



Indiana University of Pennsylvania Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2023 Academic Year

This plan was created using the Votes & Ballots Action Planning Form. We highly recommend editing and expanding upon this draft before submitting for review.

Throughout this document, we mention the Strengthening American Democracy Guide as a resource for your review. We encourage you to turn to that resource for guidance and support as you complete your action plan!

I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by Kevin Foster, Assistant Director for Student Involvement and Leadership Development to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023 Academic Year, on and around our campus in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

The following groups will be leading this work at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Student Affairs Staff

The mission of our initiative is:

- The mission of the voter registration and get out the vote initiative focuses on educating, engaging, and motivating students to engage in civic processes.

The action plan helps inform campus partners on what is going on and seek to increase the percentage of student registered and increase the percentage of students who participate in elections.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Executive Summary* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

II. Leadership

Kevin Foster, Assistant Director for Student Involvement and Leadership Development will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Eric Barker, Betsy Sarneso, Caitlin Aiello

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Representation from different perspectives and areas of expertise, Trusted leaders and organizations who support communities that are historically underrepresented in democracy

Our group plans to meet a few times a semester at time tbd/location Zoom

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Leadership Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement.

We also have had a senior leader commit to civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

On campus, we've seen:

- Voter education resources
- Political clubs or student organizations
- Campus leaders promoting voting
- On campus polling place
- Voter registration tables
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- Signage promoting Election Day
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On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Political speakers
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- Registering to vote
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The emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement could be increased.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Commitment Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

IV. Landscape

We do not have access to comprehensive demographic information about our student body at this time.

Our institution has also utilized the following data gathering tools:

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- National Survey of Student Engagement
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They help to inform our institution's civic learning and democratic engagement efforts by Unsure

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Landscape Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

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With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Goals Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined a strategy describing how we will bring this vision to life in the coming months and years.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** in the **short term** (within the next year):

- The institution is sponsoring tabling for voter registration throughout the semester. There was a kick-off event on national voter registration day.

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **short term**:

- There will be campus messaging going out to students encourage them to register to vote sent via email and campus posters. Tabling will continue for voter registration. There will be tabling for get out the vote on election day.

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **short term**:

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These are tactics that we **are already doing** for the **long term** (beyond the next year):

- Maintaining a voter registration and get out the vote website as a source of education and information for students.

These are tactics that we **want to do** in the **long term**:

- Working with campus leadership to continue to promote civic engagement opportunities and investment

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **long term**:

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How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Strategy Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VII. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

We are not currently enrolled in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your NSLVE section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- Email to members of our campus coalition
- Email to campus administration
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We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- Post on the campus website
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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

- Sending a post-election survey to students
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We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year
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How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Reporting & Evaluation Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.