



## Action Plan

### Engagement Overview

Since 2012 Governors State has taken an active role in political engagement of its students to become active citizens, which is demonstrated through the political engagement of GSU's student governance to become deputy registrars to implement voter registration drives. This initiative has been the signature program for student governance over the past five years.

We are grounded in the belief of creating pathways to ensure that students at Governors State University are informed and actively engaged citizens, which is incorporated into the fiber of their academic learning. As represented in our mission statement GSU will create an intellectually stimulating public square, serve as an economic catalyst for the region, and lead as a model of academic excellence, innovation, diversity and responsible citizenship. Freshmen are accepted through the innovative program of cohorts: Civic Engagement, Global Citizenship, and Sustainability, which infuses community service engagement within the curriculum.

This year we are strategic about working with faculty and staff to create a consortium to develop a broader understanding of programs and events to not only engage the GSU student population but to create awareness among faculty and staff about the importance of voting and the reality of consequences not to engage. GSU is committed to improving democratic engagement, increasing student voter participation rates, and graduating students with a lifelong commitment to being informed and active citizens.

GSU has continued this work over the years through engagement and collaboration of community partners:

AAC&U

Higher Education Civic Engagement Collaborative, (HECEC)

Campus Election Engagement Project, (CEEP)

TurboVote

American Democracy Project

NASPA

Illinois Campus Compact

Clerk of Cook County

League of Women Voters

Will County Clerk's Office

Mayors Consortium

Southland Chamber of Commerce

League of Women Voters



### ***Voter Registration***

GSU's Student Governance lead by Justin P. Smith, President, has trained with the County Clerk's office to become deputy registrars to register voters. These students are able to register any voters in the State of Illinois.

GSU Rock the Vote Campaign is presented throughout the year to provide access to registering to vote as many people as possible and is also open to community members in the region.

Incoming freshmen, transfer and returning students are provided an opportunity to register to vote during Smart Start and Welcome Week.

### ***Voter Education***

Students are oriented to voting and becoming engaged citizens during the orientation process.

We are organizing speakers to educate and motivate students about understanding the election process. This will include working with faculty to create workshops and events that coalesce with the nuances of elections, voting, candidates and understanding politics. There will be watch party discussions that are interactive and led by faculty members. There are also student governance members in attendance to register students to vote.

Faculty members are engaged within the process of educating students on utilizing critical thinking skills, analyzing information and conducting thorough research to ascertain information.

GSU started the semester with outreach to the community, which included providing workshops on Civil Discourse and we plan to continue that strategy to ensure that voters are being heard and are able to voice their concerns with regard to modern day politics.

The Masters in Public Administration Club has been active consistently throughout the year conducting round tables and forums on local, regional and national legislators throughout the year. (Mayor's Roundtable, State Representatives, Illinois Senators, US Representatives)

Students who prefer not to register on-site at GSU are able to register online through the Jaguar Connection resource tool. The County Clerk's Office online voters' registration site link has been connected to the student's portal to allow students to register at any time.

### ***Ballot Access***

Early voting will be conducted at Governors State University March 14-16, 2018 for all Will County residents.



Students are further engaged in this process through election judge opportunities through the Will County Clerk's Office.

Governors State University will open the polls on Election Day, March 20, at 6:00 am. GSU is a polling place.

### ***Get out the Vote***

The student governance at GSU takes an active role in political engagement in advocacy with Illinois legislation.

GSU has collaborated with the Mayor of University Park to create a city-wide awareness campaign on the importance of voting. The Hip-Hop Get Out the Vote Initiative.



## **Calendar of Events**

### **January**

Thursday, Jan. 11 - Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement

Tuesday, Jan. 16 - Rock the Vote. 12pm-5pm.

Thursday, Jan 25 - The Student Senate will register people to vote through our signature program Rock the Vote. 12-5pm.

Wednesday, January 31 - Civic Discourse Workshop

### **February**

Wednesday, February 7, The Student Senate will hold an active Fish Bowl. At this event, students will be able to register to vote. Students will also have an information provided to them about different candidates such as Lieutenant governors, Judges, State representative candidates and so on. Hall of Governors. 10am-12pm.

Friday, February 19, Illinois State Representative, Round Table Discussion



Tuesday, February 27-The Student Senate annual Illinois United Student Senate Forum. This forum should equip students for the 2018 election. Sherman Hall 3:30-5:30pm.

### March

Monday, March 5- The Student Senate will host a Town Hall in Prairie Place Residence Hall for resident hall students 7pm-9pm.

Wednesday, March 7- The Student Senate will host a Town Hall -Hall of Governors. 3-4:15pm.

Thursday, March 8 – GSU Rocks the Vote Celebration!

Tuesday, March 20, Voting – GSU Polling Place

Tuesday, March 20, Election Results Watch Party

Wednesday, March 21, Illinois Senators, Pi Alpha Alpha Round Table Discussion

### April

Wednesday, April 4, Mayor, University Park addresses GSU students on political engagement

Wednesday, April 11, Illinois Senators Round Table Discussion

Thursday, April 21, Understanding the Political Process

Friday, April 29, Student Governance trained to become deputy registrars

### May

Friday, May 3, Transfer and Graduate Orientation for Voter Engagement

### June

Wednesday, June 20, Community Workshop “Civic Discourse”

Friday, June 22, Illinois State Representatives, Pi Alpha Alpha Round Table Discussion

### July

Thursday, July 5, Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement

Thursday, July 12, First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement

Tuesday, July 24, First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement

### August

Wednesday, Aug 1, First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement

Friday, Aug. 10, Fast Track Orientation Voter Engagement

Wednesday, August 15, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign

Thursday, Aug. 16, Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement

Friday, Aug. 24, Final Fast Track Orientation Voter Engagement

### September

Thursday, September 4, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign



Monday, September 17, Constitution Day  
Wednesday, September 19, The Political Process  
Thursday, September 20, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign  
Monday, September 24, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign

#### October

Wednesday, October 3, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign  
Thursday, October 4, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign  
Saturday, October 27, Hip-Hop Get Out the Vote Initiative, GSU & University Park Community  
Monday, October 29, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place  
Tuesday, October 30, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place  
Wednesday, October 31, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place

#### November

Thursday, November 1, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place  
Friday, November 2, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place  
Tuesday, November 6, Election Day  
Tuesday, November 6, Prairie Place Watch the Results Party

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