



# Campus Vote Plan 2020-2021



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mount St. Joseph University (MSJ) is interested in election engagement because it complements our mission of “educating students through interdisciplinary liberal arts and professional curricular emphasizing values, integrity, and social responsibility.” At MSJ, we have strong community service, service learning, and service internship programs; this is reflected in our inclusion in the President’s Community Service Honor Roll in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015. While service to others is one of our core values, and while service is an important component of what it means to be a responsible citizen, participation in the democratic process is also a cornerstone of what it means to be a responsible citizen. By strengthening our election engagement programming, students will be more likely to develop across the engaged citizenship continuum, moving from personally responsible citizenship to participatory citizenship and then to transformative citizenship. MSJ’s commitment to civic engagement is shown through staff, student, and faculty participation in programming both on and off campus.

# LEADERSHIP

## Lead:

- Keith Lanser, Associate Director of Service Learning & Civic Engagement

## Democracy Fellow:

- Emma Sule, Career & Co-op Coordinator

## Faculty:

- Fr. John Amankwah, Associate Professor of Communications & New Media Studies
- Tim Lynch, Professor of History
- Dr. Jennifer Morris, Professor of History
- Dr. Pete Robinson, Professor of History
- Cynthia Shibinski, Professor of Education
- Dr. Georgana Taggart, Chairperson & Professor of Legal Studies

## Staff:

- Michelle Arnold, Assistant Director of Mission Integration
- KC Cottrell, Student Engagement & Success Program Coordinator
- Janet Cox, Dean of Students
- Sr. Karen Elliott, Director of Mission Integration
- Warren Grove, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement & Leadership
- Branden Johnson, Academic Advisor
- Meghann Littrell, Director of The Learning Center & Disability Services
- Scott Lloyd, Director of Library Services
- Linda Pohlgeers, Director of The Career & Experiential Education Center
- Matt Taske, Manager of Annual Giving
- Joshua Zeller, Access Services Coordinator

## Students:

- Zachary Corbett
- Luke Danis
- Jordan Iori
- Tiffany Manning
- Brooke Rouse
- Sara Slack
- Patrick Sledge
- Sarah Teuschl
- Andrew Torres
- Cedric Woods

# COMMITMENT

MSJ lives by a culture of ethics and service to others. Building confidence academically and professionally is essential, but so is giving back to our community.

MSJ emphasizes an importance on election engagement as it complements our mission of the integration of life and learning and respect and concerns for all persons. Students are not only being challenged academically in the classroom but also in their daily commitment to the community. Students arrive on campus with varying knowledge on the democratic process, yet are met with faculty, staff, and students willing to educate and engage them by meeting them where they are at.

At MSJ, we have strong community service, service learning, and service internship programs; this is reflected in our inclusion in the President's Community Service Honor Roll in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015. While service to others is one of our core values, and while service is an important component of what it means to be a responsible citizen, participation in the democratic process is also a cornerstone of what it means to be a responsible citizen. Through allowing our students to make informed decisions surrounding the democratic process they are able to express their respect and concern for all persons in a new and national way.

By strengthening our election engagement programming, students will be more likely to develop across the engaged citizenship continuum, moving from personally responsible citizenship to participatory citizenship and then to transformative citizenship. MSJ's commitment to civic engagement is shown through staff, student, and faculty participation in programming both on and off campus. This commitment is seen in our designation as a 2019-2020 as a Voter Friendly Campus due to the election engagement efforts on campus over the past two years.

# GOALS

- Motivate students in specific populations (students that live on campus, minorities, etc.) known to pass up the opportunity to vote to use their vote. Through specific programming targeted to these populations, we will see an increase in voter registration numbers by the end of the academic year.
- Eliminate barriers for students in the registration and voting process. Students are met where they are at and encouraged to engage with their own democratic journey. Through providing shuttles on election day, hosting a polling location on campus, providing voter guides, mailing voter registration forms etc. we will continue to eliminate barriers for our students to allow them to engage with voting in the way that best meets their needs. This can be seen in our Voter Friendly Campus designation for the 2019-2020 academic year, and as we aim to continue to hold this title for the 2020-2021 year.
- Increase the popularity and willingness to discuss voting and current issues by making voting the norm on campus. Through an increase in programming offered, faculty discussing democratic engagement in the classroom, and students talking to their peers we plan to see a culture shift on campus where not voting is not seen as socially acceptable.

# STRATEGY

MSJ works to engage campus community members in democratic engagement through new and innovative ways using all resources available to us. Throughout the academic year, programs and events showcased below aim to educate and engage our students with the democratic process, as well as each other.

- Voter Registration
  - Voter registration tabling events at all New Student Orientations, Welcome Week, Move-In, and similar programming
  - Campus wide emails sent to inform community members of opportunities to register on campus and online
  - Voter registration information is embedded on the university's homepage, course management systems, and other heavily trafficked online sites and portals managed by the university
  - National Voter Registration Day celebrated throughout campus
  - Last Minute Voter Registration opportunities during lunch period
  - Holiday Voter Registration Day encouraging students to start conversations with others around the holidays about voting
- Voter Education
  - Celebrated National Constitution Day with a film screening
  - Distribute non-partisan voter guides for Ohio & Kentucky voters
- Ballot Access
  - Assisting students with voter registration checks
  - Assisting students with updating their voter registration address
- Get The Vote Out
  - Campus wide email reminders sent as a reminder of election day
  - Promotion of voter registration and election day on social media and print marketing
  - How Do You Picture It? Poster campaign to showcase campus community members that are actively engaged in the democratic process
  - Use of When We All Vote activities, guides, and marketing materials
- Coalition
  - Students, faculty, and students that carry out leadership responsibilities in implementing the plan, collaborating through semester-ly meetings