



MSJ Naturalization Ceremony, Spring 2019

# Campus Vote Plan 2020-2021



## POINT OF CONTACT:

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## COMMITMENT:

Mount St. Joseph University (the Mount) champions democratic engagement because it complements our mission of "educating students through interdisciplinary liberal arts and professional curricula emphasizing values, integrity and social responsibility." At the Mount, we are known for having strong community service, service learning, and student philanthropy programs; this is reflected in our inclusion in the President's Community Service Honor Roll in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015. While service to others is one of our core values, and while service is an important component of what it means to be a responsible citizen, participation in the democratic process is also a cornerstone of what it means to be a responsible citizen. Since beginning our democratic engagement program in 2015, we have significantly increased our student voter registration and our student voting rates. By continuing to strength our democratic engagement programming, students will be more likely to develop across the engaged citizenship continuum, moving from personally responsible citizenship to participatory citizenship and then to transformative citizenship. Because of our commitment to democratic engagement, NASPA designated Mount St. Joseph University as a Voter Friendly Campus in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020. Additionally, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognized Mount St. Joseph University with the Silver Seal for our student voting rate in 2016 and the Gold Seal for our student voting rate in 2018.

# DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT COALITION:

The following individuals and organizations help to facilitate democratic engagement initiatives at Mount St. Joseph University:

## Chair:

- Keith Lanser, Associate Director of Service Learning & Civic Engagement

## Faculty:

- Dr. Pete Robinson, Professor of History
- Dr. Georgana Taggart, Professor of Legal Studies
- Dr. Jennifer Withrow, Assistant Professor of Social Work
- Roxana Hawkins, Assistant Professor of Social Work
- Dr. Richard Simon, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Dr. Beth VanWassenhove, Instructor of Education
- Dr. Ulli Brinksmeier, Associate Professor of Music
- Dr. Pierre Rivolta, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice

## Staff:

- Janet Cox, Dean of Students
- Dr. Rayshawn Eastman, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer/Title IX Coordinator
- S. Karen Elliott, C.P.P.S, D. Min., Director of Mission Integration
- Linda Pohlgeers, Director of The Career & Experiential Education Center
- Michael Heckmann, Prior Learning Assessment Coordinator
- Emma Sule, Career & Co-op Coordinator
- Amanda Gratsch, Web Services & Technology Coordinator
- Scott Lloyd, Director of Library Services

## Students:

- Ben Stanton
- Jaleah Fair-Harris
- Tiffany Manning
- Sarah Teuschl

## Community Partners:

- Campus Vote Project
- League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
- Hamilton County Board of Elections
- Delhi Township

## STUDENT VOTING DATA (FROM NSLVE):

Since beginning our democratic engagement program in 2015, we have significantly increased our student voter registration and student voting rates over time:

Year	Student Voter Registration Rate	Rate of Registered Students Who Voted	Student Voting Rate
2012	80.4%	77.2%	62%
2014	75.8%	33.9%	25.7%
2016	85.7% (+5.3% over 2012)	76% (-1.2% over 2012)	65.2% (+3.2% over 2012)
2018	83.9% (+8.1% over 2014)	54% (+20.1% over 2014)	45.3% (+19.6% over 2014)

## GOALS FOR 2020-2021:

We have three primary goals for the 2020-2021 academic year:

1. Increase our student voter registration rate in 2020 to 90% (a 4.3% increase over 2016), as seen in the 2020 NSLVE report for Mount St. Joseph University.
2. Increase our overall student voting rate in 2020 to 70% (a 4.8% increase over 2016), as seen in the 2020 NSLVE report for Mount St. Joseph University.
3. Increase student voting rates to 50% for the following majors, as outlined by the 2020 NSLVE report for Mount St. Joseph University: communication & journalism, parks/ recreation/ leisure/ fitness studies, and visual & performing arts.



"Why Do You Vote" Tabling, Spring 2019

# STRATEGY:

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, the programs and events below will help to register students to vote, educate students on relevant voting issues, ensure ballot access, and get out the student vote.

## 1. Voter Registration:

- a. Facilitating voter registration during all orientations and in-class voter registration drives during the first two weeks of class.
- b. Facilitating voter registration events like: National Voter Registration Day, Last Minute Voter Registration Day, and Dorm Storm Voter Registration Event.
- c. Disseminating campus-wide email reminders on voter registration information.
- d. Updating voter registration information on MSJ's external website and MSJ's internal website.

## 2. Voter Education:

- a. Facilitating tabling events to distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan groups.
- b. Celebrating Constitution Day.
- c. Facilitating a Debate Watch Party.
- d. Facilitating a Girl Scout Badge in a Day Program (Civics Badge) through two education courses: ECE 341 and EDU 353.
- e. Facilitating community voter empowerment workshops through two social work courses: SWK 220 and SWK 329.
- f. Facilitating an issue forum related to a timely voting issue.
- g. Facilitating a debate for a local congressional race, OH-1 if both candidates agree on a date/ time/ location.
- h. Facilitating the Citizenship Challenge and celebrating a fall Naturalization Ceremony

## 3. Ballot Access:

- a. The Mount is now a polling location. Students who live in the residence halls will be able to vote on campus for the first time during a Presidential Election.
- b. Providing proof of residency letters for students who live on campus.
- c. Assisting students with voter registration checks, polling location checks, and absentee ballot requests.

## 4. Get The Vote Out:

- a. Facilitating "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election.
- b. Sending out campus-wide email reminders about the election.
- c. Promotion of key democratic engagement dates in print marketing and on social media.
- d. Facilitating and promoting a "How Do You Picture It?" poster campaign to highlight campus community members who plan on voting.
- e. Facilitating an Election Night Watch Party.

# TIMELINE:

The Democratic Engagement Coalition will use the timeline below to ensure a robust offering of democratic engagement programs throughout the 2020-2021 academic year:

## 1. Frequency of Meetings:

- a. We will meet at least once per semester. The coalition met in February of 2020. We will meet again in late August/ early September of 2020. We will also meet in late January/ early February of 2021.

## 2. Key Milestones:

- a. By halfway through the summer semester, we will have:
  - i. Completed voter registration drives during student orientations.
  - ii. Prepared campus-wide email reminders to be sent out during the fall semester.
- b. By the end of the summer semester, we will have:
  - i. Completed voter registration drives during all student orientations.
  - ii. Printed voter registration cards, absentee ballot request forms, and purchased stamps for the fall semester.
  - iii. Updated voter registration information on MSJ's external website and MSJ's internal website.
  - iv. Begun planning a potential congressional debate for OH-1.
- c. By halfway through the fall semester, we will have:
  - i. Completed in-class voter registration drives during the first two weeks of class.
  - ii. Facilitated National Voter Registration Day, Last Minute Voter Registration Day, and Dorm Storm Voter Registration Event.
  - iii. Sent out campus-wide email reminders about voter registration.
  - iv. Provided proof of residency letters for students who live on campus.
  - v. Assisted students with voter registration checks, polling location checks, and absentee ballot requests.
  - vi. Promoted key democratic engagement dates in print marketing and on social media.
  - vii. Completed tabling events to distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan groups.
  - viii. Celebrated Constitution Day.
- d. By the end of the fall semester, we will have:
  - i. Sent out campus-wide email reminders about the election.
  - ii. Facilitated "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election.
  - iii. Facilitated our "How Do You Picture It?" poster campaign to showcase campus community members who plan on voting.
  - iv. Facilitated a Debate Watch Party.
  - v. Facilitated community voter empowerment workshops through two social work courses: SWK 220 and SWK 329.
  - vi. Facilitated an issue forum related to a timely voting issue.
  - vii. Facilitated a debate for a local congressional race, OH-1 if both candidates agree on a date/ time/ location.
  - viii. Facilitated a Girl Scout Badge in a Day- Civics Badge Program through two education courses: ECE 341 and EDU 353.



- ix. Facilitated the Election Night Watch Party.
  - x. Facilitated the Citizenship Challenge and celebrated a fall Naturalization Ceremony.
  - xi. Prepared our Campus Vote Report for the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
3. Evaluating the 2020-2021 Campus Vote Plan:
- a. The Democratic Engagement Coalition will meet again in late January/ early February of 2021 to check in on our progress and to plan for the next election cycle.



HON 263's Trip to Washington, D.C., Spring 2020