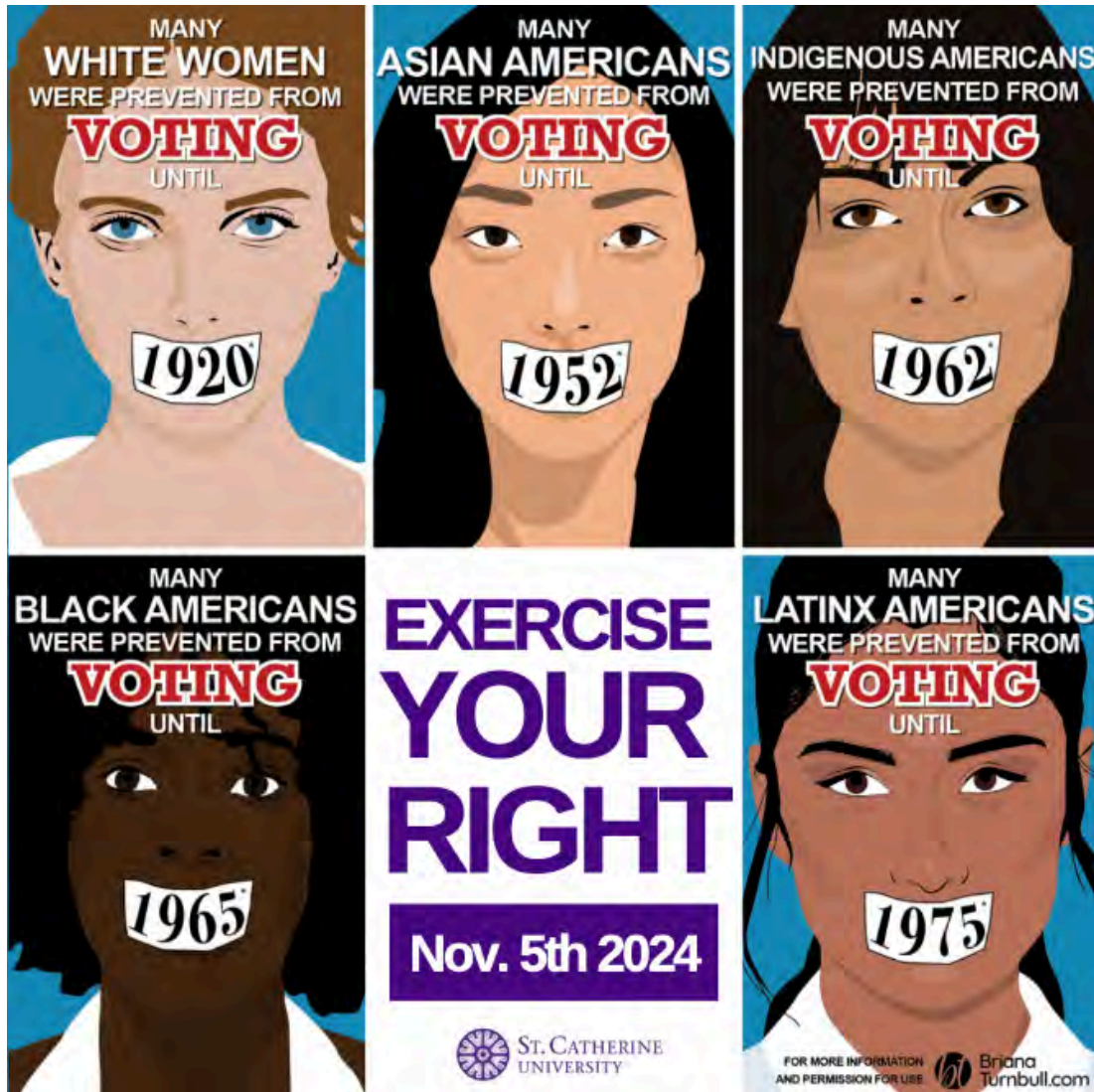


# St. Catherine University

## '24-25 Voter Engagement Plan



The St. Catherine University Voter Engagement Plan is developed by the St. Kate's civic engagement leadership team, with a focus on collaborative efforts across campus. Our Voter Engagement Plan is influenced by NSLVE reports, surveys, discussions, and reflection. Our plan highlights strategies and efforts that we believe will maximize voter engagement within the student population and campus community. We lean on our values and our mission to educate our students to lead and influence.

## St. Kate's Landscape

	College for Women	College for Adults: Bachelor's	College for Adults: Associate	Graduate College
Total Enrolled	1,402	585	454	1,102
Women	99.7%	92.8%	85.2%	91.3%
BIPOC	49%	44%	43%	21%
Student-Parents	3%	37%	24%	18%
First-Generation	35%	41%	33%	20%
Average Age	19	33	27	31
Live on Campus	40%	0.5%	2%	1%

*Based on Fall 2023 Student Census Data*

## Voting Data: the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) St. Kate's data

### **Voting rates**

**2020 Election: 80%** of voting-eligible students voted

**2018 Elections: 62.3%** of voting-eligible students voted

**2016 Election: 75.2%** of voting-eligible students voted

### **Voter Registration rates**

2020 Election: **89%** of voting-eligible students registered for voting

2018 Midterm Elections: **83.2%** of voting-eligible students register for voting

2016 Election: **85.9%** of voting-eligible students registered for voting



## Voting Engagement Leadership

### **Community Work and Learning / Office of Scholarly Engagement**

The Center for Community Work and Learning (CWL) facilitates meaningful engaged learning through community-engaged courses, student employment programs, and civic engagement. Through mutually beneficial partnerships with more than 60 organizations, we provide opportunities for students to practice critical and creative thinking, living out St. Kate's values of social justice and leadership. CWL is part of the Office of Scholarly Engagement.

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### **Civic Engagement Collective**

The Civic Engagement Collective is a group of faculty, staff and students that promotes civic engagement to our university community. We want to ensure members of the university community know how to register to vote, where to vote and are fully informed about the candidates and issues with the goal to create a vibrant, engaging and respectful political climate during the election cycle. We also focus on the importance of civic engagement beyond elections and work to promote opportunities for engagement, discussion and learning. The Collective has monthly meetings.

### **The St. Kate's Civic Engagement Fellowship**

The St. Kate's Civic Engagement Fellowship (SCEF) is a fellowship that allows St. Kate's to promote civic engagement. Student fellows collaboratively lead project-based efforts to engage our campus community in democratic/civic education and practices.

Students apply to be part of a cohort of fellows focused on civic engagement and social justice. Fellows work together to encourage the community to be civically engaged. They participate in training and get support in developing their leadership skills to create and facilitate activities. We use Campus Compact's "Social Change Wheel" as a guiding structure.

Goal: Develop and support student leadership in the civic realm to co-create a nonpartisan civically engaged campus through education, dialogue, and action – providing spaces where everyone's voice is heard through full participation in democracy.



## **Strategies**

### **Inclusion and Accessibility**

Create culturally responsive and collaborative materials/programming based on the needs of our diverse campus communities, including online students, multilingual students, 1st generation, etc.

Consider and prioritize voter access issues that influence students, and implement ongoing, diverse and clear messaging, educate transportation options and support all forms of voting.

### **Education**

Promote upcoming election dates and update voter information through printed media, email communication, digital media and tabling—including by providing:

- *Voter resources during Tuesday tabling in the Coeur de Catherine*
- *Democracy and civic engagement events*
- *Digital resources and social media campaigns - collaboration with Publication Design course*
- *Workshops, lectures and discussions*
- *Democracy walls*

### **Collaboration, Communication & Outreach**

Partner with internal and external entities that support our civic engagement efforts, and promote voting education and access to reach all constituents.

<b>Internal Collaboration</b>	<b>External collaboration</b>
Academic courses, depts/programs	<a href="#">Sisters of St. Joseph's Social Justice Office</a>
Campus Life including residence halls, Student Clubs and Orgs	<a href="#">All In Campus Democracy Challenge</a>
Student Senate, grad & CfA boards	<a href="#">Students Learn Student Vote</a>
Student support offices including CWL/OSE, TRIO, CID, Access & Success, Library	<a href="#">MN League of Women Voters</a>
Athletics	<a href="#">MN Private College Council</a>
	<a href="#">Seed and National Campus Compact</a>

## Opportunities / Improvements

- **Promote & Disseminate Voting Pledge/Plan**
  - Update current plan into pledge format with more engagement options
  - Utilize St. Kate's Voting Pledge/Plan at events, in classes, tabling, residence halls
  - Include info in voting communication
  - Utilize "vote" magnets with messaging: Post your Pledge/Plan!
- **Strengthen communications on voter resources**
  - Specific email about voting to all students, faculty and staff
  - Specific email about voting to resident students
  - Regular tabling with voting resources
  - Highlight voter resources in student newsletters
  - Flier campus with voter info
  - Increased social media presence
- **Educate about elected offices, from local to national, roles they play**
  - Expand knowledge about roles of elected officials within different government offices/branches to have more informed voters, deeper understanding of what decision making power, impact of different offices
  - Promote a variety of educational resources for civic knowledge building
    - Connect students and Sisters of St. Joseph / Carondelet Village for intergenerational learning
    - Promote nonpartisan external forums
    - Increase efforts to direct students to nonpartisan education on issues, policies
- **Maintain and update voter / civic materials across the academic year**
  - Maintained, updated website
  - promote variety of ways to engage in democratic practices





## 2024-25 CALENDAR

### Summer/Fall ongoing

- ★ Elections-related programming/communications
- ★ Education and tabling on campus, at campus and community events, i.e. move in day, resource fair, residence hall events, CSJ picnic, student orientation, activities fair

### September

- 12th TPT Women's Civic Leadership event  
16th-20th Democracy Week  
17th National Voter Registration Day & Constitution Day  
19th Lunch & Learn: Deliberating Democracy  
20th MN Early Voting Begins  
28th Citizen Katie, 8:30-noon

### October

- 7th-11th National Voter Education Week  
15th MN Voter Reg deadline  
17th Lunch & Learn: Deliberating Democracy  
29th National Early Vote Day

### November

- 5th Election Day/Last Day to Vote!  
St. Kate's Voter Van, 8am-8pm  
7th Lunch & Learn: Deliberating Democracy  
Post Election Education - Who Represents Me?  
30th Voter Engagement Plan report due to SOS

### December

- 5th Lunch & Learn: Deliberating Democracy

### Winter/Spring 2025

- January MN State Legislative Session starts  
February MPCC Day at the Capital  
March Feast of Saint Joseph (CSJ)

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Questions? Want more information?

Contact St. Kate's Campus Vote Coordinator, D'Ann [dulesch@stkate.edu](mailto:dulesch@stkate.edu)

