



“MagicVotes!”

Voter Registration, Education and Participation Plan (2020-2021)

Summary

“MagicVotes” is an initiative that aims to enhance the LeMoyne-Owen College “LOC” student body’s knowledge of all forms of voting and civic engagement through innovative teachings, readings and events put on by the MagicVotes coalition. The purpose of LeMoyne-Owen College's “MagicVotes” Plan is to integrate voter participation and registration experiences into several structured curricular, co-curricular, experiential learning and student driven programs where “Voter Information” is designed to transform student learners into good knowledgeable voters and citizens. By combining voter information and voter registration drives with reflective readings, writing assignments, webinars, experiential activities and panel discussions, students from various disciplines in Service-Learning and MagicVotes can appreciate the experience of providing the college and greater community at large information and knowledge about voter information and about the history of voting in America. Hopefully, this initiative will rejuvenate voter excitement and participation across the college and the Memphis community at large.

The values that students learn from the get out to vote experiences through MagicVotes linked with Service-Learning can help them develop civic skills which promotes good voting electoral and citizenry in Memphis, Shelby County Tennessee.

One of the major programmatic targets of the program is to engage students with several civic organizations, which purpose is to increase students’ knowledge regarding social and economic justice (injustice) and how the political platforms of the candidates along with public policy affects their education, life and the “American Dream” of all citizens. Secondly, the MagicVotes program will educate students on how the census process and voter alliance affect their communities. Finally, the program aims to increase voters’ awareness and participation in the election process, more particularly for three election terms in a row.

MagicVotes, which aligns with no political party seeks to increase voter participation of the campus-wide ecosystem (students, campus workers, staff, faculty and administrators) of voters.

MagicVotes Team will apply for various voter/election grants, such as Campus Takeover, which closes August 28. Also, during the Spring Academic Term, the Fall schedule and time-lines for MagicVotes will be modified, and Service-Learning will continue as the main course for implementing the program. It is expected that the Coalition will remain in place.

During the academic year of 2020-2021, MagicVotes through the alliance of the Service-Learning Center will unite with the Center of Urban Leadership and Social Justice and student members of the NAACP to coordinate a seamless effort in voter information and registration, which will lead towards a more knowledgeable citizenry of students, staff, faculty and community. Fall classes will start virtually August 12, 2020, however we are looking to return partially as a hybrid-campus.

MAGICVOTES COALITION

Campus Leadership:

- Student President of NAACP
- Mr. Eddie Pate, NAACP Advisor and History Coordinator
- Mr. Michael Robinson, Division Chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Director of Center of Urban Leadership and Social Justice
- Attorney Gerald Green, ASAP Advisor and Adjunct Professor in Political Science and Criminal Justice an
- Attorney Damita Dandridge Service-Learning Coordinator and Political Science Professor
- Olajide Ibitoye, Political Science student leading MagicVotes
- Donterio Jones and Jarvis Dean, Political Science Students, and MagicVotes Students

Community Partners

During the Fall semester, the Coalition will seek to develop numerous community partnerships in voting, such as: (a few are listed)

- Shelby County Election Commission
- Shelby County Democratic Club
- Knowledge Quest Academy After School Program
- Memphis Housing Authority

- Memphis Urban League
- LOC Community Development Corporation
- LOC Student Government Association
- Young Democrats
- Young Republicans
- NAACP (Campus) and local Chapters
- Tennessee Campus Democracy Network Kelley Elliott
- Up the VOTE 901 - Pastor Earl Fisher (901)336-4659 pastorearle25@gmail.com
- Memphis for ALL Bennet Foster (901)210-3768 bennett@memphisforall.com
- ShaMichael Hallman- Memphis Library
- The Equity Alliance, Charlane and Tamika

Activities, Tools and Timelines

A. Fall: Academic Year (2020)

- Meeting of campus Coalition (August 12-24)
- Use of Voter Information Project
- Voter Registration- (August 24 and ongoing)
- Use a key player from Shelby County Election Commission
- The College Facebook Page (August 24 and ongoing)
- Civic Engagement-Virtual Voting, Vital Campaign (September-October 5, 2020)
- Shelby County Election Commission-----Voter Registration Day----September 22, 2020
- Meet the candidates virtually or through various Social Media activities. (Shelby County Democratic Club) (October 5-15)
- Knowledge Quest Academy After School Program-----Zoom Program (October 15-20)
- Memphis Housing Authority (Students deliver flyers to elderly/ Oct 19 and 26)
- LOC Community Development Corporation (zoom meeting on voting Oct 12)
- Early voting -MagicVotes campaign- to get out and vote (Student driven) (October 14-29)
- Students push social media campaign about Voter Registration Deadline (October 5)
- Students push on campus and community about October 27, Absentee ballot deadline
- Students will reach three and educate three regarding voting during Voter Education Week (October 5-9)

Key Election Dates in TN

- Thursday, August 6, 2020 State/Federal Primary and State/County General Election
- First Day to Request an Absentee Ballot Wednesday, August 5, 2020
- Voter Registration Deadline Monday, October 5, 2020

- Early Voting Wednesday, October 14 – Thursday, October 29, 2020
- Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Vote Ready Holidays

- National Voter Registration Day September 22
- National Voter Education Week October 5-9
- Vote Early Day October 24th

B. Spring Academic Year (2021)

- Repeat of the Fall collaborations, partnerships and activities with dates and timelines modified according to the Academic Spring term and pandemic

Programs in which Magicvotes will engage and participate with are:

- [Join National Study for Learning, Voting, Engagement NSLVE](#)
- [Strengthening American Democracy](#)
- [Votes & Ballots LOC](#)
- [All IN Challenge/ Join Form / President's Commitment](#)
- [National Voters Registration Day Campus Vote Project](#)
- [Turbo Vote](#)
- [Ask Every Student](#)
- [National Voter Education Week](#)
- [Students Learn Students Vote](#)
- [Early Vote Day](#)
- [Andrew Goodman Foundation](#)

Academic Goals:

1. Increase Service-Learning, American Government and Constitutional law student knowledge regarding voting as a civic engagement and process.
2. Increase voting and election awareness across the campus (Campus eco system of campus workers, staff, faculty, students and administrators)
3. Increase the number of student participation and knowledge across the various disciplines, such as Humanities, Science, Education and Business in voting.
4. Increase voting participation across the campus

MagicVotes Steps to Measure Outcomes:

1. Targeted Students will take a pre and post test regarding voting as a process of civic engagement.
2. Service-Learning Students will create a survey and send out across the campus to the College's eco system as to their knowledge about voting and candidate awareness in which they participated in.
3. Service-Learning Students will create a survey with the assistance of the student government and the NAACP student organization to show students' participation in the voting process by majors.
4. Students will send out voter participation blast and emails using social media of choice regarding get out and vote, and students will conduct political debates.

Objectives:

- Objective to goal number 1: 50% of students surveyed with a pre-test regarding voting as a civic engagement and process will increase by 25%. A post-test will be provided to the same students.
- Objective to goal number 2. 25% of the targeted ecosystem across the campus will participate and show voter awareness about the candidates, whom they voted for through a survey. The survey will not target political parties, but the policy agenda of their candidates of choice.
- Objective to goal number 3 is to have 50% of LOC's students in Freshman Seminar, Service-Learning and History to respond to the survey and to identify by majors that they were engaged in the process of obtaining voter knowledge and participation by voting. (Major will be identified and not names)
- Objective to goal number 4- Five (5) identifiable eco members and/or friends of choice will be checked by each Service-Learning student to see if their assigned campus member and or friend voted using the Election Commission voter identification App.

Successes

- Through the use of [the National Study for Learning, Voting, Engagement](#) "NSLVE", the College will see whether our students are politically and civilly engaged in the election and the democratic process of our democracy. (21-22 academic school year)
- The College ability to receive educational grants regarding the electoral process and education.
- The electoral registration process and education will be a buy-in by the College ecosystem of participants.
- The Campus became a compositor of voter information (webinars and panel discussions and education).
- Students Learners engaged in the electoral process and connected to greater resources to render co-curricular learning to curricular education (example: mock elections and debates), and extended community partnerships.

