



St. Cloud State University 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Eurel Nwachi and Tommy Balicky

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by St. Cloud State University in Minnesota for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for St. Cloud State University for the 2024 election are: to increase student voter turnout, increase student voter registration, and to add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation for fall 2024.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Eurel Nwachi – Graduate Assistant for Campus Involvement
Tommy Balicky – Executive Director of Atwood and Campus Involvement
Brandie Yale - Associate Vice President for Strategic Communication
Danae Swanson – Information Officer of Strategic Communication
Kevin McDonnell – Executive Director of Residential Life
Judith Siminoe – Vice President for Community Affairs and Special Advisor to the President
Student Government President
Student Government Vice President
Civic Engagement Chair for Student Government

Commitment:

St. Cloud State University (SCSU) demonstrates a strong commitment to civic engagement as part of its broader institutional mission and values. The mission of St. Cloud State; “*We prepare students for life, work, and citizenship in the twenty-first century*” which emphasizes student learning, engagement, and the development of well-rounded citizens prepared to participate in a

democratic society. Along with the St. Cloud State's mission, our Husky Compact is a bond between the university and our students to be active students in the twenty-first century. Our Husky Compact is comprised of six dimensions that are embedded into the academic and campus life for students at St. Cloud State. The six dimensions are referenced below:

- 1.) Think Creatively and Critically
- 2.) Seek and Apply Knowledge
- 3.) Communicate Effectively
- 4.) Integrate Evolving and Existing Technologies
- 5.) Engage as a Member of a Diverse and Multicultural World
- 6.) Act with Personal Integrity and Civic Responsibility

Together, the mission and Our Husky Compact promote active and applied learning, civic and community engagement, sustainability, and allow students to develop a global and cultural understanding through which students gain a better understanding of self and the world they live.

Active and applied learning is a cornerstone of this approach at SCSU. This includes service learning, engagement with faculty in research, producing works of art for performances and shows, as well as internships and practicum experiences. Every SCSU student is provided the opportunity to put classroom learning into practice, ensuring their education is both meaningful and experiential.

Community engagement is equally integral, serving as both the means for developing essential skills and an objective for graduates. SCSU envisions its graduates as prepared, engaged citizens, equipped with the skills and inclination to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Through these initiatives, St. Cloud State solidifies its dedication to producing graduates who embody the principles of civic responsibility and active engagement.

- How is the commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement communicated to the campus community?

St. Cloud State strives to promote nonpartisan democratic engagement throughout the campus community. To start, St. Cloud State operates a robust [get out the vote website](#) for students. The website has a lot of important information that includes key dates, links to voter registration information, and helps students navigate how to vote while attending college. The website provides links to the Minnesota Secretary of State's website and videos on YouTube that help students understand voting. This information is promoted and communicated at events such as Move-in Day and Orientation.

St. Cloud State's partnership with the Student Government Association is key to expanding nonpartisan voter engagement. The Student Government Association at St. Cloud State created in the spring of 2024, a special committee for Civic Engagement to promote this effort. The organization is hoping to make this a standing committee in Fall 2024/Spring 2025. This committee conducts voter registration events, hosts nonpartisan events related to the election, and conducts classroom visits to encourage voter engagement.

St. Cloud State communicates via campus e-mail to its student around election time. A number of campus communications go out around election time, including from the University President encouraging registration and voting.

Landscape:

Minnesota, being one of the most voter friendly states in the nation, provides a lot of guidance to constituents on how to cast ballots in elections. A lot of that information is conveyed on the [Get Out the Vote](#) website. St. Cloud State leaned on and promoted voter registration, vote-by-mail, early voting, and same day voter registration to students through the website, events, tabling, and classroom visits.

St. Cloud State complies with MN State Statute M.S. 135A.17 providing student housing lists to the county to assist in voter registration efforts. In addition to 211B.20 allowing political candidates to campaign inside residence halls on campus.

Historically, Atwood Memorial Center, the student union on campus, has been a polling place for the county. This allows students to live on campus and some of the surrounding properties off campus to have a polling place in close proximity to their residences.

- Local Elections: November 5, 2024
- 2024 Primaries: March 5, 2024 (Super Tuesday)
- General Election: November 5, 2024
- Voter Registration Deadlines: October 15, 2024, for the general election

St. Cloud State University is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2024 and is a rural serving institution.

St. Cloud State University has **10,181 students** enrolled in Fall 2024. Further demographic breakdowns are included below.

Description	Headcount	% Headcount
White	6,006	58.99%
International	1,292	12.69%
Black for African American	900	8.84%
Unknown	840	8.25%
Latino/a or Chicano/a	410	4.03%
Asian	352	3.46%
Two or More Races	341	3.35%
American Indian or Alask Native	36	.35%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	4	.04%

While St. Cloud State has 10,181 students enrolled in Fall 2024, not all those students are voting eligible. Approximately, 38% of our students are not eligible to vote. Approximately 25% of our students are under the age of 18 enrolled in our Huskies in High School program or Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) programs while nearly 13% of our students are international students.

In-State Students

79.3% (~8,074 students) of 10,081 students are classified as in-state Minnesota residents.

On Campus Housing

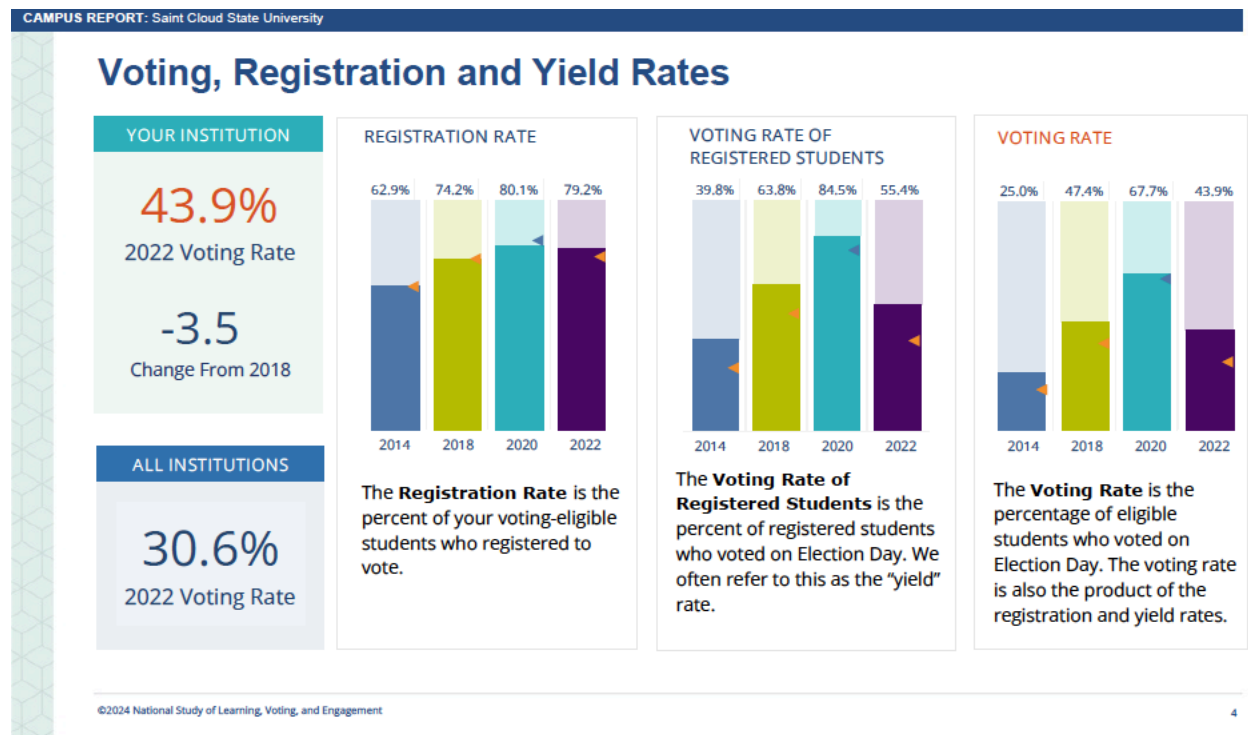
10.3% (~1,048 students) of 10,181 students live in on-campus housing

Age

72.8% (~7412 students) of 10,181 are under 25 years of age

27.2% (~2769 students) of 10,181 are over 25 years of age.

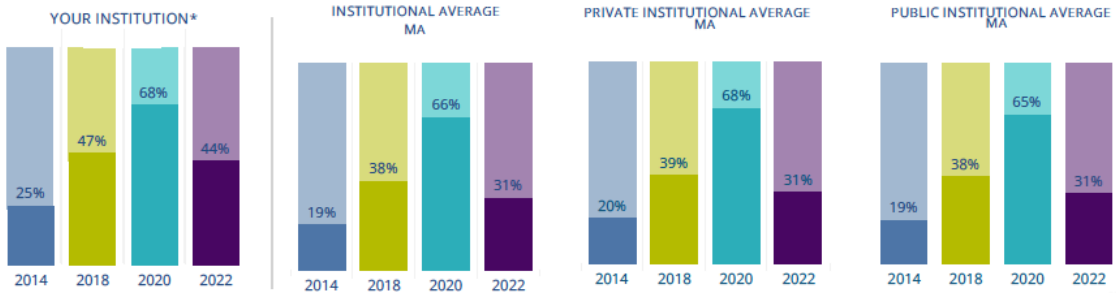
St. Cloud State University has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and receives campus voting data.



By Institution Types



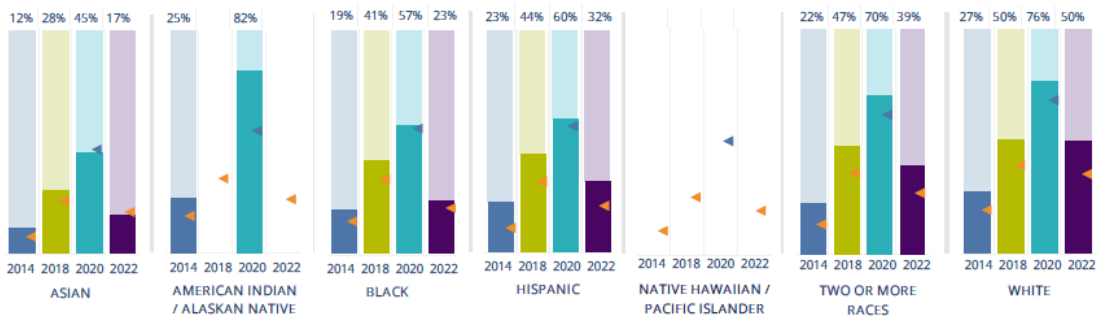
These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. For Associate institutions, we only share public associate institutional averages due to sample size. *Your Institution* chart is presented at a different scale.



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By Race / Ethnicity



These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail : <https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq>

If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data or reports this data as unknown; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

*<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes>

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By Age Group

	2014	2018	2020	2022
18-21	18%	44%	66%	39%
22-24	18%	44%	56%	40%
25-29	25%	48%	52%	40%
30-39	42%	55%	60%	53%
40-49	53%	69%	75%	67%
50+	73%	78%	82%	70%

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Goals:

Our institution’s nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voter turnout rate to 70% in 2024 and 75% in 2026.
- Increase student voter registration rate to 80% in 2024 and 85% in 2026.
- Add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation for fall 2024.
- Have our president/chancellor sign the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#) by December 2024.
- Target underrepresented groups in voter turnout, especially commuter students and first-time voters, by hosting tailored outreach events in the lead-up to the 2024 primaries.

Strategy:

St. Cloud State University will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Posting voter registration signs during orientation, move-in days, and around the campus.
- Promoting Civic Holidays such as National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day, with a particular focus on online campaigns for commuter students.
- Partnering with student organizations like the Student Government Association to organize candidate forums and raise awareness about upcoming elections.
- Developing a website section for voter registration, education, and turnout resources.
- Creating partnerships with community groups to offer transportation to polling places on Election Day for students living off-campus.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

The 2024 NSLVE report, which will provide data on voter registration and turnout rates, allows the university to assess its progress toward its engagement goals.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

SCSU's action plan and NSLVE reports will be shared with the campus community through the university's website, the student portal, and regular updates in campus newsletters. Additionally, the action plan and NSLVE reports will be posted on SCSU's page on the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge website, making them accessible to students, faculty, staff, and external partners.