

## VOTER PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Objectives of this Group:

- Aid students in registering to vote for the first time, update their voter registration, and remind them of important deadlines and regulations.
- Tackle the information deficit. Help students understand the ballot itself, background on who or what issues will be on the ballot and information on how they can cast a ballot.
- Reduce barriers to voting.

### Goals of this Group

- Empower SU faculty, staff and students to be Voter Ambassadors.
- Offer nonpartisan, educational tools to students around voter ID laws, voting rights, ballot issues, voting methods, candidates, voter registration, polling place locations and participation in elections
- Communicate broadly and regularly about voter opportunities and events
- Collaborate with campus partners to hold events leading up to the elections in November 2020

### Websites referenced or to be utilized:

<https://turbovote.org/>

<https://www.vote.org/>

<https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#no-back-button>

<https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

### Ideas:

- Poll:
  - Are you registered to vote?
  - Are you unsure if you are registered to vote?
  - Do you plan on voting in this upcoming election?
- President email to the campus announcing the campus's commitment to "Get Out the Vote"
- Faculty email students with the link to TurboVote/Vote.org and why it's important to vote

- Start the Stall Street Journal, which hangs in bathrooms throughout campus, with voter registration information rotated bi-monthly
- Host tables on Food Truck Days, and on National Voter Registration Day, which includes voter registration information, registration through TurboVote, polling location information, and non-partisan candidate guides

**National Voter Registration Day** Held on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will take place on September 22, 2020.

- Voter registration information placed on SU Savannah FB page —(I will put on Student United Way FB page)
- Link to TurboVote on the Portal
- Invite the Marketing class to work together to develop posters to engage students in the voting process.



- Run a Poster Contest with a monetary prize. The top 5 posters will be the “foundation” to our “Democracy Matters Wall” (explained later)

# DONUTS & discussion

- Invite students, faculty, and staff to discussions called Donuts and Discussion. On a designated day and time we will host small-group discussions in order to facilitate talks concerning public and political issues. We want to tackle tough issues that students will want to learn more about in a safe environment. We will use polls to help determine the relevant topics of interest that students wanted to discuss.
- *Your Vote: Know Before You Go.* A panel comprised of five panelists to discuss Reproductive Rights, Family Leave, LGBTQ+ Rights, Pay Equity, Affordable Tuition, etc., through a non-partisan lens.

- **Voting Advocates**

Partner with the Chatham County Board of Elections to train student Voting Ambassadors. Faculty and Staff can participate as well. We want to train to create a network of individuals who could answer the most commonly asked questions about election law. Those who complete this training will be provided with a sign/sticker that they could affix identifying themselves as Voting Ambassadors.



## Faculty/Staff Voting Ambassador

- The Dean of Students will create a dedicated Voter Registration and Education website with the links to both TurboVote and the other links referenced above, and use that page as a landing site to direct visitors to other related activities.
- Student volunteers to serve as “Roving Registrars” walking around with iPads to encourage students to sign-up for TurboVote on the spot.
- Speaker Series with attendance bolstered by professors either bringing their classes or offering academic credit for attending.

- Explore whether actual ballot voting machines can be brought to campus and provide demonstrations of how the technology operates to minimize the anxiousness new voters may experience when going to the polls.
- Host an absentee voter's celebration and cover the cost of postage for the students who mail in a ballot
- "Build" a *Democracy Matters Wall* conversation postings where students could respond to the following two questions
  1. Why should college students vote?
  2. What is the one most important issue facing the US today?

*Democracy Matters Wall* Ground Rules:

1. The "spirit of fair play" prevails. All voices are welcome.
2. Choose words that convey meaning and reflect our educational dignity, i.e., obscenity, cursing, and other indecencies do not serve the purpose of this wall
3. Civic discourse is respectful in disagreement. We can agree or disagree with arguments and issues without attacking individuals, i.e., name calling or personal attacks do not serve the purpose of this wall.
4. Do not alter or obscure what others have written, but add your voice to the conversation. Feel free to pose your own questions as well as comments.
5. Free speech is not always pleasant speech, but cannot be illegal speech. The Supreme Court has provided guidance on limitations, such as direct threats, incitement, false statements of fact, obscenity, fighting words, etc. If you believe anything posted on the wall is illegal speech, notify the Dean of Students.