



# SACRAMENTO STATE

All-In Democracy Challenge  
Action Plan: 2023-2024

## I. Executive Summary

Recognizing the need for continual campus oversight and coordination of civic engagement activities, Student Organizations & Leadership convened a University Voter Engagement Working Group in 2022. Given the numerous campus staffing vacancies in SO&L, the Community Engagement Center took on the responsibility of convener in 2023. The All In 2023-2024 Action Plan has been compiled by members of the University Voter Engagement Working Group, which includes students, faculty, staff, and community partners. The group continues the work that began during the 2019/2020 academic year to incorporate more student voices and broaden the scope of the mission to larger civic engagement collaborations.

This academic year (2023-2024), the plan focuses primarily on short-term goals centered around the 2024 Election. Long-term goals center around our campus Anchor Institution commitment and an establishing a home for more robust civic engagement efforts. Sacramento State continues to have a vested interest in the well-being of the Sacramento Region and strives to support and improve the quality of life in the community in which we serve.

This action plan was developed by individuals in our Voter Engagement Working Group to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at California State University, Sacramento. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2023-2024, on and around our campus in Sacramento, California.

## II. Leadership

Working with Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Division, the University Voter Engagement Working Group meets monthly to discuss voter outreach events on campus and in the local community. Partnerships across the institution include representatives from Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Public Affairs and Advocacy. We will continue to review our participant list to ensure the broadest possible representation across campus. In addition, we will also consult with Public Affairs and Advocacy to obtain their recommendations for additional external partners who should be involved. For 2024, Noel Mora, Community Partnership Coordinator in the Community Engagement Center, will be the point of contact and convener for this workgroup that includes a wide range of campus partners who support civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Campus representatives
  - Rita Gallardo Good and Elisa Trimboli -- Public Affairs and Advocacy\*
  - Harbir Atwal -- Associated Students Inc\*
  - Juana Zaragoza -- Serna Center
  - Angelito Zamora -- Pride Center
  - Sam Church and Jessica Vernone -- University Communications
  - Noel Mora -- Community Engagement Center\*
  - Danielle Martin -- Dept. of Political Science
  - Zenia LaPorte -- UNIQUE (student union programming)
  - Adam Dowrie -- University Housing Services

- Kimberly Nalder -- Project for an Informed Electorate (PIE)/ Dept. of Political Science\*
- Community representatives
  - Sue McGinty -- CA Youth Voter Engagement
  - Sacramento County Registrar of Voters
  - The California Secretary of State's office

All of those named above are involved because they fundamentally believe in our efforts. The folks with \* have an explicit role in this work via their primary job duties. Dreaming big, our goal is to establish a designated office to lead these efforts.

Our group meets monthly and via Zoom to increase access.

### **III. Commitment**

Our institution and our campus leadership have demonstrated a commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. As stated in our mission statement, “As California’s capital university, we transform lives by preparing students for leadership, service, and success.” We also see this commitment reflected in our institution's stated values which include “Student Success; Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity; Diversity and Inclusion; Community Engagement; Innovation; Integrity; and Accountability.”

Civic engagement is enthusiastically supported at the highest level of administration at Sacramento State. The University works to increase voter registration and voter turnout among its students and in the broader community. We expect that President Luke Wood will continue the tradition of sending emails to all members of the campus community a few weeks prior to the registration deadline and fall election reaffirming Sacramento State’s deep commitment to the civic engagement of our students and attesting to the fact that the simple act of voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. As has been the case in the past, his message will provide students with instructions on how to register to vote and where they could vote on-campus. This messaging is reiterated by emails sent to students by the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI), and to faculty, staff, and students by the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carlos Nevarez.

Educating for civic learning and democratic engagement is reflected in the campus Mission, Vision and Values statements:

- Mission: As California’s capital university, we transform lives by preparing students for leadership, service, and success.
- Vision: Sacramento State will be a recognized leader in education, innovation, and engagement.
- Values: Student Success; Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity; Diversity and Inclusion; Community Engagement; Innovation; Integrity; and Accountability.
- The University’s overall civic, democratic, and political learning outcomes are reflected in the Baccalaureate Learning Goals:
  - Personal and Social Responsibility, including civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action,

foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

**The University's General Education Learning Outcomes reflect educating for civic learning and democratic engagement through several GE Areas. Examples:**

**American Institutions-1: US History.** Students will be able to:

- Explain and analyze the causes and consequences of significant events in the US historical context relating to political, economic, geographic, and social change.
- Explain and evaluate the historical development of US institutions and ideals in relation to the Constitution and American democracy.
- Analyze and evaluate the United States in its global context, with particular attention to its historical derivation from other cultures and its incorporation of immigrants into American society.

**Area US-2: US Constitution.** Students will be able to:

- Explain the characteristics, operation, and interaction of institutions in the US Constitution. A. Congress: Legislative process, operation and structure, and elections. B. Executive: Electoral College, unitary executive, exercise of executive power, and the functioning of the bureaucracy. C. Judicial: Judicial review, decision making, and selection.
- Explain the rights and obligations of citizens under the US Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, and the incorporation of rights via the 14th Amendment.
- Explain and analyze the history and legacy of civil rights and civil rights movements in relation to the US Constitution and legislation.
- Explain and evaluate the function, role, and impact of campaigns and elections, interest groups, political parties, mass media, social movements, and public opinion on democracy in the United States.
- Explain the relationship between state, local, and federal government, including enumerated, reserved, and concurrent powers under the US Constitution over time.

**Area US-3: California State and Local Government.** Students will be able to:

- Explain the structure and functions of California's constitution, including plural executive, legislative and judicial branches, local governments, and the function and history of direct democracy in California politics and government.
- Describe the historical development of California's political institutions, including California's finance and budgetary processes, as well as its electoral system.
- Explain the contributions of diverse groups to California's political evolution.

**GE AREA B5: Further Studies.** Students will be able to:

- Recognize evidence-based conclusions and form reasoned opinions about science-related matters of personal, public and ethical concern.

**The campus commitment to community engagement is reflected through the Tenure and Promotion Process.** All tenure-track faculty are required, as a part of tenure and promotion, to engage in, document, and assess their participation in “community service.”

We continue to host a Vote Center on campus, to staff the site, and to advertise its existence and purpose. The Center is open for four days during the June and November Elections, allowing voters to drop off ballots or vote in person. The Vote Center will be at Modoc Hall, although the goal will be to move it to the Welcome Center which increases accessibility and visibility to both campus and community members.

We also worked with Information Resources & Technology (IRT) to have our Voter Engagement website be visible year-round, not just during traditional voting periods. This website ([csus.edu/vote](https://csus.edu/vote)) is comprehensive of our efforts and features information about registration, voting, events, and resources.

#### IV. Landscape

Sacramento State’s Baccalaureate Learning Goals include an explicit reference to Civic Engagement:

Personal and Social Responsibility, including: civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges. In their annual assessments, departments are invited to include their inclusion and assessments of this Learning Goal.

The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. This information is based on data collected from 2021 when our total student enrollment was 31,573.

**Enrollment Data:**

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
28,904.00%	2,669.00%	20.00%	80.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
97.00%	1.00%	2.00%	10.00%	90.00%

**Gender Demographics:**

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender
58.00%	42.00%	0.08%	

**Age:**

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+
48.00%	26.00%	15.00%	7.00%	2.00%	1.00%

**Racial Demographics:**

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
6.00%	1.00%	6.00%	36.00%	1.00%	25.00%	6.00%

**V. Challenges, Strengths, and Goals**

Before setting our civic learning and democratic engagement goals on campus, we took the following information into consideration.

**Challenges:** We know that our campus faces the following challenges internally when it comes to get-out-the-vote efforts and registering voters:

- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
- We have trouble engaging student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
- We don't have someone whose sole job responsibility is to lead the civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

**Strengths:** We know that our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter-engagement work:

- We have processes in place for registering a large percentage of our students.
- We have established methods ways by which we communicate voting information to our students.
- We utilize the resources readily available to develop and implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

- The voter engagement work on our campus is distributed throughout many offices and areas of expertise.
- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
- We have a well-established and collaborative working relationship with our local elections office.
- We have strong working relationships with diverse community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.

**Goals for the Next Academic Year:** Considering both challenges and strengths, we have set the three goals that we will strive to achieve over the next academic year:

1. Ensure the Voter Engagement Working Group meets once a month in 2024 to ensure the University is well prepared for the March 2024 Primary and November 2024 General Election.
2. Use NSLV data to develop data-driven activities for 2024, placing particular attention on the involvement of marginalized groups.
3. Develop a process of identifying a staff member to organize civic engagement efforts on campus.

**Five-year Goals:** We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

1. Have 1,000 students register to vote online and win the CSU portion of the California Secretary of State Ballot Bowl.
2. Have the on-campus Vote Center be one of the top 25% most used Vote Centers in Sacramento County.
3. Have more than 50% of faculty post register-to-vote and voting reminders in their Canvas course calendar.

## VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined a strategy describing how we will bring this vision to life in the coming months and years.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** in the **short term** (within the next year):

- Providing Voter Registration cards in various locations on campus including: ASI Government office, Residence Halls, the Library, the Serna Center, the Community Engagement Center
- Sending out campus-wide email from the ASI Student Government President and the University President regarding registration and voting dates.
- Holding a Civic Engagement Resource Fair during Constitution Week
- Hosting a Vote Center and ballot drop-box
- Hosting with ASI voter registration tables across campus and conducting an active campaign on social media through the 2024 election cycle, as well as participating in the “Ballot Bowl” voter registration contest, in which campuses compete to register students to vote.

The University hosted or promoted various events in Fall 2023 as follows:

September 26, 2023

**Green & Gold Speaker Series- Las Cafeteras.** The Division of Inclusive Excellence and the Latine Community at Sacramento State hosted “Beats of Belonging: Latine Revolution & Restoration featuring Las Cafeteras.” The event explored belonging at a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) with an interactive workshop that engaged attendees in conversations about race, politics, and privilege.

October 9, 2023

**Engage & Empower Series (Part I) - Presented by Serna Center & Young Invincibles.** The series promoted a greater understanding of the different elements of civic engagement, and encouraged students to be good citizens and leaders. Through interactive sessions led by experts, students explored topics ranging from how they can become civically engaged, how local government and political participation impacts their day-to-day lives, and how their passions can be turned into civic action.

October 10, 2023

**Community Engagement Center's Civic Engagement Resource Fair.** Community change makers were present to discuss important topics of policy change, equity and equality, and to provide valuable resources on opportunities for student involvement in civic affairs.

October 24, 2023

**Community Engagement Center's Student Voter Registration Outreach with League of Women's Voters - Sacramento.** The staff and student fellow at Community Engagement Center organized a tabling opportunity in the Library Quad to register students to vote.

November 8, 2023

**Project for an Informed Electorate: Californian's Divergent Views on Diversity and Race: Public K-12 and Higher Education.** Provided pertinent information about marginalized populations accessing higher education and participating in societal actions.

November 13, 2023

**Engage & Empower Series (Part II) - Presented by Serna Center & Young Invincibles.** The series promoted a greater understanding of the different elements of civic engagement and encouraged students to be good citizens and leaders. Through interactive sessions led by experts, students explored topics ranging from how they can become civically engaged, how local government and political participation impacts their day-to-day lives, and how their passions can be turned into civic action.

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **short term**:

- Consider if there are higher profile places than Modoc Hall on campus that would be better suited for a Vote Center and Ballot Drop Box. [SEE PAGE 5]
- Increase use of additional social media platforms to reach students (Tik Tok, Instagram, etc.).



- Update Sacramento State’s formal Civic and Voter Empowerment Plan for the Secretary of State’s office.

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **long term**:

- Ensure the Voting Engagement Working Group meets during non-election years to keep momentum and energy around civic engagement.

These are tactics that we **are already doing** for the **long term** (beyond the next year):

- Providing Voter Registration cards in various locations on campus including: ASI Government office, Residence Halls, the Library, the Serna Center, the Community Engagement Center. [See Page 7]
- Send out campus-wide email from the ASI Student Government President and the University President regarding registration and voting dates.
- Civic Engagement Resource Fair during Constitution Week.
- Host a Vote Center and ballot drop-box making voting easy for students, the campus, and community

These are tactics that we **want to do** in the **long term**:

- Raise awareness of issues on the ballot by having at least five events on-campus related to the election each election year.
- Dedicate a staff member to organizing voting efforts on campus, potentially the future Government Relations Associate in Public Affairs and Advocacy or staff in the Community Engagement Center.

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **long term**:

- Host events with well-known musical acts, celebrities, or elected officials that would help raise voting awareness.
- Making voting and supporting democracy one of the Anchor University priority issue areas.
- Raise awareness of issues on the ballot by hosting one event each week in the two months leading up to Election Day.
- Incorporate more faculty in encouraging students to register to vote and to remind students to vote.

## VII. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

Our campus has access to our National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data for 2020. In 2020 our registration rate was 85.7. In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate increased.

In 2020, our voting rate was 71 and our voting rate among registered students was 82.8. During this year, our voting rate was higher than the national average.

In our NSLVE report, we had disaggregated racial data for the following groups and, in ALL groups, we had an increase in voter turnout compared to four years ago:

- Asian
- American Indian / Alaska Native
- Black
- Hispanic
- Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- White
- 2 or More Races

## **VIII. Reporting & Evaluation**

We plan to share this Action Plan internally, emailing it to members of our campus coalition and campus administration, including the President.

We will share this Action Plan externally on the [csus.edu/vote](https://csus.edu/vote) website.

We will collect feedback on this plan by regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect.

We will evaluate our success by reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year.