



2024 Election Action Plan

Philosophy:

Haverford's goal is to engage students through multi-pronged outreach and engagement, and to strengthen a culture of civic participation and familiarity with the election process.

Haverford's roots as a Quaker institution connect to voter engagement and guide our work, and our institutional history reflects a fundamental commitment to bettering the world around us and contributing to the national (and international) discourse. This election action plan is but one aspect of this work; multiple key themes in our [forthcoming strategic plan](#) speak to our broader goals in areas of civic engagement, equity and inclusion, and sustainability and action.

This plan was authored (and will be enacted) by the Campus Voter Engagement Committee, and will be updated annually. This specific document outlines our strategies for the 2024 election cycle. Funding to support campus voter engagement efforts is primarily provided by the President's Office, with additional support from Student Engagement, the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, and the Political Science Department.

Voter Registration:

Haverford seeks to support eligible students' decision to vote wherever they prefer, whether using their campus address or their permanent home address. On the voting [homepage](#), the College makes information available regarding all options for registering, requesting an absentee or mail-in ballot, voting while studying abroad, as well voter information via the Vote411 [webpage](#) which provides key, overarching election information specific to the voter's district.

The College facilitates voter registration efforts over the summer (thanks to online PA voter registration) and during first-year move-in, and over the course of the year efforts (such as tabling and social media outreach) are organized by student clubs and organizations, including Haverford Votes. We are the beneficiary of tremendous partnerships with local organizations who help with voter registration efforts on campus. The College also organizes events on Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day, and issues regular reminders by email regarding voter registration deadlines.

To minimize potential issues with voter registration, the College maintains a relationship with the Delaware County Voter Registration Office, and is well-positioned to facilitate resolutions to potential issues.

At regular intervals, the College examines county voting data to verify registration and voting percentages, and to compare internal data against that calculated by the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). The College publishes the NSLVE data surrounding student voter participation at haverford.edu/voting, and shares the information widely on social media as well. This additional examination process ensures that we can support students who are registered, and those who are not registered, by tailoring messaging and resources to those specific groups.

Encouraging Campus Discourse:

The College supports a wide range of conversation regarding contemporary issues, and partners with a range of student and alumni organizations to organize and promote such events while modeling intelligent, empathetic civil discourse. Examples are below.

- * As part of our newly launched campus-wide speaker series, Meeting the Moment, a non-partisan panel discussion will be held on the on the importance of upcoming elections and their broader implications for our communities. This event will feature local activists and community leaders who will offer insights into their constituencies and communities that they work with, election impacts on local, state, and national issues, and strategies for coalition building. This discussion, along with other planned events furthers our enduring commitment to a campus of open dialogues by equipping the College community with the resources to content with complex issues. A full list of our initiatives can be found [here](#).
- * Additionally, for the November election cycle, fun and engaging activities are planned for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) to include tabling with non-partisan voting information, sidewalk and classroom board chalking, etc.
- * Every Friday, in collaboration with Haverford College libraries, student and staff members host student-facilitated community dialogues weekly on Philadelphia-area current events, national news and the 2024 elections, and international news. These conversations will develop an ongoing campus discussion surrounding Haverford and the communities in which it operates, provide opportunities for student leadership and engagement, and build community.
- * Lastly, in the wake of Election Day, the Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team hosts an annual Post-Election Community Space. This is a drop in opportunity for conversation with staff, a quiet and meditative moment, and a creative outlet alongside community members.

Access to the Polling Place & Voter Turnout:

After much advocacy and work with the county Board of Elections, the College won a much-publicized vote in 2018 to relocate the polling place for our ward to a space on campus, our Facilities Management building. Hosting voting on campus increased convenience not only for student voters, but also for neighbors who are now able to walk to their polling place.

In March 2024, the College, with approval from the county, moved the polling location to a more comfortable and larger space on campus convenient to parking.

With this change in polling location, the College increased its signage and communication to ensure that on- and off-campus voters know where to go and will have plentiful access to parking. When necessary, campus security provides campus assistance for voters with mobility concerns.

There is a significant non-partisan volunteer presence at the polls to welcome voters and provide assistance if needed. Physical campus signage and posters promote student engagement and turnout. Email messages from Haverford Votes and the President's Office will also support this effort, along with social media campaigns on the College's official accounts.

In 2021, the College began a new practice, given our support for faculty and staff to participate in the essential democratic process of voting. Additional work flexibility is available to any employee who needs assistance in order to vote in person, and any employee who is performing civic service as a non-partisan poll worker on Election Day is eligible for paid time off for scheduled Haverford College work missed in the performance of that service.

Goals and Assessment:

The College has set a goal of 95% registration and 85% turnout for the upcoming general election in November. As the primary election will be held after the close of the academic year in May, we will be working to encourage participation via absentee ballot, and have set a goal of 75% turnout.

Beyond assessing our turnout, we will continue to discuss voter engagement efforts with student leaders, volunteers, and politically involved groups over the course of the year, to be sure to understand and respond to concerns, suggestions, and opportunities for improvement. We ask every eligible student to register to vote and to participate in elections, and encourage every student to find ways to participate in civic processes, whether on our campus, within the region, or nationwide. For example, a student initiative entitled the “Tri-Co Challenge” (patterned after a Yale-Harvard competition) involves Haverford College, Bryn Mawr College and Swarthmore College and seeks to have participants sign a pledge to vote. Haverford College’s president, Wendy Raymond, enthusiastically joined the effort. The challenge’s goal is to get the highest percentage of honor-pledges to vote out of the total eligible student population. There are plans to involve international students in some capacity. Through this and other activities (below) we anticipate improving on our 87% registration rate.

Our perennial commitment is to ensure that the polling place is easily accessible to all voters, clear voter information is provided, and civic engagement is encouraged.

Campus Voter Engagement Committee:

Jesse Lytle, Vice President and Chief of Staff

Zach Oberfield, Associate Professor of Political Science and Advisor to Haverford Votes

Lisa Lonie, Assistant Chief of Staff

Haverford Votes Co-Head, Haverford Votes Co-Head

Committee Leadership will always reflect faculty and student leadership of Haverford Votes, and representatives of the President’s Office (reflecting the President’s commitment to student civic engagement). The Chief of Staff will retain responsibility for assembling the committee, and for engaging additional partners (such as Facilities Management, Campus Safety, Conferences and Events). The Committee will liaise with the Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility (CESR) Council as appropriate for further campus connections and collaborations.