



Millikin University Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2023 Academic Year

This plan was created using the Votes & Ballots Action Planning Form. We highly recommend editing and expanding upon this draft before submitting for review.

Throughout this document, we mention the Strengthening American Democracy Guide as a resource for your review. We encourage you to turn to that resource for guidance and support as you complete your action plan!

I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by Raphaella Prange, Vice President for Student Affairs to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Millikin University. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023 Academic Year, on and around our campus in Decatur, Illinois.

The following groups will be leading this work at Millikin University in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Undergraduate Students
- Faculty
- Student Affairs Staff

How can you improve this section? Visit the Strengthening American Democracy Guide and review the Guiding Questions to ensure your Executive Summary includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

II. Leadership

Raphaella Prange, Vice President for Student Affairs will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Political Science Department, Honors Students

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Representation from different perspectives and areas of expertise, Trusted leaders and organizations who support communities that are historically underrepresented in democracy, Leaders who can help with outreach and power building by bringing more people across campus in to our work

Our group plans to meet 1xmonth at virtual and in University Commons

In the event that our leadership leaves campus or is no longer involved in this work, we have a succession plan in place. Political Science in investing in voting efforts, regardless of point person.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Leadership Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. As stated in our mission statement, Students will become democratic citizens in a global environment. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, "Civil Debate"

In addition, our campus has mentioned civic learning and democratic engagement in their strategic plan, stating We will support democratic citizenship in a global environment. We also have had a senior leader commit to civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

On campus, we've seen:

- Voter education resources
- Political clubs or student organizations
- Campus leaders promoting voting
- On campus polling place
- Voter registration tables
-
- Signage promoting Election Day
-

On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Political speakers
- Walks / rides to polls
- Town halls
- Registering to vote
- Civic Holiday events (such as National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day)
- Deliberative dialogues
-

We can point to the above institutional commitments to support our work.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Commitment Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

IV. Landscape

We do not have access to comprehensive demographic information about our student body at this time.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Landscape Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

V. Goals

Before setting our civic learning and democratic engagement goals on campus, we took the following information into consideration.

We know our campus faces following challenges internally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

-
- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We don't have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
-
-
-
-
- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
-
-
-

We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

-
-
-
- The political views of our students do not generally align with our institution's surrounding communities.
-

With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

- Our institution's mission statement, values, and strategic plan mention civic learning and democratic engagement.
-
- We have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- We have ways in which we communicate voting information to our students.
- We use the resources readily available to develop and implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
-

-
- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
- We are able to engage student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
- We have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
-

With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Goals Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined a strategy describing how we will bring this vision to life in the coming months and years.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** in the **short term** (within the next year):

- Polling place created on campus
- Voter registration drives
- Voter registration tabling
- Civic speakers
- National Voter Registration Day Events

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **short term**:

- Increase student voting percentages through new campus polling location

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **short term**:

-

These are tactics that we **are already doing** for the **long term** (beyond the next year):

-

These are tactics that we **want to do** in the **long term**:

-

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **long term**:

-

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Strategy Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

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

We are not currently enrolled in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your NSLVE section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- Email to members of our campus coalition
-
-
-

We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

-
-
-

We will collect feedback on this plan by:

-
-
- Regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect
-
-

We plan to evaluate our success by:

-
-
- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
-

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Reporting & Evaluation Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.