



# Norco College 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 Edwin Romero, Associate Faculty, Student Activities Coordinator to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Norco College. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022 - 2023 Academic Year, on and around our campus in Norco, California.

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

- Undergraduate Students
- Faculty

***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

Dr. Edwin Romero, Associate Faculty, Student Activities Coordinator will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- The Associated Students of Norco College are supporting the efforts. They are student leaders that are effective at connecting to their peers.

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, 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 Monthly and as needed at ASNC Office

In the event that our leadership leaves campus or is no longer involved in this work, we have a succession plan in place. Should the Coordinator leave, the Dean of Student Life shall assume or delegate the responsibility.

We are also partnering with the following organizations from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition to support our efforts on campus:

- Student Senate for the California Community Colleges, California Secretary of State's Students Vote Project, All In Campus Democracy Challenge, A Band of Voters, & Pizza to the Polls,

***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, Under core commitments, it reads: Civic Engagement: Being fully engaged with the local community by listening to needs; establishing programs and partnerships to meet regional needs; forming alliances with other educational institutions to create a continuum of educational opportunities; and communicating information about Norco College programs and services to the external community.

<https://www.norcocollege.edu/about/Pages/mission.aspx#:~:text=Mission%20Statement%E2%80%8B,education%2C%20certificates%2C%20and%20degrees>. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, "Civic Engagement: Being fully engaged with the local community by listening to needs; establishing programs and partnerships to meet regional needs; forming alliances with other educational institutions to create a continuum of educational opportunities; and communicating information about Norco College programs and services to the external community."

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
- Campus leaders promoting voting
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- Voter registration tables
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On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
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- Registering to vote
- Civic Holiday events (such as National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day)
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The emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement could be increased.

***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.

Our institution has also utilized the following data gathering tools:

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- Community College Survey of Student Engagement
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They help to inform our institution's civic learning and democratic engagement efforts by The data is reported at the college committee level and is used to develop student success goals.

***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:

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- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
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- The voter engagement work on our campus is very siloed within one office.
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- We have trouble engaging student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
- The members tasked with the civic engagement effort are busy with various other projects and responsibilities.

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

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- We don't have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
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- The political views of our students do not generally align with our institution's surrounding communities.
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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.
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- 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.

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- We have sustainable or consistent funding.
- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
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With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

To establish a working group that can maintain an annual commitment to voter registration outreach efforts.

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

To achieve the 75th percentile in student voter registration percentage.

***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):

- Posters with QR codes to the Secretary of State's webpage for online voter registration and voter status. Posting in the student App, on the college social media, homepage, and emails with voter registration information. Booth hosted during Club Rush, Constitution Day, and National Voter Registration Day promoting voter registration.

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

- Hosting a booth on the last day to register to vote online, Monday, Oct. 24, encouraging students to register.

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

- Ask faculty to make announcements in class about online voter registration. Inviting speakers to host critical discussions about civic responsibility and current affairs.

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

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

- Establish a committee dedicated to civic engagement and voter empowerment.

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

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**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
- Email to campus administration
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We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- Post on the campus website
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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

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- Regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect
- Integrating feedback collection into individual campus efforts
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We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year
- Seeking out feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside of our action planning team
- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
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***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.