



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ALL IN ACTION PLAN 2024



**LAKE TAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This nonpartisan civic engagement action plan was developed by Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) to encourage student voting in the 2024 General Election. This plan was created through collaboration across the Government Relations Department, the History and Political Science Faculty Lead, and the Lake Tahoe Community College Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. The plan serves to improve nonpartisan democratic engagement and increase student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 General Election. The activities in the plan focus specifically on empowering students to participate in the upcoming election, conduct fact-checking, engagement with local candidates and elected officials, and explore careers in public service. This Action Plan focuses on highlighting issues that matter to LTCC students. This plan is actively being implemented through a series of strategies organized by a cross functional team that includes academic affairs, student services, and other departments across campus.

Lake Tahoe Community College serves our local, regional, and global communities by promoting comprehensive learning, success, and life-changing opportunities. Through quality instruction and student support, our personalized approach to teaching and learning empowers students to achieve their educational and personal goals.

# 2024 ELECTION GOALS

Lake Tahoe Community College 2024 Election Goals:

- Increase the percentage of LTCC students registered to vote to 75% (from 68.9% in 2020) by the October 21st voter registration date.
- Increase the percentage of registered LTCC students who vote to 60% (from 52.2% in 2020) in the November 5, 2024 election.
- Increase student awareness of local and state candidates and initiatives by the November 5, 2024 election.
- Gather student-driven questions and concerns on issues that matter to them and create spaces for students to engage with candidates and issues prior to the election.
- Incorporate civic engagement in the Promise class by Fall 2024.



# COMMITMENT

Ensuring an educated citizenry is fundamental to LTCC’s core commitment to college-wide learning outcomes. LTCC believes that students come first and that learning enhances the quality of life. LTCC supports innovation, integrity, and high standards in the pursuit of excellence. Diversity and inclusion enrich the institution and larger community.

Consistent monthly workshops and guest speakers focus on civic and community engagement, personal and professional development, and supporting the broader South Lake Tahoe community.

Both revitalized and new programming offered through the Office of Equity and Student Wellness, DEI Task Force, HSI Program, and the Cultural Fluency Teaching Academy work to enrich student and faculty relationships, and spark student curiosity and learning.

LTCC’s TRiO and Dual Enrollment programs participate in outreach to high school students, and offer early voter registration days focused on educating high school students on participatory civic engagement. Other programs across campus, including Promise and Student Life, focus on college student civic engagement.

LTCC also creates space for student leaders to safely engage in public demonstrations; as just one example in June of 2024 LTCC students used the free speech zone to organize a protest and march in support of Women’s Choice, on the second anniversary of the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

LTCC’s Strategic Goals, adopted by Board of Trustees, include a priority to “create and carry out the LTCC Civic Engagement Action Plan, participate in the Secretary of State Ballot Bowl, and increase the number and percentage of students participating in the 2024 General Election.”

LTCC’s mission and institutional learning outcomes are supportive of electoral engagement efforts. LTCC has leveraged programming and academic offerings to further inspire civic action among students, staff and faculty. Through these coordinated efforts, LTCC has cultivated a culture of democratic participation.



# LEADERSHIP

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & GRANT DEVELOPMENT

The team is responsible for local, state and federal level advocacy and advancement. The team supports the Action Plan by identifying campus leaders and providing resources and support to Action Plan projects. The team compiles the Plan and acts as the primary point of contact for the California Secretary of State Ballot Bowl and the All In Campus Democracy Challenge. Government Relations coordinates advocacy visits with local elected officials, and provides updates to students, staff and leadership on state and federal policies. The team collaborates with other listed Leadership groups in order to check in and make progress on Action Plan goals. The team also updates the Plan as needed.

### Laura Metune

Senior Director of Government Relations and Grant Development

### Elizabeth Gabel

Administrative Assistant to the Senior Director of Government Relations and Grant Development



## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Marketing and Communications and the Digital Communications Specialist handle press opportunities, media relations, advertising and marketing, website content, and postings on the social media channels for LTCC. In supporting the Action Plan, the Office prepares and disseminates materials related to voter registration, educational opportunities, poll worker employment opportunities, and student voting. They also regularly update the college website and social media accounts to reflect new voting information and advertise events surrounding civic engagement and learning.

### Mark Thomsen

Public Information Officer

### Nora Anderson

Digital Communications Specialist III

## STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services support students and the broader community in assisting them reach their academic goals through registration, access to financial aid, and academic counseling and planning. They support the Action Plan by participating in civic engagement events, supporting the Student Senate, and offering input on how to increase student engagement around elections and voter registration.

### Dr. Michelle Batista

Vice President of Student Services

### Nicole Bergner

Career Counselor

### Daphne Brun

Promise Program Aide

# LEADERSHIP

## EQUITY & STUDENT WELLNESS

The LTCC Equity Office focuses on creating opportunities for traditionally underserved students, many of whom are first-generation college students, student parents, and low-income students. The Equity Office supports the Action Plan by ensuring students have information regarding voter registration, ballot information, voting, and assistance with transportation to voting services. The office has also hosted voter registration events and helped students understand the connection between programs that benefit students and democratic engagement.

### Laura Salinas

Director of Equity and Student Wellness

### Ivan Aquino

Equity & Student Wellness Office Assistant



## STUDENT LIFE

The Student Life Coordinator is responsible for organizing and supporting the campus activities that give LTCC students the full college experience, including clubs and student government and other activities and events.

The Student Life Coordinator supports the Action Plan by marketing and participating in student-focused events aimed at voter registration, education, and voting. They also regularly attend Student Senate meetings to support students in having their voices heard.

### Austin Stephens

Student Life Coordinator

## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) supports access to voting information for students, including informing students with disabilities of their rights to certain voting resources and methods. The mission of Student Accessibility Services is to promote self-confidence in an educational environment while fostering student independence.

### Dr. Gail Ann Rulloda

Student Accessibility Services Interim Director

## STUDENT SENATE

The Student Senate is the student voice for the school and represents the students in the community and at the state level. The Student Senate aims to promote student life on campus and advocate for projects that will help improve the higher education system. The Student Senate contributes to the Action Plan by educating student voters through events and forums. The Student Senate will also engage in peer-to-peer voter registration and voting efforts.

# LEADERSHIP

## HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE

The History and Political Science Faculty Lead serves as the campus-wide lead on civic engagement projects. They foster student civic engagement across campus and incorporate these strategies in their curriculum. They also encourage faculty within their Meta Major and across the campus to support student voting and civic engagement.

### Fabian Carballo

History and Political Science Faculty Lead

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION TASK FORCE

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force is responsible for identifying, recommending, prioritizing, and coordinating the implementation of various strategies and institutional changes that promote diversity and ensure equitable educational and professional opportunities for LTCC students, staff, faculty, and the community at large. The Task Force leads efforts to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations, based on input from students, staff and faculty, on priority strategies for achieving the goal of aligning policies, practices and resources to support LTCC's mission to foster an equity-minded, anti-racist, and welcoming college community for students and employees.

The DEI Task Force has developed a Civic Engagement Team to conduct a series of activities to increase the student voting rate in advance of the 2024 General Election. Members of this Task Force include individuals across all areas of campus, including classified and confidential staff, members of Senior Leadership, and faculty.



## SOCIETY, CULTURE, & EDUCATION META MAJOR

The Society, Culture, and Education Meta Major dives into human relationships, communities, and global connections while sharing knowledge with others. They aim to spark discussions about the inner workings of society and culture and help create positive change. The Meta Major opens doors to jobs in an array of civic engagement and public service fields including counseling, education, social work, community development, cultural research, civic work, and human resources.

### Fabian Carballo

History and Political Science Faculty Lead

### Melinda Button

Meta Major Faculty Lead

## INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness aims to build and support a culture of inquiry and evidence-based decision making. The office provides support and leadership in accreditation, planning, research, assessment, and evaluation.

In supporting the Action Plan, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness will ensure continued participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), and monitor and review the reports to ensure accuracy of data and findings.

### Dr. Elizabeth Balint

Director of Institutional Effectiveness



# ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

LTCC partners with elections officials and elected representatives to support student engagement in civic action.

These partners include the following offices and office holders:

## **CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

- City Clerk Susan Blankenship
- City Manager Joe Irvin
- City Council

## **COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

- Supervisor Brook Laine

## **CA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1**

- Assemblymember Megan Dahle

## **CA SENATE DISTRICT 4**

- Senator Marie Alvarado Gil

## **U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Congressman Kevin Kiley, 3rd District

## **U.S. SENATE**

- Senator Laphonza Butler
- Senator Alex Padilla



# LANDSCAPE

Lake Tahoe Community College recognizes that it is located on the historical lands of the original inhabitants, the Washoe (Wāši•šiw) Tribe. LTCC has adopted a land acknowledgement, which is a recognition of Indigenous communities in the stewardship and protection of their cultural resources and homelands. LTCC recognizes the Washoe Tribe and their native lands, honors these ancestral grounds, and supports the strength and resilience that the Washoe continue to show.

Lake Tahoe Community College is a public community college and first joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. LTCC fosters an environment supportive of student civic activism and democratic engagement, and regularly hosts events and activities.

LTCC supports students through the Student Senate and full participation of the Student Trustee. In 2020, LTCC supported the Student Senate in hosting a local election candidate forum with candidates running for City Council. In 2022, LTCC and the Student Senate hosted a forum with candidates for California State Senate District 4. This forum was geared towards student participation and learning about state politics. Students developed their own questions for the candidates.

Already this year, LTCC has hosted several voter registration tabling events, including at the GAYpril barbecue celebration, and other spring, summer and fall campus barbecue events. Candidates and elected officials have been on campus to meet with students, and the college hosted an event to educate students on ballot propositions and local measures. LTCC will also be bringing students to the California State Capitol in October, and has a number of additional activities planned.



# STRATEGIC GOALS 2024-26

Since 2017, the Board of Trustees (Board) and Superintendent have collaborated to create, review, and approve Strategic Goals for the institution. These goals are developed at the annual Senior Leadership Team Retreat and the annual Board Retreat, and are shared with the campus community each year in conjunction with Convocation activities. During the summer of 2024, the Senior Leadership Team and the Board held retreats to review institutional progress toward the 2022-24 goals and to begin to outline Strategic Goals for the next two academic years, 2024-26. The 2022-24 Strategic Goals included a specific item focused on the development and implementation of the 2024 Civic Engagement Action Plan. The 2024-26 Strategic Goals are outlined below; civic engagement will be included as a component of Goal #1.

1. Foster an equity-minded, anti-racist, and welcoming college community for students and employees.
2. Become a student-ready college; ensure equitable student access and improved student outcomes.
3. Cultivate a vibrant residential campus with housing, food services, and other functions that create an environment where students thrive.
4. Pursue resource development opportunities to achieve long-term, college-wide goals.
5. Honor LTCC's past by celebrating and recognizing alumni and key LTCC figures and engage campus stakeholders to envision LTCC's future.

# CAMPUS DEMOGRAPHICS

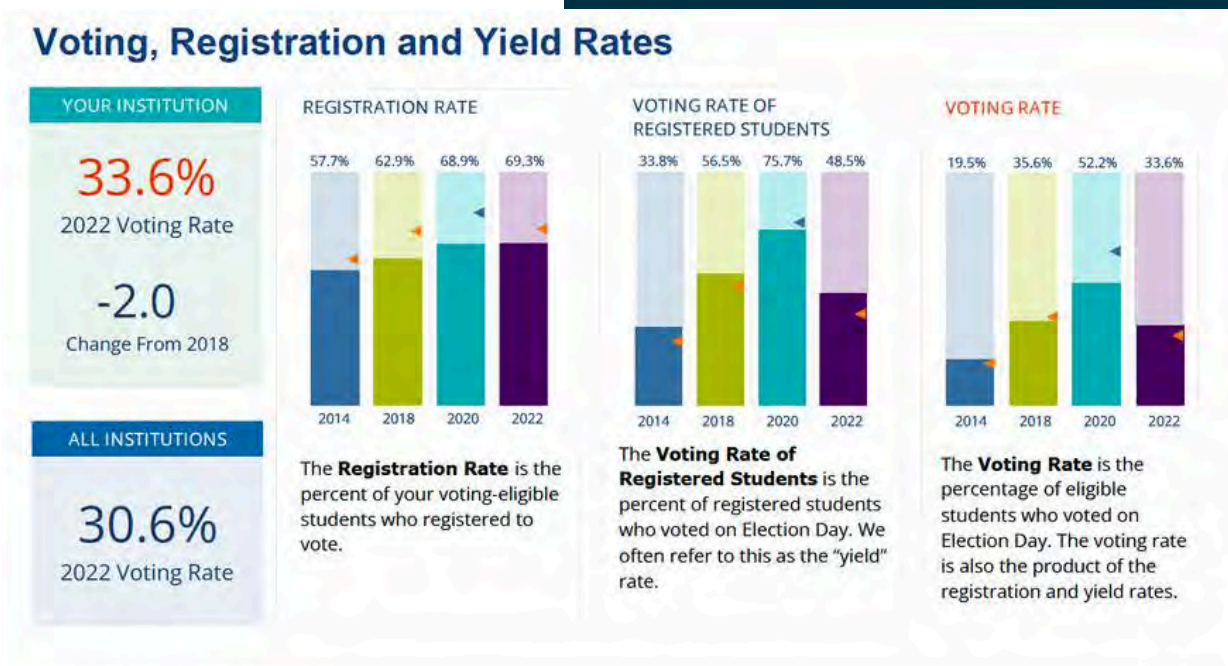
In 2023-24, Lake Tahoe Community College served 10,507 students (2,191 FTES). With approximately 40% Latinx enrollment, 35% of students over the age of 30, and 33% low-income. About 30.3% were first generation students. LTCC is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution. LTCC employs 153.82 full-time equivalent employees, including 34 full-time faculty and 87 classified staff.

LTCC has embraced the Guided Pathways framework, and created Meta Majors to support students and faculty in collaboration and engagement across similar areas of study. The Society, Culture, and Education Meta Major works with the Student Senate to support faculty in teaching civic engagement. Measuring event participation rates, and evaluating the impact of events is used to assess turnout and participation for all LTCC-hosted events, including those surrounding civic engagement.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force has a specific goal in 2024-2026 to establish a Civic Engagement Team to conduct a series of activities to increase the student voting rate. This specific activity has a DEI Task Force team lead, appointed support individuals, and a point person from the Senior Leadership Team. The co-chairs of the DEI Task Force will consistently check in on this activity, provide support, and help hold the activity accountable for being completed and continued into the future.



# CAMPUS VOTING DATA



#### 2022 Campus Data

LTCC had a 2022 campus voting rate of 33.6%, down 2% from 2018. LTCC had a 2022 voter registration rate of 69.3%.

#### 2020 Campus Data

LTCC had a 2020 campus voting rate of 52.2%. LTCC had a 2020 voter registration rate of 68.9%.

#### 2018 Campus Data

LTCC had a 2018 voter turnout rate of 35.6%. LTCC had a 2018 voter registration rate of 62.9%.

Continual data collection and reflection is necessary to increase student civic engagement. Since 2012, LTCC has participated in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education and Tufts University that allows for national research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

## By Age Group

	2014	2018	2020	2022
18-21	7%	28%	56%	20%
22-24	7%	33%	57%	17%
25-29	10%	33%	52%	25%
30-39	21%	31%	44%	32%
40-49	32%	36%	45%	46%
50+	59%	68%	54%	61%

**Voting is habit-forming and young voters will often continue as voters in subsequent elections.** Also, elected officials and public opinion polls solicit opinions from people they can locate - people in the voter files. Our 2020 data showed a surge among the youngest voters on college campuses, yet 2022 saw a return to past trends, with older students voting at higher rates than their younger counterparts. This change underscores the importance of continued need for institutionalized learning -- working with students to help them understand their political voice and power as they arrive on campus.

According to data obtained through the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), in 2022 LTCC had voting registration rate of 69.3%, up 0.5% from 2020, and up 11.6% from 2014. LTCC had a 33.6% voting rate, 2% lower than 2018. In 2020 LTCC had a high voting rate of registered students (75.7%) which reflected increased engagement in a presidential election year.

In 2022, LTCC had a 69.3% voter registration rate, down 0.4% from 2020, but up 11.6% from 2014. In 2020 LTCC had an 11.3% increase in voter registration compared to 2016, which is 13.8% below the 2020 voting rate across all institutions.

Although below the institutional average, the data does show improvement as the voting rate was 41% of students in 2016 and 48.5% in 2022. LTCC is using this data to assess target populations for voter engagement outreach. It is important for LTCC to reflect on areas where the college can increase the voting rate during non-presidential election years.

# STRATEGY

**LTCC will implement the following strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation:**

**Campus Coordinator:** LTCC has appointed a nonpartisan Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator, who created the Action Plan with an interested cohort of faculty, students, and administrators across divisions including student affairs, academic affairs, government relations and other offices.

**Social Media Campaign:** The Public Information Office will conduct a social media campaign encouraging LTCC students and the broader community to utilize the Secretary of State’s Ballot Bowl online tool to register to vote and confirm voter registration.

**Ballot Bowl Participation:** LTCC will participate in the 2024 Ballot Bowl.

**Constitution Day and Citizenship Day:** LTCC faculty and students will observe Constitution and Citizenship Day on September 17, 2024, and conduct education and outreach during the day.

**Collaboration with Student Senate:** LTCC staff and faculty will collaborate with the Student Senate to create student-led events. Ongoing conversations at Student Senate meetings will occur regarding civic engagement and advocacy at the local, state and federal levels.

**Voter information, registration, ballot information, and resource tabling at:**

- GAYpril barbecue event at raising of the Pride flag – April 30, 2024
- HSI STEM and Student Clubs outreach event – May 13, 2024
- Senior Day – May 23, 2024
- Coyote Kick-off - September 13, 2024
- CalMatters and South Lake Tahoe City Clerk workshop - September 19, 2024
- Bilingual Lake Tahoe College Promise workshop - October 2024
- Student Accessibility Services workshop - ongoing
- Campus commons during lunch hours - ongoing



**Emails to Students:** LTCC will send emails to the entire student body about voter registration, voting, and civic engagement information.

**Academic Calendar:** LTCC has established a process to ensure the inclusion of all civic, voting, and registration dates on academic calendars for students.

**Career Counseling (ongoing):** Voter registration will be included in career counseling appointments.

**Career Days:** May 2, 2024 - Voter registration tabling will occur at this event.

**TRiO:** Early voter registration will be conducted for high school students.

**Guest speaker Mike Lezcano:** Discussion on working on discrimination cases: who discrimination impacts, and how to create meaningful change where. This event also touched on career opportunities at the state and federal levels.

**Meetings with Candidates:** Students are meeting with candidates for local and regional offices to ask questions and discuss student priorities.

**Revitalization and incorporation** of civic engagement discourse into Lake Tahoe College Promise class to implement in Fall 2024 quarter.

**Lessons plans embedded** in Political Sciences courses to promote student civic engagement.

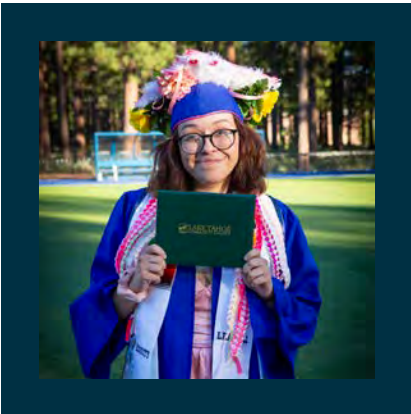
**Incorporation of voting** into Promise Class by Fall 2025.

**Bilingual Vote Wise Workshop** on ballot reading, overview of elections: Presidential, Congressional, Judicial, Statewide & Local measures, voting deadlines, reading the Voter Information Guide, voting deadlines.

**Speaking Engagement:** Guest speaker who serves as a local community organizer will engage with students in October 2024.

**CalMatters and City Clerk** visit to campus to meet with students and employees to learn about ballot measures, both local and statewide in September 2024.

**Student visit to State Capitol:** Meta Major Leads Fabian Carballo and Melinda Button will facilitate a student trip for students to visit the State Capitol in Sacramento, CA and speak with government relations leaders in Fall 2024.





# EVALUATION

The Action Plan will be evaluated as follows:

- By reviewing student participation rates in events and attendance at forums.
- Through student registration and voter rate data provided through NSLVE.
- Student post-event discussions and surveys will be conducted and results evaluated.
- Future programming will be adjusted based on participant feedback and event participation rates.
- Continual cross-departmental collaboration will focus on increasing student voter turnout and engagement in civic activities.

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# REPORTING

The campus action plan will be posted on the campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/lake-tahoe-community-college/>. The institution has given ALL IN permission to publish NSLVE reports which are posted on the campus page on ALL IN's website.

The action plan and NSLVE report will be shared to campus governance committees, including Student Senate. It is a living document and will be reviewed and updated biannually, in advance of each general election.



# STAY IN TOUCH

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