



2024 Democratic Engagement

ACTION PLAN

Rollins College

Center for Leadership and Community Engagement

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Overview

Rollins College educates students for global citizenship and responsible leadership, empowering graduates to pursue meaningful lives and productive careers. We are committed to the liberal arts ethos and guided by its values and ideals.

Rollins College is a private, four-year college with an enrollment of approximately 2,600 undergraduate students. At Rollins College, The Center for Leadership & Community Engagement (CLCE) supports opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to get involved in their communities and become leaders to create positive change.

Civic Engagement is one of the core tenants in the CLCE. The Rollins College Democracy Project (DP) is a significant component of that tenant and is an initiative intended to increase and elevate the civic learning and democratic engagement of the Rollins community, which includes students, staff, faculty, and community partners. The DP initiative derives its comprehensive goals from *A Crucible Moment: College Learning & Democracy's Future*, and therefore seeks to "foster a civic ethos that governs campus life, make civic literacy a goal for every graduate, integrate civic inquiry within majors and general education, and advance civic action as lifelong practice."

As a nonpartisan, student-led initiative, The Democracy Project, which is entering into its 13th year, is intended to increase and elevate the civic involvement of the Rollins community by preparing students with the knowledge and skills to impact social change, spark civic interests, and find their voice within local and global democracies. Through voter registration and education, this initiative strives to empower students as the next generation of active citizens by fostering a civic ethos and advancing civic action.

This report was developed by:

- Bianca Filoni, Student Coordinator, The Democracy Project
- Meredith Hein, Director, Center for Leadership & Community Engagement
- Victoria Teske, Associate Director, Center for Leadership & Community Engagement
- Chloe White, Graduate Assistant for Civic Engagement, Center for Leadership & Community Engagement

Coalition

Administrative Leadership

The administration at Rollins College has continually shown its' support for civic engagement by dedicating concerted resources towards efforts such as the Democracy Project. Funding for the Democracy Project comes from the Center for Leadership & Community Engagement within the Division of Student Affairs. The Associate Director in CLCE, Victoria Teske,

supervises a Graduate Assistant (GA), Chloe White, who serves as the direct staff advisor to the Democracy Project.

The GA supervises a Student Coordinator, Bianca Filoni, (an on-campus position with a minimum of 8-10 hours/week) and the Student Coordinator leads the Democracy Project Student Ambassadors, a group of approximately 10-15 students who apply for volunteer leadership positions and meet weekly to discuss civic engagement efforts on campus. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Democracy Project team functioned well, as each student Ambassador was delegated a specific focus area, for which they would be responsible, and would then report back to the Student Coordinator at the weekly meetings. Areas of direct responsibility included: oversight of social media and creating content for the organization, data analysis, curating informative events on certain topics, and community partnership management. This allowed the team to be more efficient, and host more events than in previous years, maximizing campus outreach.

Support for increased democratic engagement on the Rollins College campus comes from a variety of levels. Administration, faculty, staff, and students all play a crucial role in following through on the campus commitment to continue democratic engagement work. President Grant Cornwell has been incredibly supportive of this work. President Cornwell engages in this work both on the campus level as well as at the state and national level by attending campus forums, sending campus-wide communications in support of voter engagement and the use of TurboVote, and participating in state and national meetings centered around Civic Engagement and Democracy. Most recently, President Cornwell engaged in the Inaugural Community Engagement Policy & Impact Summit - A pivotal gathering of university leaders, policymakers, and collaborators exploring the critical role of higher education and civic engagement in addressing national challenges hosted by Campus Compact. In August of 2023, he also joined together with twelve other college presidents to launch a new campaign in defense of free speech called the Campus Call for Free Expression. He is also a past board member of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Additionally, as a part of 30th Anniversary of Campus Compact, he signed the Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors.

President Cornwell also signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, stating "I commit to providing my institution with the leadership and support to fully engage in all elections- and voting-related learning opportunities," by:

- Becoming ALL IN - Join the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
- Striving toward Full Student Voter Participation - Designate staff (administration and faculty) to lead efforts to strive for full participation among the campus community.
- Making a Statement - By signing on to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, college and university leaders are making visible and public their commitment to their campuses.

Overall, Rollins College is deeply committed to community, civic and democratic engagement.

Student Leadership

The Democracy Project initiative is student driven and relies on the commitment of multiple undergraduate student leaders. Members of the Democracy Project (DP Ambassadors) are recruited in fall of each academic year through an application process. Students are required to submit their resumé and a statement of interest to allow them to share their passion for this work, or any potential ideas that they want to bring to the organization. The Student Coordinator and Graduate Assistant worked hard to ensure that there was a diverse mix of students, as to better represent the student body of Rollins. Students from all grades, majors, races, genders, political views, and even international students made up the team. Each year, applications are screened by the Associate Director of CLCE and the Democracy Project Graduate Assistant. The student coordinator for the Democracy Project is chosen in the spring. This is a paid position through the CLCE. Applications are received and reviewed by the office's staff during the recruitment period for all paid student positions. The current coordinator must reapply if they wish to be considered for the position again the following year.

Student Coordinator

The Democracy Project Student Coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing the entire Democracy Project initiative. The position is filled annually and seeks a student leader who is professional, highly organized, passionate about leadership and the democratic process, committed to bipartisanship, and an out-of-the-box thinker.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Supporting and advising DP Student Ambassadors, which includes facilitating weekly meetings, assigning tasks, and ensuring accountability.
- Delegating certain roles and duties to Ambassadors and ensuring that they are fulfilled efficiently and to a high standard.
- Represent the student voice for all DP activities and serve as the DP representative at various meetings, events, and service opportunities both on and off-campus. This includes representing DP on the Student Government's Board of Student Organizations.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with different clubs, organizations, faculty, and departments across campus and in the Central Florida area to further students' engagement in the democratic process.
- Supports to plan, implement, and facilitate various DP programs, such as: voter registration drives, Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, political lecturer events, Politics on Tap, Debate Watch Parties, Candidate Forums, etc.
- Market and promote DP initiatives to the Rollins community through email, social media, website, etc.
- Support local civic partnerships (i.e. The League of Womens' Voters Orange County) by connecting and communicating to support both DP and community interests

- Maintain transparent and timely communication with the Associate Director, Graduate Assistant, Student Ambassadors, and community partners.
- Commit to a minimum of 8 hours per week, including 6 office hours in the Center for Leadership & Community Engagement.

Student Ambassadors

In addition to the Student Coordinator, there are approximately ten Democracy Project Student Ambassadors recruited annually to implement the initiative's programming on campus. The goal is to recruit diverse ambassadors who will encourage various groups of students to get involved i.e. athletics, Greek life, first-year students, science majors, etc. Both the Student Coordinator and the Student Ambassadors report to a Graduate Assistant within the Center for Leadership & Community Engagement.

Community Partners

Democracy Project is not a third-party voter registration organization and therefore relies heavily on community partners to register students to vote. Additionally, partner organizations provide support for voter education and information about upcoming elections. In Fall 2023, in partnership with the Orange County League of Women Voters, the Democracy Project was able to get all its members and all CLCE staff certified to register voters, so long as two members were present. This allowed the organization to host more voter registration drives and register voters in classrooms. One DP Student Ambassador teamed up with the League of Women Voters and the Supervisor of Elections office to host a voter registration drive at Wekiva High School. There, they presented to 232 students and were able to register 123 students.

Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office

The mission of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office (OCSEO) is to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, enhance public confidence, and encourage citizen participation. Each year, the Democracy Project relies on educational and informative materials from the OCSEO regarding upcoming elections.

League of Women Voters Orange County

The Orange County League of Women Voters (LWVOC) encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. LWVOC regularly partners with the Democracy Project to educate voters. All Democracy Project Ambassadors join the League and become certified through their organization to register voters. Democracy Project members also attend monthly LWVOC Hot Topic events, some themes include Latina leadership, AI and elections, our local mayors, among others. The League also supports our endeavors by attending our on-campus events and Kathy Sheerin, the head of Voter Services Committee for LWVOC, participated as a panelist in our Politics on Tap event on Voting Rights. The League of Women Voters Orange County had awarded the Democracy Project in December of 2023 with the Warrior of Democracy Award. This honor was given based on DP's work in the community and instilling the values of democracy, integrity, and civic responsibility.

The City of Winter Park

The Democracy Project hosts Town Halls and Meet and Greets with candidates running for local office in the City of Winter Park. This year, DP Student Ambassadors were also encouraged to attend City Commission meetings. In the Spring 2023 semester, there were no city commissioner elections as both candidates were running unopposed. In the previous 2022 elections, DP members met with the candidates and were encouraged to work on any campaigns that they felt aligned with, to gain insight into local politics. In 2022 DP also hosted an event on campus for the candidates to debate local issues. This boosted student awareness of the election, and in conjunction with voter registration drives, allowed for more students to register to vote on campus so that they could become Winter Park voters. Students met with candidates, heard their views on certain issues, and saw first-hand how impactful these local elections can be for our campus and student body. The Democracy Project is using these ideas to institute for the upcoming 2024 local elections for the Mayor of Winter Park and City Commissioner Seat 2.

Community Partner Tour

For campus community members who are new to Winter Park/Orlando or those looking to get more involved, this tour will serve as a "welcome" and introduction to various nonprofits and community organizations in the area. The CLCE believes that this experience will offer participants numerous ways to engage in community work and help make connections with valued Rollins partners. During the tour, the Center will bring faculty & staff members to key constituents, including Mayor Phil Anderson's Office/City Hall, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, Winter Park Day Nursery, Hannibal Square Heritage Center, and The Mayflower. These organizations have all identified ways in which the Rollins community can engage with said partners.

Internships

Every semester, dozens of Rollins students serve as interns with elected officials. Recent examples include U.S (United States) Representative Stephanie Murphy, Senator Marco Rubio, and Florida House Representatives Anna Eskamani and Susan Plasencia. This year, DP Ambassadors worked with local City Commissioners on their campaigns, local initiatives for the City of Winter Park, and interned with elected Representatives at the State level.

Professional Development

In June 2023 the Graduate Assistant for Civic Engagement, Director, and Associate Director with the CLCE attended the NASPA CLDE (Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement) conference in Boston. The conference focused on how to facilitate and institutionalize constructive and collaborative dialogue on college campuses. In November 2023, the Democracy Project Student Coordinator, DP Ambassador for Event Planning, and the Graduate Assistant for Civic Engagement attended the SLSV (Students Learn Students Vote) Summit in Maryland. This conference focused on how students and student-groups can facilitate civic education and engagement practices on campus.

During a Spring 2023 Lobby Day, a group of Rollins students and staff traveled to Tallahassee, including President Cornwell, Sam Stark, Micki Meyer and Ed Bustos. Throughout the day, they met with several representatives from both the State House and Senate, lobbying in favor of the EASE Grant. During these meetings, students had the opportunity to voice how the EASE Grant had positively impacted their educational journeys,

why it's important to continue funding this grant and provide space for questions and conversations with the representatives. It was a fantastic experience to put their political science education into practice. The goal is to continue this initiative for years to come.

Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI)

In the Fall 2023 semester, Rollins beta-tested CDI's Perspectives program with the Democracy Project team. Perspectives is a customizable online course that trains students to be able to have constructive conversations with those who have differing opinions and perspectives. The program requires students to complete online modules, quizzes, and peer to peer conversations with other students in the program. These conversations are guided and are intended to help students navigate challenging topics with others. The Democracy Project team's feedback has allowed us to decide that the program would be a valuable tool for faculty teaching first-year seminar courses. We are offering the Perspectives program to them and their classes in the Spring.

Campus Partners

Student Organizations

The Democracy Project partners regularly with the Rollins Democrats but unfortunately there has not been an active Republican group on campus since the pandemic occurred. As DP attempts to allow for all views to have a voice on campus, we have partnered with the James Madison Institute (JMI), a right-leaning think tank group to host speakers on campus discussing topics such as School Choice and Rent Control. The Democracy Project intentionally partners with these two groups to allow students to get perspectives from both sides on critical issues. During the 2023-2024 academic year, DP partnered with other student organizations for Politics on Tap events to boost awareness and turnout. DP also hosted Politics on Tap events that focused on the following social issues: Hawaiian Wildfires in partnership with the Asian American Pacific Islander Student Union; Voting Rights with the Student Government Association; and Freedom of Speech and Expression with support from the Rollins Museum of Art Student Council and Rollins Gateway (a program which promotes experiencing liberal arts education both inside and outside of the classroom). In addition, the Democracy Project and Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Economics Honor Society featured a speaker from the Apartment Association of Greater Orlando discussing rent and housing policies. Our Student Government Association (SGA) will take an active role in partnering with the Democracy Project in Spring 2024. All 12 of SGA executive members will take part in Unify America College Challenge Bowl in Spring 2024.

Faculty

This year, faculty played a critical role in the success of the Democracy Project and civic engagement at Rollins College. The Rollins College President and Provost have served speakers and panelists at events, such as at Politics on Tap featuring the politics of Education in Florida. The administration attends events and engages across campus in civic engagement. Both the CLCE and DP works with many departments to feature faculty speakers. The Philosophy, Psychology, Education, Political Science, Communications, and

the Environmental Science departments have all participated in our events and the plan is to continue partnerships with faculty across campus.

Residential Life & Explorations (RLE)

Rollins offers RCC (Rollins College Conference) courses to all new incoming students, which serves as an introductory college course. Traditionally, students in the same RCC will live in the same residence hall (to create a living/learning community). We therefore reached out to the RCC professors and registered first-year students through their RCC classes. In addition, we presented our organization at the bi-annual student organization fair and introduced students to civic engagement on the Rollins College campus through tabling, social media, and campus-wide communications. By showing them ways that they can get involved, how to vote at Rollins, and giving them the opportunity to register to vote, it allows students to have a voting plan that feels supported by the campus community. We've also worked closely with the RLE team on implementing passive programming focused on voter engagement (hall bulletin boards, door hangs, etc.).

Departments on Campus

Both the CLCE and DP try to participate and partner with departments across campus that are actively engaging the campus in Civic Engagement efforts. The newly founded Student Center for Inclusion and Belonging hosts open forums when local, state, national, and international issues arise that address current events shaping the world. These conversations are intended to create a space for community and education. The Olin Library took on an active role in hosting events around the legislation around banned books within the Florida K-12 school system. Collaborating with the Anthropology department, they highlighted a diverse selection of banned books and facilitated a round table discussion. Additionally, Rollins College Radio Station, WPRK, actively contributes to civic engagement by volunteering as poll workers annually.

On another level, the CLCE and DP worked in partnership with the Rollins Campus Safety Office to introduce a new R-Card ID with a signature strip which allowed students to use their student ID as a form of identification when voting.

Commitment

For more than 125 years, Rollins has adhered to one overarching belief: College is about more than preparing for a career. It's about learning to think critically. It is about discovering how one individual can positively impact the world. To that end, Rollins strives to enable individuals to see the bigger picture, to understand how areas of knowledge are interrelated, and to view learning as a lifelong endeavor. As a result, our graduates are prepared to succeed in any career, but they are also prepared to pursue lives of meaning and purpose.

Rollins College strives for an engaged campus, defined by Campus Compact as,

“one that is consciously committed to reinvigorating the democratic spirit and community engagement in all aspects of its campus life: students, faculty, staff and the institution itself. The engaged campus recognizes that knowledge cannot be separated from the

purposes to which it is directed. The engaged campus is not just located within a community, it is intimately connected to the public purposes and aspirations of community life itself. The engaged campus is unable to separate its unique responsibility for the development of knowledge, from the role of knowledge in a democratic society to form the basis for social progress and human equality.”

Rollins College remains committed to three purposes that were established in the most recent Strategic Planning process (strengthening the integrity of our mission, strengthening our market position, and building a strong sense of shared vision). The three themes that emerged in the planning process were: engaging our students, delivering on our promises, and strengthening our strategic assets. These themes will continue to guide the 2024 cycle of strategic planning.

- **Engage Our Students**
We will build upon our tradition of innovation in our educational programs so that we become a national model for engaged learning.
- **Deliver on Our Promises**
We will commit to the academic and postgraduate success of each of our students.
- **Strengthen Our Strategic Assets**
We will invest in areas essential to our prosperity and competitive advantage: our people, our workplace culture, our campus, and our strategic information.

Commitment in Practice Examples:

- **Fiat Lux Dialogues: Common Ground:** The initiative will be primarily implemented by the Democracy Project in partnership with the CLCE. As a part of the initiative, the CLCE and DP are committed to bringing external speakers and sponsor issue forums/conversations or other democratic discourse experiences (e.g., attending conferences, etc.) focused on examining pressing, often controversial societal issues from all sides, bringing multidisciplinary perspectives to finding common ground on which we as a college community (and, one hopes, as a society) may move forward toward practical, widely accepted solutions. These experiences will be designed to expose the campus community to vastly different ideas and insights around the conversations regarding issues, and to lead participants, through democratic discourse (as opposed to competitive debate), to be able to appreciate all sides of an issues and examine their perspectives and thoughts. Common Ground experiences will be designed to model what civil discourse, listening, and compromise look like, and to offer alternatives to polarization.

Examples of these issues around which The Democracy Project students and their faculty and staff collaborators have begun to plan speakers, issue forums, and/or other Common Ground experiences include the first and second amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The second amendment provided a theme for a pilot Common Ground experience in

September 2022, when The Democracy Project, in collaboration with the Center for Leadership & Community Engagement and the Office of Communications & External Relations and with funding support from Rollins College's Thomas P. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Scholars & Artists Program, hosted Fred Guttenberg and Rep. Joe Walsh to a conversation in which they joined forces to share the importance of finding common ground on topics such as gun safety legislation, deliberative dialogue, and bipartisanship. Mr. Guttenberg, father of a student slain in the 2018 mass shooting at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, is a well-known activist against gun violence. Rep. Walsh is a former U. S. Congressman and former social worker who ran in the 2020 U. S. presidential Republican primary.

- **Community Engagement Course (CE Courses):** Courses with a community engagement component (including service-learning, civic and democratic learning and/or community-based research) are offered under the designation CE (Community Engagement) in the Rollins Course Catalog. Each of these courses must meet specific standards in order to be appropriately classified:
 - Identifies and addresses a need in the community (campus, local, regional, or global)
 - Meets course objectives and demonstrates a clear connection between the community activity and the course content (theory to practice)
 - Involves structured student pre/post reflection
 - Involves collaboration with a community organization/agency that is committed to a reciprocal partnership between service and learning
 - Allows the community partner to share in classroom dialogue, discussion, and scholarship (when appropriate) including reporting feedback, service project results or research
 - Involves a minimum of 15 hours of direct or indirect service/research with the community organization/agency
 - Involves assignment(s) in which students share their experience with the class community, the community organization/agency and address a plan for active citizenship beyond the course
 - Recognizes and addresses the inequity, bias, and discrimination present within ourselves, our campus, our community partner organizations, etc.

- **Student Recognition:** At the 2023 Student Achievement Awards, the Democracy Project was given the Collective Leadership Award. This recognized the group's commitment to service and acknowledged the successful work done on campus to increase civic engagement. Five graduating seniors from the Democracy Project were also awarded Fiat Lux awards, largely due to their work with DP, which demonstrates commitment and excellence in service and leadership.

A new goal for the coming academic year is to facilitate a community impact study to assess how these courses and other community-centered relationships directly support the needs of the community non-profit partners.

Landscape

Democratic Engagement is part of the culture at Rollins College. It is embedded in both curricular and co-curricular programs.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, Democracy Project Student Ambassadors set a goal of ensuring that at least 85% of eligible students are registered to vote. This can be accomplished through partnerships with on-campus organizations and community-based organizations such as the Orange County League of Women Voters and the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office. These community-based organizations held voter registration drives directly on our campus several times per semester. This gave students the opportunity to easily register, whether it be for the first time or to update their address. Registration drives were held during National Voter Registration Week, orientation week, in the weeks leading up to our local election, and at many other large-scale campus events. This semester, DP hosted eight voter registration drives and events, registering 213 students at in-person events and more through online platforms such as TurboVote. Overall, our events had reached 820 students and community members in the Fall 2023 semester.

Additionally, the DP hosted three Politics on Taps this past semester, with turnout exceeding 40 students at each event. Politics on Tap allows students to come together with professors and specialists to learn about and discuss current events and policy issues. Events discussed this past semester included Freedom of Expression, Voting Rights, and more about the Hawaii Wildfires. These events allow for all students, regardless of prior knowledge, to become informed and engage in a dialogue with expert faculty on issues that could directly impact their lives.

In the classroom, Rollins students are further exposed to topics surrounding civic engagement. This year alone over 50 courses explored topics such as environmental activism, diversity in American education, political ethics, and conflict policy.

Rollins College's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging 5-year strategic plan encompasses various facets, including civic engagement. The plan addresses five key task forces: Student Recruitment and Retention, Faculty and Staff Hiring and Retention, DEIB Training and Capacity Building, Institutional Policies, Practices, and Procedures, and DEIB in the Academic Program.

Within the area of civic engagement, student organizations actively engage with current events on a global scale. These discussions serve as a platform for understanding and addressing issues that impact our diverse community.

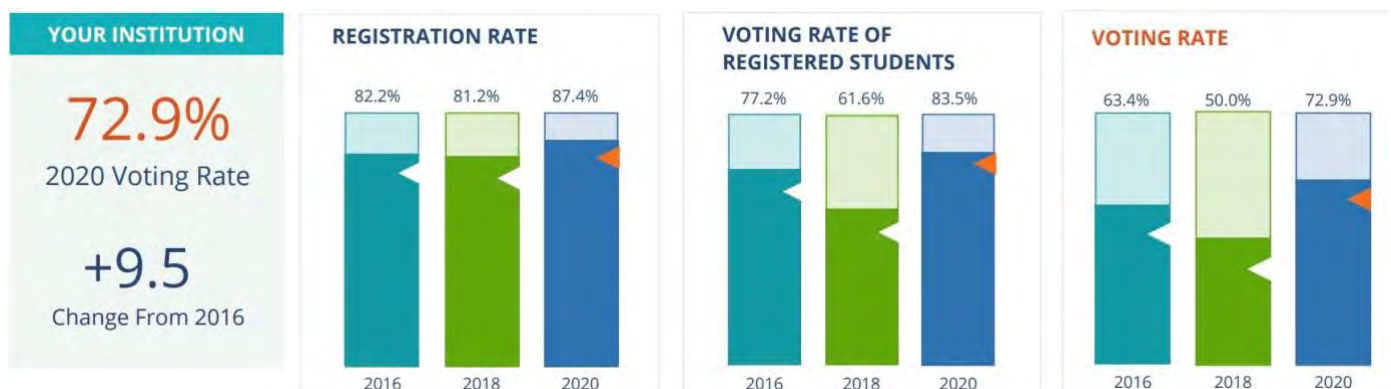
In May of 2023, the Democracy Project was awarded the Collective Leadership Award at the Rollins Student Achievement Awards, recognizing the group's contribution to civic education and engagement on campus. Five graduating seniors from the Democracy Project were also awarded the Fiat Lux Award. This award honors Rollins seniors for their positive contributions to campus and community in academics, leadership, inclusion, and service.

Moreover, the CLCE is committed to empowering student employees with the necessary tools to foster personal development through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Last year, the department comprising over 40 students embarked on a learning journey by studying two chapters on Inclusive Leadership. Their role was to then analyze how these principles could be implemented in their respective roles within the department. This introspection led to a proactive exploration of strategies to enhance DEIB within their student job responsibilities. This ongoing commitment to DEIB initiatives demonstrates Rollins College's dedication to creating an inclusive and equitable environment, not only through strategic planning but also by empowering individuals at all levels to contribute meaningfully to this mission.

Highlights from Rollins College's 2022 NSLVE Report

While Rollins has yet to receive the 2023 data, we can draw some conclusions from the 2022 NSLVE report. We saw from our previous NSLVE report that business students had the lowest reported turnout in elections, and so we plan to target introductory business classes also, and host voter registration drives located outside the Business Studies department. We also noticed a slight drop in the voting rate for our students aged over 50. These students attend our Holt evening school, which meets after we typically host our voter registration drives. We are planning to therefore host drives later in the evening and ensure that our other events are advertised throughout the buildings where classes are being held.

- The registration rate of Rollins College students overall was 72.9%, compared to 66% for all institutions.
- The voting rate increased by 9.5% from 2016.
- The registration rate increased by 5% from 2016.
- We saw that Business majors and students over the age of 50 were the two demographics with the lowest voting rate.



Related Courses Offered in 2023-2024 Academic Year

Fall 2023

- Advocacy and Social Justice
- Native American Culture
- Mindful Activism
- Narratives: Oppression and Privilege
- Media, Peace, and Justice
- Difficult Dialogues
- Communication
 - Communication and Influence
 - Communication Campaigns
 - Diversity in American Education
 - Literature of Divided Lands
 - Environmental Justice
 - Women and the Environment
 - Political Economy of
- Environmental Issues
 - Health Equity
 - Haitian Revolution
 - Historical Marxism
 - Stolen Cultures
 - Diversity & Inclusivity in the US (United States)
 - Social and Political Philosophy
- Congress & Legislative Process
- Politics of Mass Media
- Model United Nations
- International Human Rights
- Middle East Politics
- Black Lives Matter
- Leading Change
- Strategies for Changemakers
- Social Problems
- Sociology of Gender
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Feminist Methodology
- Intersections of Latinx
- Experiences
 - Power in America
 - Inequalities in Media
 - Disability, Body & Identity
 - Racial Fictions
 - Critical Disability Studies
 - Gender, Rights and Relativism
 - Ethics

Spring 2024

- The Truth about Fake News
- Immigration Rights
- Advocacy and Social Justice
- Research
 - Language, Culture, & Society
 - Media & Society
 - Servant-Leadership
 - Incarceration & Inequality
 - Political Economy of the Middle East
- Ethics
- Philosophy of Criminal Justice
- Politics of Global Poverty
- Problems in Political Thought
- American Politics
- International Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations Capstone
- Political Parties
- American Presidency

- Queer Cinema
- Sustainable Development
- Town Planning
- Florida's Sacred Waters:
Environmental Action
- Public Health
- History of American Sexuality
- US-China Relations
- African Americans and the 1920s
- Indigenous Literature
- Political Psychology
- Climate Politics
- Psychology of Prejudice
- Ethical Sourcing: People & Planet
- ChatGPT for Social Impact
- The Civil Rights Movement
- Social Issues in Social Media
- Constitutional Controversies
- Violence and Security: Latin
America

Goals

Long-Term Goals

(Beyond 2023-2024 Academic Year)

- 90% Voter Registration by November 2024
- 75% Voter Turnout by the 2024 Presidential Election

Short-Term Goals

(For the 2023-2024 Academic Year)

- Achieve a campus voting rate of at least 50% for the Midterm Elections in 2024.
- All members of the Democracy Project remain certified to register voters in the State of Florida
- Provide multiple opportunities for students to “Vote Together” i.e. transportation to the polls for Early Voting and on Election Day.
- Create space for deliberative dialogue around current issues in politics to allow students to consider issues from multiple perspectives.
- Increase campus awareness about local issues i.e. in the City of Winter Park, Orlando, Orange County, etc.
- Provide factual, non-partisan information to the campus community regarding current and ongoing legislation, policy reform, amendments, and candidates.
- Collaborate with other on-campus organizations such as Athletics, Fraternity and Sorority Life, etc. to increase the number of students who engage directly with the Democracy Project.
- Promote opportunities for students to attend off-campus events with organizations such as the Orange County League of Women Voters, People Power for Florida, etc.
- Implement a Common Ground Initiative designed to bring external speakers and sponsor issue forums/conversations or other democratic discourse experiences (e.g., attending conferences, etc.) focused on examining pressing, often controversial societal issues from all sides, bringing multidisciplinary perspectives to finding common ground on which we as a college community (and, one hopes, as a society) may move forward toward practical, widely accepted solutions.
- Host a “Post Poll Party” with food, activities and live election results.
- Ensure all students sign up for the TurboVote platform, with a strategic focus on those planning to vote in another county or State.

Strategy

Politics on Tap

Every month throughout the academic year, the Democracy Project selects a panel of faculty member to moderate deliberative dialogue on current issues in American politics. Democracy Project collaborates with another student organization, who helps to advertise the event, and co-host. These will continue into next year, with the addition of elected officials or experts beyond our own faculty, to make the panel more well-rounded and to attract more students.

Constitution Day

Every year, the Democracy Project celebrates Constitution Day on September 17th, and this year was no exception. Student leaders hand out pocket Constitutions, free ice creams, and conduct information sessions on the U.S. Constitution during community common hour. We plan to continue this tradition in 2024.

Classroom Presentations

Typically, faculty teaching first-year seminar courses partner with a representative from the Democracy Project to register voters and provide information about upcoming elections and other ways to get involved in democratic engagement initiatives. In 2024, we plan to expand beyond just first-year seminar courses. We have developed a comprehensive presentation on civic engagement at Rollins College. This interactive presentation serves as a guide, assisting students in discovering a path within the realm of politics that aligns with their passion. Additionally, we're planning for tailored presentations for specific identity-based groups, including our Black Student Union, Latin American Student Association, and more.

Rally to the Polls

The Democracy Project in partnership with the CLCE will provide multiple opportunities for students to "Vote Together." The team will host at least two events to walk to the Early Voting location, provide transportation to the polls throughout the day on Election Day, and host an absentee voting party for the 2024 November elections.

After Polls Party

The Democracy Project will once again host an election results watch party on Mills Lawn and also celebrate those who voted by passing out free swag to people with 'I Voted' stickers. We also plan to re-partner with a local business (previously this was Blaze Pizza) to get students a discount on election day if they have voted.

Debate Watch Parties

The Democracy Project will host debate watch parties in Dave's Boathouse for the Presidential debates, and primary debates. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts about the debate both before and after the livestream. Refreshments will be provided.

#RollinsVotes

Rollins has a webpage dedicated to voter education: <https://www.rollins.edu/rollins-votes/>
This website will be updated to include all relevant information for upcoming Elections.

Reporting & Evaluation

The Democracy Project team will track voter registration numbers in a spreadsheet, monitored by an ambassador in charge of data analytics. This ambassador will also track data from each individual event (turnout, which forms were given out etc.) on a LWVOC data sheet, and report back to the League. The team will also work closely with the Ask Every Student initiative to better track how many students have been given election information directly from the Democracy Project Ambassadors.

Rollins College participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) sponsored by the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education at Tufts University. Collected data in the future will be analyzed for trends and responses. Relevant portions of this information may potentially be shared with collaborating departments and organizations as we continue to further develop our strategic plans and look for areas of need or improvement. Finally, these results will also inform and be shared in future iterations of this plan.

Members of the CLCE Team meet monthly with the Internal and External Marketing and Communications Teams to share ongoing and upcoming events, programs, initiatives, and achievements. Both civic and democratic engagement is celebrated and publicized via internal and external social media accounts, newsletters, website publications, local newspapers and local news programming.

The CLCE Team also facilitates additional assessment tools to gather data on Community Engagement courses, immersive experiences, DEIB initiatives, and for overall institutional requirements. These are additional data points that can be evaluated to see gaps and opportunities to enhance the collective work across campus.