

## Heidelberg University 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Christopher Abrams

### Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Heidelberg University in Ohio for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Heidelberg University for the 2024 election are:

1. Actively engagement the campus for voter registration are multiple fronts
  - a. Faculty/Staff
  - b. Athletics
  - c. Student Government
  - d. Residence Life Staff
  - e. Orientation
2. Register 80% of new students through the new student check in process
3. Register 50% of returning students through voter registration drive efforts on campus

### Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Chris Abrams - Dean of Student Affairs  
Jocelyn Everett- President for Berg Events Council  
Branden Jakubcin and Courtney Neering- Staff Representatives SAAC  
Isaiah Young- Student Senate President  
Dennis LoConti- Director of Residence Life  
Teresa Nibblett- Tiffin League of Women Voters

### Commitment:

## Mission

Heidelberg University is a community of learning that promotes and nurtures intellectual, personal and professional development, leading to a life of purpose with distinction.

## Vision

Heidelberg will be a welcoming, student-centered university where in class and out of class learning is seamless and continuous. Both the undergraduate and graduate curriculums will effectively integrate liberal arts and professional preparation across disciplines to prepare our students to be global citizens who think critically, communicate effectively, and serve thoughtfully.

Heidelberg demonstrates its commitment to civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation through its hand-on approach in aiding the execution of our All-in plan which emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and global citizenry as a part of preparing students to be critical thinkers who serve thoughtfully. Further, the university embraces civic engagement and is connected to several nonpartisan groups including NC Campus Engagement (formerly known as NC Campus Compact), Berg Events Council, SAAC, Berg Student Senate, Tiffin League of Women Voters, and others. These commitments aid in our efforts to increase student participation in democracy and provide more resources to support faculty, staff, and students who work to implement civic engagement commitments. Additionally, President Robert Huntington values the importance of the student voice in all elections. Previously, our institution has developed and submitted an action plan to ALL IN for 2020, which can be found on our ALL IN campus page: <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/heidelberg-university/>

## Landscape:

There have been multiple changes in voting laws in the State of Ohio over the past year. Such has identification needed at the polling location, voting by mail and early voting changes. The following illustrates the new landscape in Ohio.

### [Identification for Voting on Election Day at the Polls](#)

The following are acceptable forms of identification (ID) for voting a regular ballot at the polls on Election Day:

- An Ohio driver license
- An Ohio state ID card (*Additional links and information in the Free State IDs section below*)
- An interim identification form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- A U.S. passport or passport card
- A U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card (*that includes the voter's name and photograph*)

### Notes:

- An Ohio driver license or state ID card *must be unexpired*.
- A suspended driver license that is not expired may still be used as ID for voting.
- An Ohio driver license or state ID card with a voter's previous address is acceptable.

- Digital (or copy) versions of ID are *not* acceptable, except for the Veteran ID Card (VIC) issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs, as the VIC is now only issued digitally.

#### Key Changes:

- A U.S. passport or passport card, which was previously not a valid form of ID, is now acceptable.
- The bill *eliminates* the option to provide the following as a valid form of ID:
  - Current utility bill, bank statement, government check; paycheck, other government document, and concealed carry permit.

#### Voting-by-Mail

An Ohio driver license *number*

- An Ohio state ID card *number*
- The last four digits of the elector's social security number (SSN)
- A *copy* of a photo ID. For a driver license and state ID, this means a copy of *both* the front and back. For a U.S. passport, a *copy* means a copy of the ID page of the passport that includes the elector's name, photo, and other identifying information, including the expiration date.

For voters who have used a driver license/state ID number, or the last four digits of their SSN, to apply for and return a Vote-by-Mail ballot, nothing has changed.

- Confined or disabled (e.g., nursing home voters) may follow the same ID requirements as a VBM voter.

#### Key Changes:

- The bill *eliminates* the option to provide the following as a valid form of ID to Vote-by-Mail:
  - Current utility bill, bank statement, government check; paycheck, other government document, and o concealed carry permit.
- **The deadline to apply for a Vote-by-Mail ballot has changed to the close of business on the 7th day before Election Day (Tuesday before).** The previous deadline was noon on the 3rd day before Election Day (Saturday before).
- All Vote-by-Mail ballots must be returned by the 4th day after the election, instead of the 10th day, to be eligible to be counted. Non-UOCAVA Vote-By-Mail ballots must still be postmarked by the day before Election Day.
- The period to cure any issues with a returned VBM ballot is now the 4th day after the election instead of the 7th day.
- The deadline for UOCAVA voters to return/postmark their ballots is now 7:30p.m. on Election Day.
- **Except for UOCAVA voters, individuals must apply for a Vote-by-Mail ballot using a form prescribed by the Secretary of State (we advise using a Vote-by-Mail application from our website, or the SOS website).**

#### Voting Early In-Person at the Board of Elections

The acceptable forms of identification (ID) for voting a regular ballot during Early In-Person voting at the BOE:

- An Ohio driver license
- An Ohio state ID card
- An interim identification form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- A U.S. passport or passport card
- A U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card (*that includes the voter's name and photograph*).

#### Notes:

- The acceptable forms of ID for voting Early In-Person are now the *exact same* as the valid forms of ID required to vote at the polls on Election Day.

#### Key Changes:

- A voter can no longer provide the last four digits of their SSN and vote a regular ballot during Early In-Person voting.
- The bill *eliminates* the option to provide the following as a valid form of ID to Early In-Person voting:
  - Current utility bill, bank statement, government check; paycheck, other government document, and concealed carry permit.
- **The day before Election Day (Monday) has been eliminated as an Early In-Person voting day.**
- The six hours from this Monday are reallocated to the Monday through Friday of the preceding week. See our Early In-Person voting page for early voting hours.

## Current Important Ohio election Dates 2024

### Ohio Federal and State Elections

Tue Mar 19, 2024 - Ohio Presidential Primary

#### Voter Registration Deadline

Postmarked by

Tue Feb 20, 2024

#### Absentee Ballot Request Deadline

- In-Person, Received by  
Tue Mar 12, 2024
- Received by  
Tue Mar 12, 2024

#### Absentee Ballot Return Deadline

- Postmarked by  
Mon Mar 18, 2024
- Received in Dropbox by  
Tue Mar 19, 2024 7:30PM EDT
- Post Received by  
Sat Mar 23, 2024

#### Early Voting Available

In-person Absentee Voting

From Wed Feb 21, 2024 to Sun Mar 3, 2024

Tue Mar 19, 2024 - Ohio State Primary

**Voter Registration Deadline**

Postmarked by  
Tue Feb 20, 2024

**Absentee Ballot Request Deadline**

- In-Person, Received by  
Tue Mar 12, 2024
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**Early Voting Available**

In-person Absentee Voting  
From Wed Feb 21, 2024 to Sun Mar 17, 2024

Updates will be made once Fall 2024 voting information is available

Heidelberg University is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. Our institution is designated as the following: Predominantly White Institution, Rural Serving Institution.

Heidelberg campus demographic and voting data:

Heidelberg University has approximately 1000 students. The following represents a breakdown of multiple relevant demographics:  
8% are from Tiffin and Seneca County Ohio  
19% are from out of state  
19% identify as underrepresented students  
40% are first-generation students  
45% identify as females; 55% as males  
50% are DIII student-athletes

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 62.4%.  
Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 84.1%.

Our 2018 campus voting rate was 23.2%.  
Our 2018 campus voter registration rate was 80.2%.

Heidelberg University has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2020 Silver.

**Goals:**

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

1. Register 80% of new students through the new student check in process in 2024
2. Register 50% of returning students through voter registration drive efforts on campus in 2024
3. Increase voter rate by 5% in 2024

### Strategy:

Heidelberg University will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

Host a table for student check in for voter registration

Host a weekly voter registration and absentee ballot drive outside Heidelberg's main dining hall

Solicit coaches to make voter and absentee ballot registration as a part of their year opening team meetings.

### Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Did we hit our goals voter registration percentages

Did we hit our goals for voter participation percentage increase

### Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website  
<https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/heidelberg-university/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.