



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**



**STUDENT
VOLUNTEER CENTER**

Oklahoma State University 2024 Democratic Engagement Plan

Developed by: Emily Myrick, Braden White, and Haley Osiek

Executive Summary:

Our planning is being overseen by employees, graduate assistants, and students within the Department of Campus Life at Oklahoma State University. Brian Blevins, coordinator of Basic Needs, has passed this committee to Haley Osiek, coordinator of Student Volunteer Center. The purpose of this plan is to create a sustainable group that has the capacity to coordinate realistic civic engagement programs/initiatives. Since we are starting from step one, Haley Osiek will take charge of building the ALL IN committee and manage future civic engagement initiatives. We have five goals:

- Voter Registration
- Voter education
- Voter engagement and turnout
- Centralized communication
- Creating a more successful and sustainable ALL IN Democracy Challenge Committee

The goal is to have OSU's ALL IN committee formed by the end of the summer. This plan will be executed focused on the election cycle, beginning of school year, and times where major current events provide space for civic engagement conversations. This plan will be implemented on the Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma campus.

Leadership:

Leadership Committee Structure:

- Chair
 - Haley Osiek – Student Volunteer Center Coordinator

- If the Chair can no longer fill this role for any reason, the Director of Student Student Involvement will fill the position until a new Coordinator is hired, or the Chair can return.
- Representatives:
 - Student Volunteer Center
 - Ty Tetrick – Graduate Assistant
 - Larkin Riddle – Undergraduate Civic Engagement Ambassador
 - Athletics
 - Robyn Bostick – Director of Player Development, Oklahoma State University Women’s Basketball
 - Student Government Association
 - Ashton Tate – Undergraduate, Senate Public Affairs Committee Chair & Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (O.I.L) Delegation Chair
 - Department of Political Science
 - Dr. Howard Sanborn – Professor and Head
 - Amy Campbell – Pi Sigma Alpha President
 - Housing and Residential Life
 - Andrea Short – Coordinator of Engagement and Partnerships
 - Campus Life
 - Johnny Robinson – Director of Student Involvement
 - Sam Cypert – Coordinator of Operations
 - City of Stillwater
 - Tim Hardin – Councilor, Seat 2
 - Fraternity and Sorority Affairs
 - Hattie Howell – Undergraduate Vice President of Judicial Affairs
 - Stillwater League of Women Voters Representatives
 - Jennifer Borland
 - Jan Largent

Commitment:

Oklahoma State University Core Values: Our commitment to democratic engagement at Oklahoma State University ties into our institutions seven core values:

- Community

- Students need to be aware of the current events, state, local, and federal elections and issues that could affect their lively hood. By engaging in the community students will have a better understanding of these topics. By focusing on the importance of community we hope to build a sense of belonging to their civic duty.
- Diversity
 - When focusing on diversity and democratic engagement we hope to encourage students to learn more about other beliefs and opinions. Through democratic engagement students have the chance to learn about inequity and challenges faced by underrepresented populations.
- Service
 - Students can engage with service through Civic Engagement. Civic Engagement is decision making, it ensures that sovereignty resides with people. Civic Engagement can take many forms, from individual voluntarism to organizational involvement to electoral participation.
- Steward of Resources
 - Students will be encouraged to stay well informed, but also as an institution ensuring we are equipping them with effective resources.
- Excellence
 - As an institution we want to focus on the improvement of voter registration, education, and engagement among our students. Through the seven core values we know we can strive to improve democratic engagement each year.
- Integrity
 - Aiming to provide a space for students to reflect on their values and how they can use those values to help keep elected officials accountable through elections and civic engagement.
- Intellectual Freedom
 - Through these core values we help a student become a well-engaged and educated citizen.

Recently, Oklahoma State University released their new strategic plan. Within the plan, there are 8 imperatives. One imperative is *The Ideal Graduate*. An objective of the Ideal Graduate is Engaged Citizenship, which entails students:

- Welcomes and includes individuals of all backgrounds, cultures and creeds
- Respects and esteems the value of diversity in community
- Exercises service to the community

- Maintains respectful citizen qualities in the digital sphere

Our campus still needs to sign the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

- Email
- Posting on institutional social media channels
- Ordered "vote" t-shirts with universities hand gesture to pass out.
- Campus advertisements and events
 - Tabling on National Voter Registration Day
 - Partnered with:
 - League of Womens Voters
 - Pi Sigma Alpha
 - Student Government Association
 - Student Union Activities Board
 - Oklahoma State University Athletics
 - Rotary Club
 - Housing and Residential Life
 - Fraternity and Sorority Affairs
 - Voter Registration tabling hosted in the library for 6 consecutive weeks
 - Created boxes with voter registration materials and training for student organizations and campus departments to check-out to host voter registration tabling's
 - Hosting a passive poster event the week of Voter Education with information students should know.
 - Hosting a notary event so students can get their absentee ballots notarized on campus.
 - Partnering with Payne County Election Board
 - Hosting a Poll Worker Appreciation event where students can write cards of appreciation for local Poll Workers. Will also have voter registration available for a final push before the October 11th deadline.
 - Politics and Pasteris Series
 - What does the Constitution mean to you writing competition

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

The 2020 OSU report reported that we had a 13.3% increase from 2016 in voting rates. Although enrollment is down from 2018 to 2020, we saw an 11.8% increase in the number of students registered and a 122.08% increase in students that voted.

These numbers are encouraging to OSU as we plan to continue to increase voter registration, education, and engagement among our students.

Oklahoma State University's Stillwater campus has a diverse student population. Here's a simple overview:

- **Race and Ethnicity:**
 - 65.2% White
 - 9.4% Two or more races
 - 8.3% Hispanic or Latino
 - 6.2% Non-resident alien (international)
 - 4.4% Black or African American
 - 4.1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - 2.2% Asian
 - 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - 0.1% Race or ethnicity unknown
- **Gender:**
 - 48% male, 52% female
- **Residency:**
 - 70% are Oklahoma residents
 - 26% are from out-of-state
 - 4% are international students, representing 99 countries
- **Graduate Students:**
 - 47% are Oklahoma residents
 - 32% are from out-of-state
 - 21% are international students

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

- Voter registration
 - Increase awareness on the importance of being registered to vote
 - Incorporate voter registration into student orientation and first year success courses.

- Create convenience for the OSU community to register through passive programs
- Create a plan to assess voter engagement and registration among the student body
- Create voter registration boxes for campus departments and student organizations to check-out to host voter registration.
- Voter education
 - Coordinate programs focused on educating the community on state, local, and federal elections
 - Increase awareness on the different options to vote
 - Absentee
 - Early voting
 - In person
 - Host passive poster event that shares important information
- Voter engagement and turnout
 - Increase the number of students who sign the Pledge to Vote
 - Increase the number of coaches who sign the Coaches Pledge
 - Create more awareness leading up to elections
 - Sustained education on the importance of state and local elections.
 - Coordinate spaces for conversation focused on civic engagement
- Centralized communication
 - Create a more concerted effort to communicate to the entire OSU community on upcoming civic engagement programs, initiatives, and opportunities
- Creating a more successful and sustainable ALL IN Democracy Challenge Committee
 - Identifying key stakeholders throughout campus to provide feedback and promotion of action plan campus wide.
 - Grow collaborations throughout campus and community to help increase
 - Investment in the committee's endeavors.
 - Work to bring faculty to the table
 - Work to bring an off-campus representative that works with Payne County Election Board to the table
 - Build the ALL IN committee around positions instead of people to create a more sustainable workforce

Strategy:

Our Campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

In-person voter registration drives, in-person voter education events (e.g. film screenings, debates, lecture series, etc.), virtual voter registration drives (e.g. Couch Party text banking events)

We have several in-person events that include voter registration and education along with things like button making. Our social media pushes involve education about how to register to vote and how to vote. We also provide resources for students like notary services for those who need them for absentee ballots.

NSLV:

Oklahoma State University has authorized NSLVE. In the future, we plan to use NSLVE data to compare it to Oklahoma State University's civic engagement data to assess if we are meeting or exceeding national averages.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- Assess number of students who registered to vote
- Compare NSLVE data to Oklahoma State University's civic engagement data to assess if we are meeting or exceeding national averages.
 - Use this data to assess ways to create a more engaging space
- Track attendance at all civic engagement-type events for quantitative data
- When applicable, create reflections for civic engagement events to gain qualitative data
- We have been tracking attendance and plan to send a survey to learn if students felt more prepared for the election after engaging in our initiatives.

Reporting:

We will work with Marketing and Brand Management on posting:

- NSLVE reports
- Oklahoma State University reports