



ALL IN Challenge 2020 Action Plan Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Southeast Missouri State University's Action Plan for the ALL IN Challenge is coordinated by the Office of Student Life under the direction of the Associate Vice President for Student Life. This action plan seeks to coordinate University staff, students, and resources to enhance civic learning and increase democratic engagement. This will be accomplished by encouraging all members of the Southeast Missouri State University community to become civically and politically engaged through voting and participation in federal, state, and local governance.

Engaged members of a University community are:

- registered to vote in their community;
- committed to voting in all elections;
- knowledgeable about candidates and ballot issues;
- able to explain the value of voting to others;
- aware of social, economic, and political issues impacting communities.

ALL IN Challenge Committee Members

- Associate Vice President for Student Life
- Faculty members in Political Science, Religion and Philosophy department
- Faculty members in the Performing Arts department
- Student Affairs administrators
- Student Government President and Student Senators

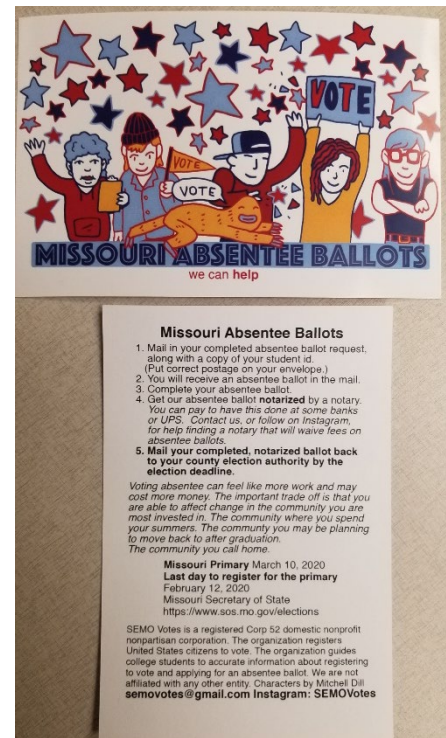
ALL IN Challenge Point of Contact

Dr. Bruce Skinner, Associate Vice President for Student Life
573-651.2802 Office
bskinner@semo.edu

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In September 2019, the campus began a series of programs and efforts to enhance the civic engagement of our campus community. Outlined below are specific activities that have been undertaken or are planned to support the civic engagement of our campus community.

- Beginning in the fall 2019 members of the ALL IN Challenge committee began attending classes to share information on voter registration and how to secure absentee ballots for students who reside outside of Missouri. As permitted by faculty members, this same presentation to classes will be undertaken during the fall 2020 semester.
- In partnership with the non-partisan organization, SEMO Votes, a series of voter registration drives were held and will be held in the University Center (Student Union) and in the Towers Complex, the main building connecting the largest residence halls on the Southeast campus.
 - Past voter registration drives in 2019 included: registration booths on November 19 and December 3 at Catapult Creative House; December 4 in the University Center; and November 20 in the Kenneth and Jeanine Dobbins River Campus Center.
- Postcards (see example to the right) that included details on the Missouri voter registration and absentee ballot process were provided to members of the campus community. Additional copies of this postcard will be provided to students in the fall 2020 semester.
- Student organizations will host watch parties in the fall 2020 semester as part of the November 2020 election.
- In partnership with SEMO Votes, multiple political student organizations will assist with voter registration and absentee ballot informational drives in August and September. The first drive is planned as part of the University's opening week activities in August.
- The University hosted the Honorable Lisa P. Page of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, who spoke at the University for Constitution Day.
- In support of civic engagement, the University, in partnership with the Cape Girardeau Fire Department and the Student Veterans Organization, hosts *Flag Retirement Ceremonies*. These ceremonies include details on



the proper displaying and retiring of United States Flags in accordance with U.S. Flag Code Title IV.

- The University, as part of our engagement with federal and state legislators, hosts regular campus visits where legislators meet with members of the campus community, including students.

COMMUNICATION

- A *Southeast Student Vote* webpage, with links to information on the Missouri and Illinois voting processes, is maintained by the Office of Student Life. This webpage has been and will continue to be widely shared on social media. <https://semo.edu/campuslife/vote.html>
- The University, as part of our Student Financial Services webpage, includes details on voter registration. <https://semo.edu/consumerinfo/student-financial-assistance.html>
- The University shared via our News Bureau updates on the University commitment to civic engagement:
 - Southeast receives Silver Seal for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement:
 - <https://news.semo.edu/southeast-receives-silver-seal-for-excellence-in-student-voter-engagement/>
- The University President, Dr. Carlos Vargas, will share a message with the campus early in the fall semester about the importance of being registered to vote. This message will be shared through university social media and in direct communication with students.
- In partnership with student organizations and SEMO Votes, the University will produce social media posts, banners, posters, and other materials to remind the campus of the need to be registered to vote and how to vote on Election Day.
- The Arrow, the student newspaper, will be engaged in helping educate students on the voting process and where to find information on the candidates.
- The first week of November 2020, including the day of the election, a series of social media posts will be shared to remind students to vote and details on how to determine where they can vote.
- The University, as part of its communication with legislators and community stakeholders, publishes a “Legislative Briefing Book” that details demographics and efforts of the campus.
 - <https://semo.edu/president/pdf/legislative-brief.pdf>
- In April 2020 the University President, Dr. Carlos Vargas, signed the ALL IN Challenge Presidential Commitment.
<https://www.allinchallenge.org/presidents-commitment-signatories/>



**LEGISLATIVE
BRIEFING BOOK**
AND FY20 PRIORITIES



NSLVE 2014 & 2018 Campus Report

The University community, including members of the University Executive Staff, reviewed the 2014 & 2018 Campus report on *Student Voting Rates at Southeast Missouri State University*.

National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement

<https://www.allinchallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/Southeast-Missouri-State-University-NSLVE-2018.pdf>

Key demographic information

- The Voting Rate increased 19.2%, up from 16.8% in 2014 to 36.1% in 2018.
- Voter registration increased to 78.9% in 2018, up slightly from 2014.
- The University was 3% below the average voting rate for other schools in the same Carnegie classification as Southeast.
- Part-time students voted at higher rates than full-time students.
- Men and women voted at nearly the same rate.
- The highest voting rates were among students majoring in history, English, social sciences, and natural resources and conservation. All of these majors show a voting rate above 45%.
- Students majoring in recreation, engineering, and computer science showed the lowest voting rate, all below 26%.

Based on the NSLVE 2014 & 2018 report the ALL IN Committee is working towards the following goals:

1. To provide regular on-campus voter registration drives.
2. To provide all members of the campus community with information on how to secure an absentee ballot for students from outside of Missouri.
3. To provide faculty members at Southeast, in particular those teaching first-year student seminars, a resource on how to educate their students on voting.
4. To increase the voter registration rate from 78.9% to 80%.
5. To increase the voting rate of student from 45.7% to 50% or greater.
6. To utilize the data on voting by majors to encourage students in majors that tend not to vote to exercise their right to vote.