

This document will serve as the Campus Action Plan for student voter turnout. It was written by Riley Gabriel, Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, and Alison Geist, Director, of the Center for Civic Engagement at Kalamazoo College. The goals and plans henceforth will be achieved through collaborative efforts between the Center for Civic Engagement program K Votes, the Center for International Programs, and the Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow. These parties will work together throughout the three quarters (Fall, Winter, Spring) to promote voter registration, organize political engagement opportunities, and educate the campus community on local and federal elections.

Center for Civic Engagement Staff:

Alison Geist, Director

Riley Gabriel, Post-Baccalaureate Fellow

K Votes Student Civic Engagement Scholars: Mahum Khan & Thomas Lichtenberg

K Votes Foundations: Processes & Outcomes

1. Voter registration
 - a. Consistent and regular tabling in Hicks throughout year. (3-5x per quarter)
 - b. Keep careful track of how many students we register
 - c. Increase voter registration for transfer students and first year students
 - d. Work to develop supports for voting for students going abroad
2. Political Stimuli
 - a. Contacting representatives
 - i. K Votes tabling efforts in Hicks or outside
 - b. Election awareness
 - i. K Votes provides information on local Kalamazoo, state & federal elections through on-campus discussion forums, tabling events, and/or social media
 - c. Political Values Development & Issue Education
 - i. First-Year Forums, 1 Community Reflection (in Fall)
3. Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow
 - a. 2022-2023 fellows: Maheen Mulligan
 - b. Fellows work alongside K Votes to support voter registration and election education efforts in Fall
 - c. Organize 2 events (tabling, forum, discussion) per quarter in Winter and Spring

Commented [KD1]: during the winter and spring especially, the tabling should be advertised more as contacting reps/learning about issues and there should be voter reg available

Beta Test Programming for Juniors going abroad:

- Work with Tony Nelson in Center for International Programs (CIP) to:
 - Include voter registration information in orientation packet provided to first-year and transfer students

- K Votes provides text for 2 emails that will be sent from CIP to students going abroad in fall
 - July email: general information about voting while abroad, link to federal website on absentee voting, FAQs, collect interest in bi-weekly email reminders
 - September email: reminder for deadlines for absentee voting
- Send bi-weekly reminders to pre-identified subset of students

Midterms efforts:

1. Increased voter registration tabling to once per week in Fall leading up to November election
2. Tabling in Hicks 2-4 times with election specific information
3. Weekly social media posts with information for Kalamazoo, Michigan, federal midterm elections
4. Provide transportation (bikes or shuttles) to polls in November (Douglass Community Center and City Hall) on election day

Collaborations:

1. Partner with the following groups:
 - a. Students for Reproductive Freedom program
 - b. Kalamazoo County ID program
 - c. League of Women Voters
 - d. NAACP Kalamazoo
 - e. Black Student Organization
 - f. Latin Student Organization
 - g. Puchica Vos
 - h. Women of Color Alliance
2. Include other departments in designing/deciding these:
 - a. student development
 - b. political science
 - c. Centers for Environmental Stewardship, International Programs, Career and Professional Development, and Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership
3. Organize and host a political engagement fair (called Donuts & Democracy in 2022)
 - a. Invite collaborators to table:
 - i. ZooPirg (Kalamazoo College PIRGIM group)
 - ii. Students for Reproductive Freedom
 - iii. League of Women Voters
4. Identify faculty as allies for institutionalizing voting (see below)
5. Work with Kalamazoo City Election Coordinator, Shardae Chambers, to investigate ways to improve student voting experiences and access

Short Term Goals:

- Explore and address the racial disparities in voter engagement between white students and Black and Asian American students
- Explore FWS possibilities for students working on voter registration work
- Register 200 students to vote each year
- K Votes collaborates with identity-based student organizations each quarter
- Create regular forum or discussion space for students to engage in political discourse
- Maintain 85% or higher student voter turnout rate in NSLVE data
- Center for Civic Engagement collaborates with Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership for an event (forum/education session/panel) on importance of voting, voter turnout, and voter suppression & how these factors into social justice work

Long Term Goals:

1. Student Learning Outcomes
 - a. Understand the importance of voting in local elections
 - b. Develop an understanding of history of voter suppression including: racism, sexism, ableism, and the suppression of Indigenous people.
 - c. Gain perspective on importance of voting, no matter political identity
2. Institutionalize voting
 - a. Work across campus to seek innovative ways to...
 - b. Campaign for:
 - i. a ballot drop box for campus
 - ii. Students get excused absence or no class on Kalamazoo and Federal election days
 - iii. Work on establishing systems for first-year orientation packets, students voting abroad
3. Every first-year seminar course has 20 minutes of class in early Fall dedicated to voter education (collaboration with K Votes)
4. Continue working with student government (KCCSR) K Votes engages with student government to inform/advise on creating a model election during student government elections