



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**

Saint Joseph's College 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan Developed by: Matt Goodwin

Executive Summary:

We have a comprehensive working group, (Campus Engagement Group) composed of faculty, staff, and student representatives, that has been promoting civic engagement, awareness, and involvement since the spring semester. Our campus website, <https://www.sjcme.edu/vote/> was created by this working group, as well as a student at Saint Joseph's College working for the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) in a partnership with Maine Campus Compact. We have hosted roundtable discussions with the State of Maine Secretary, Matt Dunlap, on National Census Day, and participated in Maine voter registration webinars and campus voting drives.

Involvement in our plan involves voter registration, awareness of political issues, student-specific issues (student loans, minimum wage, healthcare) as well as debate watch parties, voter registration drives, campus flyers, Election Day transportation from our campus ministry office, and involvement from our Political Science Club and Student Government Association.

Our campus is most definitely ALL IN!

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Matt Goodwin, Ph.D., Associate Vice President & Dean of Students
Shannon Connelly, senior student, CEEP Coordinator
Kimberly Post, Director of Civic Engagement & Sustainability Programs
Emily Leshner, Ph.D., Professor, Chair of the Sciences Department
Matt Gawel, Director of Student Engagement & Residential Living
Christine LeMoult, MSW, Associate Director of Student Engagement & Residential Living
Kathryn Cody, Director of Campus Ministry
Harrison DeCotis, Resident Minister
**Mary Chapman, Standish Town Clerk, (off-campus partner)
**Meg McCormick, CEEP Program Coordinator, (off-campus partner) for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Commitment:

Our campus has signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email, By posting on institutional social media channels, <https://www.sjcme.edu/vote/>

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

We have hovered around 60% voter participation for the 2016 and 2018 elections. Approximately 1000 on-campus students, and 1700 students enrolled in online programs.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Our goal is 100% voter participation from faculty, staff, and students.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

In-person voter registration drives, In-person voter education events (e.g. film screenings, debates, lecture series, etc.), Classroom voter registration presentations (in-person or virtual), Virtual voter registration drives (e.g. Couch Party text banking events), Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.), Pledge to Vote drive

Civic engagement, events (movies, lectures, debates - both mock and debate-watch), webinars, canvassing in the residence halls, voter registration drives, absentee ballot initiatives, National Census Day Events. (other specific information included in the information above)

NSLVE:

Saint Joseph's College has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Surveys, focus-group recap post-election, committee debrief, etc. Evaluation will be a component of the Campus Engagement Group, in partnership with CEEP.

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our plan will be posted on <https://www.sjcme.edu/vote/>

Our campus NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.