

Marietta College Voter Engagement (2023-2024)

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Staff Office of Responsibility:	Office of Community Engagement Jason Nulton
All-In Work Study:	vacant

Overview:

Marietta College is committed to providing equitable voting opportunities to its students through advocacy, education, and availability. The college joined Campus Vote Project in 2022 (Alexis Crosby: acrosby@campusvoteproject.org) and has been working to grow its presence and impact on campus. We also collaborate with the All-In Campus Democracy Challenge (Stephanie King: stephanie@civcnation.org). Over the past year, Marietta College has participated in improving voter registration by holding tabling events, providing educational resources to students, and securing guest speakers.

Marietta College has access to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data for 2020. In 2020, the registration rate for Marietta College was 82.9%. In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate has increased. In 2020, the voting rate for MC was 60.6% and the voting rate among registered students was 73.1%. During 2021, MC's voting rate was lower than the national average.

The data shows that students at Marietta College are willing to register to vote, but often fail to make it to the polls. This realization has led to the conclusion that students need to know the benefits of voting so they are more inclined to take the next step of voting after registration.

There has been a big push for educating students on the ease and benefits of voting at Marietta College. During tabling events, pamphlets and handouts provide useful information on why voting is important as well as voting laws and poll locations. Marietta College has a section on its website dedicated to information about voting. This webpage is being revamped with new links to further improve voting education. Guest speakers have also been invited to share the importance of voting.

NOTE: *Marietta College's All-In representative has traditionally been a work study student. In 2023, Marietta's work studies were cut significantly, and the Office of Community Engagement lost ½ of work study manpower. As a result, we do not expect the All-In position to be filled for*

the foreseeable future. All CVP documentation will also be provided to All-In (Stephanie King) to satisfy any annual requirements.

Marietta College's Goals for 2023-2024:

- **Rule #1:** All campus voting activities must be NON-PARTISAN. All students and campus groups must be afforded the exact same opportunities to participate.
- Through All-In, obtain access to a free customizable voter registration portal (can be branded with Marietta College logos/color profile). This provides students with quick access to:
 - Establish voter registration at the beginning of Fall semester
 - Update their voter registration
 - Verify voter registration in advance of state and local 2024 elections as well as the Presidential Election on November 5, 2024.
- Partner with Student Government Association (SGA) and/or other campus groups to distribute candidate information in advance of elections
 - This could be done with one or several Mall table events
- Be present to register voters at Marietta College Involvement Fair
- Partner with Poli Sci department to host voter registration events in conjunction with Pizza and Politics (local candidates may be brought in)
- Partner with Felix Burrows (local), who transports students to polls during election season: (202) 679-7878
- Continue to improve the campus voting registration rate.
- Continue to improve the campus voting rate.

Coalition:

Coalition building began as a plan for the future in the Fall of 2022. In the Spring of 2023, heavy emphasis was placed on building a voter engagement coalition as Marietta College. The CVP Fellow as well as Marietta College's Community Engagement office (All-In Campus Democracy Challenge) have collaborated to build a sturdy foundation for a coalition at Marietta College.

The Voter Engagement Coalition at Marietta College Consists of:

- PoliSci Dept
- Local election leaders
- League of Women Voters (local)
- College Republicans
- College Democrats
- Black Student Union

- LGBT
- Greek orgs
- National Society of Leadership & Success
- Omicron Delta Kappa

These groups have provided support for Campus Vote Project and will continue to lend their help, advice, volunteers, and backing for future events.

Analysis of Marietta College's Work in 2023-2024

Voter Registration

Marietta College offered a wide variety of voter registration opportunities throughout 2023-2024. As a college, we find it very important to engage students in the education and action of voting by being a presence on campus.

- CVP and The Office of Community Engagement hosted a tabling event the McDonough Leadership Conference at Marietta College. The event's main goal was to increase voter registration rates of students and visitors alike at the college. The table provided an iPad and QR Code with links to online voter registration sites. We also provided informational materials people could use to learn more about where and how to vote and the new voter ID registration laws passed in April of 2023.

Voter Education

As mentioned before, voter education is a priority at Marietta College. In order to better inform students about the benefits of voting, how students can vote, where students can register as well as where polling locations are, and voting laws, various tactics were utilized.

- On March 31st of 2023, Rachel Coyle, Co-Founder of How Things Work at the Ohio Statehouse, was invited to Marietta College to educate the Marietta community on issues surrounding the State government of Ohio. The League of Women Voters, a local activist group in Marietta, OH, as well as other members of the community attended the event. Rachel Coyle discussed how decisions are made, what rights people have in regards to supporting or opposing a bill, and how people can take action and advocate for themselves, etc. Listeners were encouraged to ask questions to further promote discussions and learning.

Voter Registration

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Ballot Access

About 35% of undergraduate students at Marietta College are out of state students. This means that these students need to vote via absentee ballot as they cannot be in their home state during certain elections. Actions were taken to ensure students understood how to request absentee ballots. Students were also able to mail out their ballots through the Marietta College Mailroom.

Successes

Marietta College had several successes throughout the year. Here are some highlights listed below:

- Both Voter Turnout and Voter Registration rates increased as a result of tabling and Voter Turnout

Barriers

Although this year was very successful, Marietta College was new to the process of CVP in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023, meaning the organization does not have much depth surrounding student engagement. Some barriers include:

- Limited experience slowed progress.
- Establishing strong relationships with new coalitions and connections.

Overall, the voter engagement team worked very hard to establish a presence on campus and to help foster positive progress moving forward.

Beyond 2023-2024

Future goals have been developed to ensure voter registration, voter turnout, and voter education, continue to progress. Marietta College is dedicated to improving student voter engagement and these future goals will help us improve even further.

Three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

- Reach < 90% voter registration rate on campus
- Have a freshman seminar during orientation dedicated to voting
- Reinstate Marietta Campus as a polling location
- Set up a voter engagement tabling event during the Involvement Fair
- Set up a voter engagement tabling event during the Annual McDonough Leadership Conference at Marietta College
- Over the course of an academic year, host at least one guest speaker

At Marietta College we have very high standards for success and are eager to see the achievements that are made in the future.

NSLVE Data

After receiving NSLVE data of Marietta College, we will analyze the results and develop our efforts respectively.