



Owens Community College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

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Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Owens Community College in Ohio for the 2022 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2022 midterm election. With two regional campuses in two Ohio counties our democratic engagement remains very fluid and adapts to the circumstances each campus may face. (covid, enrollment rates, demographic socio-economic factors). Events that have occurred include:

- voter registration drives
- campus fellows charged to assist with voter engagement and registration
- Constitution Day events
- Campus wide emails to students over 18 to update and/or register to vote.
- voter education resources on the website (www.owens.edu/vote)

Goals:

The goals for Owens Community College for the 2022 election are:

- developing a visible campus commitment to voter engagement and education.
- increasing numbers of Owens students registered to vote
- promoting civic engagement on a local, state and national level
- building an on campus leadership team for voter engagement
- identifying democratic engagement as a key element in the new strategic planning process
- engage faculty in the inclusion of democratic engagement in course curriculum

Leadership:

Our leadership team presently includes the following:

Dionne Somerville - President

Denise Smith - Provost

Krista Kiessling - Director Campus and Community Connections

We will leverage this plan to encourage increased participation in a democratic engagement advisory committee to include faculty, students, non-profit partners and community stakeholders.

Our campus presently works with the following nonprofit partners: Campus Vote Project, Civic Influencers (Campus Election Engagement Project), Ohio Campus Compact, League of Women Voters

Commitment:

Owens Community College is committed to civic engagement and the development of strong student citizens. Many of our graduates live and work in this community and we encourage active citizenship that begins on campus. This plan demonstrates our commitment to civic engagement and democracy education on our campus.

Through the many changes over the last several years, we have maintained momentum in changing our campus culture by increasing voter awareness and voter registration and engagement.

If your president or chancellor plans to sign the [Higher Education Presidents' Commitment](#) by November 2022, include that here.

Campus Landscape:

Owens Community College is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2022.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Owens Community College has 7,536 students.

Owens Community College has authorized NSLVE.

Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 55.7%.

Our institution had a 2020 voter registration rate of 79%.

Our institution had a 2018 voter turnout rate of 31.4%.

Our institution had a 2018 voter registration rate of 73.7%.

Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2020 Bronze

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voting rates to 65% in 2022
- Increase voter registration rate to 85% in 2022
- utilize marketing to better inform the college community on the vote by mail and absentee voting process
- Introduce opportunities to register new voters through the class registration process
- Host engaging and informative events with local officials
- Determine strategies to increase student voting rates among underrepresented groups (as identified in the NSLVE)

Strategy:

Owens Community College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- National Voter Education Week

- National Voter Registration Day
- Vote Early Day
- Constitution Day
- Tabling, Posters, Blackboard, Posters
- Vote Ambassadors

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- We will evaluate NSLVE data
- We will assess learning outcomes that are related to democratic engagement
- We will develop benchmarks to evaluate the success of our efforts

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/owens-community-college/> and on our campus webpage devoted to voter engagement. www.owens.edu/vote

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

Data will be shared annually via our Onews notification system and on the campus voter education web page.