



# Seton Hill University Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-2023

*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 Amanda DeWitt, Director of Service Experience to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at Seton Hill University. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023, on and around our campus in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

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

- Undergraduate Students
- Civic/Political/Community Engagement Center
- Student Affairs Staff
- Political Science Faculty
- Service Advisory Board
- Griffins for Human Rights
- Model United Nations

***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

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

- Model UN, the Political Science and Global Studies department, the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society (Seton Hill's Alpha Lambda Eta chapter), Student Affairs, and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and International Student Services.

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.

***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. As stated in our mission statement, Seton Hill educates students to think and act critically, creatively, and ethically as productive members of society committed to transforming the 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
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- Voter registration tables
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- Signage promoting Election Day
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On campus, we've experienced:

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- Walks / rides to polls
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- Registering to vote
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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 2021 when our total student enrollment was 2,012.

### Enrollment Data:

Undergraduate	Graduate	Full Time	Part Time
1,653.00	359.00	92.00%	8.00%

In-State	Out-of-State	International Students	On-Campus Residents	Commuter
75.00%	25.00%			

### Gender Demographics:

Men	Women	Non-Binary	Transgender
35.00%	64.00%	0.05%	0.05%

### Age:

18-21	22-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50+
60.00%	29.00%	11.00%			

### Racial Demographics:

Asian	American Indian / Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	White	2 or More Races
2.00%		8.00%	4.00%		81.00%	3.00%

***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:

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- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.
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We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

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

- Our institution's mission statement, values, and strategic plan mention civic learning and democratic engagement.
- We have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- We have ways in which we communicate voting information to our students.
- We use the resources readily available to develop and implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- The voter engagement work on our campus is distributed throughout many offices and areas of expertise.
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- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
- We are able to engage student leaders for the leadership of our initiative.
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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):

- Registration Drives

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

- Have staff members available to drive students to the polls on election day in the student life van.

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

- Have honors students create a comprehensive voter action plan for SHU.

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

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

- Letter writing campaigns

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

- Have speakers come to talk about what offices are up for election and what questions are on the ballots.
- Emphasize the importance of local elections

***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)

We are not currently enrolled in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

***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:

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

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- Release in a public statement
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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

- Sending a post-election survey to students
- Sending a post-election survey to faculty
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- Integrating feedback collection into individual campus efforts
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We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year
- Seeking out feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside of our action planning team
- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
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***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.*