



Gavilan College 2024-2025 Nonpartisan Campus Democratic Engagement Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gavilan College, a Community College and Hispanic Serving Institution in Gilroy, CA is a new member of ALL IN for the first time this year. We are committed to increasing student civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation this year and for years to come. This year, we are focused on offering resources and events for students while building our capacity.

LEADERSHIP

The voter engagement working group at Gavilan College began in Fall 2023. Jacquie Martin leads the working group, planning and organizing meetings and events. The working group meets 2-4 times each semester and meets via Zoom. She organizes the meeting invitations and agendas for the working group. She reports to the Dean of Counseling, Student Success and Equity, Diego Espinoza, and Voter Engagement is part of her role on campus. Our college administration is supportive of this work, including our college president, Dr. Pedro Avila, who recently joined the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

Current team members include:

- Jacquie Martin, Coordinator of Student Life & Engagement is the Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator at Gavilan College.
- Diego Espinosa, Dean of Counseling, Student Success and Equity
- Public Information Office Staff
- Dana Young FT Faculty, Library
- Debbie Klein, FT Faculty, Anthropology
- Jan Janes, PT Faculty, Journalism
- Turetzky, Marc FT Faculty Political Science
- Darlene Del Carmen, FT Faculty, Kinesiology
- Fanya Xu, Dually Enrolled High School Student
- Britney Chavez Soriano, Student Trustee

Diego Espinosa is the college administrator on the team. He supports our work and advocates for our group to the other administrators. Public Information Office Staff creates and shares email messages, social media posts & more to ensure our students are aware of upcoming opportunities and deadlines for elections. Dana Young creates a Library Guide to share with students during each presidential election year and shares voter resources in the Library. Our faculty, Debbie Klein, Jan Janes & Marc Turetzky all

include voter engagement in their classes, including having class projects that are focused on civic and voter engagement. Darlene Del Carmen works to involve coaches and student athletes in registering and turning out to vote. Our student members share creative ideas for our events and insight into what is the best way to reach our student body with our voter engagement messages.

We have a few community organizations that support our campus voter engagement work. As a California Community College, we participate in the California Students Vote Project and their Ballot Bowl initiative. We have a partnership with both the Santa Clara County Board of Elections and the San Benito County Board of Elections. They do voter registration tabling on our Gilroy and Hollister campuses once a month during the academic year. We just joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge as a campus. We celebrate National Voter Registration Day & Vote Early Day with Civic Holidays. Gavilan is a Hispanic Serving Institution, and we are looking into collaborating with Voto Latino.

COMMITMENT

Gavilan College is committed to increasing student civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation. It is both a part of our college's stated values and required by state law. This gives the structure upon which our efforts can continue to grow and thrive.

The Gavilan College Principles of Community state: "As members of the Gavilan College community, we value the worth and dignity of every person, the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, acquisition of knowledge, and the nurture of democratic citizenship. We strive to maintain these ideals in an environment of inclusiveness and mutual respect." ([source](#))

The Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (California Education Code §66850-66852; California Elections Code §2148.5) requires the California Secretary of State to work directly with the California Community Colleges (CCCs) to increase college student voter registration. ([source](#))

Educating for civic learning and democratic engagement has and continues to be a part of our college culture. We are working to strengthen and grow that engagement in the coming year. There was a strong Service-Learning program on campus for many years which has not resumed formally since the pandemic. We do have a few faculty members in our working group who are incorporating civic engagement into hands on projects in their classes. The college continues to have a ballot drop box placed on our campus for students to bring their completed ballots. This year, we started having voter engagement tabling once a month on both the Gilroy and Hollister campus. We will continue to do this every semester, even in non-general or midterm election years.

This is the first year that Gavilan College is joining All In and creating an Action Plan. Our college is committed to pursuing this work as it is in accordance with our values and helps us to meet our state requirements. The Coordinator of Student Life and Engagement at Gavilan College, currently Jacquie Martin, is also designated as Gavilan's Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator. Having voter engagement leadership as

part of the job duties of an employee at the college will ensure that this work is institutionalized for years to come.

LANDSCAPE

Civic learning and democratic engagement are a part of our overall institutional learning outcomes at Gavilan College. Institutional Learning Outcome A: Think Critically & Creatively wants students to develop and apply critical and creative thinking skills. Institutional Learning Outcome C, Practice Social Responsibility wants students to develop ethical, social and civic awareness and demonstrate personal and civic responsibility. ([source](#))

During the 2023-2024 academic year, an intentional effort was made to increase voter engagement at Gavilan College. This year consisted of building the foundation for this work and meeting compliance requirements from the state. In the Fall, the Coordinator of Student Life & Engagement took on the role of Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator (CVEC) for Gavilan College. The work focused first on determining who was already involved in civic engagement in some way at Gavilan college and bringing them together to build an intentional team. In the spring semester, voter registration tables were held 3-4 times at both the Hollister & Gilroy campus, hosted by the local Board of Elections. The Civic & Voter Empowerment Coordinator worked with the Public Information Office to ensure there were social media and email communications on elections going out to the campus community. They also registered Gavilan with NSLVE & All In and collaborated with Academic Affairs to ensure that voter engagement dates were added to the academic calendar.

Civic learning and democratic engagement are present in some curriculum at the college. Every General Election, our Library Faculty creates a Library Reference Guide for students to get accurate information on the upcoming election. Every four years, a communications faculty member incorporates elections communications into her course during the General Election cycle.

Civic learning and democratic engagement are present in co-curricular activities at the college. Associated Students of Gavilan College (ASGC) holds elections, represents the student body and advocates for student needs on campus. This introduces our students to civic engagement on the college-wide level. Our college is governed by an elected board of trustees. In the past, the League of Women Voters has worked with the college to host a Candidate Forum for that race which is of direct impact to our students and community members. The Coordinator of Student Life & Engagement leads campus wide voter engagement events in collaboration with our working group team.

There are many factors that enhance our success in this work at Gavilan. One external factor is that our campus hosts a ballot drop box each election cycle and we are in a full vote by mail state. One internal factor is that our President has signed on to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation with All In. Our campus voter engagement efforts could be better supported with additional resources including funding to hire voter engagement work study students.

GOALS & STRATEGY

Gavilan College is working towards a number of short- and long-term goals for our campus voter engagement efforts.

Goal 1: Build the foundation for our campus wide Voter Engagement programming.

Strategy	Location	Target Audience	Lead Organizer
Create and submit our first All In Action Plan and Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan (CVEAP) with the California Secretary of State (SOS) Students Vote Project (SVP) in 2024.	N/A	Students Staff Faculty	Jacque Martin
Increase the number and diversity of voter engagement working group members from across campus in the next two years.	Virtual	Students Staff Faculty	Jacque Martin
Work with our Athletics department to develop and implement a model for ongoing student athlete voter engagement within the next three years.	Gilroy Campus	Students	Jacque Martin & Darlene Del Carmen
Collaborate with the Public Information Office to distribute voter engagement information through campus wide emails and social media channels each semester.	Virtual	Students	Jacque Martin & PIO Staff
Collaborate with Academic Affairs to ensure that the Campus Academic Calendar includes all required voter engagement dates.	Virtual	Students	Jacque Martin & Victoria Masey

Goal 2: Increase the number of students who register to vote and turn out to vote by 15% from the 2024 General Election to the 2028 General Election.

Strategy	Location	Target Audience	Lead Organizer
Create and launch our Voter Engagement page on the college's website	Virtual	Students	Jacque Martin & PIO Staff
Implement a voter engagement presentation that can be given to classes across all our campuses and online. Pilot in Fall 2024 and further implement in 2025-2026.	Gilroy Hollister Virtual	Students	Jacque Martin & Working Group
Host an event for National Voter Registration Day & Vote Early Day on an annual basis.	Gilroy Hollister	Students	Jacque Martin & Working Group

Partner with the League of Women Voters in Santa Clara County on one event every year.	Gilroy Hollister	Students	Jacque Martin & Working Group
Deepen our partnership with the Board of Elections in both Santa Clara & San Benito counties to host voter registration at least three times each Fall & Spring semester on both the Gilroy and Hollister campuses	Gilroy Hollister	Students	Jacque Martin
Secure funding for 2 part time voter engagement work study students within the next 5 years to engage students to register to vote and support civic engagement event planning.	Gilroy Hollister	Students	Working Group
Participate in the California University and College Ballot Bowl during every statewide election year.	Gilroy Hollister Virtual	Students	Working Group

Fall 2024 Spring 2025 Outline

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Week Voter Outreach
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Voter Registration Day & Constitution Day Event Library Guide
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate Forum Event Zoom Vote Early Day Event
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Day
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Registration Table Event
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Registration Table Event
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Registration Table Event
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Registration Table Event

REPORTING

Gavilan College’s action plan will be shared on our Voter Engagement webpage and on the All In website. It will be shared with the Office of Institutional Research. The plan will be presented to the Associated Students of Gavilan College, the Student Services Committee and Academic Senate. Voter Engagement information including the link to our All In plan will be shared out to students via email announcements and social media posts.

EVALUATION

Gavilan College just joined All IN and NSLVE this academic year, so the first data we will receive on our voter engagement efforts will be for the November 2024 General Election. That will give us a baseline to learn and grow from in future years.

For events, we will track attendance and send an evaluation survey to the participants to get their feedback.

Our working group team will collaborate with our Institutional Research office representative on evaluating our efforts. This will also be evaluated as part of our college's Program Integrated Planning & Review, Resource Allocation Process (PIPR-RAP) under the Coordinator of Student Life & Engagement on a three year cycle.)