



October 31, 2018

641-269-3149
fax 641-269-4877
www.grinnell.edu

To: Catherine Fish
From: Barbara Trish

re: Grinnell College Voter Engagement Activities

Grinnell College is honored to be part of the All in Challenge, and here's what's been happening on campus regarding civic engagement. The first four pages provide some background and a list of activities targeted at civic engagement and the November 2018 election, as well as examples of complementary programming on campus. Pages five through thirteen constitute an appendix, which shows some of the messages delivered.

The Backstory: Fall 2018 activities at Grinnell College oriented toward student civic engagement and voter mobilization are sketched below. But it's useful to remember that this time frame should not be taken in isolation – and that in some respects fall 2018 is a continuation of long-standing efforts. What stands out in particular from the early months of 2018 are mobilization efforts for the Iowa Democratic Party's off-year caucuses in early February and Iowa's primary election in early June. Furthermore, the first few months of 2018 capped off a series of campus-wide events, monumental in scope, focusing on climate change and fossil fuels. And of particular note is a fall 2018 local school bond campaign and vote, the focus of registration and mobilization activity, some of which was aimed at students. This was a highly charged campaign and marked by concern in some corridors of the broader community about whether students should participate in this vote.

Key for Distinguishing Activities: The following color and asterisk scheme distinguishes activities and events in fall 2018 based on who is the primary entity undertaking it and the degree to which this is a new development.

Entity undertaking

Students or student group, Outside group, College administration or college unit

How long in place

*New **Some History ***Longstanding

Fall targeted engagement and voter mobilization activities:

Late August/September

***Voter registration at student group/activities fair and tabling in student center

***Voter registration activities – some League of Women Voters and much (creative and apparently effective) Next Gen

*Launch of Grinnell College National Poll to contribute to the national discourse and to activate student interest in the upcoming election (along with providing learning and research opportunities for students and faculty); nationally renown pollster Ann Selzer commissioned to do the poll; document appended

*** Canvassing in dorms (in violation of college rules!)

***Candidate appearances on campus, both those on ballot (statewide/congressional/local) and presidential hopefuls

October

Note: continuation of all August/September activities, with focus eventually pivoting to include GOTV

**E-mail to students on off-campus study (from Rosenfield/PPPE routed through Institute for Global Engagement) with information about voting from abroad (generated in consultation with County Auditor to ensure accuracy); document appended

***E-mail to college community (from Office of Community Enhancement) alerting to satellite voting opportunities; document appended

***On-campus satellite voting station (on October 16, before Iowa's October 27 preregistration deadline)

***Consultation with County Auditor regarding nuances of voting procedures as they involve Grinnell College students to insure validity of subsequent messages to students

**E-mail to students (from Housing Director) on October 26 reminding of impending pre-registration deadline and ease of registering before deadline

**E-mail to students (from Housing Director) October 29 with instructions about how to get proof of residence to pair with student ID for registration, including registration at the polls; document appended

*As suggested by College President and informed by recent research, e-mail appeal to faculty (from PPPE/Rosenfield) to take class time during week before election to encourage voter

participation and to distribute information card targeted to students about voting procedures in the county; document appended

*Wider distribution of information card

November

*Planned for Thursday or Friday week before election, e-mail from celebrity alumnus urging students to vote

*Planned (desired) for Friday before election, student newspaper story on NSLVE results from past

*Planned for Saturday before election (i.e., final satellite voting event 9 am - noon, close to but not on campus), special hours and location for drop-in requests to be filled immediately for validation of residence

**Election Day shuttle between campus and polling places

**November 7, if necessary residence/student status validation for students casting provisional ballots

Complementary Programming:

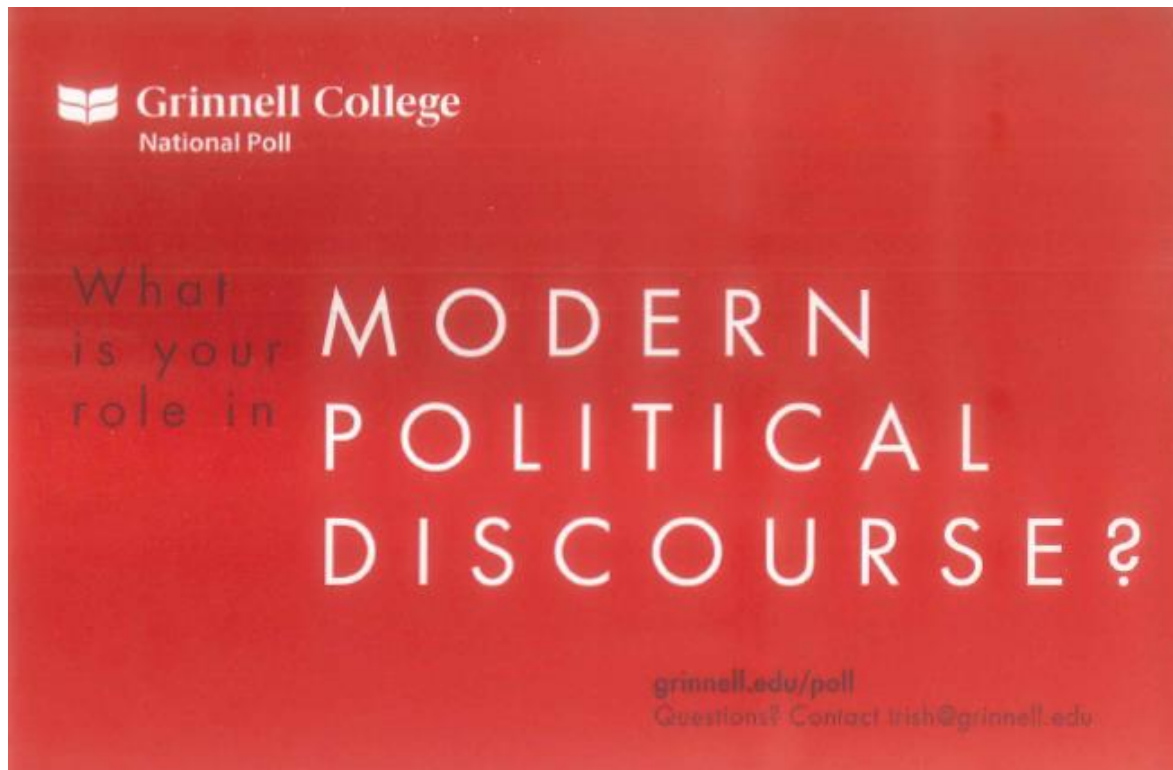
Add to the list above ongoing on-campus programming related to issues and, in some case, the election and campaign specifically. Here is a subset of fall 2018 relevant programming.

- Special short course on political polling, taught by visiting professor Ron Rapoport, polling expert,
- Panel discussion (as part of a larger symposium) on nationalism and sport, with focus on the NFL's anthem controversy
- Presentation and discussion of Grinnell College National Poll findings by Ann Selzer during "community hour"
- Talk by Art Cullen, Pulitzer Prize-winning Iowa journalist. on the state's political climate, with attention to local politics especially as it relates to immigration and the environment
- On opening-day of the Supreme Court session, talk by DC-based alumnus on the politics of Court appointments
- Foreign Affairs discussion (informal) focusing on globalism and "world order"
- One week before election, talk by scholar whose research focuses on the Dakota Access Pipeline

- Possible informal lunch in week before election on on Brazilian Election
- Planned day before election – postponed because of Pittsburgh synagogue tragedy and involvement of speaker – reflections “from both sides of the Atlantic” on the US election by Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and celebrated UK historian.

APPENDIX

Information to students about the Grinnell College National Poll





Grinnell College
National Poll

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE

Wednesday, August 29, 8 p.m. | JRC 209

Informational drop-in session

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 4 – October 4, 2 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Two credit Short Course SST295

Instructor: Ron Rapoport

Political Polling: Analyzing the Grinnell College National Poll

Early September

Release of findings. Dataset available at Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab (DASIL)

<http://dasil.sites.grinnell.edu>

Tuesday, September 18, 11 a.m. | JRC 101

GCNP presentation by pollster Ann Selzer

Letter to students abroad

Dear Grinnell students abroad:

I am writing to students who are away this fall on OCS programs, checking in to make sure that you know how to vote in the November election. Realize that as a student you have the option of voting either in your home state or in Iowa. The information below tells you how to start the process, and your best bet is to start right now. You all – whether voting in Iowa or elsewhere – will be able to register and request a ballot using the **Federal Postcard Application**. A fillable postcard application is available at the following site, at the “Fillable FPCA” link:

<https://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms>

Voting in Poweshiek County

If you intend to vote in Poweshiek County, you can simply fill out the postcard application (in the link above) and email it to the Poweshiek County Auditor at this email address:

meilander@poweshiekcourt.org

The Auditor’s Office will respond to your request, including detailed instructions about how to cast your ballot.

You might notice, though, as you are filling out the postcard application that it is possible to request that the ballot be sent to you via email. In the postcard application, simply specify “email” in section 5, which asks your preference for ballot receipt. You will, however, have to return a printed version of the ballot via mail, not email.

It’s important to remember that completed ballots must be received by noon of the 6th day after the election – that is, Monday, November 12. So make that request right now, and get the completed ballot in the mail as soon as you can.

Voting outside of Poweshiek County

The **Federal Voting Assistance Program** (www.fvap.gov) provides to US citizens abroad information about voting, including what each state requires. You will find details in the website about using the postcard application in other states.

Good luck voting!

Barbara Trish
Program in Practical Political Education (PPPE)

October 29 email to students on campus from Housing Coordinator

Hello students,

The deadline to pre-register to vote in the November 6th election has passed. After the pre-registration deadline, any person who is not already registered in the county [may still register on the day of the election](#) by proving both identity and residence (street address—not your campus mailbox). Please read through the following bullet points to learn more about your same-day registration options:

- If you are not registered — or are not registered at the address where you presently reside — you can register on the spot at the polls with a photo ID and proof of residence.
- A government-issued ID — like a valid Iowa driver's license with your current address printed on it — satisfies the requirements for both identity and residence.
- On-campus residents seeking to provide proof of residence will need to contact me directly ([via reply email](#)) about getting the appropriate document to prove your on-campus residence. You will be able to pick up this document from the DSA Suite (JRC Third Floor) as soon as it is ready (you will receive an email when your document is made). Please note that your P-Card, paired with the proof of residence document our office will provide you, will suffice for proving both identity and residence
- If you live off-campus, the following can be used to establish your residence: residential lease, a utility bill (including a cell phone bill), bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document.
- Once registered, you will be asked to show a state-issued ID before voting. If you do not have the necessary ID, you will be asked to sign an oath verifying your identity — and then will be allowed to cast a regular ballot.

Not sure if you are registered? Click [here](#).

Just as a reminder, you are eligible to vote in Poweshiek county if you: 1. are a United States citizen, 2. are over 18 years old by Election Day, and 3. have not already voted by absentee ballot or voted early either in Poweshiek County or another county.

If you wish to register and vote early in Poweshiek County, you have one more opportunity to do so on **Saturday, November 3rd from 9AM-12PM** at the Drake Community Library (930 Park St.). This is a very convenient option for students, so if you are able to vote early you are highly encouraged to do so!

Please make every effort to let me know as soon as possible if you require this proof of residence document (you can [email me](#) directly with your request). You will receive an email when your document is ready to be picked up in the DSA Suite (JRC Third Floor). If you wish to vote early at the Drake Community Library on Nov. 3, you will need to contact me before Friday, Nov. 4 at 5PM to receive your document. After 5PM, the Division of Student Affairs will be closed and cannot provide proof of residence over the weekend.

For **on-campus residents**, your polling place is:
ELKS LODGE WEST SIDE
720 3RD AVE
HOURS: 7AM-9PM

Questions? Call the Voter Information Hotline at 515-344-4550 or visit www.iwillvote.com

Thank you for your attention to all of this important information! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Lauren

E-Mail to Faculty urging use of class time to promote voting, along with images of 8X8" voter information card distributed

Note: incorrect information conveyed, shown in yellow (my mistake!)

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

This is as an unusual request, but one that's warranted. I am asking you – with the support of President Kington, Dean Latham and Faculty Chair Todd Armstrong – to consider taking a small amount of time this week in each of your classes to remind your students about the importance of the upcoming election and tell them what they will need to do to vote.

The level of student voter turnout at Grinnell College is problematic. Turnout among Grinnell students decreased from 2012 to 2016, and it's low relative to the average for other colleges – which, in fact, *increased* from 2012 in 2016. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), which compiles data to estimate turnout for participating campuses, 2016 student turnout at Grinnell was 40.7%, **close to 3 percentage points lower than the average for all colleges and universities** and **almost 10 percentages points lower** than the average for private institutions that award bachelor's degrees.

The message is clear: Grinnell students are not exercising their right to vote. Given how important it is for their voices to be heard in the electoral process, as well as confusing changes across Iowa and the country in the laws governing voting, I ask you to spend a small amount of class time to encourage voting and to clarify the process. Recent research has shown that making an appeal in the classroom to a semi-captive audience is an effective way to promote student voter participation.

To be clear, **this is plug for voting**, not for voting for a particular candidate or party. What's more, this is a plug for voting **wherever the student chooses to vote**, whether in a home state or in Iowa. Admittedly, deadlines have already passed in many other states, eliminating the possibility of absentee voting many places outside of Iowa.

You may choose to make a substantive appeal, for instance noting that it's not much of a "representative democracy" if student voices aren't heard. Or even report that Grinnell student turnout has lagged behind turnout at other colleges. Regardless, please convey to your students the mechanics of voting, either orally or in print. Information about how to vote shown below – directed at a student audience – is also summarized on large, square cards, which will be available on Tuesday (October 30) in the Academic Support Offices, for you to distribute to students if you choose. What follows is the information that you will find on those cards.

Thanks!

Barb Trish

Rosenfield and Program in Practical Political Education (PPPE)

HOW TO VOTE IN 2018

Grinnell College students are eligible to vote in Iowa, provided they are U.S. citizens, are 18 years old by Election Day, and will not be voting in another location. (Consult “How to Vote Early in the 2018 Midterm Elections” in *The New York Times*, Oct. 4, 2018 for information about and links to early/absentee voting procedures in other states.)

Here are two options for students; the first is very convenient since it is close to campus:

- **Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to noon, Satellite Voting at Drake Library.** (Park Street and 5th Avenue)
- **Nov. 6, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Election Day.** Students who live on campus — i.e., in Ward 1 Grinnell — can vote on Election Day at the Elks Lodge (720 3rd Avenue.) Others can find their polling locations by consulting the website of the Poweshiek County Auditor or the Iowa Secretary of State.

The voting process will vary slightly, depending on whether you are pre-registered at your current address.

- If you are already registered at the address where you presently reside, then you simply cast your vote at the Nov. 3 satellite station or on Election Day. In either case, you will be asked to show a state-issued ID before voting at the polls. If you do not have the necessary ID, you will be asked to sign an oath verifying your identity — and then will be allowed to cast a regular ballot.
- If you are not registered — or are not registered at the address where you presently reside — you can register on the spot at the polls with a photo ID and proof of residence.
 - A government-issued ID — like a valid Iowa driver’s license — satisfies both requirements.
 - Your P-Card, paired with proof of residence, will also suffice. If you live in the dorms, you should get the proof of residence document (with your dorm’s street address) from the Office of Student Affairs on the third floor of the Joe Rosenfield Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you live off campus, the following can be used to establish your residence: a utility bill (including a cell phone bill), bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document.
 - Once registered, you will be asked to show a state-issued ID before voting. If you do not have the necessary ID, you will be asked to sign an oath verifying your identity — and then will be allowed to cast a regular ballot.

If you have questions about voting, contact the office of the Poweshiek County Auditor (641-623-5443; <http://poweshiekcounty.org/poweshiek-auditor/>) or the office of the Iowa Secretary of State (888-767-8683; sos@sos.iowa.gov). On campus, Professor Barb Trish (trish@grinnell.edu) may be able to answer your questions.

DO YOU
REALLY CARE
ABOUT SOCIAL
JUSTICE?



THEN EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO **VOTE!**

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