



HVERFORD COLLEGE

2020 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.

This plan was authored (and will be enacted) by the Campus Voter Engagement Committee, and will be updated annually.

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 (haverford.edu/voting), the College makes information available regarding all options for registering, requesting an absentee or mail-in ballot, and voting while studying abroad.

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. 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 its own calculations concerning student voter participation at haverford.edu/voting (which only reflects data for students who vote in-person in our precinct). Our process for doing so is listed in the appendix. This 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. Campus partners include our Multicultural Alumni Action Group, the "Discourse on Discourse" series from the student group Community Conversations, Actionable Solutions, student partisan and non-partisan clubs and organizations, and the Political Science department. If any political candidates connect with student groups and ask to be hosted for events on campus, the College will equitably work with any and all student groups to support those visits.

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. The College will continue to refine its approach to signage and communication to ensure that on- and off-campus voters will know where to go and will have plentiful access to parking. There is a significant non-partisan volunteer presence at the polls to welcome voters and provide assistance in the event it is needed. Physical campus signage and posters will 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 2020, with regard to the COVID outbreak and resulting circumstances, the College is working hard to encourage students to submit applications for mail-in ballots, and to keep students engaged with Pennsylvania election timelines, even as they may be far away from campus. In the wake of PA Act 77, and new mail-in and absentee regulations, the College has updated its language and efforts to support student engagement to the greatest extent possible.

Goals

The College has set a goal of 75% turnout for the upcoming federal primary and the general election.

Campus Voter Engagement Committee:

Jesse Lytle, Vice President and Chief of Staff

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

Franklyn Cantor, Special Assistant to the President

George Doehne '22, Haverford Votes Co-Head

David Edelman '22, 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).

Appendix I

Voter Data Analysis Methodology:

- Purchase voter data from Pennsylvania for Delaware County, filter lines to only the College's precinct, remove all voters that are not registered at any College address (370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford College, Hannum Drive, 800-812 Ardmore Avenue, 773 College Ave, and 710 College Ave.)
- Remove all alumni and staff registered at those addresses who no longer live there (by examining registration dates and birthdates)
- Remove all inactive voters
- Request full student directory from Registrar's office, and match via VLOOKUP to compare the two lists and count the total number of active students registered. Remove students in voter list that don't find a match due to leave status.
- Divide total number of registered students by total number of students (less international students and those under 18) to identify registration rate. Divide total number of voters by number of registered students to identify voting rate.
- Compare to NSLVE numbers, add the new count to NSVLE's absentee/early/mail-in voting numbers.

Voter Data Analysis Results:

- 2018 General Election (Federal): 625 students registered, 510 students voted (81.6% participation)
- 2018 Primary Election (Federal): 565 students registered, 138 students voted (24.4% participation)
- 2017 General Election (Municipal): 640 students registered, 205 students voted (32% participation)
- 2016 General Election (Presidential): 589 students registered, 523 students voted (88.8% participation)