



Johnson County Community College Democratic Engagement Action Plan: Fall 2022

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 Andrea Vieux, Associate Professor of Political Science to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Johnson County Community College. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over Fall 2022, on and around our campus in Overland Park, Kansas.

The following groups will be leading this work at Johnson County Community College in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Undergraduate Students
- Faculty
- Student Affairs Staff

The mission of our initiative is:

- Civic learning and democratic engagement

Fall 2022 voter engagement efforts. Bringing a collaborative group of students, staff, faculty, and nonprofit organizations together to engage the students in the 2022 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

Andrea Vieux, Associate Professor of political Science will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Involved: Students, Student Life & Leadership, Honors, Student Sustainability Committee, Political Engagement and Leadership Alliance, Black Student Union, Department of History and Political Science, Loud Light Kansas, League of Women Voters of Johnson County Kansas, LINKS of Greater Kansas City.
- I attempted to create a collaborative group based on the prior work of our community learning coordinator. Unfortunately, she departed for another position and her line was re-imagined such that voter engagement was removed from the new line.
- I wish we had a specific office/staff member to coordinate things, but we don't. I also wish we had a grant or some kind of financial support, but we don't.
- We don't have a succession plan because I am the only full time political scientist with a specialization in American politics.
- We attempted to reach out to external funders, but did not receive support.
- We basically tried our best.

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, Leaders who can help with outreach and power building by bringing more people across campus in to our work

Our group plans to meet We met a couple times per month. at Zoom

We are also partnering with the following organizations from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition to support our efforts on campus:

- Loud Light Kansas
- League of Women Voters of Johnson County Kansas
- LINKS of Greater KC

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

We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, “Community Engagement — We value our role as the community's college and commit ourselves to partnerships that respond to the changing needs of those we serve. <https://www.jccc.edu/about/story/mission/>”

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
- We had notifications in our course management system so all students go the info. We also do notifications when they apply, and on the student clubs & orgs page.

On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Political speakers
- Town halls
- Registering to vote
- Civic Holiday events (such as National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day)
- Deliberative dialogues
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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

The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. This information is based on data collected from fall 2021 when our total student enrollment was 16,643.

Enrollment Data:

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
100.00%	0.00%	71.00%	29.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
89.00%	11.00%	8.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Gender Demographics:

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender

Age:

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+

Racial Demographics:

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
4.00%	1.00%	6.00%	11.00%	1.00%	62.00%	5.00%

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.

V. Goals

Before setting our civic learning and democratic engagement goals on campus, we took the following information into consideration.

We know our campus faces following challenges internally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

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- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
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- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
- Voter engagement is politicized, resulting in administrative reluctance to engage.
- We have trouble engaging student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
- It is difficult to find students to help plan, as much of the planning needs to occur early enough to ensure space but not many students are on campus over the summer. If we wait until the semester starts, we end up scrambling around.

We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- We don't have a working relationship with our local election office.
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- Our state laws make it challenging to support student voter registration efforts.
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- Kansas has a law that has led to groups not registering voters, so all we can do is pass out information on how to register. <https://kansasreflector.com/2022/04/07/attorneys-debate-potential-for-kansas-election-law-to-chill-voter-registration-efforts/>

With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

- Our institution's mission statement, values, and strategic plan mention civic learning and democratic engagement.
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- We have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
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- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
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- We have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
- We have a very engaged and passionate team.

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

Start planning earlier.
Get more help.
Get more funding.

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

Institutionalize voter engagement more thoroughly.
Gain institutional and external funding and support.
Add personnel--particularly a specific office or person- to help with our efforts.

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):

- Voter registration reminders in our course management system (Canvas) that notifies all students to register. Constitution Day event, National Voter Registration Day Event, Last "moments" to register to vote event (to capture both Kansas and Missouri voter registration deadlines).

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

- Next year, we will do a meet and greet with the college trustee candidates so students can get to know the folks who oversee our college. We'd like to do an Election Day event in the future as well.

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

- One to two additional registration and engagement events, if we have money.

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

- Voter registration reminders in our course management system (Canvas) that notifies all students to register. Constitution Day event, National Voter Registration Day Event, Last "moments" to register to vote event (to capture both Kansas and Missouri voter registration deadlines.)

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

- Voter information events on how to find sample ballots, info on candidates, etc.

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

- Ideally some meet and greets with candidates for local offices that impact our college. But this depends on our budget and personnel. Currently we don't have the capacity as there is no office that coordinates efforts. We hope to add another full time political scientist that can assist, or at least a part time administrative assistant to help. Unfortunately, the voter engagement was removed from it's prior line somewhat last minute, so we were sort of scrambling to get events up and running. In the future, we will hopefully have more support.

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)

Our campus has access to our National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data for 2020. In 2020 our registration rate was 77.4. In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate increased.

In 2020, our voting rate was 63 and our voting rate among registered students was 81.3. During this year, our voting rate was higher than the national average.

Our campus also has access to our NSLVE data for 2018. In 2018 our registration rate was 70, our voting rate was 45.5 and our voting rate among registered students was 65.1.

From 2016 to 2020, voting rates increased for 18-21 year olds by 18%, increased for 22-24 year olds by 15%, increased for 25-29 year olds by 6%, increased for 30-39 year olds by 9%, and increased for 40-49 year olds by 11%. We outperformed other associate institutions by 7% and were slightly under all institutions (3%) In the 2018 election, voting rates increased for all age groups: 18-21 year olds by 27.6%, 22-24 by 21.2%, 25-29 by 21.6%, 30-39 by 22.2%, 40-49 by 17%, and 50+ by 9.6%. We outperformed all institutions by 6.4% and associate institutions by 16.6%

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

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- Not sure we can do this.

We will collect feedback on this plan by:

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- Regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect
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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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- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
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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.