



Scripps College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Gretchen Maldonado

Executive Summary

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Scripps College in California for the 2022 midterm election. The purposes of the action plan are to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout. Our goals for the 2022 midterm election are to increase our overall registration rate, increase our midterm voting rate, employ a variety of methods to engage students, and disseminate voter education resources.

Leadership

Our leadership team includes:

Gretchen Maldonado - Interim Director, Laspa Center for Leadership
Stephanie Johnson - Administrative Assistant, Laspa Center for Leadership
Suzanne Keen - President
Sha Bradley - Vice President and Dean of Students
Kelly Hogencamp - Registrar
Jane Lovett - Student
Diana Reiss - Student
Lucy Dustman - Student
Catherine Protiva - Student

Our campus works with the following nonprofit partners: Civic Nation, Democracy Works, NAACP, League of Women Voters.

Commitment

Democratic engagement is central to life at Scripps College both culturally and academically. Our mission states that students will *“develop their intellects and talents through active participation in a community of scholars, so that as graduates they may contribute to society through public and private lives of leadership, service, integrity, and creativity.”* This illustrates our commitment as an institution to prepare our students for engaged lives after graduation. The Laspa Center for Leadership is only one of many campus centers actively preparing students to take on leadership positions.

At the heart of our academic curriculum is our Core program. Unique to Scripps, Core is a signature, three-semester, interdisciplinary program that every student participates in. The first semester of Core is unified by a single syllabus and set of readings, divided into discussion sections of about 18 students. In the first semester, students tackle issues central to democratic engagement, including political and cultural studies, as well as race and gender studies. We believe these interdisciplinary subjects to be the fundamental building blocks of a comprehensive education, this foundation is essential preparation for democratic engagement.

Within the Politics department, the major and minor programs include a broad range of subjects including United States politics, political theory, and political economy. One of the learning outcomes of the Politics program is for students to participate in civic engagement activities. Scripps does not only encourage a strong academic and theoretical foundation for Politics students, but our programs also encourage engaging with the community and applying what they are learning in the classroom.

Additionally, the College continuously develops opportunities for co-curricular engagement, including our Interdisciplinary Humanities Institute. This program features a community engagement arm for students to apply what they learn in the classroom to the community, thereby becoming more informed advocates and, ultimately, informed voters. For example, a recent event was titled “Armonia Cuscatleca- Musical and Creative Peacebuilding in Rural El Salvador.” This event, like others with the Humanities Institute, featured a guest lecturer to not only educate but also engage the community in discussion and activities. In this event mentioned, the Humanities Institute invited Pablo Mendez Granadino, founder and director of Armonía Cuscatleca to lead the session. This event educated our student body on global issues and culture, further engaging our community in the world around us.

The Laspa Center for Leadership at Scripps College has primary responsibility for programming around democratic engagement and does that through its Civic Engagement Initiative. The Civic Engagement Initiative is a nonpartisan program that educates our student body about voter rights and electoral processes, empowers students to be civically engaged, and equips students to become leaders in public policy. The action plan described here represents its current goals and strategies.

Landscape

Scripps College is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2022. We also participate in the Tufts University National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, “NSLVE”. Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 86.6%, and a 2020 voter registration rate of 92%. In 2018, our institution had a voter turnout rate of 65.8% and a voter registration rate of 91.8%. Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with a 2020 Platinum Seal.

Currently, we have 1,082 full-time undergraduate students and 20 post-baccalaureate students. In that student body, we have 41% students of color and 5% international students. Our residential student body is 95%. We have an 18-22 voter age range, and 43% of our students are from California and vote in-state.

Goals

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

1. Increase registration rate from 91.4% in 2018 to 95% in the midterm elections 2022.
2. Increase voter turnout rate of 65.8% in 2018 to 70% in the midterm elections 2022.
3. Create opportunities for non-voters to engage as well by writing 300 letters for the “Vote Forward” campaigns across Texas, Florida, Arizona, and Georgia.
4. Create awareness of new TurboVote resource

Strategy

Scripps College will implement the following strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

1. Weekly pop-up tables where we register students to vote partnering with the TurboVote software, request absentee ballots for students using Vote.org, and track people's ballots with Ballot Trax.
2. Partnering with Vote Forward in a letter-writing campaign for registered voters in US regions with historically low voter turn-out.
3. In preparation of early voting starting October 11th in California, students prepared an informational video on the Official Voter Information Guide. We want to help students make the most of information provided to them to make informed decisions.
4. We partnered with the local League of Women Voters to create a virtual Q&A with the community.
5. Voter information, resources and reminders pushed out via social media and internal resources. Resources include but are not limited to Vote.org, TurboVote, BallotTrax, Ballotpedia.
6. Partnering with the campus communications team for enhanced outreach to a broader audience.

Evaluation

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

1. Track registration and voting behavior via the NSLVE report
2. Monitor usage of TurboVote for evidence of engagement
3. Compare student attendance rates at 2022 programming
4. Track how many letters our students write for Vote Forward using our dashboard on their website and the campaign tracking software they provide

Reporting

Our campus action plan and a summary report will be posted on our website. Our campus action plan will also be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/scripps-college/>.