



# South Puget Sound Community 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 Electra Gupton, Director of Student Life to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at South Puget Sound Community College. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-2023 Academic Year, on and around our campus in Olympia, Washington. |

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

- Undergraduate Students
- Faculty
- 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

Electra and Sophia Bowton-Meade, Senator for Legislative Affairs will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Student Senate, volunteers, Political Science Dept

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Trusted leaders and organizations who support communities that are historically underrepresented in democracy

Our group plans to meet Weekly at

***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, "Tie to SPSCC Values"

On campus, we've seen:

- Voter education resources
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- Voter registration tables
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On campus, we've experienced:

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

We do not have access to comprehensive demographic information about our student body at this time.

***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.
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- We don't have a coalition of people who are positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
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- The voter engagement work on our campus is very siloed within one office.
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- Voter engagement is politicized, resulting in administrative reluctance to engage.
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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:

- We don't have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We don't have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
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With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

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- We have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
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- 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.
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- We have sustainable or consistent funding.
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- 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:

- 1) Increase Student Civic Engagement Through Civics/Voter Registration Week
- 2) Increase Student Participation in Legislative Advocacy
- 3) Start a Voter Suppression/Engagement Discussion Panel

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

- 1) Have Student Life/Government Partner with Political Science Department to Engage Students in Advocacy On Campus and at Legislature
- 2) Build Coalition with Campus, Outer Community, and Elections Office
- 3) Have Student Life/Government Partner with DEIC to Bring Civic Engagement and DEI Goals Together

***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):

- Voter Registration Week and Civics Week

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

- Get NSLVE data/sign-up and post more information about local elections/voting, partner with Political Science dept to host awareness events

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

- Host a debate/panel

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

- Continue doing voter reg events and Civis Week to campus community

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

- Partnering with CUSP to do more events at state capital

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

- more civic engagement awareness and events

***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:

- Email to members of our campus coalition
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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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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

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- Regrouping with campus coalition to debrief and reflect
- 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
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- 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.