

Long Beach City College

Democratic Engagement Action Plan 2024

I. Executive Summary

The mission of Long Beach City College is to empower our students to become active, ethical participants in their learning, as well as in the democratic structures that give them voice and agency in shaping their society and world. This mission is lived out through how we create capacity, build community, and spark innovation in support of anti-racism and inclusion to ensure programs and services inspire and prepare learners to thrive as citizens in a diverse democracy and achieving their intellectual, financial, and personal goals. These values directly embody our college's commitment to promoting civic engagement within our student body. The purpose of this plan is to outline and create action steps of how Long Beach City College will increase democratic engagement across the student body and increase civic engagement education.

Long Beach City College's Democratic Engagement Action Plan (DEAP) will be implemented by the Office of Student Life leading collaboration efforts, which include partnerships with student clubs, academic departments, learning communities, student services departments, communications and public events department, and local government agencies. Through this synergistic approach, we will provide multi-modal opportunities for students to engage with the democratic process through in person events, virtual webinars, voter registration tabling, and informative communication distribution to allow for equitable access to these vital civic engagement resources. This plan was developed by Kim Hamon, Student Activities Advisor, and approved by our leadership team comprised of campus leaders from across the college including faculty, classified staff, deans, directors, and students.

The short-term goals of this plan, which will be accomplished within two years include:

- Enrolling Long Beach City College into the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement by the end of the 2024-2025 Academic Year
- Embed voter registration opportunities into all Student Services centers across both of our campuses

The long-term goals of this plan, which will be accomplished within five years include:

- Create and sustain partnerships with at least five community organizations who will be included in our campus coalition
- Have 25% of the student body register to vote

II. Leadership

The leadership team who approved this DEAP consists of integral campus stakeholders who are committed to furthering civic engagement within our students and empowering them to be active participants of our democratic process. There is support for the DEAP all the way up to our Board of Trustees, who are invested in being at and supporting voter registration events on campus. In addition to on campus members, we have collaborated with the local non-partisan groups like the local League of Women Voters chapter to provide informative events to students in becoming informed voters on propositions and ballot measures they are voting on.

Leadership Team:

- Kim Hamon, Student Activities Advisor
- History and Political Science Student Association
- Dr. Jerome Hunt, Political Science Professor and Academic Senate President
- Alex Luong, Director Title V & FYE
- Jose Ibarra, Assistant Director EOPS/CARE CalWorks
- Dr. Erania Freeman, Associate Dean of Student Support Services
- Teila Robertson, Student Activities Coordinator
- Stacey Toda, Director of Public Affairs and Marketing
- Vanessa Crispin-Peralta, Department Head of History, Political Science, and Ethnic Studies

The leadership team provided feedback virtually in drafting this DEAP and will meet for the first time in Spring 2025. The leadership team meeting frequency will be twice per semester, where efforts are focused in the fall on executing events throughout the year and in the spring setting event dates and responsibilities for the following academic year.

III. Landscape

Long Beach City College had a total enrollment of 38,696 for the 2023-2024 academic year with a demographic breakdown of the following:

- Race/Ethnicity
 - Hispanic/Latinx: 22,538 (58%)
 - White: 5,232 (14%)
 - Black/African American: 4,468 (12%)
 - Asian & Filipino: 3,871 (10%)
 - Multi-Ethnic: 1,992 (5%)
 - Other/Unknown: 304 (1%)
 - Pacific Islander: 222 (1%)

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 69 (0%)

The current climate of political engagement on campus is generally positive. Primarily student clubs and the Associated Student Body engage directly in political discourse and advocacy efforts through campus awareness campaigns, submitting resolutions to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, and identity based advocacy for marginalized and underrepresented groups.

We currently do not have campus voting data to analyze, and will be including this in our short-term goal, which will help inform our civic engagement efforts. Some strategies we will be implementing to collect this data include partnering with our Institutional Effectiveness office to see the feasibility of incorporating this into our data sets we gather each year and enrolling our college into the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE). Utilizing data collected through NSLVE, we will adapt and target our civic engagement efforts to populations with low voter registration rates.

IV. Goals

Short Term Goals

- Enroll Long Beach City College into the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement by the end of the 2024-2025 Academic Year
 - We have identified who can complete the form to enroll our college into the study, and have requested this to be completed by our Contracts Office
- Embed voter registration opportunities into all Student Services centers across both of our campuses
 - Through collaboration with our Vice President for Student Services and campus coalition members, we will provide voter registration information to each of our Student Services centers to be available and accessible to all students
 - We will track this through check-ins with these centers periodically through the year, and coalition members will provide support as needed
 - We will provide a survey to each Student Services office to analyze data on how the center informed students of voter registration opportunities, how many students engaged in taking voter registration information, and approximation of how many students registered to vote after receiving voter registration information
- Campus coalition will meet by the end of the 2024-2025 Academic Year
 - We have identified campus coalition members, and members who have accepted have contributed to the creation of this plan, but we have not yet met as a coalition
 - We will identify a time in the spring and meet to plan dates and assign roles for events for the 2025-2026 academic year

Long Term Goals

- Create and sustain partnerships with at least five community organizations who will be included in our campus coalition
 - Given that our campus coalition is newly forming, giving ourselves five years to create and sustain partnerships with five community organizations to include in our campus coalition is enough time to build and sustain relationships
 - This is a new goal, and will be evaluated in two years
- Have 25% of the student body register to vote
 - We currently do not have any data on the rate at which our students are registered to vote, this is projected as a goal over the next five years, and will be re-evaluated if we find rates to be higher than this percentage of our student body who is registered to vote

Other civic engagement initiatives our campus would like to participate in

- Submitting an action plan to the All In Campus Democracy Challenge
- Creating a partnership with the County Clerk's Office to provide civic engagement and voter empowerment events to our students once a year
- Continue partnership with the local League of Women Voter chapter to provide educational voter workshops to our students each fall semester

V. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

Long Beach City College is in the process of submitting authorization to be enrolled into the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement and will be authorized by the end of this academic year (2024-2025).

VI. Strategy

Throughout the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, our campus projects that we have yielded around 250 students becoming registered voters through direct result of the events we provided to students. For our Fall 2022 National Voter Registration Day and Register to Vote Event we partnered with Pizza to the Polls to provide free pizza to students while also encouraging them to register to vote.

Given our Student Life staff had some staffing shortages intermittently throughout these years, we had limited capacity to put on events. Additionally, we did not have a leadership team committed to this work, and was limited by the time of one staff member managing these events. Now that we have established a leadership team, our events will be more robust and will have a larger reach across our campus community.

Fall 2022

- 9/20/22: National Voter Registration Day (150 students)
- 10/27/22: Register to Vote Event (100 students)

Spring 2023

- 4/11/23: Voter Education Day (50 students)
- 4/13/23: Voter Education Day (20 students)

Fall 2023

- 9/19/23: National Voter Registration Day (50-75 students)

Events planned for this year and academic year 2025-2026 are the following:

Fall 2024

- 9/17/24: Tabling at Latinx Heritage Month Kick-Off for National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day
 - Student Life hosting a voter registration drive on National Voter Registration Day during our celebration of Latinx Heritage Month Kick-Off. Students can register to vote via a link provided. There are also informative flyers highlighting amendments in the constitution and their significance that have impacted marginalized and underrepresented groups throughout history.
- 10/10/24: Workshop Presentation for National Voter Education Week
 - Understanding Your CA General Election Ballot: in a collaboration with the League of Women Voters, this is an informative workshop to educate students regarding proposition and ballot measures on the 2024 CA General Election Ballot
- 10/29/24: Vote Early Day
 - Student Life hosting a table at both of our campuses to educate students on how and when they can vote for the 2024 CA General Election. Material for this event provided by the County Clerk's Office
- 11/5/24: Election Night Results Viewing Party
 - Hosted by the Political Science Department to gather students together to watch the results and have informal political discussions/spark engagement and connection

Spring 2025

- April 2025: Voter Education Day
 - The Associated Student Body hosting informative tabling highlighting voter turnout from the previous CA General Election, demographic data of voters, and encouraging students to register to vote if they have not already

Fall 2025

- September 2025: National Voter Registration Day
 - Student Life hosting voter registration drive
- September 2025: Constitution Day
 - Student Life hosting interactive activity with constitutional amendment trivia and handing out pocket size US Constitutions

Spring 2026

- March 2026: Civic Engagement Educational Event with the League of Women Voters
 - Informative event highlighting importance of engaging in primary and mid-term elections

VII. Reporting

This action plan will be made public and the leadership team will create the modality in which it is shared after the first leadership team meeting in Spring 2025.

VIII. Evaluation

The evaluation strategy includes data collected through effectiveness of events planned out in this action plan through data collected from attendees at events, analyzing NSLVE data once we are enrolled, and implementing changes to events and outreach to students based on data provided. This section will also be more robust as our leadership team is mobilized.