



## Prairie State College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Helen Manley

### **Executive Summary:**

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Prairie State College in Illinois 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. The goals for Prairie State College for the 2022 election are: increase student voter registration and voter turnout and authorize NSLVE.

### **Leadership:**

Our leadership team includes the following:

Helen Manley - Manager of Student Life & Leadership Development

Dr. Michael Anthony - President

Jamie Miller - Interim Vice President of Student Affairs

Cook County Clerks' Office

### **Commitment:**

Prairie State College has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation since 2022.

### **Landscape:**

Prairie State College is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2022. Our institution is the following: Minority Serving Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Prairie State College has 3,202 students.

In District: 2,336

International: 42

Lake County: 92

Out of District: 677

Out of State: 36

#### Gender

Female: 1,887

Male: 1,225

Unknown: 60

#### Race

Asian: 43

Black or African American: 1,679

Hispanic/Latino: 371

Other: 595

White: 514

#### Age

Blank: 5

18-19: 716

20-21: 563

22-24: 430

25-29: 373

30-34: 270

35-39: 162

40-49: 261

50-64: 146

65 and over; 63

Under 18: 213

Prairie State College has not yet authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) so does not yet have campus voter registration and voter turnout data.

#### **Goals:**

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Authorize NSLVE to receive campus voting data

Increase registered voters

Engage more students into participating by working the polls

Assemble a taskforce to increase civic engagement

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

Train more students to become voter registrars

Bring in speakers about civic learning and democratic engagement

Have clubs/organizations take on a bigger role concerning democratic engagement

#### **Strategy:**

Prairie State College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

The plan is to reach out to all students and staff about registering to vote, voting and working on election day. Want to recruit young people to start working on election days to fill in for people who have now retired and are no longer working on that day as they have for so long. We want young people who are voting to see younger people like them working and participating in a bigger way.

Here is what we have done or are doing:

- \*Have a partnership with the Cook County Clerk's Office for over 20 years
- \*Had many voter registration events throughout the years
- \*Some students have trained to be voter registrars
- \*Send information about upcoming elections deadlines to register and vote early
- \*Offer early voting at our campus
- \*Sent out the Vote challenge form for students to fill out to pledge their commitment to voting
- \*Have information on registering to vote and opportunities to work on election day on the website
- \*Have students who have graduated continue to work on election day
- \*Have a member from the Cook County Clerk's Office attend our Involvement Fest at the beginning of each year
  - to offer new and returning students the opportunity to register to vote and learn about various positions available to work on election day
- \*Our students participate in Student Advocacy Day
- \*Celebrate Civic Holidays like National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day.

### **Evaluation:**

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

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

### **Reporting:**

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/prairie-state-college/>.

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

Include with whom your campus action plan and NSLVE reports will be shared on your campus community and where, in addition to ALL IN, the action plan and NSLVE reports will be posted online for people to access.

