



## Francis Marion University 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Francis Marion University

### **Executive Summary:**

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Francis Marion University in South Carolina for the 2022 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2022 midterm election. The goals for Francis Marion University for the 2022 election are: to increase student voter registration and voter turnout.

### **Leadership:**

Our leadership team includes the following:

The President of the University and his designee. The Vice President of Student Life and/or the Dean of Students, the Department of Political Science representative(s), and the Student Government Association Executive Officer(s) will serve as team members.

Our campus works with these following nonprofit partners: American Democracy Project

### **Commitment:**

Francis Marion University Our institution has had a signatory to the Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation since 2022.

### **Landscape:**

Francis Marion University is a public and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge on Friday, Jul 14, 2022. Our institution is a Minority Serving Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Francis Marion University has 4,148 students. Francis Marion University is one of South Carolina's 13 public, co-educational universities. FMU prides itself on providing a strong liberal arts education that serves as the foundation for a variety of professional careers.

The University offers a broad range of undergraduate degrees and a select number of graduate programs that serve the needs of community, and of local businesses and industries of the Pee Dee region. Francis Marion is the only state university located in the Pee Dee region and is a critical piece of the educational infrastructure in the region. Many of the University's students are the first in their families to attend college.

As a comprehensive public university, FMU provides a high-value educational experience in an excellent learning environment. It takes pride in the personal attention students receive from faculty and staff. All faculty members have advanced degrees, and more than 85 percent of the full-time faculty hold doctoral or terminal degrees.

The vast majority of FMU's students — more than 95 percent in the most recent academic year — come from South Carolina. In a typical year the student body includes students from nearly every county in the state. But FMU also enrolls students from many different states and foreign countries, allowing students to experience the diversity of people from other cultures. In the spring of 2019, students came from 21 states and 24 foreign countries. The student-faculty ratio is 15 to 1, and the average class size is 17. The average age of undergraduates is 21.5, while the average age of graduate students is 32. (All demographic figures from the spring of 2019.) Located about six miles east of Florence, FMU's 400-plus-acre main campus is known for its natural beauty, which has been augmented with pleasing landscaping. The campus includes hundreds of acres of mixed pine hardwood and bottomland forests accessed by trails.

Francis Marion University has authorized NSLVE.

### **Goals:**

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voter registration rate by 10% in 2024.
- Increase student voter turnout rate by 5% in 2024.

### **Strategy:**

Francis Marion University will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Work with Student Life to have a designated area for voter registration information
- Work with the local election office to have the student registration process available and accessible to our students
- Coordinate with university communications to have student registration and voting information and dates promoted

### **Evaluation:**

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- Review the 2022 NSLVE voting data to update any strategies and goals we have for 2024.
- Work with the leadership team to ensure student voter registration information is accessible and promote the registration process and civic dates

### **Reporting:**

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/francis-marion-university/>.