



Manhattan College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Margaret Groarke

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Manhattan College in New York for the 2022 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2022 midterm election. The goals for Manhattan College for the 2022 election are:

- Create easy access to information on registration, applying for an absentee ballot, and voting
- Achieve a registration rate of Manhattan College students of 70% (halfway between our 2018 and 2020 rates)
- Achieve a turnout rate of eligible students of 25% (marginally better than our 2018 rate)
- Evaluate our 2022 election work to inform planning for future election cycles

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Margaret Groarke - Professor of Political Science, Coordinator of Community Engaged Learning

Jacque Martin - Coordinator, Social Action

Michael Steele - Assistant Director, Student Engagement

Whitney Staub - Athletics

Representative from the Lasallian Women and Gender Resource Center

Hayden Greene, Director of Multicultural Affairs

Litzy Rincon Robles, Student

Finn Brletich, Student

Carolyn Allen, Student

Calissa McNeely, Student Body President

Our campus works with these following nonprofit partners: Campus Compact, League of Women Voters, Bronx Chapter.

Our campus also works with the Bronx Board of Elections.

Commitment:



Manhattan College’s mission is to “provide a contemporary, person-centered educational experience that prepares graduates for lives of personal development, professional success, civic engagement, and service to their fellow human beings. and thus it is appropriate that the college encourage eligible students to participate in national elections.

In addition, Manhattan College wants to comply with the 1998 Federal Higher Education Act and the 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act, which requires colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms, or electronic access to voter registration forms, to all students in years of federal or gubernatorial elections, and to make such forms widely available to students.

For these reasons, President Brennan O’Donnell signed the Higher Education Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, and authorized the College’s participation in NSLVE since September 2016. Recognizing the responsibility of colleges and universities to prepare students to be informed and active citizens, and the importance of the student voice in elections, President O’Donnell encourages the college community to consider the ways curricular and extra-curricular experiences can support the development of students to become lifelong voters and engaged participants in their communities.

Manhattan College earned a Bronze seal for its participation rate in the 2018 election, and a Silver seal for participation in the 2020 election. Both the President’s signing of the Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation and the Bronze and Silver seals were announced in the College’s daily Announcements (emailed to everyone in the campus community and available

on the College website), and included in public-facing News items on the website.

Phase II of the College's Strategic Plan, which just ended, included significant initiatives to encourage local and global civic engagement, through teaching, research and service, and in particular to promote collaboration with professional and community-based organizations, service-learning, and volunteer work. Phase III, which has just begun, we plan to enhance our intentional engagement with local, national and global partners. Under both the current strategic plan and the one we are about to begin, we believe the strategic initiatives support a strong effort around voter registration and participation.

The college's commitment to local and global civic engagement has led to course-embedded projects that encourage students to be civically involved. The college's commitment to community engaged learning is represented by employing an Assistant Director of Community Partnerships, who spends more than 25% of her time on community engaged learning, and a faculty Coordinator of Community Engaged Learning (25% appointment). Classes that have recently focused on civic engagement include English 262, Gender and Literature with Dr. Maeve Adams, and Communication 419, Advanced TV Production with Dr. Michael Grabowski, and Political Science 153, "Participation and Power" with Dr. Margaret Groarke. Manhattan College's mission is to "provide a contemporary, person-centered educational experience that prepares graduates for lives of personal development, professional success, civic engagement, and service to their fellow human beings. and thus it is appropriate that the college encourage eligible students to participate in national elections.

Landscape:

Manhattan College is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2016.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Manhattan College has 3,342 students, 2918 of whom are undergraduates. Most are of traditional college age. Our undergraduate population is approximately 58% male, 28% Latino, and 62% commuter.

Manhattan College has authorized NSLVE.

Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 59.6%.
Our institution had a 2020 voter registration rate of 76.4%.

Our institution had a 2018 voter turnout rate of 23.7%.
Our institution had a 2018 voter registration rate of 65.1%.

Our institution has been recognized in the past by ALL IN for these awards: 2020 Standout Athletic Coach - Kiambra D. Griffin

Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2018 Bronze, 2020 Silver

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Increase student voter turnout rate to 25% in 2022 and 62% in 2024.

Increase student voter registration rate to 70% in 2022 and 80% in 2024.

Strategy:

Manhattan College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

Campus Ministry Social Action has hired two work study students to work on voter engagement tasks. These students are tabling on campus, posting information about voting and elections, and otherwise working on increasing voter engagement on campus.

Manhattan College has taken advantage of the Civic Holidays to promote our work. We had a voter engagement festival on the Quad on National Voter Registration Day, with a DJ from the College radio station, games, opportunities to register to vote and learn about the election, snacks and ice cream.

We posted information on our Instagram and the College's announcement system about registration deadlines, getting an absentee ballot, early voting and Election Day. We also flyered the campus about these deadlines.

We were gifted a free, Manhattan College specific portal for voter registration by All In, and we have posted the QR code for it widely. In the spring, we will be doing short in-class presentations about why and how you should register to vote, and we will be using the portal to register students.

Our Athletics Department is participating in the MAAC Votes effort, and asking its student athletes to pledge to vote.

There will be some NYC primaries in June 2023 – in particular, the Bronx and Queens DAs will be running for re-election. We will review what other elections are happening at that time and determine to what extent we want to highlight them in the Spring 2023 election, or focus more broadly on registering students to vote for future elections.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

When we receive our NSLVE data for the 2022 election, we will review it to see how we can improve our efforts. We have previously been unable to provide the Clearinghouse with gender and race data, but thanks to repeated requests and the heightened efforts of the Institutional Research team to generate more useful data, we expect to be able to look at participation by gender and race in the 2022 election.

We will also convene periodic meetings of our Voter Engagement Committee to review data from our portal (which will show us how many students have used our portal to register) and to review participation in events that we plan.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/manhattan-college/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

Our 2020 action plan is on our website, and our 2022 plan will shortly be added. Data from our 2020 NSLVE report is posted on our website, and the full report will be posted when next we update the website (after the 2022 election). We always announce (on the announcements portal that is seen by the entire campus) our NSLVE report, and we email it directly to all senior administrators and all members of our voter engagement committee. We devote a meeting of the voter engagement committee to the analysis of the report, and discussion of how we could do better in the next cycle.