

# 2020 ACTION PLAN FOR DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT

## SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

#### STUDENT DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT ALIGNS WITH OUR MISSION:

1. Fundamental to a liberal arts education are the habits of mind that prepare students for responsible civic engagement.

2. Democratic engagement develops students' commitment to critical thinking, rational discourse across divergent perspectives, and collaborative decision-making.

3. Voting draws students' attention to the common good. Student voters consider issues of justice, concern for the poor, and social, cultural, economic, and political diversity.

THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE SUPPORTS STUDENT DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT

PRESIDENT DONAHOUE SIGNED THE HIGHER EDUCATION PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO FULL STUDENT VOTER PARTICIPATION



THE 2020 ACTION PLAN BUILDS ON OUR NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN TURNING STUDENTS INTO CITIZENS:

In 2019, The <u>Washington Monthly</u> listed Saint Mary's as one of "America's Best 80 Colleges for Student Voting 2019"

in 2020, the <u>Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions</u>
also named Saint Mary's as an institution that stands out for voter engagement

#### IN 2020, SAINT MARY'S IS AGAIN PARTICIPATING THE <u>ALL IN CAMPUS</u> <u>DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE</u>

The ALL IN challenge is a competition among over 630 colleges and universities nationwide to encourage students to register and vote.

In 2016, our voting rate was 59%, 9 points above the national student average, earning the College a bronze seal from the ALL In challenge. In 2018, the College earned a platinum seal, the ALL IN challenge's highest honor.

50% of our students voted, compared to the national student average of 39%.



# Our audacious goal for 2020: **ASK EVERY STUDENT**

Ask Every Student is a non-partisan program to implement voter registration strategies to reach every student on campus.

WE AIM TO REGISTER <u>EVERY ELIGIBLE STUDENT</u> TO VOTE AND TO TURN OUT <u>75%</u> OF REGISTERED STUDENT VOTERS

### AS A CAMPUS COMMITTED TO THE <u>ASK</u> <u>EVERY STUDENT</u> INITIATIVE:

We will incorporate Ask Every Student strategies into our 2020 plan. As funding becomes available, we are eligible to receive up to \$1,000.

We are also eligible to apply for an Implementation Award. These awards will be given out according to merit and financial need. Assistance of up to \$125,000 is available.

#### THE 2020 WORKING GROUP <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>

Steve Woolpert, Politics Department, Chair

I representative from each of the 4 schools (tba)

Jane Camarillo, Vice Provost for Student Life

Prof. Zahra Ahmed, Politics Department, instructor for Elections and Voting

Jennifer Herzog, New Student and Family Programs

I representative from Student Involvement and Leadership (tba)

I representative from the Associated Students of Saint Mary's (tba)

The working group will review the 2016 and 2018 NSLVE reports and implement outreach activities, using the ALL IN Challenge's covid 19 resources for <u>developing a student voter</u> action plan

#### VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION AND TURNOUT ACTIONS:

- Distribute via email an online GAELS VOTE 2020 survey to all students
- Provide 1-to-1 online registration and vote-by-mail assistance to each respondent
- Students in POL 192, Democracy Lab, and POL 103, Elections and Voting, visit classrooms, assist students with registration and voting by mail, and provide social media messaging
- Provide links to voter registration/turnout resources on our <u>Campaign for Democratic</u> <u>Engagement website</u>
- Embed voter registration opportunities in the <u>Collegiate Seminar Informal Curriculum</u>
- Seek funding for student interns
- Provide debate watch guides for campus debate watch parties
- Saint Mary's is enrolled in <u>sciencerising.Org</u>

#### VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION AND TURNOUT ACTIONS (CONT'D):

- Organize and publicize in-person and online voter turnout drives on:
  - National Voter Registration day Sept. 24 <u>https://nationalvoterregistrationday.Org/about/</u>
  - Vote Early Day, October 24 <u>https://www.voteearlyday.org/</u>
- "Ask a Librarian" sessions for non-partisan election information
- Engage Office of College Communications to provide social media publicity
- Engage Associated Students of Saint Mary's College, Campus Republicans, Young Democrats, Intercultural Center, Resident Advisors, and Athletic Department
- Provide faculty with information from party platforms, candidates, and ballot propositions on issues relevant to their courses from <a href="https://campuselect.org/">https://campuselect.org/</a>
- Continue participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement.

# VOTING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

LINKS TO THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PLACED ON THE COLLEGE'S CAMPAIGN FOR DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

**REPORTS OF SAINT MARY'S STUDENT VOTING RATES** FROM THE 2014-18 MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND THE 2012-2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FROM THE NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT (NSLVE)

CORONA VIRUS/COVID 19 RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING A STUDENT VOTER ACTION PLAN:

# <u>https://www.allinchallenge.org/resource-hub/covid-19/</u>

# STATE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES & CONTACTS:

The link below shows an interactive map with deadlines, web links, and contact information for the voter registration agency in each state.

<u>http://yourvoteyourvoice.org/state-deadlines/</u>

# THE CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT:

The Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP), is a national nonpartisan project to help America's colleges and universities engage students in federal, state, and local elections.

<u>https://campuselect.org/</u>

# SAINT MARY'S IS ENROLLED IN SCIENCERISING.ORG

Science Rising is a nationwide nonpartisan movement fighting for science, justice, and equity in our democracy.

## SEPTEMBER 22: <u>NATIONAL VOTER</u> <u>REGISTRATION DAY</u> <u>https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org</u>



 National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since.

# OCTOBER 24: <u>NATIONAL VOTE EARLY DAY</u> https://www.voteearlyday.org/

SMC is signed up as a Vote Early Day partner. Vote Early Day will be the largest day of coordinated activity to cast ballots early the United States has ever seen. <u>CALIFORNIA VOTE BY MAIL:</u> https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vo ter-registration/vote-mail/

All registered California voters will receive a ballot by mail. No postage is required to return ballots by mail.