



# Saint Paul College Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2023 Academic Year

*This plan was created using the Votes & Ballots Action Planning Form. We highly recommend editing and expanding upon this draft before submitting for review.*

*Throughout this document, we mention the Strengthening American Democracy Guide as a resource for your review. We encourage you to turn to that resource for guidance and support as you complete your action plan!*

## I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by Austin Calhoun, Vice President for Advancement and Communications to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Saint Paul College. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023 Academic Year, on and around our campus in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The following groups will be leading this work at Saint Paul College in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Student Affairs Staff

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the Strengthening American Democracy Guide and review the Guiding Questions to ensure your Executive Summary includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## II. Leadership

Austin Calhoun will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Craig Morris, Senior Human Resource Director, Becky Kaarbo, Director of Student Life and Diversity, Executive Cabinet Leadership, Student Council

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Representation from different perspectives and areas of expertise, Trusted leaders and organizations who support communities that are historically underrepresented in democracy, Leaders who can help with outreach and power building by bringing more people across campus in to our work

Our group plans to meet Monthly/As needed at Online

We are also partnering with the following organizations from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition to support our efforts on campus:

- LeadMN

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Leadership Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

### III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, "We strive to bring value to our community. We value collaborating and establishing partnerships that foster and enhance community connections. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the changing labor market, supporting economic vitality and preparing students to contribute to a more socially just world."

In addition, our campus has mentioned civic learning and democratic engagement in their strategic plan, stating Strategic Direction Four: Build, enhance, and sustain relationships with community partners that respond to the changing economic and workforce needs of our community and contribute to a more socially just world. We also have had a senior leader commit to civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

On campus, we've seen:

- Voter education resources
- Political clubs or student organizations
- Campus leaders promoting voting
- On campus polling place
- Voter registration tables
- 
- Signage promoting Election Day
- 

On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- 
- 
- Registering to vote
- Civic Holiday events (such as National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day)
- 

The emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement could be increased.

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Commitment Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## IV. Landscape

The following tables provide a brief overview of the landscape of our campus. This information is based on data collected from Fall 2021 when our total student enrollment was 5,083.

**Enrollment Data:**

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
		65.00%	35.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter

**Gender Demographics:**

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender
43.00%	57.00%		

**Age:**

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+

**Racial Demographics:**

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
18.00%	0.00%	33.00%	9.00%	0.00%	33.00%	4.00%

Our institution has also utilized the following data gathering tools:

- 
- 
- 
- National Survey of Student Engagement
- Community College Survey of Student Engagement
- 

They help to inform our institution's civic learning and democratic engagement efforts by

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Landscape Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## V. Goals

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

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

- Our institution's mission statement, values, and strategic plan do not mention civic learning and democratic engagement.
- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We don't have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We don't have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- 
- 
- 
- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
- 
- 
- 

We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- We have ways in which we communicate voting information to our students.
- 
- 
- We have sustainable or consistent funding.
- 
- We are able to engage student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.

- We have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
- 

With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Goals Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## 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):

- We are anchoring our tactics around civic holidays, including
  - • National Voter Registration Day
  - • National Voter Education Week
  - • Vote Early Day - Last Friday in October
  - • Election Hero Day - Monday before Election Day
  -
- We support students' participation in the democratic process by integrating voter registration into processes like orientation and other events.

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

- 

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

- We hope to have a Civic Engagement Week October 31-November 3 where we invite partner organizations to table on campus

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

- 

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

- 

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

- 

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Strategy Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.



## 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 73.3. In comparison to the data from four years prior in our NSLVE report, this rate increased.

In 2020, our voting rate was 82.4 and our voting rate among registered students was 60.4. During this year, our voting rate was higher than the national average.

In our NSLVE report, we had racial data for the following groups:

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

For the racial groups that have recent voter turnout data, we saw the following groups increase in voter turnout compared to four years ago.

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

Sharp increases from 2014 to 2020 across all groups. Large shift in early voting (nearly 51% of voters voted early).

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your NSLVE section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

## VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- 
- Email to campus administration
- Email to the President
- 

We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- 
- 
- Post on intranet site

We will collect feedback on this plan by:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- Not determined

We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year
- 
- 
- 

***How can you improve this section?*** Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Reporting & Evaluation Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.