



Lewis & Clark College Civic and Democratic Engagement Action Plan 2024

Executive Summary

This action plan outlines how Lewis & Clark College will promote civic and democratic engagement at its undergraduate College of Arts & Sciences. This plan will serve as an accountability mechanism by specifically detailing the strategies and goals that will be employed to establish a strong civically minded community on campus. The plan was developed by representatives from the Center for Social Change and Community Involvement as well as the Palatine Hill Student Voters Club. The plan will commence immediately and will be reassessed in the Fall of 2026 prior to the 2026 Action Plan submission deadline. The plan will be implemented through a process of close and consistent collaboration between student groups, campus offices and departments, as well as off-campus partners. In implementing the action plan, the following on-campus partners will be pivotal:

- The Center for Social Change and Community Involvement
- Palatine Hill Student Voters Club
- Lewis & Clark College Athletics
- First Year Experience
- Campus Living
- Student Life
- Office of Equity and Inclusion
- Mail Services
- Associated Student Body
- Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement
- New Student Orientation
- Student Engagement

Leadership

The main members of the leadership coalition responsible for implementing this action plan are:

- The Center for Social Change and Community Involvement
- Palatine Hill Students Voters Club
- Associated Student Body Elections Committee

The Center for Social Change and Community Involvement employs one or more students as Political Engagement Organizers. As a part of their job description, the Political Engagement Organizer is dedicated to facilitating the implementation of the All In Action Plan. Students will be continuously hired for this position, helping to ensure a stable leadership succession plan.

The Palatine Hill Student Voters Club selects leadership every academic year and recruits membership from incoming classes, which helps to expand the scope and stability of their student group. Club leaders and presidents will elect a new president for every few semester; from in coming classes

Other methods to recruit students into political engagement leadership include the ability to live in and collaborate with the Social Change Living & Learning Community, anticipated inclusion of information about All In in official campus websites, and more.

A selection of this leadership coalition will meet regularly to coordinate on projects and timelines related to the implementation of this plan. The leadership team can and should expand to include additional members of these groups and offices as well as other interested parties (students, faculty and staff).

Commitment

Lewis & Clark College has an institutional commitment to improving democratic engagement on campus. The college is a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. Lewis & Clark College submitted Action Plans in 2020 and 2022 and has received an NSLVE report for the years 2016, 2018 and 2020 (awaiting 2022 report). A link to Lewis & Clark's All In website, which includes past NSLVE data and action plans, can be found [here](#).

The school provides opportunities for student involvement in democratic engagement efforts, such as participation in the Associated Student Body Elections Committee and the Palatine Hill Student Voters Club. It also provides students with resources and assistance regarding voter registration and education tasks, such as through the Pioneer Voter and Civic Engagement Information Website (linked [here](#)). The website states, "As a part of a long standing tradition of exploring, learning, and working together, Lewis & Clark College values and protects the freedom of students, faculty, and staff to express political views, to exercise their right to vote, and to participate in the electoral process." Student organizations and offices have coordinated voter registration drives, debate watch parties, political engagement interest meetings, and other events to engage the student population and provide necessary resources. The Instagram account for the Center for Social Change & Community Involvement has promoted information about voting during election season.

Landscape

Enrollment across all Lewis & Clark campuses is 3,602 and enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences is 2,211.

Lewis & Clark College has received NSLVE data for the years 2016, 2018 and 2020 and is awaiting 2022 data. The 2020 voting rate across Lewis & Clark College was 80.1%, an increase of 12.5% from 2016. Notably, this data does not differentiate the undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences from the graduate campuses at Lewis & Clark. The NSLVE report further distinguishes voter turnout by field of study and age group. Lewis & Clark College has not authorized voting data regarding race & ethnicity or gender.

Lewis & Clark College has recently drafted [strategic themes](#) that will guide the future work of the institution, several of which refer to greater engagement with the community, both locally and globally. There continues to be more support and visibility for civic engagement on our campus and the strategic themes are a demonstrated example of that.

Lewis & Clark is a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. A number of courses in departments such as Political Science and Rhetoric and Media Studies promote topics related to democratic engagement, such as "Data & Democracy" and "Public Opinion and Survey Research." More could be done to incorporate issues of democracy into a broader scope of interdisciplinary curricular programming, including in science and math classes. Civic learning and democratic engagement is also present in the co-curriculum through the Center for Social Change and Community Involvement, the Palatine Hill Student Voters Club, the Social Change Living and Learning Community, and more. These groups help to plan events, coordinate and update voter education and registration resources and otherwise implement the All In Action Plan.

Lewis & Clark College is located in Multnomah County. The voter turnout in Multnomah County was 65.04% for the 2022 generation election and 81.83% for the 2020 general election, according to the county [website](#). Multnomah County is considered "very liberal," with a voter turnout of 79.2% democrat in the "last presidential election" (click [here](#) for source). The state voter turnout rate for the 2022 Oregon general election was 66.90%, as indicated in [this](#) resource. Oregon operates under a "vote-by-mail system," according to the [Oregon Secretary of State](#). According to its [website](#), Lewis & Clark College is in the third congressional district, the 19th Oregon senate district and the 38th Oregon house district.

Goals

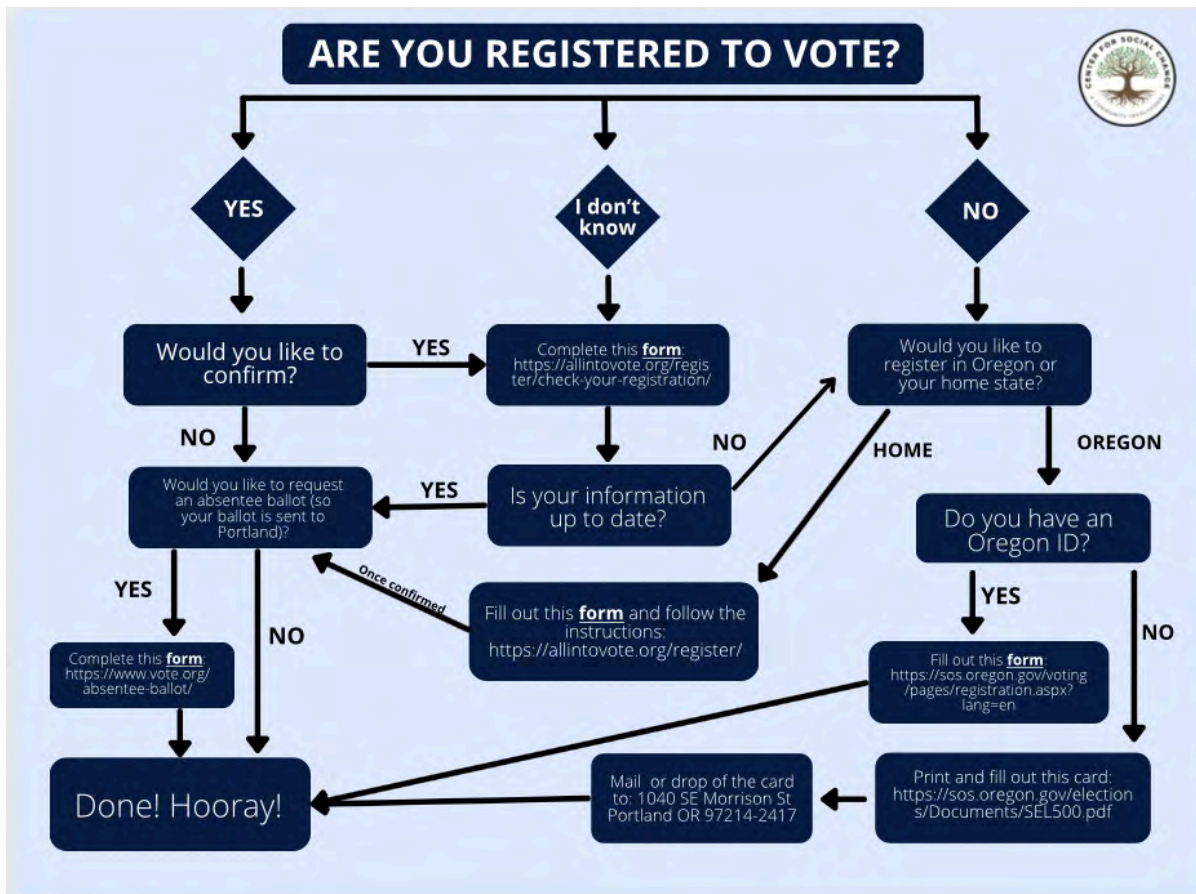
This section outlines the short and long term goals of the institution with regards to improving civic engagement and democratic participation. The short term goals serve as a guideline for the establishment of the long term goals.

- Short term goals:
 - By Fall of 2024, LC will officially incorporate voter registration and education efforts into new student programming, such as move in day and orientation.
 - By Fall of 2024, LC will coordinate with athletic programs to establish a political engagement plan for student athletes.
 - By Fall of 2024, LC will distribute voter registration and education resources to various campus stakeholders (faculty, student groups, offices) for further distribution to the student body.
 - Beginning in 2024, LC will host events for National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day and Election Day.
 - Beginning in 2024, LC will host 3 additional political events per calendar year, at least one of which will engage with international political issues.
 - By Fall of 2025, LC will establish a student ambassador voting program.
 - By Fall of 2025, LC will improve curricular options that discuss issues of civic engagement and democracy.

- Long term goals:
 - Beginning in 2024, LC will achieve an 80% voter turnout rate in every election year for which NSLVE data is available, focusing on ensuring that gaps by age, race, and area of study are limited.
 - By 2026, LC will have established a space for productive political dialogue and engagement with real world political issues.

Strategy

To support each of these tasks, the leadership team is revising the existing institutional [voter and civic engagement website](#) as an all-encompassing voter plan resource (called the “Ballot Bulletin”). It will be distributed to Lewis & Clark College students in a variety of settings. This resource will contain the necessary information to establish a voting plan, including information and details about voter registration, requesting absentee ballots, researching candidates and policies, and more. It will be formatted as both a checklist and a flowchart. The checklist will include information about the answers to questions such as “why vote,” “who can register to vote,” “what do I need,” “when do I register to vote,” and “where do I vote.” The flowchart will guide students through these questions in accordance with their individual contexts and considerations. This will be utilized as the primary voter education resource and will be distributed to students in a variety of ways, through the process of implementing the short and long term goals. Lewis & Clark College will organize a reward system for students who are actively engaged in interacting with the “Ballot Bulletin” and completing all the tasks presented in the resource. See below for a draft of the flowchart that will be included in the “Ballot Bulletin”:



Various projects, tasks and campaigns will be launched in pursuit of each of the short term goals established above. Successful implementation of these goals is expected to facilitate the establishment of the long term goals. Further information regarding strategy can be found below.

Goal	Strategy
<p>Incorporate voter registration and education efforts into new student programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include information about and access to the “Ballot Bulletin” (available on the voter and civic engagement website) in orientation & move in packets ● Script, film and produce a civic engagement information video to be included in New Student Orientation programming, which will include information available in the “Ballot Bulletin” ● Conduct one or more voter registration stands at New Student Orientation or Move In Day ● Connect with the New Student Peer Mentor group for support in becoming voter education ambassadors / leaders ● Connect with Campus Living to encourage Resident Advisors to distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” at their first hall meeting
<p>Coordinate with athletic programs to establish political engagement plan for athletes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connect with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) for support in becoming voter education ambassadors/leaders ● Present voter education materials at team meetings ● Implement a civic engagement competition between athletic teams in pursuit of specified civic engagement targets ● Conduct voter registration drives at athletic games ● Coordinate with athletic coaches in the implementation of these programs by encouraging them to share voter education resources with student athletes in newsletters, social media, registration, etc ● Encourage athletic coaches to take the All In Voter Registration and Engagement Pledge and direct them to additional voter education resources

<p>Distribute voter registration and education materials to campus stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” to professors of the new student “words” and “numbers” classes ● Distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” to professors in low voter turnout majors ● Table for voter registration and education in academic buildings targeting low voter turnout majors ● Distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” to campus offices for inclusion in their newsletters/materials ● Distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” to student organizations for further communication with students
<p>Host events for National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day and Election Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a voter registration tabling resource with basic information regarding the tabling process (allowing more people to lead tabling events) ● Organize events such as candidate research sessions, debate watch parties, trivia nights, etc
<p>Host three additional political events per year, one of which will engage international political issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organize candidate forums, offering a space for dialogue with local, state and/or national politicians in an organized and educational environment ● Organize events such as faculty roundtable discussions, letter to the editor workshops, trips to the Portland City Council, issues in Portland research sessions, etc ● Connect with off campus political offices and organizations for community based experiences
<p>Establish a student voting ambassador program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruit students who are interested in receiving workshops and trainings regarding voter registration efforts to create a base of student ambassadors able to support the aforementioned goals
<p>Improve curricular options that discuss issues of civic engagement and democracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate with professors in all disciplines to distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin” in their classes ● Improve opportunities for community engagement in curricular options using the structure of existing classes which are deeply involved in the community

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with professors and academic staff to offer curricular incentives for participation in civic related events and activities
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The timeline below highlights key dates and date ranges in the implementation of this strategy. This timeline will repeat every year, starting in 2024.

<p>January - May: Coordinate with relevant departments, offices, and student groups regarding the implementation of any projects that are planned for the start of the next semester</p> <p>September: Orientation and move in efforts related to voter registration and education</p> <p>September - November: Voter education efforts and candidate/issue research for next election</p> <p>November 2024: Election</p> <p>Spring Semester: Continued voter education efforts and organizing political events</p>

Reporting

This action plan will be linked in the Lewis & Clark College voter and civic engagement [website](#) (which is being revised as the aforementioned “Ballot Bulletin”) along with additional information about the All In Campus Democracy Challenge. This website is available to members of the Lewis & Clark College community as well as the general public. It will also be posted in the Center for Social Change and Community Involvement newsletter and [website](#) and distributed by email and through meetings to the relevant offices, partners, and the general public. The political engagement coalition will continue to meet through the Spring and Fall of 2024 to revisit the plan and recruit interested parties. In addition, the Center for Social Change and Community Involvement will add a Civic Engagement section to our weekly newsletter and social media posts so that students and the general public can be better informed about not just the contents of the All In plan but how they can personally engage with it.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the success of this plan will be determined by a number of different factors. First, NSLVE data will be consulted to evaluate the achievement of the voter registration goals. This data is made available every two years and will be consulted as a benchmark for voter registration efforts and successes. Additionally, success of the plan will be measured by the number of institutional offices which include the “Ballot Bulletin” in their websites, social media, and communications. It will also be measured by the number of student athletes and athletic events that are reached by voter education efforts, the number of classes that distribute information about the “Ballot Bulletin,” and other measurable outcomes of the short term goals. These statistics will be gathered by sending surveys to the relevant parties that ask about the ways in which they have supported civic education and civic engagement goals.

These surveys will be sent out at the end of every semester to track voter education efforts. Additionally, a meeting with political engagement coalition members will be organized after each election season and after the end of each school year to revisit the goals and strategies in this plan and make the necessary changes.