

## Scottsdale Community College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

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### Executive Summary:

This is a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan created by Scottsdale Community College in Arizona for the 2024 election. Scottsdale Community College (SCC) is one of the ten colleges under the Maricopa County Community College District situated in Arizona. The college is located on the tribal land of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), which is a federally recognized tribe amongst 22 Arizona Indigenous tribes and 574 across the United States. SCC is committed to being recognized as a Native American-serving, Nontribal Institution. Recently, in 2023, SCC was designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

The commitment of Scottsdale Community College (SCC) to fostering civic responsibility, sustainability, and global engagement is reflected in its comprehensive civic engagement action plan. With a focus on community partnerships, faculty collaboration, and student affairs support, SCC aims to prioritize the needs of its diverse communities while providing innovative opportunities for learning and growth. Through forging partnerships with governmental agencies and nonpartisan nonprofit organizations, SCC aims to support student voter registration and engagement initiatives, ensuring access to resources and information crucial for active participation in the democratic process. Collaborating with faculty, SCC plans to develop co-curricular activities that promote civic education and involvement, cultivating essential skills for effective engagement. Additionally, through collaboration with various student affairs departments, SCC intends to facilitate events encouraging student participation in democratic processes, fostering a culture of active citizenship. President Dr. Eric Leshinskie's intention to sign the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment further underscores SCC's dedication to promoting full student voter participation, building upon previous action plans submitted to ALL IN.

The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration in the 2024 election.

The goals for Scottsdale Community College for the 2024 election are:

- 1) Increase the voting rates of registered students for the 2024 election year.
- 2) Increase the registration rate of voting-eligible students for the 2024 election year.

- 3) Establish four non-partisan community organization partnerships to engage with our students and community members.

## Leadership:

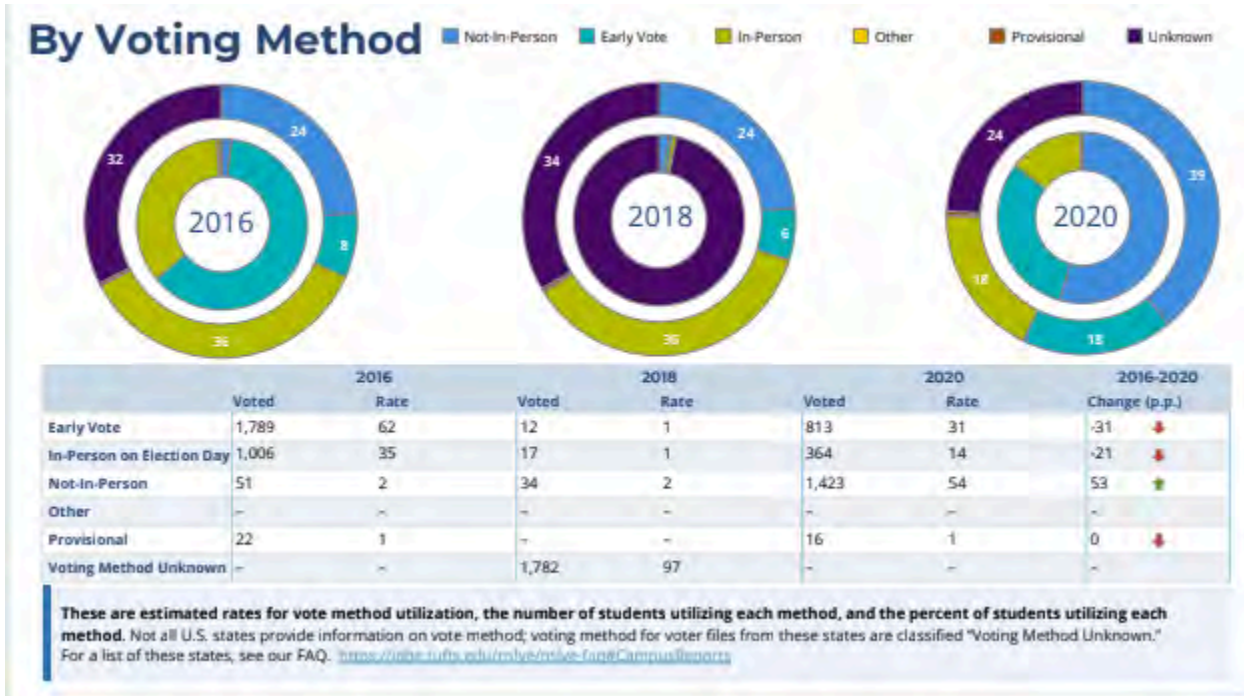
Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

- Kristine Alcon- Manager, Office of Student Experience and Leadership
- Desiree Farnal- Student Services Analyst, Office of Student Experience and Leadership
- Diedre' Goodluck- Student Services Specialist, American Indian Program
- Belinda Gutierrez- Interim Manager, American Indian Program
- Cassie Santoro- Social Media Manager, Civic Engagement- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Dr. Kanisha Saunders- Student Services Analyst, Office of Student Experience and Leadership

## Commitment:

Scottsdale Community College is dedicated to fostering civic responsibility, sustainability, and global engagement. SCC prioritizes the needs of its diverse communities by providing innovative and creative opportunities to learn, grow, and excel. These three core objectives each have three implementation strategies, and these strategies become the focal point for the college's civic engagement committee work.

Figure 2: Overall Voting Method



The Civic Engagement Committee has three core objectives: learning, growing, and excelling in the action plan. The action plan is designed as a three-pillar approach that focuses on growing community partnerships, fostering faculty collaboration for learning inside and outside of the classroom, and providing student affairs support to help students engage and excel. This effort is guided by the executive leadership at Scottsdale Community College.

#### Pilar 1 - Community Partnerships:

Scottsdale Community College is committed to promoting civic engagement among students, and as part of this mission, it plans to forge partnerships with both governmental agencies as well as nonpartisan nonprofit organizations. These partnerships will be instrumental in supporting and facilitating student voter registration and engagement initiatives. SCC recognizes the importance of this cause and is committed to working closely with these organizations to ensure that students have access to the resources, information, and support they need to participate actively in the democratic process.

#### Pilar 2 - Faculty Collaboration:

The Civic Engagement Committee is committed to promoting civic education and involvement among students. To achieve this goal, we will collaborate with faculty members and develop co-curricular activities that provide students with opportunities to learn about civic engagement and practice it in real-life scenarios. Our activities will focus on developing skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and leadership, which are essential for effective civic engagement. By participating in these activities, students will not only enhance their academic experience but also contribute to their communities and become active and responsible citizens.

#### Pilar 3 - Student Affairs and Student Organizations:

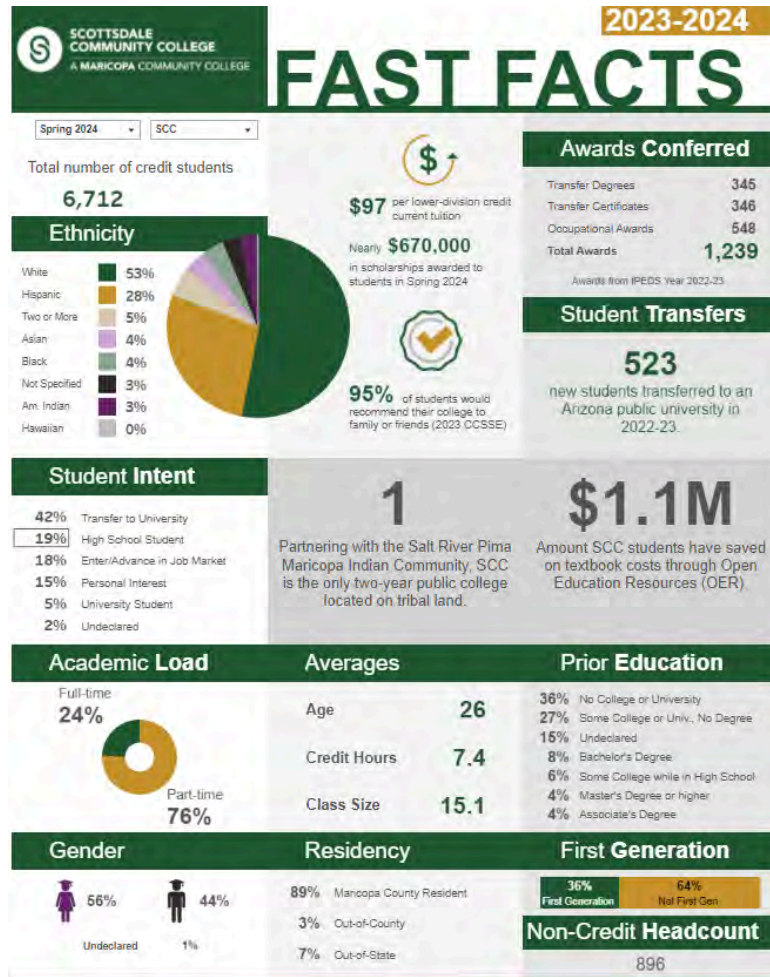
The Civic Engagement Committee, being fully aware of the importance of student participation in the democratic process, has designed a comprehensive plan to promote voter registration and engagement among students. To carry out this plan, the committee intends to collaborate with various departments such as Veterans Services, Financial Aid, American Indian Program, Advising, Disability Resources, Student Experience and Leadership Office, Student Retention and Success Office, and Student Clubs. These departments will work together to facilitate on-campus and virtual events that encourage student participation in the democratic process. The committee believes that such initiatives will help students become active and responsible citizens who can make informed choices in the future.

Scottsdale Community College does not yet have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. However, Scottsdale Community College President, Dr. Eric Leshinskie, intends to sign the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment by the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Previously, our institution has developed and submitted an action plan to ALL IN for 2016, 2018, and 2020, which can be found on our ALL IN campus page:  
<https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/scottsdale-community-college/>

## Landscape:

Figure 1: SCC Facts



Scottsdale Community College (SCC) is one of ten colleges within the Maricopa Community College District in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area. SCC currently enrolls approximately 7,100 students with 78% attending part time. We have an average age of 26, and demographics of 52.5% White, 27.5% Hispanic, 3.6% American Indian, 4% Asian, 4% African American, 5.4% Two or more races, 2.9% Unspecified and <1% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. The college is situated on Native American land owned by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and hosts over 500 Native American students from multiple Arizona tribes.

The campus borders the vibrant suburb of Scottsdale, Arizona, and offers signature associates degree programs in SCC's School of Film + Theatre, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Nursing, Culinary Arts, and over 25 other technical and university transfer programs. Given these

demographics and physical location, a facet of the plan is to make special efforts to reach out to underrepresented students, especially the Native American and Hispanic groups.

As indicated earlier, SCC is uniquely situated on Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community land and aims to serve the Native student population. The American Indian Student Survey was conducted in 2019 to better understand the needs of Native students. The study found that many American Indian students (AIS) felt that the college's location on Native land was a source of pride and led to a sense of connection to the college and to their community, however, many also felt that there was very little visual representation of the Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community on the campus. When asked what the American Indian Program, Indigenous Cultural Center and SCC could do better to help students with basic needs such as, food, housing, and transportation, data revealed that 41% of students work full-time; 20% work part-time, 30% have access to nutritional food only half the time or less, 28% have adequate and affordable housing only half the time or less, and 4% are homeless; 7% said they preferred not to answer. With these results, SCC has committed to addressing their needs and

institutionalizing the necessary changes to enhance their experiences and promote their success.

In 2023, SCC was granted the prestigious designation of being a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). With this recent designation, SCC created an HSI Taskforce to further learn how to be an Hispanic Serving Institution not just in name, but in practice. The work of the Taskforce focuses on learning, discovery, and self-reflection to fully embrace belonging and serving within all our student populations, with a special emphasis on our Hispanic students.

As an institution, we acknowledge our gaps and use this as an opportunity to learn to better foster an inclusive and diverse environment that supports and engages Native and Hispanic students in the democratic election process. We believe that empowering students to participate in the election process is essential to building a vibrant and thriving community. Therefore, we work tirelessly to provide the necessary resources and support to ensure that every student has access to the tools and information they need to make informed decisions and exercise their right to vote.

SCC successfully implemented an advising and academic structure which follows the Guided Pathways to Success model in order to give students solid access, advising and career skills within all of our programs. As such, SCC is committed to implementing much of our programming in conjunction with faculty in our nine Fields of Interest (FOIs). Hence, we will continue to reach out to faculty to present virtual co-curricular events and projects including, for example, creating open virtual discussions on Media Disinformation with our Journalism faculty and screening social activism documentaries with our Scottsdale School of Film + Theatre faculty throughout the school year.

Our campus voting data:

Scottsdale Community College has 7,634 students.

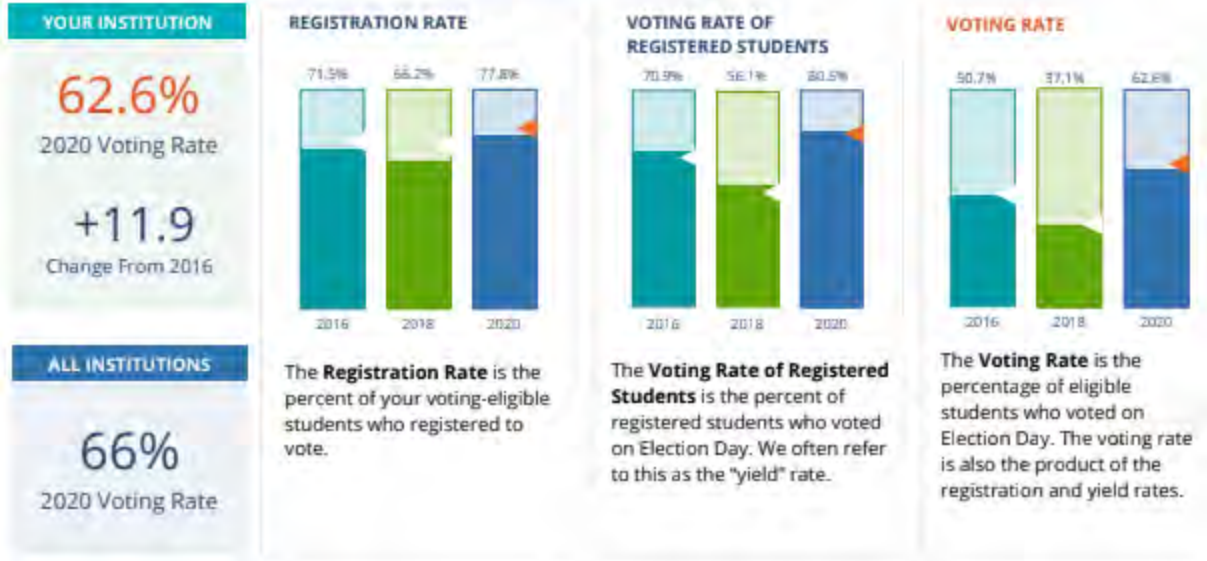
Scottsdale Community College has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and will receive campus voting data for the 2022 election. It was shared that they are still working on finalizing the 2022 NSLVE reports. SCC's NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 62.6%.

Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 77.8%.

Figure 2: Overall Student Voting and Registration Rate

# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates



Our 2018 campus voting rate was 37.1%.  
Our 2020 campus voting rate was 62.6%.

Figure 3: Overall Voting by Age Group

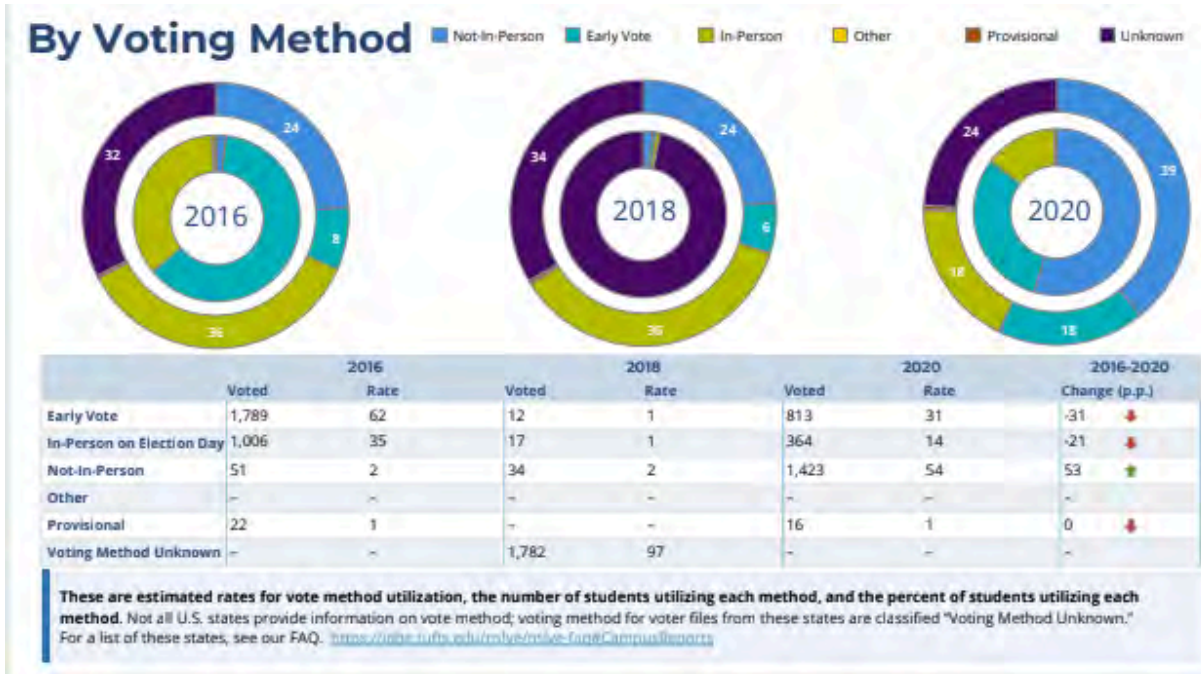
## Looking Closer

By Age Group

Here, we provide the numbers of students in each age category and the voting rates for each group. These are based on the student's age on the day of the election, as calculated by the National Student Clearinghouse using data from student enrollment records.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	2,669	1,258	47	2,261	769	34	1,904	1,304	68	↑ 21
22-24	986	442	45	878	265	30	774	427	55	↑ 10
25-29	806	391	49	742	262	35	652	340	52	↑ 4
30-39	621	332	53	531	196	37	498	272	55	↑ 1
40-49	269	178	66	252	120	48	207	135	65	↓ -1
50+	385	274	71	344	233	68	190	140	74	↑ 3

Figure 4: Overall Voting Method



Scottsdale Community College has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2016 Bronze, 2018 Silver, 2020 Silver.

Scottsdale Community College participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: National Voter Registration Day (2021, 2023); National Voter Education Week (2022, 2023), and Constitution Day 2023.

### Goals:

Our institution’s nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

#### Democratic Engagement Goal #1: Voter Registration

Increase the voting registration rates at Scottsdale Community College from 77.8% in 2020 to 85% in 2024

#### Democratic Engagement Goal #2: Voting Rates

Increase the voting rates of registered students at Scottsdale Community College from 62.6% in 2020 to 70% in 2024

#### Democratic Engagement Goal #3: Community Partnerships

Establish four non-partisan community organization partnerships to engage with our students and community members.

**Strategy:**

Scottsdale Community College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

<b>Democratic Engagement Goal #1: Voter Registration</b> <i>Increase the voting registration at Scottsdale Community</i>			
Strategies	Event	SCC Lead Persons	Timeline and Status
Collaborate with the Financial Aid Office to hire positions through Federal Work Study (FWS) to support voter/political engagement efforts and financially support work study/financial aid eligible SCC students participating in community services including voter engagement activities.		Desiree Farnal	By Aug 1, 2024 In progress
Institutionalize voter registration by embedding voter <a href="#">registration information</a> on the Student Experience & Leadership website		Adrienne Curley	By Aug 1, 2024 In progress
Embedding voter <a href="#">registration information</a> into FYE Courses		Kanisha Saunders	By Sep 7, 2024 Not Started
Encourage participation in democratic/political engagement-related events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-National Voter Registration Day</li> <li>-Constitution Day</li> <li>-Voter Registration drive</li> <li>-Club Fair</li> <li>-CEID District Events</li> </ul>	Civic Engagement Committee	By Oct 7, 2024 In progress
Explore grant opportunities to offset costs on democratic engagement-related activities including voter registrations and promotions		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing



Partner and collaborate with the Marketing Department to encourage voter registration		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing
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<b>Democratic Engagement Goal #2: Voter Rates</b> <i>Increase the voting rates at Scottsdale Community</i>			
Strategies	Event	SCC Lead Persons	Timeline and Status
Encourage participation in democratic/political engagement-related events	-Voter Registration Day -Vote Early Day -Get Out the Vote Event -Club Fair -Artichoke Spirit Week -CEID District Events	Office of Student Experience and Leadership	Ongoing
Embed voter <a href="#">education resources</a> into First Year Experience (FYE) Courses		Kanisha Saunders Desiree Farnal	Sept 7, 2024 In progress
Explore grant opportunities to offset costs on democratic engagement related activities including voter registrations and promotions		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing
Partner and collaborate with the Marketing Department to encourage students to participate in voter engagement events by creating a social media campaign		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing
Create a polling place at our SCC college		Kristine Alcon	Mar 1, 2024
Create Canvas Democratic Engagement Common page for SCC		Kanisha Saunders Desiree Farnal	Jul 29, 2024 2024

<b>Democratic Engagement Goal #2: Voter Rates</b> <i>Increase the voting rates at Scottsdale Community</i>			
Create a voter engagement resource guide for students to utilize during the academic year.		Kanisha Saunders Desiree Farnal	Jul 29, 2024 2024

<b>Democratic Engagement Goal #3: Community Partnership</b> <i>Establish four non-partisan community organization partnerships to engage with our students and community members.</i>			
Strategies	Event	SCC Lead Persons	Timeline and Status
Invite community organizations to participate in democratic/political engagement related events on campus	-Voter Registration Day -Vote Early Day -Get Out the Vote Event -Club Fair -Artichoke Spirit Week -CEID District Events	Office of Student Experience and Leadership	Ongoing
Invite community organizations to join the Civic Engagement Committee		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing
Attend community partner events to collect resources and connection opportunities for our campus and students		Civic Engagement Committee	Ongoing
Attend City, County, and State governmental agencies events to collect resources and connection opportunities for our campus and students		Davie Sullivan	Ongoing

## Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Scottsdale Community College 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/scottsdale-community-college/>.

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

**Anticipated Challenges:** SCC is in many ways a typical community college with challenges for engaging busy, working, family-committed commuter students in campus projects. Challenges include communication of events, reaching underrepresented students, and addressing apathy of demographics of the student population. This is exacerbated this year with the majority of courses being conducted online and few students physically being on campus. For that reason, the Civic Engagement Committee will work hard to engage students in and out of the classroom, work with clubs, and faculty will be contacted to collaborate with the Student Experience and Leadership Office on presentations, offering Extra Credit, and creating curricula modules relevant to the 2024 Elections. Civic Engagement Committee members will implement a multi-disciplinary approach to create on-campus-wide, virtual, hybrid workshops and events.

**Measuring Success:** SCC will compare the NSLVE 2020 General Election and 2022 Midterm Election and other voter registration data to the 2024 turnout. In addition, event attendance will be kept and, as appropriate, short evaluations will be disseminated to event audiences. Faculty feedback and student success data from those using the Elections in their curricula as evidenced by Student Learning Outcomes will also be gathered.