

Voter Mobilization Plan  
Goucher College  
2020



## *Executive Summary*

Stated alongside the mission of Goucher College is the ideal of an education that is “based on an expanding sense of community – a community where discourse is valued and practiced, where students attend small classes and interact closely with faculty and one another, and where students can participate in and lead extracurricular programs.”

This ideal education is the foundation for strong democratic engagement, and if when realized, develops responsible citizens who not only are democratically engaged, but who are equipped, “... to solve complex problems together with people who are not like themselves.” Goucher College values developing responsible and engaged global citizens, it is at the heart of what we do.

What follows is an action plan to ensure that Goucher College holds true to its ideals and mission. The plan is narrowly tailored to ensure democratic engagement is practiced, recognized, and valued by the campus community and is not intended to undermine or de-value other aspects of the college’s mission. The action plan, properly implemented, will support and reinforce the core values of the college.

The impetus for issuing this plan now, is the upcoming presidential primary elections and the presidential elections of November, 2020. While it is always the goal to have active engagement in state and congressional elections, this year in particular there are many issues of interest to students and many policies under consideration that could potentially affect the type of liberal arts education Goucher College offers. We believe raising an awareness and understanding of these issues is not just a civic responsibility, but an educational opportunity that has the likely benefit of increasing voting rates among our students.

The plan has been developed by Nina Kasniunas, Associate Professor of Political Science. The action plan presented here is intended to take effect February, 2020 and will remain in effect through the fall semester of 2020 although we intend for this plan to serve as a template for future short-term and longer term action plans.

## *Goals*

1. Expand the group of students on the voter mobilization team to include one student for each identifiable student constituency on campus. It is our intent to fully leverage a peer-to-peer model of voter mobilization.
2. Identify faculty and staff to become members of the voter mobilization team and to have them commit to contributing one event/action item to help us reach our student turnout goals.
3. Identify staff of the Welch Center for Professional and Graduate programs to join our voter mobilization efforts and to bridge the gap that currently exists between them and the Undergraduate programs.
4. Register 80% of eligible Goucher students to vote for the 2020 general election.
5. Get 500 voter pledge cards signed by Goucher students for the 2020 general election.
6. Student voter turnout rate of 70%.

## *Leadership*

Nina Kasniunas, Associate Professor in Political Science is leading the efforts outlined in this action plan with the support of the following working group.

### Working Group:

Brett Rapkin-Citrebaum, Lead organizer (graduating May 2020)

Claire Corliss, Lead organizer (will be abroad spring 2020)

Christine Charikofsky, Lead organizer

Greta Elbers

Sierra Haushor

Steven Van Riper

Sarah Ohana

Dana Kouba

Nora Neely

Mikaela McCray

Corrina Biemer

Will Kelly

Celeste Fazioli

Daniela Harvey

Tung Nguyen

Kiara Kahan

Derek Borowsky

Miriam Ganslmeier

Nadean Sam

Elsa Alexandrin

Tess Landon

Beth Cogan

Jeanette Croen

Steven McCafferty

Hannah Goodman

Meredith Schulhof

Julia Schepis

Jibril Howard

The working group will be responsible for further developing democratic engagement actions and overseeing the implementation of this action plan. They will also be identifying and developing other students who have the interest and capacity to lead this type of democratic engagement work. Not every working group member needs to be involved with or support every component of the action plan – members will have different interests and motivations which collectively will serve to support civic engagement. It is the hope that in the identification and development of other students, the working group will be inclusive of and open to all interests and community members.

The working group will meet at least once a month for the months of: February, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December.

### *Actions Planned for Spring and Fall 2020*

*(tentative as events will be added as student leaders organize and plan)*

#### January:

PSC 249 New Hampshire Presidential Politics taking place over J-term in Manchester, NH. Students will have class in the morning, have various meetings with professionals whose work is in electoral politics, spend 20 hours/week campaigning for a candidate of their choice, and attend candidate rallies, town halls and house parties.

#### February:

11<sup>th</sup>: New Hampshire election returns viewing party.

Send emails to students with their absentee ballot applications.

Share the candidate guide with the Goucher community that was developed by the students who took the above mentioned J-Term course.

#### March:

3<sup>rd</sup>: Super Tuesday election returns viewing party.

Send emails to students with their absentee ballot applications.

#### April:

To be determined.

#### August:

Voter registration / absentee ballot tabling at student move-in.

September:

Second week of September: Goucher Votes! Voter Registration / Absentee Ballot drive. We will visit every First Year Seminar to speak with students; we will table from 11am – 1pm on Van Meter Highway and in the evenings from 5-6 in the dining hall. We will ask students to sign Goucher Votes! Voter pledge cards which will be delivered to their dorm rooms two weeks before the November election.

22<sup>nd</sup>: Voter Extravaganza to celebrate National Voter Registration Day. Voter Extravaganza features candidate tabling, games, music, food and some speakers who will give voter mobilization speeches.

October:

Debate Watching parties for each debate.

End of October, coordinate with SPCA to have a “Fill Out Your Absentee Ballot Party” with adoptable dogs in attendance.

November:

Coordinate vans to drive students to the polls on Election Day and /or during early voting

Election night returns party in the Athenaeum.