

2018-2019 Kent State University Voter Friendly Campus Voter Engagement Plan

Overview:

Kent State University is a public research university that offers over 280 bachelor's degree programs. Campus Vote Project, in partnership with the Kent State Community Engaged Learning, have come together to create this designation plan for Kent State University.

Kent State University is partnering with Campus Vote Project in hopes to excite and engage students with the democratic process. We have a long history of protesting against injustices and using our voices to speak out when we disagree with what's happening. This is why we must continue to commit ourselves to democratic engagement through voting. We want to create a non-partisan and inclusive environment on campus that encourages all students to vote.

Kent State University is developing a plan to implement activities to register undergraduate students to vote, educate them on candidates, giving them access to the ballot, and voter advocacy. The purpose of this plan is to familiarize student with the democratic process. We're not telling them who to vote for, just how to vote and why it's important.

To ensure successful assessment of our efforts and integration with larger institutional assessment efforts, we invited the Dean of Students and the Undergraduate Student Government to collaborate on some of our voter engagement activities.

These Voter Engagement plans will take place in four parts on Kent State University's campus during the fall semester.

Coalition:

- Alexyss Gray, Voter Engagement Fellow, agray33@kent.edu
- Akii Butler, Voter Engagement Fellow, abutle22@kent.edu
- Craig Berger, Assistant Director of Community Engaged Learning
cberge11@kent.edu
- Kent State University's Undergraduate Student Government
- Kent State Dean of Students Office
- Black United Students, Student Organization
- Kent State Student Organizations

Fall 2018 Plan:

PART ONE: VOTER REGISTRATION

1. KSU has partnered with Rock the Vote to hold voter registration tables every Tuesday during the month of September until the General Election Registration Deadline (October 9).
2. Through a Rock the Vote widget embedded on our website, we can input student voters information and print a voter registration form with their information already filled out, for the student to sign and mail. This tool also allow students to sign-up to receive email and/or text reminders about absentee voting, early voting, Election Day, and future reminders about updating their registration.
3. We will direct people to www.rockthevote.com/resigster to fill out a form online. Post it to Facebook, Tweet it, and email all of your friends!
4. On September 25th, student volunteers will lead a National Voter Registration Day event held on the K. Hard copy registration forms will be available to fill out. Along with student volunteers at tables with laptops to register students using the Online Voter Registration Tool provided by Rock the Vote.
5. A student-wide email sent from dean of students with the voter registration link.
6. A social media campaign encouraging students to vote with online voter registration link included.
7. Voter registration forms will be available at all Black United Students events through the end of September.
8. Other student organizations will partner together with Black United Students to create events for that register students outside of our audience.
9. The Community Engaged Learning can place a link to register on their website.
10. Giving a short presentation at Destination Kent State (DKS) and Transfer Kent State (TKS) orientations to make sure new students are registered. We will have registration forms
11. Giving a short presentation to First Year Experience (FYE) classes. We will have registration forms ready for students.
12. Registering students during KSU Kickoff. This includes having tables at Blastoff!, Discover Downtown Kent, etc.

PART TWO: VOTER EDUCATION

1. Partnering with the KSU Debate Team to discuss the local candidates.
2. Interviewing candidates on Akii Butler's radio show through Black Squirrel Radio.

3. Presidential debate watch parties will be held on campus. After the debate, we'll have a post-debate dialogue where we discuss all candidates.
4. Non-partisan candidate information will be provide on executive and legislative candidates on major issues relevant to college students. The information will be posted on various social media outlets and on large flyers in high traffic locations.
5. Hold forums (possibly with candidates) so college students can directly relay what issues are most important to us.

BALLOT ACCESS:

1. Student leaders will be at the polling location (Kent State Wellness Center) on campus to assist students who are at the wrong polling location. They will give out directions and transportation information to the appropriate polling location.
2. Democracy Fellows will request funding from USG to assist with organizing transportation to the off campus polling locations
3. Absentee voting: Beginning January 1, 2018, or 90 days before the date of an election, whichever is earlier, you may mail your properly completed absentee ballot application to the board of elections office.
4. Places you can vote in Portage county: Ward Precinct Location 1 A Riverwood Community Chapel 1 B First Christian Church 1 C Theodore Roosevelt High School 1 D Theodore Roosevelt High School 2 A Riverwood Community Chapel 2 B Kent American Legion 2 C Kent American Legion 2 D Fred Fuller Shelter House 3 A Presbyterian Church 3 B Trinity Lutheran Church 3 C Kent American Legion 3 D Kent American Legion 4 A Kent State Wellness Center 4 B University Church of the Nazarene 5 A Trinity Lutheran Church 5 B Kentway Retirement Center 5 C Kent State Wellness Center 6 A United Church of Christ 6 B Walls School 6 C United Church of Christ 6 D United Methodist Church

STUDENT VOTER ADVOCATE:

1. Signs and posters encouraging students to vote.
2. Signs and posters will also be created to promote Election Day Party and Election Day.
3. Election day party, food and drinks provided to entice students to attend.
4. University could send email reminding students to exercise their right to vote.
5. Students will be encouraged to plan in advance where and when they will vote. Student leaders will push good time management.
6. An ad can be placed in the Kent Stater to encourage students to vote.
7. Social media campaign A social media campaign encouraging students to vote with online voter registration link included.

8. Flashline banner encouraging students to vote. University communications and marketing

Timeline:

ASAP next semester:

- Apply for funds through USG to pay for event supplies
- Finalize date of events
- Share plan with administration

July:

- Presentations at DKS and TKS orientations can be given in the future encouraging students to vote.

August:

- Incoming/new students move in: August 19, 2018
- Returning students move in: August 20, 2018
- Classes begin: August 23, 2018
- Recruit student volunteers
- Blastoff! Occurs sometime around late August. Democracy Fellows will register students at the event. They will also recruit student volunteers to help register students at future events.
- Hold voter registration how-to instructional meetings

September:

- National Voter Registration Day: September 25, 2018
- Continue Voter registration efforts
- Voter Education efforts begin

October:

- Continue voter education efforts
- Hold candidate debate
- Partner with Black United Students to register students: October 3, 2018 at their Mass Meeting
- General Election Registration Deadline: October 9, 2018
- Early In-person Voting begins: October 10, 2018
- Absentee Ballot voting begins: October 10, 2019

November:

- Deadline to request Absentee Ballot (by noon): November 3, 2018
- Absentee Ballot Postmark Deadline: November 5, 2018

-Drop off Absentee Ballots at Board of Elections until 7:30 pm: November 6, 2018 -
General Election: November 6, 2018
-Election Day Party: November 6, 2018

Success:

Our hope is that Kent State University will register to be a part of the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement so we can receive data to improve our future democratic process efforts. The success of our endeavors will be measured in the percentage of undergraduate students we are able to register before the November 2018 election.