



Governors State University 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Dr. Jayne Goode

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Governors State University in Illinois for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Governors State University for the 2024 election are:

- Engage all first-year seminar and public discourse courses in voter registration, voter education and early voting campaigns through extra and co-curricular campus learning activities.
- Increase awareness of Students Learn Students Vote initiatives on campus to help faculty and staff with resources to support voter education in their classrooms and around campus
- Build a foundation of collaboration between faculty and staff what will persist beyond the 2024 election season by developing programs that are yearly, repeatable and scalable

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Leadership:

Jayne Goode, PhD, Professor of Communication Studies, Students Learn Student Vote Director
Megan VanGorder, PhD, Assistant Professor of History
Fatima Sattar, PhD, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Lisa Porter, Executive Administration Building

Internal Partners:

Konya Sledge, PhD, Director, Student Life
Debbie James, PhD, Division Chair, Arts & Letters
Jason Zingsheim, PhD Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Core Implementation Team:

Johnsie McCauley Davis, Administrative & Logistics Coordinator
Isabelle Reyes, Graduate Student, Communication Studies

External Partners:

Will County, IL Top Ladies of Distinction

Commitment:

Governors State University's core mission is to provide a public square where students see democracy in action. Our administrators and faculty are committed to providing a quality education to individuals who are the emerging majority in higher education. Our students non-traditional, diverse, first-generation learners who are often forgotten in America's education system. We pride ourselves on teaching our students that every voice matters, education is for all, and civic participation is key to a better life.

This is the third action plan that Governors State University has developed for ALL IN.

Landscape:

Governors State University is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2016.

Our campus demographic and voting data (Fall 2023):

Governors State University has 4,338 students, 27% male and 63% female. We are a minority-majority institution, with 35% Black or African-American, 16% Hispanic or LatinX, and 27% White/Caucasian. Degree-seeking undergraduates are 59% of the population. We are a commuter campus with only one dorm housing less than 300 students.

Governors State University has sent in the paperwork to reauthorize the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 63.6%. Our institution had a 2020 voter registration rate of 84%.

Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2016 Silver, 2018 Gold, 2020 Silver

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

1. Increase visibility of SLSV initiatives by developing stronger connections to classroom content and providing resources to faculty
2. Increase student voter turnout rate to 64% in 2024
3. Increase student registration to 85% in 2024

Strategy:

Governors State University will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

1. Hold a Super Tuesday Election Night Watch Party. The Students Learn Students Vote Coalition are hosting a watch party for Super Tuesday. Students will be able to engage in several activities, including party identification, mock Illinois voting, voter registration, and a sound off interview/poll, in addition to watching the election results and speaking with local leaders. (COMPLETED)
2. Hold a Presidential Debate Watch Party. The Students Learn Students Vote Coalition are hosting a watch party for the first presidential debate. Students will be able to engage in several activities, including party identification, mock Illinois voting, voter registration in addition to watching the debate. (COMPLETED)
3. Constitution Day/National Voter Registration Day. SLSV will participate in a constitution day panel discussing participation and civic engagement. A voter registration booth will be located next to the event. Community partners will assist in registration. (COMPLETED)
4. Hold a Vice-Presidential Debate Watch Party. SLSV and the President's Office will support a debate watch party in the main dorm on our campus.
5. Hold a Civic Engagement Fall Fest. SLSV and the President's Office will host a civic engagement fall fest which will include peer to peer civic socialization and issue learning. Student groups on campus will be provided booths with which to educate others on issues they want to highlight in the elections in a non-partisan manner. Students will be given food and prizes for attendance. This is a campus wide event. Early voting and registration will also happen on campus that day.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

1. We will analyze the number of students/programs and faculty attending campus wide events.
2. We will analyze the number of faculty and staff requesting resources from SLSV.
3. We will evaluate the NSLVE data to see if we have reached our targets.

Reporting:

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

Our campus action plan and NSLVE reports will be shared on the university website and we will send a campus email. Further, the NSLVE link will be sent out to our participants, coalition members and external partners with an acknowledgement of their support and contributions to the success of the effort.

Internal media will be distributed pressers to run stories for the campus community.