

## **Furman University's Democratic Engagement Plan**

With the United States being ranked 139<sup>th</sup> in democratic involvement and having a low turnout among the youth, Furman University committed itself to creating an information hub for voter registration -which in turn will increase turn out rates. A collective push by various student organizations and academic departments under the name "Dins Vote", will craft an environment for the University to attain its goal of increasing turnout for this general election.

**Goals:** Increase voter registration and turnout by Furman Students.

1. Develop a vested interest in politics and political advocacy.
2. Increase voter turnout by Furman students by easing registration efforts.
3. Emphasize competitive nature of project to propel student interest.
4. Inform students about voter laws in Greenville, SC.

**Recommendations:**

1. CLP Events
  - a. Cultural Life Programs (CLPs) are hour long lectures for specific topics ranging from various issues, ideas, and artistic expressions. The purpose of these events are to educate students and foster discussion. Each CLP event contributes one point towards the students' collective thirty-two points, which are necessary for graduation.
  - b. Collaborate with College Democrats, College Republicans, and various organizations to craft interesting CLP events to attract attention to the Dins Vote Competition. Register students at events.
  - c. Contact: College Democrats, College Republicans, etc.
    - i. Work with the Riley Institute. "The Riley Institute at Furman broadens student and community perspective about issues critical to South Carolina's progress. It

builds and engages present and future leaders, creates and shares data-supported information about the state's core challenges, and links the leadership body to those solutions to drive sustainable solutions.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Utilize various Riley CLP events.
  - ii. Work with the Political Science Department.
    1. Develop CLP events similar to, “The Youth Vote in 2016”, to address the Dins Vote Competition.
2. Participation in Pizza and Politics
  - a. Pizza and Politics is an opportunity for students to engage with professors regarding various political topics while enjoying pizza. This event occurs twice per month. Information about the Dins Vote Project will be discussed at these meetings.
  - b. Contact: Political Science Department
3. Design Fliers and Stickers about Dins Vote Competition
  - a. Disperse fliers and stickers around campus.
4. Email Political Science Students
  - a. Mass email Political Science students regarding absentee voting information and the Dins Vote Project.
  - b. Contact: Political Science Department
5. Establish Student Group for Project
  - a. This student group will be called Dins Vote and will be a temporary organization to propel the campaign. It consists of volunteers willing to support the registration effort on campus.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://riley.furman.edu/riley/about/about-institute>

- b. Contact: Student Life
- 6. Furman University Library Support
  - a. Place information in regards to the election competition across the library, as well as displayed various books on politics and elections to craft a dialogue.
  - b. Contact: Furman University Library
- 7. Create Website Through Furman University Library
  - a. As part of our efforts to raise awareness, Dins Vote will utilize Furman University's Library page to direct students to registration information.
  - b. Easy to access information via the Furman Library Website that involved a pull down menu listing each state, their website, and respective deadlines.
  - c. Contact: Furman University Library
- 8. Establish a New Polling Place
  - a. In order to bring more attention to voting on campus, Dins Vote will work to establish a closer polling place. This new polling place can be held in the Herman Lay Physical Activities Center or the Charles E. Daniel Memorial Chapel.
  - b. Contact: The Greenville County Elections Commission
- 9. Provide Absentee Voting Information
  - a. Hold voting information booths at Furman's library and at a Furman soccer games during.
  - b. Contact: Furman University Library and Dins Vote Organization