



SUNY Morrisville 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by SUNY Morrisville in the state of New York in part for the 2024 election and in support of both SUNY and the Governor’s support for nonpartisan student voter registration and ongoing civic engagement throughout the academic year.

The action plan is in support of SUNY Morrisville’s Mission and Strategic Plan 2030. Our mission statement reads:

We cultivate a community of learners rooted in experiential education.

Cultivating learners includes teaching students about their responsibilities in a civil and civic environment where a range of opinions are heard and valued.

This action plan will provide a road map as we move forward with short term and longer-term goals and strategies, as articulated in later sections.

The action plan will use NSLVE data to identify low turn-out groups and the working group will work with campus partners to develop initiatives and outreach to those groups.

Leadership:

Our leadership team currently includes:

Heidi Eakin. Dean, Libraries & Learning Resources
Annette Goldmacher. Residence Life Area Coordinator
Monica Grau. Vice President Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
Tara Shimer. Workforce & Partnership Specialist
Tyler Yates. Faculty, Social Sciences

We are working to add additional members from our faculty, student affairs, Student Government Organization, and from our local Board of Elections in Madison County.

Senior Leadership: This initiative has the support of the President, Dr. David Rogers, and is being spearheaded by Dr. Grau, the Vice-President of Student Affairs. The cooperation of the Provost is also assured.

Commitment:

SUNY Morrisville's President, Dr. David Rogers, signed the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation in February of 2024.

The president sent an email highlighting civil and civic engagement in September 2024 to all faculty, staff, and students. The VPSA spoke about the plans for non-partisan voter engagement, civic role modeling, and civil behavior at the August Faculty/Staff meeting.

Our Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Rob Blanchet, reauthorized our participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement in September 2024.

SUNY announced actions aimed at advancing increasing civic education, civil discourse, and civic participation across the SUNY system through an update to the General Education Framework. The additional core competency in civil discourse would begin with students entering campuses in fall 2025.

Landscape:

As Chancellor King explained in the 2024 State of the University address: “The mission of public higher education has always been and must always be the preparation of citizens and securing the future health of our democracy.” College has the unique power to bring students together in service and learning, while celebrating and exploring their different experiences and backgrounds. SUNY recognizes that civil discourse is an essential skill for our students and that civic engagement is a vital outcome of higher education. SUNY’s robust Civics & Service Agenda includes:

- Encouraging nonpartisan voter engagement
- Launching the Empire State Service Corp
- Incorporating Civic Discourse in Fall Orientation Activities and the SUNY General Education Framework
- Naming the Inaugural Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows

The SUNY system is made up of 64 campuses. SUNY Morrisville is one of seven technology colleges. The campus is 30 miles southeast of Syracuse and 30 miles southwest of Utica, in the geographic center of New York.

SUNY Morrisville is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. The Morrisville campus stretches over 150 acres of land in Morrisville, NY. More than 48 buildings, athletics fields, service roads and parking facilities and more than 1,000 acres of farm and woodland create an original instructional environment.

The [Norwich campus](#) offers quality, personalized education and training to residents and employers of Chenango County and south central New York. The campus is located 30 miles south of Morrisville in downtown Norwich, NY, in the state-of-the-art Roger W. Follett Hall.

Our institution is designated as the following: Predominantly White Institution, Rural Serving Institution.

SUNY Morrisville has 2,080 students, a 12:1 student: faculty ratio, and a 99.8 job placement rate. Our student population represents 28 states and 7 countries. Nearly one third of SUNY Morrisville students identify as African American (24%), Hispanic/Latinx (8%), or Asian (1%). We have slightly more male students (51%) than female students (49%). The majority of SUNY Morrisville students attend full-time (87.1%). The majority (73%) of SUNY Morrisville students live on campus.

The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) has provided SUNY Morrisville with the following statistics.

In 2022, only 56.6 of our voting eligible students registered to vote as compared to 66.7% in 2020. Of the students who were registered to vote in 2022, only 23.1 voted as compared to 60% voter turnout in 2020. Out of all voting eligible students, which includes those not registered to vote, the voting turnout rate in 2022 was 13% as compared to 40% in 2020.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

13.0%

2022 Voting Rate

-4.4

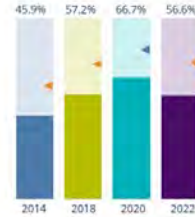
Change From 2018

ALL INSTITUTIONS

30.6%

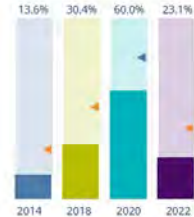
2022 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



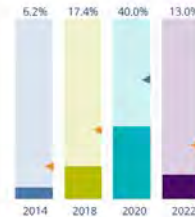
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



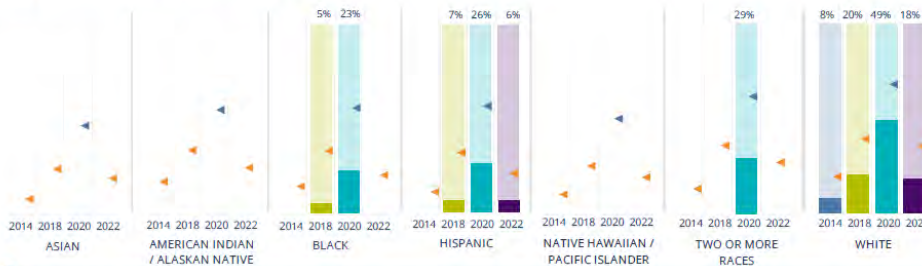
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE



The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

By Race / Ethnicity



These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail : <https://tufts.app.box.com/v/ldhe-nsleve-report-faq>

If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data or reports this data as unknown; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

*<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes>

As far as New York State voting legislation, there are a number of policies and laws that impact colleges and universities. In April 2022, Governor Hochul signed legislation that mandates polling places on or adjacent to campuses with 300 or more registered students. The legislation also prevents the division of college campuses into multiple voting districts. The legislation has been considered a key step in encouraging the 18-24 demographic to vote and gaining access to polling

locations. Prior to this year, the closet polling location was over a mile from campus. This year, it is literally just across the street (see map below, the star is the polling location). We plan to work with the Morrisville Auxiliary Corporation (MAC) to have buses running in order to allow students to get there and back between class, work, and other commitments.



To qualify for voter registration in New York State, you must:

- be a United States Citizen;
- be 18 years old (you may pre-register at 16 or 17 but cannot vote until you are 18);
- be a resident of this state and the county, city or village for at least 30 days before the election;
- not be in prison for a felony conviction;
 - [learn more about felon registration rights](#)
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere

If a student is unsure if they are already registered to vote, they can [check registration status here](#).

The dates/deadlines for the 2024 General Election in New York State are:

Voter Registration Deadline	Must be received by your County Board of Elections no later than 10/26/2024
Early Mail and Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	*Mailed and online portal requests must be received no later than October 26, 2024 *In person requests must be received no later than November 4, 2024.
Early Mail and Absentee Ballot Return Deadline	*Must be postmarked or returned in person by November 5, 2024 *Postmarked ballots must arrive at your County Board of Elections by November 12, 2024.

Early Voting is October 26, 2024 – November 3, 2024.

On August 6, 2024, Governor Hochul signed legislation that strengthened voter protections and accessibility; one highlight that directly impacts students is that students who are under 18 but who will be 18 by Election Day are now eligible to apply for early mail/absentee ballot.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voter turnout rate.
 - Increase Student of Color rates
- Increase student voter registration rate.
- Add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation.
- See growth on the SUNY Student Opinion Survey questions related to civic and civil engagement: Section IV College Outcomes, College Contribution to Growth and Learning:
 - Acquiring Information, ideas and concepts
 - Understanding and appreciating political and social (and historical issues
 - Acquiring knowledge and skills for intellectual growth throughout your life
 - Acquiring knowledge and skills for personal growth throughout your life
 - Understanding environment and sustainability issues
 - Developing an openness to the opinions of others
 - Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a citizen
 - Understanding your personal ethics and values
 - Expanding your global awareness
- Increase our number of community partnerships for meaningful opportunities in service learning and volunteerism. Bring local issues to light so that the campus and surrounding community of Morrisville are connected and able to work together toward common goals.
- Create a campus network of students, faculty, staff, and community partners that can share resources and collaborate on civic engagement opportunities

Strategy:

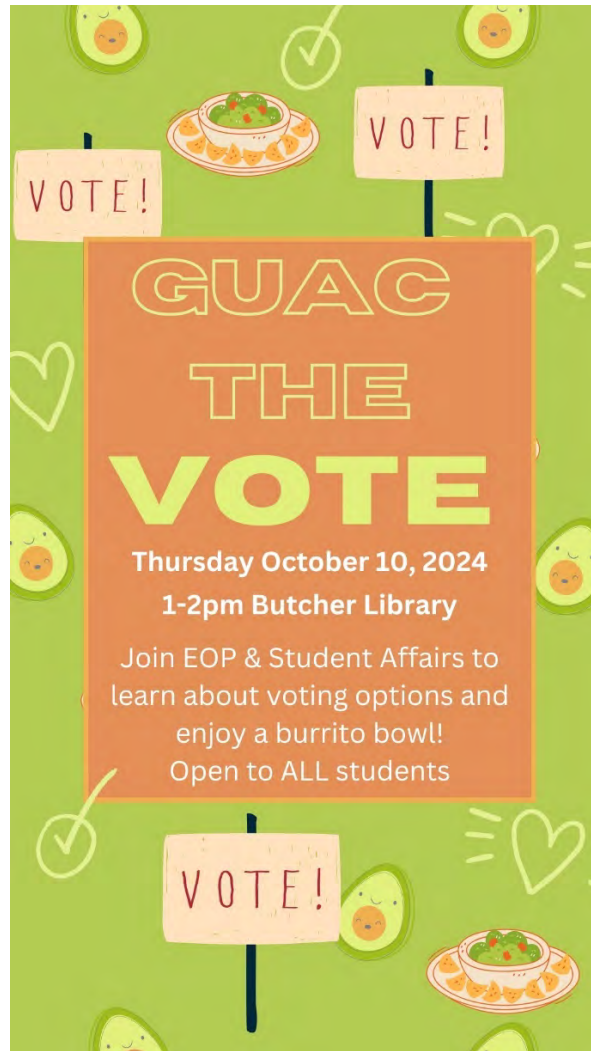
SUNY Morrisville will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation. Our vision is to kick off a year-long focus on civic engagement that begins during Welcome Weekend and ends with student recognition at the end of year Leadership Awards Reception. The funds would be used to sponsor a number of activities in collaboration with campus partners. The funds would also be utilized during our Constitution Day week-long celebration and around Election Day 2024.

A Voter Registration table will be available during Welcome Week/Weekend events and activities. We know that some of our newly turned 18-year-olds may not have registered yet or may not understand the voting process. We want to be sure that any registered voters have the ability to either mail in their absentee ballot or understand where the polling place adjacent to campus is located. We will also be recruiting students to serve as leaders in this space, who can talk about civic engagement and community mindedness with their peers.

For Constitution Day/Week, we are planning to focus on Free Speech and Communication across Differing Opinions. Given the issues of the day, we believe that this topic will assist us in setting the tone for the remainder of the academic year. We are reaching out to faculty at local institutions who have an interest or specialization in this area to assist us with their session. On the actual day of Constitution Day, we plan to have a “Cash Cab” style initiative, quizzing students on the Constitution and handing out campus store and local store gift cards. We will also have a “Stand with the Banned” read in on the Quad featuring readings from Banned Books. We will ask faculty, staff, and students to step-up to the microphone to read passages.

Prior to the deadline for mailing in Absentee Ballots, we plan to have posters in the residence hall and in academic buildings reminding students of their ability to vote at home and offer stamps to those who need one to return the ballot.

For our “rock the vote” initiative, we plan to connect with student groups and organizations in order to encourage students to vote and engage their civic responsibility muscles. We will use tabling, social media, and the old-fashioned chalk the walkways to get the message across. We have one event planned with our Education Opportunity Program called “Guac the Vote” where we will serve chips and guacamole along with voter registration forms, the websites, and buttons/stickers. See our flyer below.



Collaborate with MO'VE (Morrisville Outreach and Volunteer Efforts) and the SUNY Empire Corp Member who has been assigned to create community outreach and engagement opportunities around civic engagement. This SUNY Empire Corp participant will work 300 hours over the course of the year focused on a outreach around civil engagement and civic responsibility, particularly as we connect within our local community in addition to non-partisan outreach around voting rights.

As we move into spring, we will be working with our volunteerism organization to organize a community service day again using our student leaders to advertise and engage their peers. We aim to bring a local speaker to campus to speak to the topic of Leadership through Community Engagement. We are looking at people who serve on the local Chambers, Boards of Directors at local museums, Board of Elections, and School Boards who might be able to assist us with this topic.

Evaluation:

SUNY Morrisville 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. We have reauthorized our participation with the National Student of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

We would not only look at the number of students registered to vote but also the number of students who vote, whether at the campus polling space or via an absentee ballot in their home district. We will also look at the demographics as provided by NSLVE regarding the different populations of voters.

In addition, we will use data from Anthology/Engage, our student involvement platform, to gather attendance numbers at related campus events as well as information from any 'pulse' evaluations sent out after any events/speakers/etc.

We will also utilize the SUNY Student Opinion Survey, which is administered every three years to provide us with information on trends on the statements in Section IV College Outcomes, College Contribution to Growth and Learning:

- Acquiring Information, ideas and concepts
- Understanding and appreciating political and social (and historical issues
- Acquiring knowledge and skills for intellectual growth throughout your life
- Acquiring knowledge and skills for personal growth throughout your life
- Understanding environment and sustainability issues
- Developing an openness to the opinions of others
- Understanding your rights and responsibilities as a citizen
- Understanding your personal ethics and values
- Expanding your global awareness

Reporting:

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