and student engagement in civic activities, using these results to guide future efforts.

7. Curriculum and Co-Curricular Integration- Civic engagement will be embedded within the academic curriculum and co-curricular activities. Courses in political science, ethics, and public policy will incorporate lessons on democratic participation. Co-curricular activities like debate viewing parties, voter education workshops, and civic forums will complement these academic initiatives, encouraging students to engage with political issues in a nonpartisan manner.
8. Voter Access Resources- FSC will actively promote the resources available for absentee and mail-in voting, especially for students who may be away from their registered voting districts. By partnering with organizations and local election officials, the college will provide clear instructions on requesting absentee ballots and adhering to relevant deadlines, ensuring that students understand the process and have no barriers to voting. Utilize the institution's orientation app or online portal to include voter registration forms and information on deadlines and polling locations as part of the orientation process. Offer a digital pledge for students to sign, committing to vote in upcoming elections.

9. Early Voting and Polling Locations- The college will collaborate with local election officials to promote information about early voting and nearby polling locations. Early voting will be encouraged through informational campaigns, making it easier for students to cast their votes at their convenience. OCCE will guide students on where and when to vote, both on and off-campus.

10. Continuous Improvement Through Feedback - Using data from NSSE, NSLVE, and internal evaluations, FSC will continuously assess and refine its voter engagement strategies. The college will incorporate student and community feedback to adjust its programming and communications, ensuring that voter engagement efforts remain relevant, effective, and nonpartisan.

By combining these strategies and leveraging partnerships, Farmingdale State College aims to create an inclusive, informed, and engaged campus community where students actively participate in the democratic process. These efforts reflect the college's commitment to nonpartisan civic engagement and fostering a culture of active citizenship.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Farmingdale State College is committed to evaluating the effectiveness of its civic engagement initiatives through several key metrics and data collection tools. The college plans to utilize the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, and the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), alongside internal data collection efforts, to track and measure progress in student voting behavior and engagement.

1. NSSE: This national survey measures student involvement and engagement in various academic and co-curricular activities, including civic participation. By leveraging NSSE data, Farmingdale can assess the level of student involvement in democratic processes and identify areas for improvement in voter education and participation.
2. Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement: This classification, awarded to institutions that demonstrate a high level of community involvement, will help Farmingdale align its strategies with national standards for civic and community engagement. As part of the application and renewal process, the college will collect data on student voter engagement as an essential aspect of its broader community engagement efforts.
3. NSLVE: The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement provides data on student registration and voting rates based on actual records from participating institutions. By comparing data from previous election cycles, Farmingdale can track whether its initiatives have led to an increase in voter registration and turnout. This evidence-based approach will allow the college to measure progress accurately and make data-informed adjustments to its civic engagement strategies.

4. Internal Metrics: Farmingdale will also develop internal metrics to assess specific campus-wide programs, such as voter registration drives, educational campaigns, and student involvement in local, state, and national elections.

These internal evaluations will be compared with historical data to identify trends and areas where additional efforts are needed. By using these combined tools—NSSE, Carnegie Classification, NSLVE, and internal data—Farmingdale State College will be able to comprehensively assess the impact of its efforts on increasing voter turnout and registration. These data-driven insights will support continuous improvement in promoting a culture of democratic participation on campus.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/farmingdale-state-college/> as well as on Office of Community and Civic Engagement website www.farmingdale.edu/occe

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.