



Jefferson Community College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jefferson Community College (JCC) is a public community college in Watertown, New York. The College was established in 1961. It is the only higher education campus located within a 50-mile radius of Watertown.

The college offers over 40 associate degrees and certificates. Our programs are career-technical based and transferrable for a bachelor's degree. We enroll about 1,300 full and part-time students each semester. The campus is located 10 miles from Fort Drum Army base.

Our mission at JCC is to Educate. Inspire. Empower. We believe that fostering an open and engaging environment during this election season will allow our students to become stronger, well informed global citizens.

The ALL-In Democracy Action Plan was developed by Tanya Hoistion, Coordinator Student Accommodations & Testing Services and Matthew Gorman, Interim Director Student Activities. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagements and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. This action plan is for the 2024-2025 Academic year and all the events will be held on campus. The goals for Jefferson Community College for the 2024 election are:

1. Host events that encourage voter registration.
2. Promote democracy and why it is important for students to understand the voting process and their civic duty.
3. Create a welcoming and encouraging environment during the election season for students, faculty, and staff.
4. Empower students to vote.

LEADERSHIP

The offices of Student Activities and Accommodative Services serve as the primary resources on campus for voter registration. In collaboration with Academics, they host programs that support civic engagement and voter education. Student Activities and Accommodative Services will be the primary offices to implement this action plan.

Our president, Dr. Daniel Dupee is fully committed to the All-In challenge and is supportive of the action plan and events presented. Student Government will also be taking a role in implementing our action plan.

Below is a list of the departments that will be assisting with this plan:

Student Government
Institutional Technology
Marketing

Sociology Department
Political Science Department
History Department
Veteran Services
Veterans Club
Local Election office

COMMITMENT

Our campus and leadership strongly believe in educating our students to be informed and active citizens in our society today. Our President, Dr. Dupee has demonstrated his commitment by signing the All-In challenge agreement. As stated in our mission statement, our goal is to Educate, Inspire and Empower students. By hosting events that encourage and support voter registration and civic engagement, we are fulfilling our mission. Below is JCC's vision, values, and strategic planning initiatives.

Our Vision

Jefferson Community College will be a premier higher education institution, transforming lives to strengthen the region and foster positive change worldwide.

Institutional Values

Learning: We expect excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement to support personal and professional growth.

Inclusion: We work together to ensure all voices are heard and valued, reflecting an appreciation of diversity, and our common goal of equity for all students and employees.

Community: We create a collaborative and engaging environment that fosters connections within and beyond the College.

Integrity: We commit to transparency and honesty, creating a culture of accountability built on respect and trust.

Empowerment: We support our students and employees with a professional environment and the resources needed to foster success.

Key Strategies

Pathways Strategy

Create educational and career pathways that meet the needs of students and the community.

Partnerships Strategy

Strengthen partnerships with K-12 schools, universities, and employers

to enhance program excellence, drive economic development, and ensure regional prosperity.

Student Experience Strategy

Design and implement an inclusive student experience that advances equitable outcomes, purposefully integrates diversity, and prepares students to be successful and responsible global citizens.

Financial Sustainability Strategy

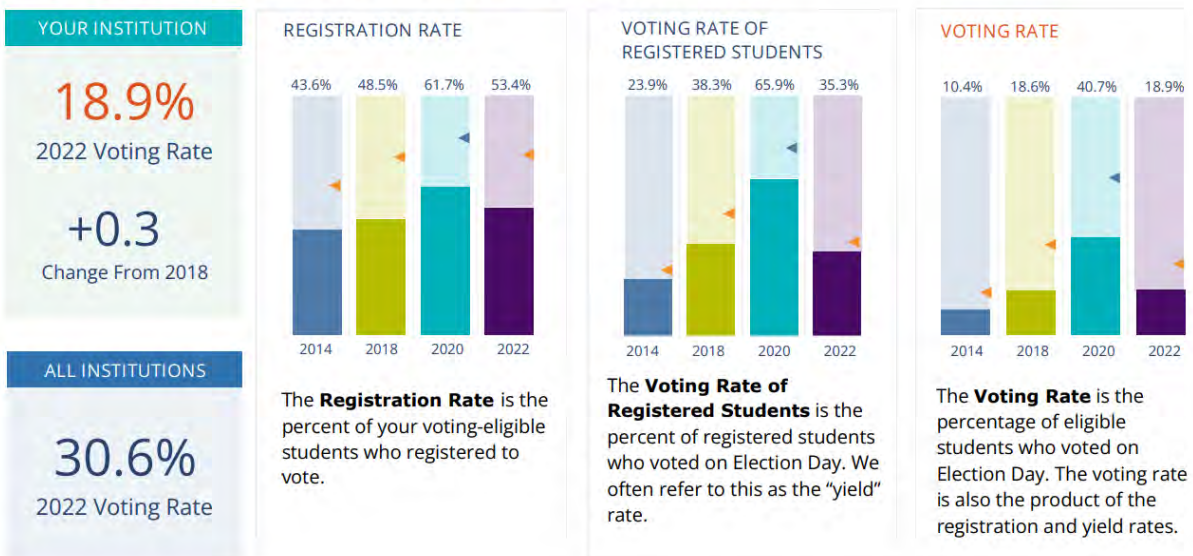
Secure financial sustainability through organizational efficiencies, best practices, and innovative initiatives.

Civic learning and engagement are part of our strategic plan in that we want to have our students become informed global citizens. Through their education at JCC, the events and programming hosted by various campus offices, and the faculty/staff we are dedicated to civic engagement.

LANDSCAPE

JCC's voting rates as indicated in the 2022 NSLVE report, have improved by 0.3% from 2018. Our goal for the 2024 election is to have an increase of 8% and have a voting rate of 27%.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates



The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. The information is based on enrollment data from the 2023-2024 academic year. Our total student enrollment was 2,367. Please note- this number includes high school students.

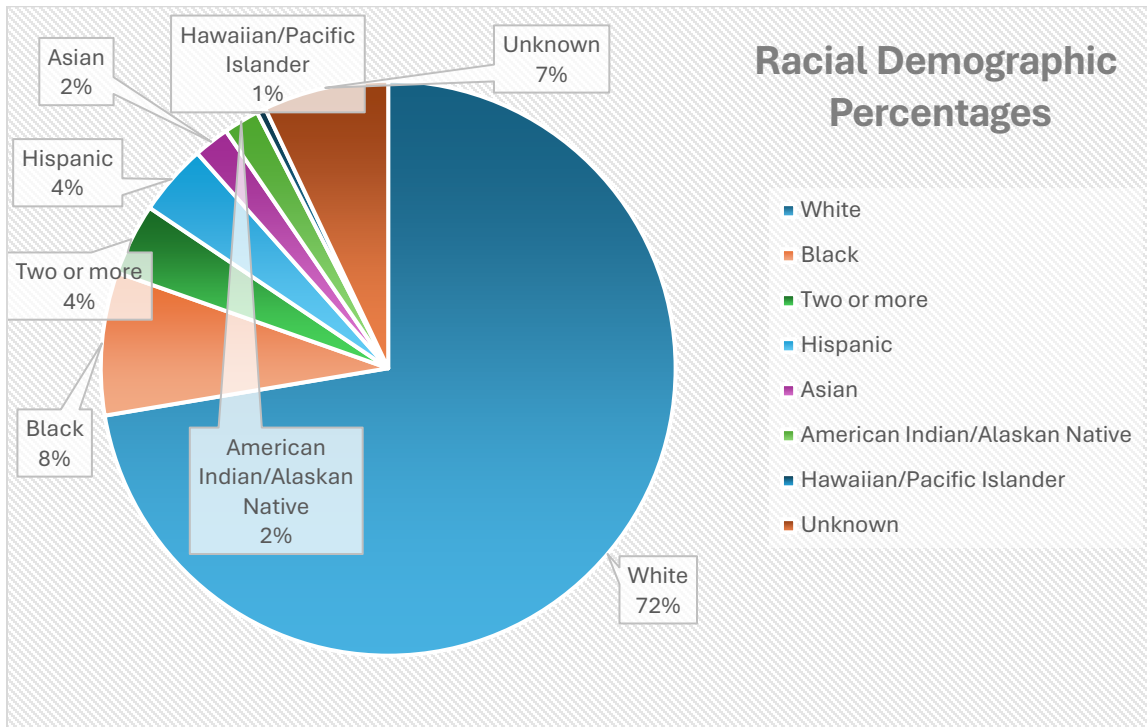
Enrollment data:

Full-time	Part-time
46%	54%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
93.4%	6.5%	1.4%	94%	6%

Gender and Age Demographics

Male	Female	Non-Binary	Under 18	18-24	25+
39%	61%	.76%	31.6%	42.5%	25.8%



Jefferson Community College prepares students to be critical thinkers, active communicators, problem solvers, independent leaders and possess strong teamwork skills for their career and life. JCC's commitment to civic and democratic engagement is fostered in our curriculum and co-curricular activities.

The following courses at JCC have a civic/democratic engagement piece:

HIS 114- History of New York State
HIS 150- American History to 1877
HIS 151- American History 1877 to present
HIS 217- Women in American History
POL 121- Introduction to American Government
POL 122- State and Local Government
SOC 144- Introduction to Sociology
SOC 241- Diverse Families
SOC 244- Social Problems

The following list is of co-curricular programs that have a civic/democratic engagement piece:

INT 111- This is a course that all students must take. It is a college foundations course that is based on the student's major. The class focuses on study skills, academic planning, basic research, and campus resources. The students are mandated to attend so many events on campus as part of the course. There are also guest speakers for the classes depending on the major.

Student Activities- This office promotes student participation in events that encourage social interaction, social responsibility, leadership, education, cultural awareness, DEI awareness, and civic engagement. Voter registration is available in the office. Student clubs within this organization enhance the student experience and promote awareness.

- LGBT+ Club host activities that promote healthy interactions and awareness of the community on campus. They provide a supportive network and welcoming environment for students.
- Veterans Club is one of the largest clubs on our campus. It is comprised of veterans, family members, staff, faculty, and non-military affiliated students. They host several events that promote unity, civic engagement, and a sense of community for many students on campus.
- Student Government Association (SGA) represents the student body to the administration. They sponsor all the clubs, campus- wide events/activities, they serve on campus committees, and they allocate programming money to student organizations.

Accommodative Services Office (ASO) - This office provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. It also is a Voter Registration site where students can receive assistance completing the voter registration application. The ASO also hosts events throughout the semester that encourage students to become a global citizen within our school and community. They also provide referrals to outside agencies.

JCC Public Service – JCC employees believe in our mission. As part of that mission, employees strive to engage in public service that benefits our community. Many faculty and staff volunteer with local service organizations, non-profit boards, government

units, local and county legislators, faith-based communities, and other civic-minded organizations.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) – This committee is comprised of multiple faculty members, staff, and students. The purpose of this committee is to promote and educate the campus community on DEI. They will work with other groups on campus to provide programming and events.

2024-2025 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMING

ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL(S) RESPONSIBLE	LOCATION	DATE	PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY
Voter Registration	Accommodative Services	CLC 15-137E	All year	Students are provided a voter registration application at their intake meeting for services.
Voter Registration	Residence Life	East Hall	August 23, 2024	Students will be given a voter registration form to complete at move-in.
Marketing	Student Activities, Accommodative Services & Marketing	Campus buildings, digital boards, Brightspace	September and April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform students of NYS deadlines for voting. • Inform students of where to access voter information
Voter Registration	Student Activities & Accommodative Services	McVean Student Lounge	Sept. 17, 2024	Register students to vote
Constitution Day	SGA & Faculty	Jules 2 nd Floor landing	Sept. 17, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational table with non-partisan online resources for students to check their knowledge, take a citizenship quiz, play educational games, and explore the constitution. • Provide pocket size constitutions. • Email sent to students with resources.
Faculty/Staff Video	Student Activities, Accommodative Services & Marketing	Email, Student Portal	The week of Sept. 30, 2024	Provide students with a short clip of faculty, staff and administration speaking about their civic duty to vote and how it

				makes them feel to be a responsible citizen
Voter Registration	Student Activities & Accommodative Services	McVean Student Lounge	Oct. 17, 2024	Register students to vote
Mock Debate	Student Activities, Accommodative Services, History and Sociology Faculty	Sturtz Theater	TBA- week of Oct. 28 th	Provide students and the community an opportunity to engage in a mock debate.
Student Empowerment Day	Student Activities & Accommodative Services	Capitol Hill, Albany NY	Two days in February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One day is for students with disabilities to go to Capitol Hill and lobby for monies to support students with disabilities. • Another day is for students to lobby with the Capitol for higher education funding.

Barriers to success: Jefferson Community College is a rural, predominantly white campus. The college serves three counties, and we also have a large military base within 10 miles of the campus. We try to advertise where polling places are in the various counties, however, there are many individuals that get confused. We do provide a handout out with the counties Board of Elections. We also provide information for absentee ballots. The last election was during COVID, and it was difficult to disseminate information and host events.

GOALS

Jefferson Community College has the following goals for civic learning and democratic engagement:

1. Increase the voting rates of students. This goal will be achieved by:
 - a. Hosting events on a scheduled basis each semester.
 - b. Provide voter registration information in INT 111.
 - c. Have special programs (Opportunity Programs, Athletes, etc.) provide voting information to their cohort.
2. Promote and foster a learning environment that discusses civic learning and engagement.
 - a. Host open forums about the democratic process, voter registration and civic responsibilities.
 - b. Add a civic learning activity/assignment in INT 111.
 - c. Have local politicians come and have a speaking engagement.

3. Expand access to voting for diverse students.
 - a. The Accommodative Services Office offers assistance for students with disabilities.
 - b. Provide voter registration applications in various languages to reflect our student demographics.
 - c. Create marketing materials in the same languages.

As stated in JCC’s mission statement, values, and key strategies, we want to have students become global citizens. We believe that achieving the above goals will empower the students to become global citizens.

NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT (NSLVE)

Jefferson Community College has participated in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) report. Below is the information that they gathered about our campus.

CAMPUS REPORT: Jefferson Community College

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2014	2018	2020	2022	2018-2022 Change	
Total Student Enrollment	3,982	3,379	2,799	2,318	-1,061	<p>This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.</p> <p>When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This is indicated by IPEDS in the data source.</p> <p>In the following pages with tables, Enrolled represents the eligible voters when we have used NSC as the data source. When we have used IPEDS as the data source, Enrolled includes non-resident aliens who are ineligible to vote, and for whom we are unable to account due to the lack of data from your institution.</p>
Age under 18/Unknown	685	735	678	673	-62	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	23	14	-	22	7	
Datasource	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	-	
FERPA records blocked	27	57	30	-	-	
Non-Degree Seeking Students	283	187	158	-	-	
Total eligible voters	2,963	2,385	1,925	1,622	-762	
Number of students who registered	1,292	1,157	1,189	867	-290	
Number of students who voted	309	443	783	306	-137	
Registration Rate %	43	48	61	53	4	
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	23	38	65	35	-2	
Voting Rate %	10	18	40	18	0	

©2024 National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement 5

STRATEGY

Jefferson Community College will implement the following strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation:

- Increase posters and date reminders all over campus about the 2024 election.
- Signage in all buildings of where to access voter registration forms.
- Host a contest on National Voter Registration Day. Both students and faculty will be able to participate.

- Participate in all the civic holidays throughout the academic year.
- Create a short video clip of faculty and staff talking about their voting experience and encouraging students to vote or register to vote.
- Have an event with Boomer (our mascot) with some giveaways about voting and reminders.
- Implement a new student survey assessment regarding civic engagement.
- Host an Art contest- student who can create the best voting poster (3 winners).
- Work collaboratively with the academic departments to incorporate civic learning and engagement into the INT 111 class.
- Collaborate with our local board of elections and local politician to have guest speakers on campus.

REPORTING

The All-In Action Plan for 2024 will be shared first with the Academic Leadership and our Board of Trustees. After approval from senior administration, it will be shared with the campus. We will form a committee to complete the implementation of the report. The Action Plan will be available on our website and in the student portal. Data will be collected throughout the academic year and a final report will be written in the month of June 2025. The report will include the 2024 NSLVE report. The completed report will go to senior administration.

EVALUATION

Evaluation will play an integral part in our Action Plan. Evaluating will tell us how we are doing with our civic learning and engagement efforts. We will be able to see if our efforts are providing an increase or decrease in student engagement and voter registration. The evaluation process will be ongoing throughout the academic year.

At any event, we will be able to take attendance and record the data. During the voter registration, we will be able to count the number of completed applications we received. The Student Activities Office and the Accommodative Services Office will be able to give semester data on how many applications were given to students. We will also be able to view the number of "clicks" on the student portal regarding voter registration.

In the future, we need to create a survey for students regarding voting. This will give us baseline data that we can use to make appropriate goals for the next election year.