



Seattle Central College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Patti Goreman

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Patti Goreman in WA for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election.

Leadership:

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Commitment:

Campus has a current signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Seattle Central College has authorized NSLVE through 2033.

Institution has given ALL IN permission to publish NSLVE reports.

Landscape:

SCC received a Silver Seal for its 2020 election results.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

Increase student voter registration and turnout.

Strategy:

One of our Poli Sci profs developed a 3-pronged educational and action plan for winter, spring and (next) fall quarters.

- Also attached is the write-up for spring quarter, an invitation to (competition) to students to express, in any way they like, what democracy means to them.
- We have a GOTV table in the main hallway that has all sorts of info about how to register to vote.

Explanation of Spring Quarter Student Presentations

Whereas the Winter Quarter's meeting was mainly Staff and Faculty led, Spring Quarter's *Save Our Democracy* meeting will be student led. But for students to lead next quarter's event, we will need the crucial help of faculty and staff.

Assignment Participation. Faculty at each campus, and in our special programs, please look out next quarter for an announcement asking you to adjust an assignment in ways that allow students to meet course requirements while also recognizing the threats to our democracy in this 2024 election.

- An English assignment might allow a poem or essay related to the need to protect our democracy against authoritarianism.
- A math or science problem may call for an answer that includes numbers such as the over 230 years of our federal republic, over 57 successive presidential elections, and 46 different people successfully transitioning into office.
- An apparel design or desktop publishing assignment could include student productions depicting the threats to U.S. democracy.

Each instructor will know how best to adjust an assignment to allow students to participate in this.

Forwarding Student Work to the Campus Committee. In the announcement will be contact information concerning where each instructor can forward, with a student's permission, students' work to your campus *Save Our Democracy* committee. Students, you don't have to wait on your instructor to forward your work. You can forward your work directly to your campus *Save Our*

Democracy committee. Each campus committee will determine how it will award at least 3 student winners, and then each campus committee will, in fact, award those student winners.

Student Prizes. So, what will each winner, on each campus, get? Each winner receives 3 things:

1. \$100 book award,
2. An award letter from your campus Save Our Democracy Committee for reference on your resume and your college applications, and
3. You get to present your work at your campus's Spring Quarter Save Our Democracy event.

Of course, if a student prefers, the student can have a committee member present that student's winning work for the student. Understandably, we want to be respectful to students' needs and wishes.

Your Help is Needed. Picture a Spring Quarter event sometime after week six (6) that is student led. Imagine an event of various students presenting their take on the importance of our democratic Constitution, and the need for us to vigilantly protect it against threats. This will be a demonstration in student civic awareness and in what the Greeks called "civic virtue". Look for an announcement in the first three weeks of Spring Quarter about this. Faculty and staff, please help us with this by adjusting your teaching and syllabi to include such student participation. Then recommend students to your campus *Save Our Democracy* Committee. Thank you.

Evaluation:

NSLVE Report.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

Seattle Colleges Committee to Save Our Democracy (SCCSOD)

[Short Announcement]

Please come help us with the next meeting of the Seattle Colleges Committee to Save Our Democracy (SCCSOD). We are Seattle Colleges faculty and staff concerned about the threat of authoritarianism (read dictatorship) looming in the 2024 U.S. Presidential election. We are planning non-partisan educational activities for students in the coming three quarters.

Would you come to help us plan and put on educational activities for our students to save our democracy? In the two former meetings, we provisionally decided to do the following schoolwide meetings: a Winter Quarter Overview, a Spring Quarter Student Contributions, and a Fall Quarter Voter Education and Mobilization. We take what is going on in the country very seriously. We feel we need to be proactive to do what we can to save our democracy. Come help us plan the next meeting.

[Long Announcement]

You are cordially invited to the third meeting of the Seattle Colleges Committee to Save Our Democracy (SCCSOD). We are Seattle Colleges faculty and staff concerned about the threat of authoritarianism (read dictatorship) looming in the 2024 U.S. Presidential election. We are planning non-partisan educational activities for students in the coming three quarters. We are doing so because to prevent the threat of authoritarianism evident in the following:

1. January 6th Insurrection, which we all witnessed.
2. Bi-Partisan Report of the House January 6th Committee: “As the Select Committee concludes its work, their words must be a clarion call to all Americans: to vigilantly guard our Democracy and to give our vote only to those dutiful in their defense of our Constitution.” Forward, Final Report of House Select Committee on January 6th Attack on U.S. Capitol <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-J6-REPORT/pdf/GPO-J6-REPORT.pdf>
3. The spate of best-selling books on authoritarianism rising in U.S.
 - A. Profs Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die* (2018)
 - B. Journalist John Dean & Prof. Bob Altemeyer, *Authoritarian Nightmare: Trump and His Followers* (2020).
 - C. Rep. Adam Schiff, *Midnight in Washington: How We Almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could* (2021)
 - D. Conservative Journalist Ben Shapiro, *The Authoritarian Moment: How the Left Weaponized America’s Institutions Against Dissent* (2021)
 - E. Journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa, *Peril* (2021)
 - F. Former House Rep. Caucus Chair Liz Cheney, *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning* (2023)
4. Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie’s warnings: “Do I think he was kidding when he said he was a dictator? All you have to do is look at the history.” Final Republican Debate Before First Primary, December 5, 2023 https://www.huffpost.com/entry/chris-christie-trump-attacks-gop-alabama-debate_n_65713e8be4b0f96b99da0564
5. Heritage Foundation Project 2025. <https://www.heritage.org/conservatism/commentary/project-2025>
6. Colorado Supreme Court “A majority of the court holds that Trump is disqualified from holding the office of president under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.” <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/read-the-full-ruling-by-colorados-supreme-court-removing-trump-from-state-ballot>

Would you come to help us plan and put on educational activities for our students to save our democracy? So far, we have provisionally decided to do the following in the next three quarters:

1. Winter Quarter Overview: presentation of scholarship, a short video, and other information on the looming threat to our democracy. Time for Q/A at the end and ideas on how students can contribute to next quarter’s activity.
2. Spring Quarter Student Contributions: showcasing of student work depicting the threat to our democracy. One student’s work in the following categories shall be showcased: poem, short

essay, picture, apparel design, spoken word, dance, and desktop publishing. Time for Q/A at the end and ideas on how students can contribute to next quarter's activity.

3. Fall Quarter Voter Education and Mobilization: a host of associations involved in voter education and mobilization will provide students ways of informing those in their spheres of influence of the importance of the 2024 election and to participate electorally.

We take what is going on in the country very seriously. We feel we need to be proactive to do what we can to save our democracy. Come help us plan the next meeting.