



Middle Georgia
State University

ALL IN Campus
Democracy
Challenge

Middle Georgia State University 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan Developed by: Christopher N. Lawrence

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Middle Georgia State University in Georgia 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 Middle Georgia State University for the 2022 election are:

Increase our voter registration rate to 92.5%
Increase our midterm campus voting rate to 53.0%

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Elaina Behounek - Assistant Professor of Sociology
Ember Bishop Bentley - Chief of Staff and Government Relations Officer, Office of the President
John Powell Hall - Associate Professor of Political Science
Christopher N. Lawrence - Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science
Julie A. Lester - Professor of Political Science; campus ADP representative
Sheron Smith - Communications Coordinator, University Marketing and Communications
Ann Williams - Assistant Director of Library Services, Cochran, Dublin, and Eastman campuses

Our campus works with these following nonprofit partners: American Democracy Project, Georgia Women (and those who stand with us), and the New Georgia Project.

Commitment:

Our institutional mission is that Middle Georgia State University educates and graduates inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region through professional leadership, innovative partnerships, and community engagement.

To that end, promoting civic engagement through political participation and voting is integral to our mission of building community engagement.

Landscape:

Middle Georgia State University is a public four-year university with a blended mission of serving as an access institution to higher education for all students as well as a state university. MGA joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2017.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

As of fall 2022, Middle Georgia State University has 7,665 students, approximately 94.4% of whom are undergraduates. 55.7% of students are female while 44.3% of students are male. 53.4% of students are white, 29.3% are African American, 6.7% are Hispanic, 3.5% are Asian American, 4.2% are multiracial, and 0.4% are from indigenous peoples.

Middle Georgia State University participates in the National Survey of Student Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). According to NSLVE:

Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 65.4%.
Our institution had a 2020 voter registration rate of 90.5%.

Our institution had a 2018 voter turnout rate of 47.9%.
Our institution had a 2018 voter registration rate of 82.2%.

Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2016 Bronze, 2018 Gold, 2020 Silver

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Increase student voter turnout rate to 53.0% in 2022 and 70.5% in 2024.
Increase student voter registration rate to 92.5% in 2022 and 93.5% in 2024.

Strategy:

Middle Georgia State University will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation:

We invited non-profit partners to engage in voter registration events on our campuses. Dr. Lawrence and Ms. Bentley also addressed an email to all students encouraging them to register to vote and participate in either early voting, absentee voting, or election day voting. Additional messaging regarding voting and registration was included in weekly *InsideMGA* emails to students, faculty, and staff, as well as on social media platforms.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan by reviewing 2022 NSLVE data and discussing those findings with key stakeholders in student government as well as student affairs staff and the broader campus community. The evaluation will be led by the ALL IN Challenge steering committee.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan, along with past action plans and NSLVE reports, will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website at

<https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/middle-georgia-state-university/>.

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