



Mount Saint Mary's University
LOS ANGELES

MSMU VOTES

2020 Democratic Engagement Plan

Submitted to the
ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

Submitted By:
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PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we reflect on the 2019 – 2020 academic year and look forward to 2020 – 2021, we meet this moment with renewed conviction and passion for driving forward our updated civic learning and democratic engagement action plan. We recognize that the coming year will be unlike any other, and it is through this lens that we reimagine the possibilities.

Mount Saint Mary's University has demonstrated its continued commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement since its founding in 1925. During the last academic year, we received the distinction of **Gold Campus Status** as part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement, and our President, Dr. Ann McElaney-Johnson, demonstrated her support as a signatory of the **Higher Education Presidential Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation**. And most notably, an Associate Director position in the department of Women's Leadership and Student Engagement was reimagined to focus specifically on civic engagement. This position, the **Associate Director of Women's Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Assessment**, serves to address the role that civic learning and democratic engagement serves on college campuses.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ), our founding Sisters of Mount Saint Mary's University, call upon us to "look at old things in new ways." We anticipate that the 2020 election will bring a new set of challenges. We grapple with the ways that we dialogue across difference when we are socially distanced. We take on the challenge of educating our students about their rights and their ability to advocate for themselves and their community even when it is hard. So in a highly polarized political climate, as a society that is wrestling with the most intractable problems of our times, and in an uncertain landscape that continues to be affected by COVID-19, we approach our work with the fundamental understanding that it is not enough to adapt – we must innovate.

While we hold our plans lightly at this time, we have developed an action plan that is built around the following tenants:

1. Build larger and more diverse coalitions across the campus and into our communities
2. Re-build trust in the democratic process
3. Increase students' efficacy so they can develop language to speak to their truth and values

We look forward to the year ahead and the important work that lies before us.

PART II: LEADERSHIP

MSMU Votes Coalition

In order to provide students with robust and comprehensive engagement opportunities, the MSMU Votes Coalition was formed to engage faculty, staff, and current students to increase civic learning and democratic engagement among our traditional undergraduate, post-traditional, and graduate programs. The MSMU Votes Coalition plans and executes educational programs both in-person and virtually throughout the year. Members are selected based on shared interest and commitment for civic engagement. Student representatives change from year to year and are selected based upon recommendations from staff and faculty. The Coalition also works with external organizations to provide additional opportunities for engagement. Meetings typically take place once a semester and

follow up takes place with individual members through in-person meetings or via email. *Dr. Rosalyn Kempf, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Women's Leadership, chairs this working group.*

Faculty:

Dr. Emerald Archer, Director, Center for the Advancement of Women
Dr. Helen Boutrous, Chair of History/Political Science Department
Dr. Carol DeLilly, Nursing
Dr. Jackie Filla, Assistant Professor of History/Political Science
Dr. Adriane Jones, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences
Dr. Andréé Leighton, Director, Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity
Dr. Michele Starkey, Associate Provost
William Martinez, Veteran Student Program Coordinator, Counseling Psychology Internship Coordinator
Dr. Michelle Melendres, Director, Honors Program
Dr. Amanda Romero, Dean, Traditional Undergraduate Programs, Chair of Department of Social Work

Staff:

Tom Arteaga, Director, Alumnae Relations and Volunteer Programs
Chinako Belanger, Associate Director of Women's Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Assessment (now in Interim Director role as of July 1)
Dr. Kari Bolen, Director for the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Shannon Green, Director, CSJ (Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet) Institute
Gail Gresser, Director of Campus Ministry
Karla Guzman, Assistant Director for Women's Leadership and Community Engagement
Jaede Ishikawa, Student Success Counselor, Student Resource Center
Dr. Rosalyn Kempf, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Women's Leadership
Veronica Martinez, Director, Institute for Student Academic Enrichment (TRIO/SSS)
Laura Nario, Coordinator of New Student and Family Engagement
Maria Narvaez, Director, Institutional Planning and Research
Brittney Plascencia, Associate Director of Women's Leadership and Student Engagement
Dr. Danielle Salomon, Director, Libraries
Kimberly Terrill, Director of Career and Professional Development
Suzanne Williams, Dean, Weekend/Evening/Online Programs
Jaime Wood, Director, Academic Advisement

Students:

Martha Gonzalez, President of Phi Alpha Delta (Pre-Law Fraternity)
Angelica Crispin, Past Student Government President 19-20
Helen Umana, President, Student Government Association (SGA)
Stephanie Villaseñor, Student Employee for Women's Leadership and Student Engagement, Residential Community Advisor

External:

LA County Registrar of Voters – Mónica Vasquez
Los Angeles League of Women Voters

Shared Responsibilities

- Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement Staff plans, facilitates and collaborates on programs throughout the academic year, coordinates publicity and communication university-wide.
- The Provost office assists in communicating with department chairs and faculty to encourage student participation and collaboration on programs.
- Faculty from History/Political Science spearhead various programs to engage students in discussion and to share information about the election process
- Student leaders assist with getting the word out, volunteering at programs and events.
- Women’s Leadership and Student Engagement reaches out to community partners on possible collaborations.
- Various other Student Affairs departments will co-sponsor and provide support for events and programs.
- Representatives from Weekend/Evening College, Graduate Division and MSMU Online will assist in distributing voter registration forms and program publicity to their student populations.

Specific Action Items for the MSMU Votes Coalition

- Plan and execute events for Constitution Day
- Plan and execute events for National Voter Registration Day
- Plan and execute events for Presidential Debates
- Plan and execute various tabling events for voter registration throughout the year
- Plan and execute various educational events related to upcoming elections and other timely events around civic and democratic engagement
- Manage transportation for Election Day
- Manage weekly social media posts related to civic engagement
- Partner with the Center for the Advancement of Women and the MSMU Legislator in Residence program
- On-campus events with our community partner, the Los Angeles League of Women Voters, who collaborate to offer programs that walk students through every candidate and measure that is on the ballot. They also provide targeted information about voter registration to our student population
- Mónica Vásquez from the Los Angeles County Registrar’s Office also comes to campus to help with voter registration efforts and discusses ways for students to be engaged with the Registrar on a variety of different volunteer opportunities

Equity and the Democratic Process

The MSMU Votes Coalition strives to ensure that all voices are represented. While voter engagement typically centers individuals with privilege, our Coalition seeks to reach out to a diverse group of stakeholders. We include the following in our planning:

- Connecting DACA, undocumented students, and students from mixed-status families with resources to be involved with a variety of issues related to immigration and activism
- Providing transportation for students who may not have access to polling sites
- Engaging with the post-traditional student population
- Provide information about early voting and vote by mail for students who may not have access to the polls on election day (parenting students, older students, students who have family and work responsibilities)
- Targeted emails sent to out of state students about their specific elections

PART III: COMMITMENT

MSMU's Commitment to Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

Civic learning and democratic engagement is at the heart of the Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU) mission and the institution has a long history of providing programs and experiences for students as active citizens on campus and in their communities. As articulated in the University's **mission statement**¹, our measure of success is graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments, and the world. This commitment to active citizenship is embodied in our **strategic plan**², which states that as part of our strategic goal to advance community, MSMU will "foster and strengthen the Mount's identity as a community of learners through the active participation of all students, faculty, staff, and alums in the life of the University." Most importantly, our commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement stems from the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet**³, the founding Sisters of our University, who implore us to join with others in working for systemic change that will enable all to live in right relationships.

In 2020, the MSMU President, Dr. Ann McElaney-Johnson, signed on as a signatory of the **Higher Education Presidential Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation**⁴. Each year, Dr. Kempf

¹ <https://www.msmu.edu/media/website/content-assets/msmuedu/home/about-msmu/strategic-plan/documents/2013-2018-strategic-plan.pdf>

² <https://www.msmu.edu/media/website/content-assets/msmuedu/home/about-msmu/strategic-plan/documents/2013-2018-strategic-plan.pdf>

³ <https://csjla.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Chapter-Book-2013.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.allinchallenge.org/presidents-commitment-signatories/>

provides an update on our civic and democratic engagement efforts to the University's Board of Trustees to ensure buy-in from this important stakeholder group. Our initiative, MSMU Votes, is described in detail on our external website at www.msmu.edu/msmuvotes

2020 marks the conclusion of our strategic plan for the next five years. As such, we are working closely with the committee members of the Strategic Planning committee to develop goals and learning outcomes specific to civic engagement. Currently, we are building upon our new Student Affairs Student Learning Dimensions (SLDs), specifically focusing on 2 SLDs:

1. **Students as Responsible Participants in the Local and Global Community (SLD 5)**: Students will be empowered as agents of change, identifying, analyzing and addressing injustices in their local communities and advancing their understanding of global perspectives and concerns. With civility as a foundational tool, students will learn to challenge systemic injustice and to seek change for the common good.
2. **Students of Conscience (SLD 6)**: Students will develop an awareness of their personal beliefs, values and attitudes and articulate how these, in partnership with educated reflection and discernment, form a conscience that serves as the basis for their choices and actions. Students will use their conscience to shape their own university experience and work for freedom and democracy.

We also look towards our **institutional learning outcomes (ILOs)**,⁵ specifically:

1. **Global Awareness and Understanding (ILO 9)**: Mount graduates will evaluate or apply modes of academic inquiry to historical and/or current global contexts.
2. **Leadership (ILO 10)**: Mount graduates will apply various approaches to leadership to affect positive change in their local and global communities.
3. **Diversity (ILO 11)**: Mount graduates will know how to articulate and engage transformative frameworks and communication exchanges that promote social justice, diversity, inclusion and equity.

Measuring Learning Outcomes

This is an area of growth for our institution. Learning outcomes related to civic and democratic engagement current reside within the office of Women's Leadership and Student Engagement. In our departmental assessment plan, our learning outcome is that "Students will examine their role in contributing to positive social change."

.As mentioned previously, we are currently working with institutional leadership to include outcomes in our next strategic plan. Our vision continues to center around the goals that we have had in previous action plans:

⁵ <https://www.msmu.edu/academics/provost/assessment/institutional-learning-goals/>

- Increasing voter registration
- Increasing voter turnout
- Ensuring that all students are able to articulate the importance of civic engagement

Civic and Democratic Engagement in the Co-Curriculum

As we assess our outcomes related to civic and democratic engagement, we have included this in our leadership model, **Mount Leads**⁶. In our Mount Leads model, we have four core principles that provides a framework for leadership for all students both academic in co-curricular. Specifically, for civic and democratic engagement, we focus on the Mount Leads Principle of Active Citizenship. All co-curricular departments develop programs and opportunities that fall under each of the four core principles. We highlight events on a monthly basis under each category in our monthly Mount Leads Newsletter.

PART IV: LANDSCAPE

Over the past five years, MSMU has worked hard to ensure that all students participate in the democratic process. MSMU is proud to have earned the distinction of **Gold Campus Status**⁷ as part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement. This distinction serves as a benchmark for our institution as we think ahead towards the next five years. In 2018, we had a voting rate of 48.4%, up significantly from our voting rate in 2014, which was 13.8%. We attribute this success and shift in culture to our MSMU Votes initiative and the dedicated work of our MSMU Votes Coalition.

MSMU does comparatively better than other institutions, which the average voting rate at all institutions at 39.1% (MSMU is +9.3% compared to institutions nationally)

Courses related to Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

The following courses are offered as part of the curriculum:

- BUS 156 Introduction to Public Administration⁸
- BUS 158 Organizational Theory and Governmental Management⁹
- EDU 106 School and Society¹⁰

⁶ <https://www.msmu.edu/student-life/activities-engagement/mount-leads/>

⁷ <https://www.allinchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/Mount-Saint-Marys-University-NSLVE-2018.pdf>

⁸ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/BUS-Business/100/BUS-156>

⁹ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/BUS-Business/100/BUS-158>

¹⁰ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/EDU-Education/100/EDU-106>

- ENG 108 The News Media¹¹
- GIS 185 Global Issues¹²
- GLP 114 The Politics of Democratization and Social Policy¹³
- HCP 155 Politics of Women’s Health Care in California¹⁴
- HIS 110 History of Political Feminist Theory¹⁵
- HIS 178 Diplomatic History of the United States¹⁶
- HIS 179 Constitutional History of the United States¹⁷
- HIS 180 Current Constitutional History¹⁸
- HIS 184 Radicalism and Dissent¹⁹
- LWS 5 Leadership in Action²⁰
- Political Science courses²¹
- RST 131 Woke Jesus²²
- RST 146 Peace and Justice Traditions²³
- SOC 180 Social Stratification and Social Justice²⁴
- SOC 186 Immigration and Human Rights²⁵

¹¹ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/ENG-English/100/ENG-108>

¹² <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/GIS-Geographical-Information-Systems/100/GIS-185>

¹³ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/GLP-Global-Politics/100/GLP-114>

¹⁴ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/GLP-Global-Politics/100/GLP-114>

¹⁵ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/HIS-History/100/HIS-110>

¹⁶ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/HIS-History/100/HIS-178>

¹⁷ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/HIS-History/100/HIS-179>

¹⁸ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/HIS-History/100/HIS-180>

¹⁹ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/HIS-History/100/HIS-184>

²⁰ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/LWS-Leadership-Women-s-Studies/000/LWS-5>

²¹ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/POL-Political-Science>

²² <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/RST-Religious-Studies/Undergraduate-Religious-Studies-Courses/II-Christian-Thought-Courses/RST-131>

²³ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/RST-Religious-Studies/Undergraduate-Religious-Studies-Courses/III-Christian-Ethics-Courses/RST-146>

²⁴ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/SOC-Sociology/100/SOC-180>

- SOC 185 Human Rights and Global Development²⁶

Civic Engagement in the Co-Curriculum

While several of our signature events were cancelled this year (first due to the closure of our Chalon campus in Fall 2019 due to the fires that affected our campus and then in the Spring due to COVID-19). However, the following programs were available to our students as part of our civic learning and democratic engagement initiatives:

Voter Registration and Education

- Constitution Day
- National Voter Registration Day
- Voter registration during New Student Orientation
- Democratic Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Parties
- Sharing out results of our NSLVE Report to the Board of Trustees
- Sharing our results of our civic learning and democratic engagement opportunities and highlights to CSJ high school counselors
- Social media engagement via departmental channels and institutional channels
- Work with faculty and staff to promote voter registration
- Debate watching parties

Service Learning Courses

- Many of our students participate in service learning -- experiential learning that involves them in important community work while applying lessons learned in the classroom. In a service learning course, the student has the opportunity to earn academic credit for working and studying in the areas related to the course objective. There are approximately 10-20 courses among multiple disciplines and programs offered per semester. All courses emphasize roles as change agents in our society.
- Of particular note is our university's interdisciplinary research group, Global Women in STEM and Policy (GWSTEM). **GWSTEM**²⁷ trains cohorts of undergraduate women to conduct basic and applied research in both the sciences and social sciences with a focus on global and interdisciplinary approaches. This program is a reflection of the Mount's mission and strategic plan to empower women, engage in a global environment, and to increase undergraduate research opportunities. In the summer of 2019, the GWSTEM Cohort went to India to study the healthcare outcomes of women in remote villages.

Community Engagement

²⁵ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/SOC-Sociology/100/SOC-186>

²⁶ <http://msmu.smartcatalogiq.com/2018-2020/2018-2020-Catalog/Courses/SOC-Sociology/100/SOC-185>

²⁷ <https://www.msmu.edu/media/website/content-assets/msmuedu/home/undergraduate-bachelor-programs/political-science/documents/GWSTEM-Poster-3.pdf>

- Community Engagement maintains relationships with over 40 community partners and associates, and will again offer opportunities for Mount students to volunteer at their sites, reflecting on their role as leaders in our society, working for “change for the good.”

Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN)²⁸

- MSMU is proud to be a member of the Public Leadership Education Network for over 20 years, sending students to Washington DC to participate in seminars and networking with female leaders to prepare them for public policy careers in the sciences, government, and the law. All students representing the Mount are given partial and full scholarships to attend these seminars through the Women’s Leadership and Student Involvement department. This past year we sent a total of 7 students to PLEN seminars.
- Dr. Rosalyn Kempf recently ended her second term (June 2020) on PLEN’s National Board of Directors and had chaired the University Task Force

MSMU Counts

- This is a partnership with the Los Angeles Mayor’s office where students were trained to become **2020 Goodwill Census Ambassadors²⁹**
- We had 12 students formally trained with many more attending both in-person and virtual events throughout the 2019 – 2020 academic year

Community Student Ambassador Program

- Approximately 10 students participated in the Community Student Ambassador program, an MSMU community/high school partnership program which motivates thousands of high school students to complete high school and aspire to a college education. Many of the Ambassadors come from backgrounds similar to those of the individuals they assist, which better models to their audience that seeking a higher education is possible. Student Ambassadors will reflect on this work as citizen-leadership in a social context.
- This year, Student Ambassadors developed asynchronous learning material for their students during the Spring semester due to remote learning

Leadership Scholar Program

- This award winning program continues to prepare students to grow as leaders, and teach them how to work together in groups in order to make positive changes in society. The program is deeply based on the Catholic teachings of social justice.
- The program focuses on leadership development, specialized activities, and mentoring opportunities for students who demonstrate leadership potential.

Serving our Dear Neighbor Orientation Programs

²⁸ <https://plen.org/>

²⁹ <https://census.lacity.org/outreach-resources/volunteer/CGAtraining2020>

- All new students participated in a workshop given by our Community Engagement office and our CSJ Institute. Students were able to hear about the history and legacy of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and their commitment to serving the dear neighbor through their countless efforts to help others. At the end of the workshop all students created mercy bags (of toiletries, water, and food) which were collected to be distributed to homeless individuals around Los Angeles. They were also invited to take a couple bags for themselves to distribute in their own communities.
- By providing students a tangible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others we hope to inspire them to continue the work of our Sisters and positively contribute to their communities and the world.

President's Invitation to Serve

- As part of our President's initiatives, the Mount Saint University community joins together each year to honor the legacy and tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in serving our dear neighbors. This year, the President's Invitation to Serve took place in the weeks after our campus was forced to evacuate due to the Getty Fire. We were thrilled that our students, faculty, and staff continued to show up.
- This year, we served at: Heal the Bay, Immaculate Conception School, Alexandria House, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Assistance League of Los Angeles, and the Downtown Women's Center. Satellite sites were also available to alumnae at Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose, CA and Sunshine Acres Home in Phoenix, AZ.

Alternative Spring Break

- This year's Alternative Spring Break was moved to a one-day program due to COVID-19. Students met to create food for the women at the Downtown Women's Center, this year's campus community partner of the year

Legislator in Residence Program

- The Center for the Advancement of Women hosted two Legislator in Residence programs during the 2019 – 2020 academic year with our Legislator in Residence, State Senator Holly Mitchell.
- In **September 2019**³⁰, State Senator Holly Mitchell and LAUSD Board President Mónica García discussed the importance of creating an environment for all children to succeed in school.
- In May 2020, State Senator Mitchell was joined by Hannah Linkenhoker, Senior Political Strategist at ICM Partners for a discussion on navigating a difficult economy, building a fulfilling career in uncertain times, and emerging stronger than we once were.
- The Center for the Advancement of Women provides additional **research and advocacy**³¹ opportunities for our institution as well as the city of Los Angeles and the state of California

³⁰ <https://www.msmu.edu/newsroom/articles/powerful-women-speak-at-msmu.php>

³¹ <https://www.msmu.edu/center-for-the-advancement-of-women/research-and-advocacy/>

Through our various academic and co-curricular programs, we believe that the Mount's commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement are truly infused into the campus climate.

We will continue to promote our Voter Friendly Campus Status designation through NASPA , our work with the NASPA LEAD Cohort, and the Campus Vote Project as complementary and aligned with our institutional commitment.

Potential Barriers to Success

- At this time, we are considering the ways in which COVID-19 and social distancing will impact our work. We believe that this will affect not only the Mount or higher education, but the landscape of American democracy as a whole. Our successful initiatives such as shuttle service to nearby polling places may be affected, and we will rely heavily on marketing through social media
- While California is turning to universal vote by mail, we recognize that our out of state students may have challenges with accessing their ballots
- Additionally, we are roll out educational programs regarding the 2020 Elections, our traditional modes of programming such as our popular debate watching parties, mock Presidential debates, and voter registration tabling events will need to be reimagined for social distancing and remote learning

Our Available Resources

- We have great partnerships with faculty and staff across the institution. This continues to be our strongest resource as we move these initiatives forward
- This year, we were fortunate to have received a grant that was earmarked for civic learning and democratic engagement events. This helped immensely in our programmatic efforts

Our Wishlist

- We continue to look towards funding opportunities to expand our various programs. This year, we found an increase in students who needed access to transportation to their nearest voting center. While California increased their early voting, we found that students had no way of getting to the polls. As such, we provided gift cards for rideshare services, which proved to be very successful. However, this was an unexpected cost to us, but we hope to find funding in the future to support this new initiative

PART V: GOALS

Long Term Goals

- Increase voting rates so that more than half of the student population will have voted in the next midterm election

- Include civic learning and democratic engagement as one mandatory class session in the First Year Experience Course
- Increase partnerships with the Los Angeles Mayor's office and local elected officials throughout Los Angeles

Short Term Goals

- Develop a voter registration guide by state on our institutional website and our internal websites
- Register 75% of incoming students during their first year at the Mount
- Increase participation in our PLEN cohorts (at least 20 students per year)

PART VI: STRATEGY

Planned Activities for 2020 – 2021

We are shifting much of our strategy so that it can easily be converted to virtual events in case we are not going to have the option of being on-ground in the Fall. At this time, the University has not finalized its plans for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. These programs are subject to change

- Democracy in the Age of Social Distancing events in the Fall
 - Promote online voter registration for states that currently have this
 - Discuss online and virtual organizing tools
 - Brave Space dialogues via Zoom to discuss current issues and concerns
- Constitution Day activities
 - Discuss the importance of the Constitution and our rights. Engage students in deliberative dialogues about timely issues, specifically on freedom of expression. This will be done in conjunction with the Student Freedom of Expression Task Force, a new working group that was formed in May 2020
 - Social media engagement
 - Programming either via Zoom or socially distanced
- 2020 Census Information Sessions
 - Because the Census response date was pushed back to October 31, 2020, this provides us with additional time to talk about the importance of the Census and what Census data is used for
 - Social media engagement
 - Programming either via Zoom or socially distanced
- National Voter Registration Day activities
 - Increase voter registration among our student population
 - Social media engagement
 - Programming either via Zoom or socially distanced
- Debate Watch Parties
 - Provide space for students to learn more about candidates
 - Via Zoom or socially distanced
- Ballot initiative and candidate discussion with Los Angeles League of Women Voters

- Provide space for students to learn more about down ballot races in Los Angeles
 - Via Zoom or socially distanced
- Presidential Mock Debates in partnership with the History and Political Science Department
 - Give students the opportunity to discern the candidates' position on a variety of issues
 - Via Zoom or socially distanced
- Election Day events
 - Encourage voter turnout and celebrate what will be many students' first time voting
 - Social media engagement
 - Via Zoom or socially distanced
- Partnership with the Center for the Advancement of Women for our Legislator in Residence program
 - Expose students to our local State Senator, ask questions about her role in the State Senate, and encourage students to eventually run for office
 - Via Zoom or socially distanced
- Active Citizenship workshops during Women's Herstory Month
 - This is a major event during the Spring semester, which will focus on a variety of timely issues during the month of February. Topics will center womxn across the spectrum on a variety of issues
 - Social media engagement
 - Educational and social activities via Zoom or socially distanced

Logistics

- Events will be spearheaded by the Associate Director of Women's Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Assessment. This year, we are hiring student staff to work on-ground and remote as Civic Engagement Liaisons to plan and execute the various events
- The target audience will be primarily for our traditional undergraduate students. However, this year, we would like to increase engagement with our post-traditional, online, and graduate students. Faculty and staff are included on our emails regarding civic engagement so they have numerous opportunities to participate alongside the students

MSMU Votes Fall Timeline

First-Year Student Orientation	June 25 & 26	Session to discuss voter registration
Transfer Orientation	June 25 & 26	Voter registration forms included in Orientation bags
Student Affairs Kick-Off	August	Share CLDE programming information with other SA staff
Faculty/Staff Convocation	August TBD	Share CLDE programming information with all MSMU faculty and staff
Student Involvement Fairs	Summer TBD	Virtual events to discuss voter registration, 2020 Census and other CLDE programs for the year
1st Inter-Club Council Meeting	August TBD	Ideas to promote voter registration/education among club members/ Possible event collaborations
Constitution Day	September 17	Constitution fun facts, games;

		Voter Registration and Education materials Communication: Via email, social media, flyers
Presidential Debate Watching Parties (Pizza and Politics)	TBD	Virtual or socially distanced
National Voter Registration Day	September 22	Virtual/socially distanced: Voter Registration and Education materials Communication: Via email, social media, flyers
Week before Voter Registration Deadline		Communication: Reminders via email, social media, flyers
Election Day (7:00am – 8:00pm)	November 3	Communication: Reminders via email, social media, flyers
Election Night Coverage	November 3	
Post-Election	November 4	Communication: “Thank you for voting” -- University-wide email, social media, flyers on campus

PART VII: REPORTING

As with all of our civic learning and democratic engagement initiatives, our plan will be publically available and posted on our external website at www.msmu.edu/msmuvotes

PART VIII: EVALUATION

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the degree to which MSMU has been successful in engaging students in our various civic learning and democratic engagement initiatives. Specifically, we are interested in the following:

1. To what degree do students value the democratic process?
2. To what degree do students feel efficacious in understanding the democratic process?
3. To what degree do students feel efficacious in taking part in the democratic process?
4. To what degree are students aware of the resources available specific to voter registration?
5. To what degree are students aware of the civic learning and democratic engagement efforts at the university?

Two of our outcomes focus specifically on efficacy. Bandura (1977)³² explains that self-efficacy is the main determinant of individual's choice (will they choose to do something), persistence (will they choose to do something even when they experience setbacks), and mental effort (will they choose to do something even when it is difficult). We are also assessing value, as this is also a strong predictor of choice, persistence, and effort (Wigfield & Eccles, 1992, 2000). This year, we are also interested in assessing whether students are aware of the resources available, especially if we will continue to be socially distanced or remote.

³² Bandura, A. (1977). Self-efficacy: Toward a unifying theory of behavioral change. *Psychological Review*, 84, 191-215.