



HVERFORD COLLEGE

2022 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 2022 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 (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. 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 them 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. Campus partners over the years include our Multicultural Alumni Action Group, the “Discourse on Discourse” series from the student group Community Conversations, Actionable Solutions, the Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility Council, student partisan and non-partisan clubs and organizations, and the Political Science department. In 2022, we also hope to partner with the Interim Chief Diversity Officer and student affinity groups to ensure that voter registration is present at many of their signature programming events. 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. For our students who are not eligible to vote, this may be their only avenue for engaging in the election, and we will be sure to foster these opportunities with a particular eye towards their inclusion.

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 2022, as we continue to reckon with the COVID-19 virus 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 evolving mail-in and absentee regulations, the College has updated its language and efforts to support student engagement to the greatest extent possible.

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.

The 2020 election cycle taught us a great deal. Shifting circumstances due to COVID shifted our focus from making sure the polling place was easily accessible, to needing to communicate

clearly around mail-in ballots amidst great skepticism of the postal service. Additionally, our students were not permitted to head off-campus to encourage local residents to vote, which usually has a contagion effect on our own campus community. Nevertheless, the 81.5% voting rate achieved in 2020 (and the 92% registration rate, and 89% voting rate of registered students) indicates that we have had good success, but still have more room to grow. As comfort with mail-in ballots increases, we anticipate additional growth.

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, Assistant Chief of Staff

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). The Committee will liaise with the Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility (CESR) Council as appropriate for further campus connections and collaborations.