

# 2018 Voter Friendly Campus Plan & ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Plan



MIAMI UNIVERSITY

OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809

## Oxford Campus Plan



## About Miami

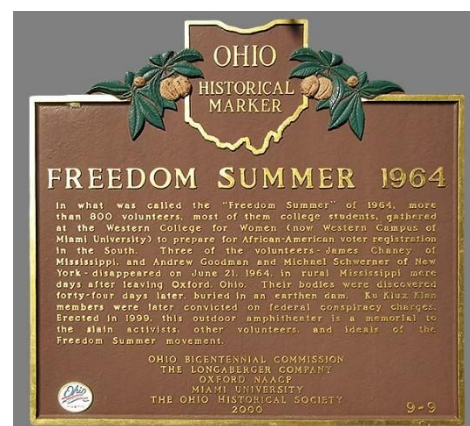
Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of 16,000, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Miami University prides itself on attracting and developing future leaders. Leadership often carries the expectation of strong civic engagement, and at the very least knowledge of and participation in the electoral process. We strive to have Miami students vote at rates that are higher than the national average. We believe that executing on this civic responsibility immediately following eligibility -- which is what occurs for most Miami students -- can be important in developing lifelong participation and commitment to the process.

## Freedom Summer

The Mississippi Summer Project of 1964, commonly known as Freedom Summer, was a creative campaign to shine the national spotlight on Jim Crow Mississippi. Activists, with the help of college student volunteers, created grassroots networks to provide education, register voters and provide community support to marginalized Mississippi communities. The key to unlock the South was the vote, and activists provided literacy education, citizenship schools, and nonviolent direct action training in order to get African Americans to the polls and reveal the violent resistance that they faced. The struggle of African American citizens to vote led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and by the 1980s, African American political participation in Mississippi exploded with black elected officials at all level of government: local, state and federal.

In 1964, Western College for Women (now part of Miami University's campus) hosted the training session for the Freedom Summer volunteers. College students and national civil rights leaders came to the campus from all over the country to learn about legal rights, voter registration strategies, and nonviolent direct action. Many volunteers would teach Freedom Schools that educated young Mississippians about citizenship rights. Others would canvas door to door to encourage African Americans to go to the courthouse to register to vote.



## Overview

Miami University identified three main goals we hoped to meet by becoming a part of the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

- To achieve at least **75% registration this year**
- To increase voting rates among **Engineering and Business majors** (two of the lowest on campus)
- To achieve at least a **25% voting rate** this year (as compared to 14% in the last Mid-term election)

We will not be able to definitively say if these goals were achieved until we receive our NSLVE report in Spring 2019. The National Survey of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), conducted by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University in collaboration with the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), provides Miami University with important baseline data regarding voter engagement.

This is the second year that a campus-wide coalition was formed to develop and implement civic engagement programming pre-election. This year's plan includes more coalition members and a more comprehensive campus-wide effort to energize student voters. Like 2016, the #MiamiOHvotes hashtag will be used to promote and track election-related promotion on social media.

# Coalition

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## Voter Registration

- **Office of Community Engagement and Service (OCES)**
  - All staff will be trained on voter registration.
  - Voter registration forms will be available at the front desk during regular business hours. Students who register are given “I registered to vote” stickers upon completion.
  - Voter registration forms can be dropped off at OCES during business hours. OCES will mail or deliver forms to Butler County Board of Elections.
  - Voter Registration will also occur at Welcome Wags, an annual event outside of Hanna House which allows students to spend time with therapy dogs.
  - “Register to Vote Here” signs will be placed in front of the building.
  - OCES will host a “How to Conduct a Voter Registration Drive” workshop in collaboration with Student Activities and the Butler County Board of Elections on September 9 at 5:30 PM.
- **Andrew Goodman Foundation - Vote Everywhere Program**
  - Voter Everywhere Ambassadors will train interested student volunteers on voter registration.
  - Ambassadors will organize voter registration tabling on campus up until the voter registration deadline in early October.



- Ambassadors will work with politically focused student organizations to coordinate educational programming and debate watch parties on campus.
- Ambassadors will produce marketing and promotional materials for distribution on social media and across plasma TV screen across campus.
- **College of Engineering & Computing Science**
  - A representative from OCES will work with the Dean's Student Advisory Council (when they return from summer break) to develop a plan for registering Engineering students to vote.
  - Voter registration tables will be set up during Engineering Week as part of annual festivities.
- **Farmer School of Business**
  - The Farmer School of Business has invited a representative from the Office of Community Engagement and Service to present about voter registration at its initial FSB Student Org Forum, an event which all student org Presidents must attend.
  - Ahead of the deadline, students will set up Voter Registration tables in the Farmer School of Business Commons.
  - Voter Registration reminder messages will appear on plasma screens throughout the building.
  - An email reminding students to register to vote will be sent out via the FSB Student Org President's listserv in August.
- **Western Program**
  - Miami's Western Program will make voter registration forms available to students in Peabody Hall, one of the most historic buildings on campus, previously part of Western College for Women.
  - An email will be sent out to all Western Majors about how to register to vote.
  - Faculty members will mention voter registration in their classes.
- **Miller Center for Student Disability Services**
  - The Miller Center for Student Disability Services is a voter registration site as mandated by the National Voting Rights Act of 1993. The Miller Center works with individuals, with and without disabilities, to provide voter registration materials and will also mail in voter registration applications and change of address information (as requested) the same day that they are completed.
  - The Miller Center also provides accommodations (i.e., scribe) in filling out forms if requested as well.
  - Information about the Miller Center's status as a voter registration site is listed on their website [www.MiamiOH.edu/SDS](http://www.MiamiOH.edu/SDS), at the Center in 304 Shriver Center, and in printed resource materials that are given to all incoming first year students.
  - The Miller Center will email a reminder to all students registered for services that they can come into the office and get registered to vote.
- **Dean of Students**

- The Dean of Students Office will distribute an email to *all students* about voter registration and rights at the beginning of the semester. A second reminder email will be sent to all students on the morning of election day.
- **Armstrong Student Center**
  - On 8/24, Armstrong Student Center Info Desk Ambassadors will receive training on how to register people to vote.
  - Beginning the first day of classes, voter registration forms will be available at the Info Desk with a sign letting students know that they can register there. Forms can be filled out and dropped off at the Info Desk on an ongoing basis. They will be collected by OCES and sent to the Board of Elections on a weekly basis.
- **Associated Student Government**
  - Voter registration forms will be available in the ASG office in the Armstrong Student Center.
  - ASG might be able to provide a banner to go outside of Shriver Center; the location of the on-campus polling location.
- **League of Women Voters**
  - LWV will host voter registration tables at the Oxford pig roast.
- **Office of Residence Life**
  - The Office of Residence Life will sponsor an RA training session on how to register people to vote.
  - Voter registration forms will be available at all check-in tables on Move-In Day. Forms will be collected by OCES and send into the Board of Elections.
- **Global Initiatives**
  - Staff will contact students preparing to study abroad for the semester to inform them of the steps necessary to request an absentee ballot. This will occur once in mid-July and again in August before students leave for their study sites abroad.
- **Department of Educational Leadership**
  - Throughout the month of September, Voter Registration forms with instructions to students will be passed out in classes throughout the department.
- **Sociology and Social Justice Studies Programs**
  - Voter Registration forms with instructions to students will be provided in SJS/SOC 165, Introduction to Social Justice Studies (200 students with university-wide enrollment) and likely other SJS classes, as well.
- **Off Campus Outreach**
  - On August 27th, volunteers with the annual Walkabout program will go door-to-door to off-campus students, providing information about being a responsible citizen in Oxford and offering them the change to register to vote using their new off-campus address.
  - A voter registration event for commuter students will take place on August 31st in the Commuter Center.
- **Orientation & Transition Programs**
  - Voter registration tables will be set up at Rise Against Hunger, a Welcome Week event for new students co-sponsored by OCES.



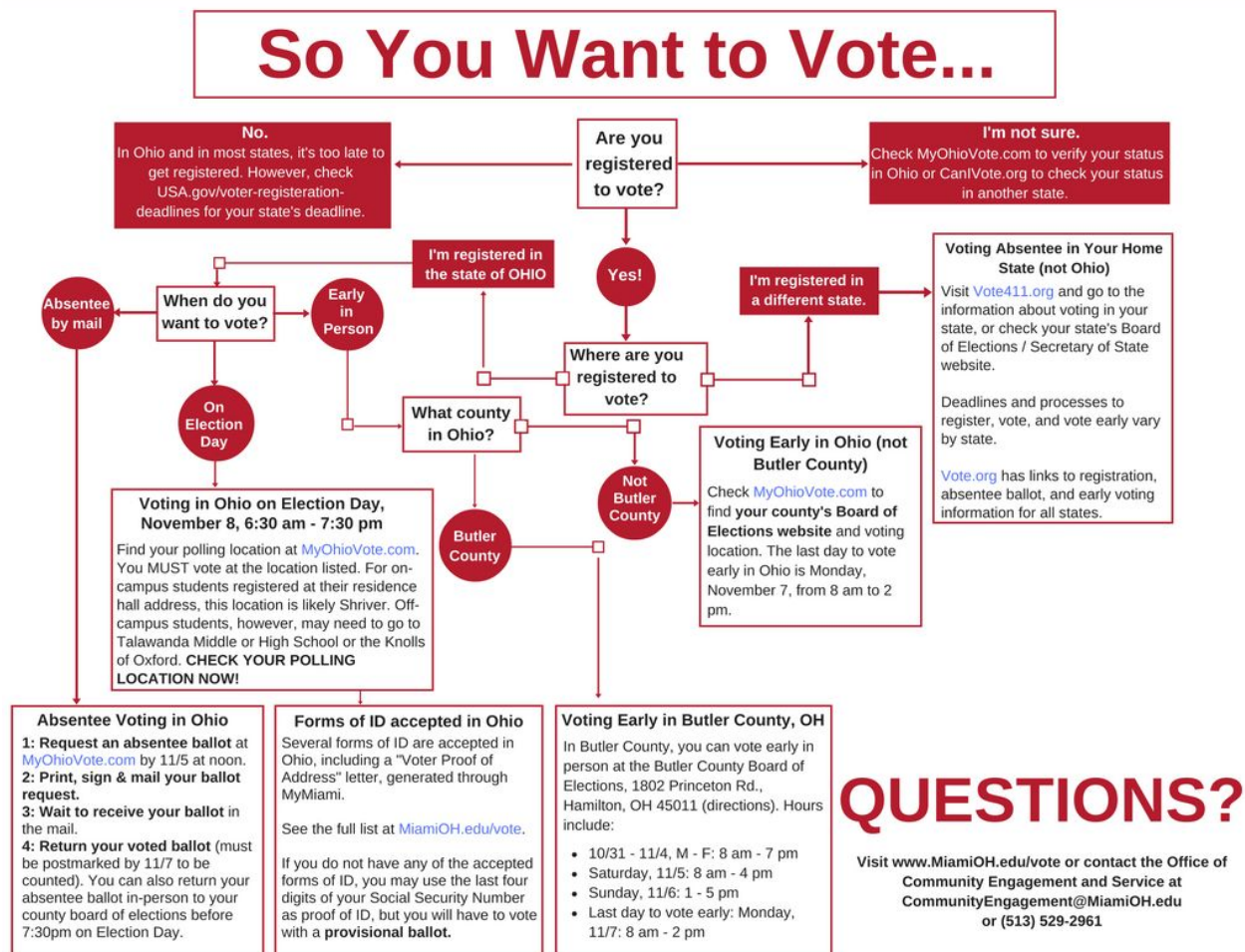
- Voter registration will also be available at a pre-semester social event for students in pre-semester programs.
- **Communications & Marketing**
  - Central Student Affairs social media accounts will help publicize events and voter information.



## Voter Education

- **Dean of Students**
  - Miami University hosts a student voting rights website ([www.MiamiOH.edu/vote](http://www.MiamiOH.edu/vote)) and the Dean of Students office sends out an annual email to all students informing them of their voting rights and where to access additional information, including a voter registration and information-update form.
- **Vote Everywhere Ambassadors**
  - The Office of Community Engagement and Service oversees the Andrew Goodman Foundation's Vote Everywhere program. Vote Everywhere is a nonpartisan, experiential program that recruits, trains and supports emerging leaders at America's colleges and universities. Our students strengthen democracy by leading long-term voter engagement, public policy and social justice initiatives. In addition, the Vote Everywhere program enables colleges and universities to seamlessly comply with the voter registration requirements set forth in the Higher Education Act.
  - Ambassadors will coordinate events on campus throughout the fall, including voter registration tables at which non-partisan voting guide will be made available, debate watch parties, national issues forums, and speakers.
- **Communications & Marketing**
  - A pamphlet titled "Your Voice, Your Vote" was developed and will be distributed to off-campus students during Miami's Walkabout program.
  - "Your Voice, Your Vote" pamphlets will be available to students at events throughout Welcome Week, at Mega Fair, and at other campus events.

- Utilize hashtag #MiamiOHvotes when posting campus and community events related to voting and the election on social media.
- The infographic below will be updated and used to promote awareness about how to vote on election day (and prior).



# #MiamiOHvotes

- **Office of GLBTQ Services**
  - **National Coming Out Day:** Every year (since 1988) the nation celebrates coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, + (LGBTQ+) on October 11th. Rainbow flags with names of LGBTQ+ and ally members are placed across campus as a show of visibility, in addition to a resource table and Coming Out Doorway

where students, faculty, staff, and community members can "come out" to promote awareness, visibility and show support. This year, the table will also feature non-partisan voting guides provided by the League of Women Voters.

- **The Gay Agenda:** At this passive sit-in to promote LGBTQ+ awareness and visibility on Miami University's campus hosted by the LGBTQ+ student organization, Spectrum, members from Spectrum and allied organizations sit in a designated public space with identity flags, resources, and additional information to break down stereotypes and promote acceptance via awareness and visibility. At this event, students will have the opportunity to read about current legislation on LGBTQ+ issues and where the candidates stand on these topics.
- **Miami University Women's Center & the League of Women Voters of Oxford**
  - The Women\*s Center will partner with the League of Women Voters of Oxford to sponsor a voter education information table on August 29 in observance of Women's Equality Day. The table will contain information on voting rights and issues for women and people with other minoritized identities. The information table will be set up in the Armstrong Student Center and will also feature interactive activities designed to engage students.
- **Office of Residence Life**
  - In partnership with OCES and Off Campus Outreach & Communications, RAs will put up bulletin boards with voter registration and rights information in residence halls. Across campus this will total 40 bulletin boards.
  - The Office of Residence Life will sponsor an RA training session on how to register people to vote.
  - Voter registration forms will be available at all check-in tables on Move-In Day. Forms will be collected by OCES and send into the Board of Elections.
- **Freedom Summer App Playtest**
  - In 2014, a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start Up project funded a unique project using mobile technology and interactive media that transports students to 1964 to train as Freedom Summer volunteers. The Freedom Summer App is a location-based game that uses a mobile device and GPS technology. Historic media from 1964 is embedded in a map, and, as participants follow in the footsteps of freedom fighters on the site where events took place, they unlock the story of a Freedom Summer volunteer. Through a branching narrative, participants make choices and discover what it takes to be an activist and stand up for democracy. Participants learn through role play activities and discover what it is like to register to vote or face violent resistance. The history of Freedom Summer makes it clear what is at stake today in political participation. By understanding the



struggles of the past, students reflect on what is at stake in the future. Furthermore, Freedom Summer underscores the critical role of college students who have a voice in the political process and can take action to advocate for a democratic vision of the world they will inherit. The Freedom Summer App Playtest will be a chance for student to learn more about the history of voting and consider efforts to engage democratically today.

- **League of Women Voters**

- The League of Women voters non-partisan guide will be available at tabling events across campus and in the OCES office (and others) on an ongoing basis. OCES will scan the guide to create an electronic version which can be posted online to social media and websites.

- **Political Science**

- Offering special course “Election 2018” during Fall 2018, in addition to the regular Campaigns and Elections course and American Political Parties Course.
- Constitution Day Event, September 1, 2018. The Department plans to hold an event in honor of Constitution Day, including readings and discussion and the provision of free mini-Constitutions to attendees.
- The Fall 2018 Janus Forum will be held in October ahead of the election. The Janus Forum is a catalyst for developing timely, interesting, and rigorous discussion of public affairs. The Janus Forum is sponsored by The Thomas W. Smith Project on Liberty, Democracy and Citizenship; the Miami University Department of Political Science and the Office of Diversity Affairs.

- **Institutional Research**

- The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) takes place on Miami's campus. The NSLVE offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn their student registration and voting rates and, for interested campuses, a closer examination of their campus climate for political learning and engagement and correlations between specific student learning experiences and voting.

## Ballot Access

- **On Campus Polling Site**

- The polling location for all on-campus students is on-campus in the Heritage Room in the Shriver Center on Spring Street.

- **Address Verification**

- Because Ohio voting requirements are a Picture ID (other than a Miami ID) or proof of current address, Miami provides on-campus students the ability to generate a proof of address letter through our online portal, MyMiami.



- **Increase Number of Poll Workers**
  - Poll worker training will be advertised to students via social media and in classes. The Board of Elections is willing to host an on-campus training session if enough students are interested. In 2016, Miami University received an award from the Ohio Secretary of State for the most poll workers recruited of any organization in the state of Ohio. We intend to beat our 2016 number.
- **Miller Center for Student Disability Services**
  - In coordination with the Miller Center, OCES will provide assistance for individuals with disabilities on election day if necessary. The Shriver Center is an accessible building and the polling location is accessible, as well.

## Voter Turnout

- **Transportation to polls**
  - Recruit volunteers via organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary and League of Women Voters to transport students from campus to the two other polling places in Oxford.
  - OCES and the Andrew Goodman Foundation will sponsor an early voting bus to transport students to and from the Board of Elections on the weekend before the general election.
- **Office of Community Engagement and Service**
  - OCES will host Party at the Polls, an election day celebration aimed at generating interest and enthusiasm for voting. The event is co-sponsored by the College Democrats and we are currently recruiting various offices, departments and other student organizations. The Department of Educational Leadership will also contribute co-sponsorship monies towards Party at the Polls. The event will include music, balloons, free food and activities outside of Shriver Center, the campus polling location. In addition to fun, the event will provide answers to FAQs for students who have questions about their registration status or polling location. Since Ohio requires a valid form of ID in order to vote, we will also be on hand to inform students about these requirements, which will help ensure a smooth and efficient voting process once inside the polls.
- **Farmer School of Business**
  - Voting reminder messages will appear on plasma screens throughout the building.



- An email reminding students in Farmer to vote will be sent out via the FSB Student Org President's listserv in August. It will include a link for students to access and download their address verification form.
- **Western Program**
  - An email will be sent out to all Western majors reminding them to vote on election day. It will include a link for students to access and download their address verification form.
- **Dean of Students**
  - An email will be sent to all students on the morning of election day. It will include a link for students to access and download their address verification form.
- **Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassadors**
  - Vote Everywhere Ambassadors will host a table outside of Shriver Center (polling place) to remind students of the required identification necessary to vote and to direct students to the appropriate polling place if necessary.
  - An early voting bus trip will be offered.
- **Off Campus Outreach and Communications**
  - Will promote hashtag #MiamiOHvotes and encourage students to post a photo with their "I voted" sticker.

