

SUNY Adirondack 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Wendy L. Johnston

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by SUNY Adirondack in New York for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for SUNY Adirondack for the 2024 election are: to increase student voter registration rate to 75% and student voter turnout to 60%.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

- Wendy L. Johnston, Associate Professor of Political Science and Chair of Social Sciences
- John Delate, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment
- Cornelius Gilbert, Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator

Additional Contacts:

- Kathryn O'Sick, Dean of Student Affairs
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Adirondack Branch
<https://adirondack.aauw-nys.org/>
- League of Women Voters-Saratoga County <https://www.lwvsaratoga.org/>

Commitment:

SUNY Adirondack's commitment to non-partisan student democratic engagement is reflected in our mission to enrich and transform lives and communities through accessible, lifelong educational opportunities and our value for "Thriving Communities."

<https://www.sunyacc.edu/about/mission-vision-and-values>

This commitment is clearly demonstrated by Community Partnerships and Cocurricular activities.

- Community partnerships with Community Civic Organizations.
- Participation in Community Readings and Discussions through Humanities NY (2020 and 2022).
- Annual Constitution Day presentations.
- Student Organizations (Student Senate, Social Justice Scholars, ResHall Association, Black and LatinX Student Union, AAUW Campus Chapter, Men of Color Alliance).
- Annual Voter Registration Drives and ongoing voter registration with our Veteran's and Accessibility offices.
- SUNY Adirondack signed the All In Higher Education President's Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation 2024

Our commitment is further demonstrated in our curriculum

- SUNY General Education Requirement for all students: US History and Civic Engagement
 - "understand the role of individual participation in US communities and government"
- SUNY Adirondack offers courses in American Government, State and Local Government where voter engagement and political participation are covered.

Our commitment to non-partisan student democratic engagement is communicated to the campus community through the use of our PackLife student organization and events page, educational and event flyer distribution, and all campus emails of upcoming events.

Faculty and Staff's commitment to an engaged community is further demonstrated and modeled for our students.

Landscape:

SUNY Adirondack is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. Our institution is designated as the following: Predominantly White Institution, Rural Serving Institution.

SUNY Adirondack's Student Demographics (Source: SUNY Adirondack 2023 Factbook)

SUNY Adirondack has 2,733 students.

- New York State Resident Students: 2,666
 - Students in SUNY Adirondack's Service Area: 2,328
 - Students outside of SUNY Adirondack's Service Area: 338
- Out-of-State & International Students: 67

Demographic Breakdown:

- Residential Students: 336
- Enrollment by gender
 - Female 55.3%
 - Male 44.7%

- Enrollment by Age:
 - Under 18 yrs. 22.8%
 - 18-19 yrs. 34%
 - 20-24 yrs. 25%
 - 25 yrs. and older 18.3%
- Enrollment by Race & Ethnicity
 - American Indian/Alaskan Native .3%
 - Asian 1.2%
 - Black or African American 5%
 - Hispanic or Latino 3.9%
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander .1%
 - White 83.8%
 - Two or More Races 3.5%
 - Nonresident Alien 1.2%

SUNY Adirondack has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education at Tufts University, and received campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023.

SUNY Adirondack Student Voter Information (Source NSLVE Campus Report 2022)

- Registration Rate: 65.6%
- Voting Rate of Registered Students: 41.2%
- Voting Rate: 27%

Our NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

New York State elections laws impacting voters at SUNY Adirondack: <https://elections.ny.gov>

- New York voters must register to vote no later than October 26, 2024 to be eligible to vote on November 5th. Mail in registration forms must be received by a board of elections office no later than October 26.
- Absentee Voting:
 - Eligible Voters seeking an absentee ballot by mail must submit to their home county's board of election an absentee ballot application no later than ten days before the election. For absentee ballots to be received in person, applications must be received by your county board of elections no later than the day before the election.
 - Absentee Ballots must be returned in the prepaid return envelope and postmarked no later than November 5th and must be received by the county board of elections no later than November 12th.
 - Absentee ballots can be brought to the home county board of elections in person no later than 9pm on November 5th.
 - Absentee ballots can be brought to an early voting site in the home county between October 26th and November 3rd.
 - Absentee Ballots can be brought to a poll site in the home county by 9pm on November 5th
 - Voters can track their absentee ballot at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>
- Early Voting:
 - Any registered voter may apply for an early mail ballot. Applications requesting an early mail ballot must be received by the board of elections in the home

county no later than ten days before the election. For early mail ballots to be received in person, applications must be received no later than the day before the election.

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- Early voting ballots can be brought to an early voting site in the home county between October 26th and November 3rd.
- Early Ballots can be brought to a poll site in the home county by 9pm on November 5th
- Accessible Ballots:
 - Voters with a print disability, which means any disability that interferes with the effective reading, writing, or use of printed material, and require a ballot with accessible features may apply using the online Accessible Ballot Application Portal.

SUNY Adirondack participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: National Voter Registration Day (2017, 2018, 2020, 2021).

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

SUNY Adirondack's NSLVE report indicated a fairly static voting rate when comparing the 2018 and 2022 midterm elections. When the 2020 presidential election is factored, we see a significant drop in participation, a 28.2% decline in voter turnout from 2020 to 2018.

SUNY Adirondack's 2024 and 2026 Election cycles our goals:

- Increase student voter registration rate to 75% in 2024 and 70% in 2026
- Increase student voter turnout rate to 60% in 2024 and 30% in 2026
- Partner with and roll out Motivote in Fall 2024

Strategy:

SUNY Adirondack will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

SUNY Adirondack will host a 2024 Presidential Election Series with the following events:

- Kick Off Forum: Election 2024 What Do You need to Know?
- Constitution Day Dining for Democracy: The Electoral College
- Women in the Political Arena
- Historic Black Vote

Directly Related to the 2024 Election Students will be invited to:

- Presidential Debate Watch

- VP Debate Watch
- Election Night Watch Party

In partnership with the League of Women's Voters (Saratoga) and the American Association of University Women-Adirondack Branch, SUNY Adirondack will participate in Voter Registration Day on September 17th

Constitution Day: September 17th. SUNY Adirondack will hold a discussion on the Electoral College (one of our 2024 Presidential Election Series Events).

SUNY Adirondack will partner with Motivate, a gamified digital resource that uses behavioral science to help you get ready to vote and build civic habits.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

SUNY Adirondack will evaluate student engagement with our planned activities by quantifying the number of students in attendance at the planned events. SUNY Adirondack will also survey all students in attendance for feedback on attainment of student learning outcomes and for planning future events.

SUNY Adirondack can track student utilization of Motivate to evaluate student engagement and develop new outreach plans to effectively reach students.

SUNY Adirondack will use the National, Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement to evaluate the increase of student voting by comparing our campus voter turnout and voter registration rates to past elections to measure progress on increasing both.

Reporting:

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

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.

Our campus action plan and NSLVE reports will be shared with the Academic and Student Affairs departments.