



**ALL IN** Campus  
Democracy  
Challenge



# Tallahassee Community College 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Krista M. Hellmann, Social Science Faculty

## Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was created and developed by Social Science Professor, Krista M. Hellmann, for Tallahassee Community College in Florida for the 2024 election. The Social Science Division of TCC will house this campus and community initiative with the leadership of Professor Krista M. Hellmann with the support and implementation efforts of the TCC Votes coalition. The purpose of this TCC action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election on all seven campuses via various methods and modalities. Throughout this action plan both short-term and long-term goals will be addressed.

The paramount goals for Tallahassee Community College for the 2024 election will be spearheaded and executed by the newly created campus-wide initiative TCC/TSC Votes, we plan

- to promote user-friendly, non-partisan voter education;
- increase voter registration;
- and encourage voter turnout for the 2024 election year and beyond

Tallahassee Community College's investment in creating a comprehensive plan to map out civic learning and democratic engagement efforts underscores its commitment to fostering informed, engaged, and ethical citizens who are equipped to navigate the complexities of the contemporary world and contribute positively to society. By integrating civic learning into the fabric of the educational experience, colleges affirm their role as incubators of democratic values, intellectual inquiry, and civic culture, thereby fulfilling their broader mission of empowering individuals to lead purposeful and socially responsible lives.

A robust emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement aligns closely with the foundational principles of liberal education. Rooted in the belief that education should empower individuals to contribute meaningfully to society, liberal education underscores the cultivation of critical thinking, effective communication, and civic responsibility. By integrating civic learning into the curriculum and co-curricular activities, TCC aims not only equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in democratic processes, but also instill a sense of civic duty and ethical engagement.

The college's plan to map out civic learning efforts reflects its responsiveness to evolving societal needs and challenges. In an era characterized by increasing political polarization, social fragmentation, and democratic erosion, institutions of higher education are called upon to play a proactive role in safeguarding democratic values and promoting civic resilience. By institutionalizing civic learning initiatives and democratic engagement opportunities, TCC demonstrates its commitment to serving as catalysts for positive social change and cultivating a culture of democratic citizenship. Institutions of higher education serve as crucibles of intellectual inquiry, discourse, and civic dialogue, where diverse perspectives are explored, debated, and reconciled. By creating a structured plan to promote civic learning, we reaffirm our dedication to nurturing an inclusive and participatory democratic ethos that transcends ideological divides and fosters constructive civic engagement.

The establishment of a comprehensive plan to map out such efforts reflects a fundamental commitment to the broader educational mission of fostering informed and active citizenship among students. At the heart of TCC's mission statement and core values lies a dedication to fostering the holistic development of students, including their intellectual, ethical, and civic capacities. TCC Votes' plan to map out civic learning and democratic engagement

efforts is intricately linked to broader institutional norms, values, and strategic plans. Our plan is inherently aligned with the overarching mission and values of the institution.

The integration of civic learning into the institutional framework resonates with strategic plans aimed at enhancing student success, promoting diversity and inclusion, and fostering community engagement. Recognizing the interconnectedness between academic achievement, civic engagement, and social equity, TCC strategically prioritizes initiatives that not only enhance students' academic performance but also cultivate their sense of civic identity, agency, and belonging.

**Leadership:**

**Our TCC Votes coalition team:**

<p><b>Tallahassee Community College Faculty and Administration:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krista Hellmann, College Success Faculty</li> <li>• Bryan Hooper, Dean of Social Sciences</li> <li>• Denise Spivey, History Faculty</li> <li>• Edward Duggan, Political Science Faculty</li> <li>• Brian Kupfer, Political Science Faculty</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tallahassee Community College Student Coalition:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DaRon Barkley, student ambassador for TCC Votes and Black Male Achievers</li> <li>• Anna Bristol, student ambassador for TCC Votes and Phi Theta Kappa, Vice President of Service</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derek Cassetty, Voter Services Representative at Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office</li> <li>• Alex Mosca, Public Information Specialist at Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Organizations who contribute to our efforts:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Male Achievers</li> <li>• TCC Political Roundtable</li> <li>• Phi Theta Kappa</li> <li>• Florida Student Power Alliance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F.S.U. Votes (Florida State University) – Liz Iaconis, Civic Engagement Programs Coordinator, Center for Leadership &amp; Service - Division of Student Affairs</li> <li>• ALL IN: Campus Democracy Challenge</li> <li>• Campus Vote Project</li> </ul>

TCC Votes coalition has a dedicated TEAMS group through Microsoft Outlook to communicate and post information in a central and easy-to-access portal. Email communication is also regular, on a monthly basis or more often when events have been planned.

**Future leadership objectives:**

- Streamline communication so more time can be spent creating myriad avenues of voter education and planning various voter registration drives.
  - TEAMS group communication for files, updates, communication
  - Create TCC Votes social media accounts: Instagram, Facebook, etc. and post a minimum of twice a month (more as events approach)

- Plan regular in-person and/or virtual TCC Votes coalition meetings on a monthly basis beginning August 2024.
- As we have just recently launched this TCC Votes campus-wide initiative, much work is still ahead of us. We plan to identify more passionate student ambassadors to add to the coalition, as well as add more representatives from TCC administration, academic affairs, and community partners to assist us in our goals. Meeting with varied and diverse student organizations and clubs should facilitate not only adding more motivated TCC Votes coalition members, but also allow us to partner with these groups to advance our voter education, registration, and turn out goals. **Specific staff and partnership ideas:**
  - **Deidra Green**, TCC Manager, Student Life
  - **Tricia Rizza**, TCC Associate Dean, Vice President of Academic Affairs
  - **Florida PIRG Students** (“Florida PIRG Students is a training and action program based on a model that has been helping students make change for 50 years on issues such as protecting the environment and public health, revitalizing our democracy, feeding the hungry and more. Our organizers, interns, and volunteers focus on tangible issues, provide critical skills trainings, build coalitions, plan events, get media attention, lobby decision makers, and coordinate with students on their campus, across the state, and throughout the country to bring about real change on issues that really matter.”)
  - **All Voting is Local** (“Common Cause Florida is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, accountable government that is of, by, and for the people. We strive to ensure that every vote counts, that every eligible voter can have a say, and that our elections represent the will of the people.”)
  - **Common Cause** (“Common Cause Florida is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, accountable government that is of, by, and for the people. We strive to ensure that every vote counts, that every eligible voter can have a say, and that our elections represent the will of the people.”)
  - **League of Women Voters of Florida** (“The League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL) is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major policy issues, and advocating for legislative changes and policies for the public good.”)

## Commitment:

TCC’s mission statement emphasizes the importance of our objective to form a strong and sustainable non-partisan voter education, registration, and voter turn-out campus-wide initiative: *“The mission of Tallahassee Community College is to provide a learning environment that prepares students for success in a global economy by offering higher education pathways, workforce opportunities, and civic engagement.”* Because TCC values civic engagement as a core principle, the college supports and encourages our commitment to this worthy and just cause.

Furthermore, the general education learning outcomes at TCC also address student critical thinking, understanding diverse perspectives, and information literacy.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

- Students will apply critical and creative thinking skills to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize ideas.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of diverse perspectives and their influence on individual, social, historical, and political events or on cultural expression.
- Students will demonstrate effective information literacy skills by locating, evaluating, and effectively and ethically using information to achieve an academic or professional purpose.

These general education learning outcomes underscore the necessary objectives for voter decision making and comprehension of the larger political context necessary for a thriving democracy.

As evidenced by our rigorous academic catalog, TCC offers classes that challenge and motivate students civically. TCC’s course catalog includes many classes that include topics, concepts, and research embedded into the course curriculum that task students with learning about our democracy and civic responsibility.

<p><b>Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociology - SYG1000: Principles of Sociology</li> <li>• Social Work - SOW1031: Introduction to Social Work</li> <li>• Psychology - SOP2002: Social Psychology; PSY2012: General Psychology; SOP2740: Psychology of Women; SOP2780: Psychology of the African American Experience</li> <li>• History - AMH2010: American History I; AMH2020: American History II; AMH2091: African American History; WOH2012: World History I; WOH2022: World History II; EUH1000: Western Civilization I; EUH1001: Western Civilization II</li> <li>• Anthropology - ANT2000: General Anthropology; ANT2410: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</li> <li>• Political Science - POS2001: Introduction to Political Science; POS1041: National Government; POS1112: State and Local Government; CPO2001: Introduction to Comparative Politics</li> <li>• Student Life Skills Courses: SLS1301: Career Planning; SLS1510: College Success; SLS2261: Dynamics of Leadership Development</li> </ul>	<p><b>Co-curricular and Campus Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service-Learning Experiences (embedded in courses)</li> <li>• TCC Student Government Association</li> <li>• Environmen-Talons</li> <li>• Florida Student Power Alliance</li> <li>• Imprint-2-Impact</li> <li>• TCC PRIDE</li> <li>• TCC Student Veterans Association</li> <li>• TCC Political Roundtable</li> <li>• TCC Turning Point USA</li> <li>• Black Male Achievers</li> <li>• TCC Speech and Debate</li> <li>• TCC Hispanic Alliance for Talented Students</li> <li>• TCC National Society for Leadership and Success</li> <li>• TCC Phi Theta Kappa</li> <li>• Sister to Sister</li> <li>• Model UN</li> <li>• TCC History Festival</li> <li>• TCC Holocaust Education Council</li> <li>• TCC Women’s History Month</li> <li>• Global Gateway</li> </ul>
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Current Community Partnerships: Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office, F.S.U. Votes, and ALL IN: Campus Democracy Challenge.

In alignment with its core values of civic engagement, social responsibility, and community enrichment, Tallahassee Community College proudly upholds a steadfast commitment to fostering an informed and active electorate through its robust initiatives in voter education, registration, and turnout. Recognizing the pivotal role that civic participation plays in shaping democratic processes and amplifying voices within the broader societal landscape, TCC endeavors to equip its student body with the requisite knowledge, resources, and support to meaningfully engage in the electoral process.

<p><b>Voter Education:</b></p>	<p>At the heart of Tallahassee Community College's commitment lies a desire to build a comprehensive voter education program designed to empower students with a deep</p>
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	<p>understanding of electoral systems, political ideologies, and pertinent policy issues. Through an interdisciplinary approach that integrates coursework, seminars, workshops, resources, and guest lectures, students are afforded the opportunity to critically analyze complex socio-political phenomena, cultivate informed perspectives, and develop the analytical skills necessary for informed decision-making at the ballot box. By fostering an inclusive learning environment that encourages civil discourse, TCC fosters a culture of civic literacy that extends beyond the confines of academia.</p>
<b>Voter Registration:</b>	<p>In cognizance of the imperative to facilitate seamless electoral participation, TCC implements proactive measures to facilitate voter registration among its student populace. Leveraging strategic partnerships with local electoral authorities, non-profit organizations, and student-led advocacy groups, the institution orchestrates voter registration drives, campus-wide outreach campaigns, and informational sessions aimed at demystifying the registration process and mitigating logistical barriers to enfranchisement. By streamlining administrative procedures, harnessing digital platforms, and deploying targeted messaging, Tallahassee Community College endeavors to maximize registration rates and broaden the electoral footprint of its student constituency.</p>
<b>Voter Turnout:</b>	<p>In furtherance of its mission to cultivate active citizenship and civic responsibility, Tallahassee Community College is steadfastly committed to promoting robust voter turnout rates among its student body. Through a multifaceted approach that integrates educational programming, peer-to-peer engagement, and incentivized participation initiatives, the institution endeavors to galvanize students to exercise their electoral franchise in local, state, and national elections. By fostering a culture of civic participation that transcends partisan affiliations and ideological divides, TCC aspires to cultivate a cohort of politically engaged citizens poised to effectuate positive change within their respective communities.</p>

By forming TCC Votes (to be renamed TSC Votes), the college is moving in a more concrete and determined direction to be explicit about adding voter education, voter registration, and voter turnout as a critical institutional objective. Civic education is paramount in a healthy democracy and by investing in this campus-wide initiative TCC will be supporting countless future generations of students to become life-long responsible, civic-minded community members.

Future commitment objectives:

- Civic education is an important part of an education at TCC; however, there is room for improvement and specificity. We aim to work with administration to make civic education and voter education more explicit in the college's stated priorities and framework for completion.
- Campus-wide much more is needed to clearly and emphatically stress the importance of civic education inside and outside of every classroom on campus.

\*Tallahassee Community College does not have a current signatory to ALL IN's Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation but plans to have the document signed.

\*This is the first election cycle that our institution has developed a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

## Landscape:

Tallahassee Community College was established in 1966 by the Florida Legislature to meet the growing demand for accessible higher education in the Tallahassee area. Initially known as Tallahassee Junior College, the institution began offering classes in temporary facilities while construction of its permanent campus commenced. During its early years, TCC focused on providing foundational academic programs and vocational training to students from diverse backgrounds. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, TCC experienced significant growth and development. The college expanded its campus infrastructure, adding new academic buildings, student facilities, and recreational amenities to accommodate a growing student population. This period also saw the introduction of new academic programs and services aimed at meeting the evolving needs of students and the local community. In the early 2000s, TCC continued to enhance its academic offerings and reputation for excellence. The college pursued accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), a milestone achievement that affirmed TCC's commitment to academic quality and institutional effectiveness. Accreditation also facilitated credit transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, enabling seamless transitions for TCC graduates seeking to pursue bachelor's degrees. Throughout its history, TCC has been deeply engaged with the Tallahassee community and surrounding regions. The college has forged partnerships with local businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to promote economic development, workforce training, and civic engagement. These collaborations have helped TCC remain responsive to the needs of its constituents and fostered a culture of service and collaboration. TCC has continued to innovate and adapt to changing educational trends and technologies. The college has implemented student success initiatives aimed at improving retention, graduation rates, and outcomes for diverse student populations. Additionally, TCC has expanded its online course offerings and embraced emerging technologies to enhance teaching and learning experiences both on-campus and remotely.

Tallahassee Community College currently operates seven campuses:

- **Main Campus** 444 Appleyard Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32304
- **Center for Innovation** 300 West Pensacola Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301
- **Florida Public Safety Institute** Academy Drive  
Havana, FL 32333
- **Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education** 1528 Surgeons Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32308-4631
- **Wakulla Environmental Institute** 170 Preservation Way  
Crawfordville, FL 32327
- **Gadsden Center** 223 Pat Thomas Parkway  
Quincy, FL 32351
- **Wakulla Center** 2932 Crawfordville Highway  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

TCC serves a diverse student population, including recent high school graduates, adult learners, transfer students, and professionals seeking continuing education. In the fall of 2022, TCC had 11, 671 students enrolled.

In recent developments, Tallahassee Community College now proudly offers 4 baccalaureate programs:

- Business Administration, B.A.S.

- Elementary Education, B.S.
- Exceptional Student Education, B.S.
- Nursing, B.S.

This change to benefit and reach the growing needs of our students has expanded the scope of education, and thus, a name change will soon be established; Tallahassee Community College will soon be renamed Tallahassee State College in the summer of 2024.

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) has received various recognitions and awards acknowledging its commitment to excellence in education, community engagement, and student success. Here are some examples of TCC's various recognitions

- **Accreditation:** TCC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), in recognition of its commitment to academic quality and institutional effectiveness.
- **Top Community College Rankings:** TCC has been consistently recognized among the top community colleges in the nation by organizations such as the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, which highlights institutions that demonstrate exceptional student outcomes and innovative approaches to higher education. In 2024, the Aspen Institute named Tallahassee Community College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds. Tallahassee Community College (TCC) received the 2023 Award of Excellence for Student Success from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In 2021, Intelligent Magazine ranked TCC as the number 1 college in the nation for associate degrees. The ranking by is based on curriculum quality, graduation rates, reputation, and postgraduate employment.
- **Military-Friendly Institution:** TCC has been designated as a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, recognizing its efforts to support military-affiliated students through specialized programs, services, and resources.
- **Workforce Development Awards:** TCC has received awards and commendations for its workforce development initiatives, including partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders to provide relevant training programs and address workforce needs in the region. In 2023, Tallahassee Community College brought home two exemplary program awards from the National Council for Continuing Education & Training (NCCET). The Division of Workforce Development received the Exemplary Program Award for Innovation Through Collaboration, and the Wakulla Environmental Institute received the Exemplary Program Award for the Oyster Aquaculture Training Program.
- **Community Service Awards:** TCC has been honored for its contributions to the community through service-learning initiatives, volunteerism, and outreach programs that promote civic engagement and social responsibility among students and staff.
- **Innovation in Education:** TCC has been recognized for its innovative teaching and learning practices, including the integration of technology in the classroom, online education initiatives, and experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for success in the workforce and beyond.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Awards:** TCC has received recognition for its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including efforts to create an inclusive campus environment, promote cultural competency, and celebrate the diversity of its student body and community. In 2024, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has recognized Tallahassee Community College as the community college with the highest transfer-out rate for Title IV students in the state of Florida in a newly released study. The state-by-state data highlighted two- and four-year institutions' transfer students' success and the most productive transfer partnerships between those institutions in the country. The study examined federal financial aid recipients



who started at a community college in the fall of 2014 and tracked them for eight years. Per the findings, TCC was found to have the highest transfer-out rate for Title IV students in the state of Florida, with 37% of students transferring to a four-year institution upon graduating. The national average is 13%. Also, in 2024, Tallahassee Community College is honored to have received two awards from Achieving the Dream (ATD). The college received the Network Legend Award and the Leah Meyer Austin Alumni Award (its most prestigious award).

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The mission statement and the general education learning outcomes clearly underscore TCC's focus on developing civically engaged student population. However, much more needs to be done in order to specifically address oversights in voter education, voter registration, and voter turnout strategies. TCC Votes will facilitate in designing a robust, campus-wide, multipronged strategic plan that targets civic engagement.

Tallahassee Community College is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2024. By creating a campus-wide, non-partisan voter education, voter registration, and voter turn-out initiative, TCC has committed to civic education.

Currently, there is no assessment data to review that would assist TCC Votes in understanding the political climate and democratic engagement on campus. There are some student organizations, such as TCC's Political Roundtable and TCC's Florida Student Power Alliance, which reveals a need and desire by TCC students to be more engaged civically on campus. TCC Votes will address the gap in civic leadership on campus and make civic education a more prevalent and integral part of TCC's active mission.

\*\*\*Tallahassee Community College is in the process of authorizing the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

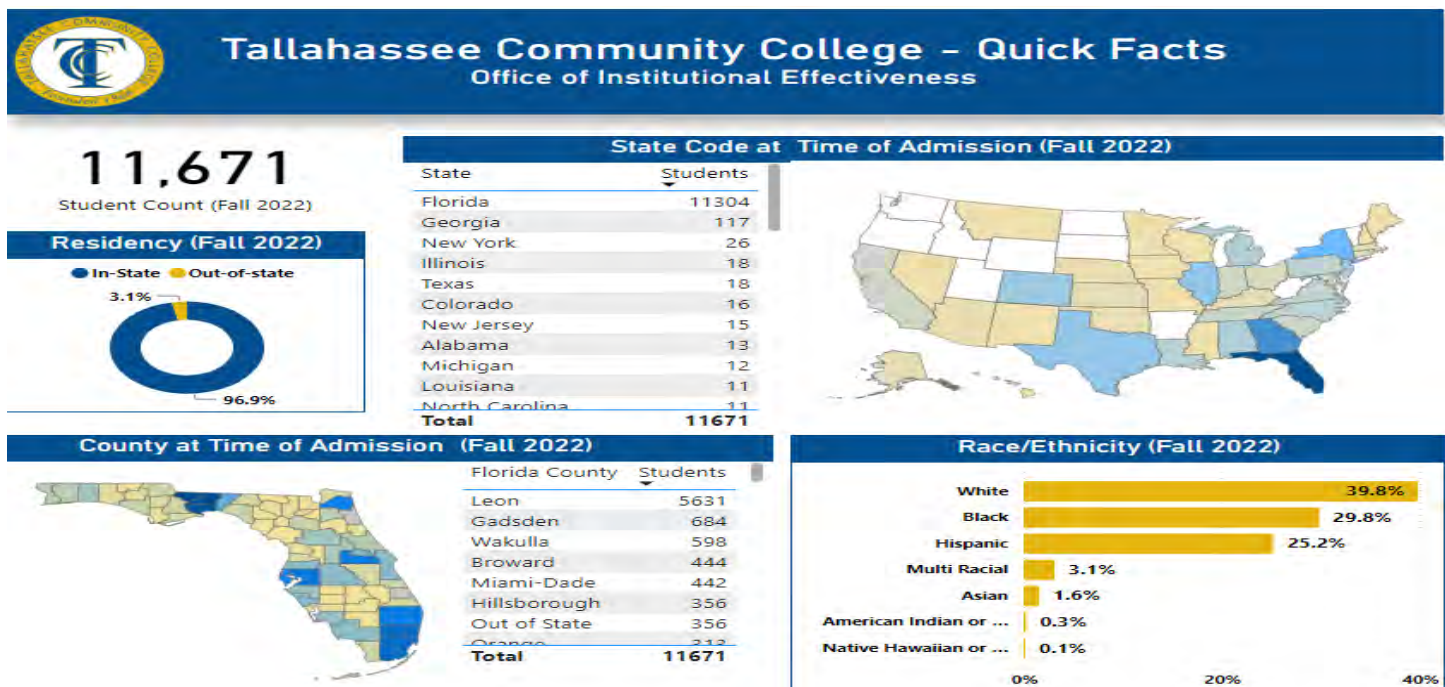
There are no direct internal or external barriers to making civic education and democratic engagement a more explicit aim of the institution other than a lack of intention focus on the issue. TCC Votes' main objective is to remedy this gap through leadership, communication, education, and outreach.

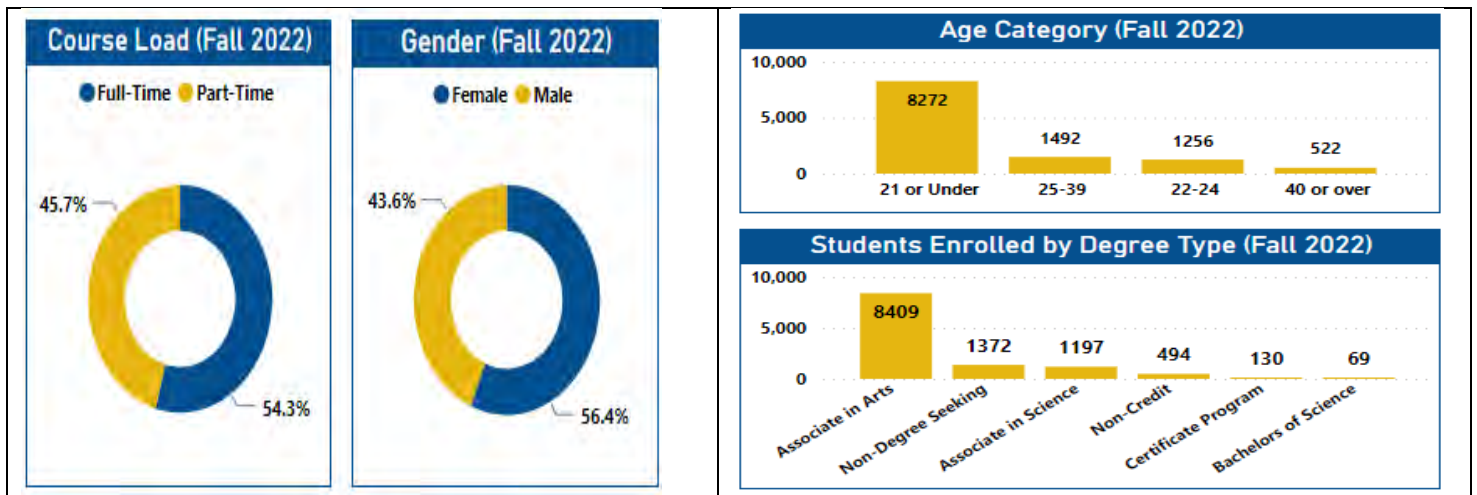
TCC's course curriculum and co-curricular activities illustrate the institution's documented objective to support student civic engagement. As noted previously, evidenced by our rigorous academic catalog, TCC offers classes that challenge and motivate students civically. TCC's course catalog includes many classes that include topics, concepts,

and research embedded into the course curriculum that task students with learning about our democracy and civic responsibility.

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Our campus demographic data (as of fall 2022):





As the infographic illustrates, TCC served 11,671 students (in fall 2022). 11,304 students are in-state students (356 are from out-of-state) coming from every county in the state of Florida.

The college serves a diverse population of students with various backgrounds and experiences:

- 39.8% identified as White; 29.88% as Black; 25.2% as Hispanic; 3.1% as multiracial; 1.6% as Asian; 0.3% as American Indian; and 0.1% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.
- 8,272 students are under 21 years of age; 1,256 are 22-24; 1,492 are 25-39; 522 are 40 or over
- 56.4% are female and 43.6% are male
- 54.3% are full-time students and 45.7% are part-time students
- 8,409 students are seeking an associate of arts degree; 1,372 are non-degree seeking; 1,197 are seeking an associate in science degree; 494 are non-credit enrolled; 130 are in a certificate program; and 69 are seeking a bachelor of science degree

In 2020, Tallahassee Community College's President Jim Murdaugh created the President's Commission on Race & Equity to develop specific and actionable recommendations that will cultivate a deeper understanding of TCC's diverse college community and create a learning environment that fosters student success and completion for all our students. A new institutional definition of equity was approved *"Tallahassee Community College is committed to improving equity by deliberately ensuring justice and fairness within the procedures and processes of the college, as well as in its distribution of resources. Equity is the practice that begins by acknowledging that advantages and barriers exist and that personal or social circumstances, such as protected class or intersecting identities, are not obstacles to achieving one's goals."* --Institutional Definition of Equity, Established March 25, 2021

TCC Votes has a duty to address the needs of each of these various and diverse groups. In contemporary democracies, higher education institutions occupy a unique position as crucibles for the cultivation of civic knowledge, engagement, and responsibility among their student populations. Central to this mandate is the imperative for colleges to account for the diverse demographics of their student bodies when formulating and implementing campus-wide voter education plans.

Tallahassee Community College participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on our diverse campus:

**Promoting Equitable Access to Civic Participation:** At the heart of TCC's ethical responsibility lies a commitment to upholding the principles of social justice and equity in the realm of democratic participation. By acknowledging and addressing the diverse socio-economic, cultural, and institutional barriers that impede voter engagement among marginalized communities, colleges play a pivotal role in fostering a more inclusive and representative democracy. Failure to account for demographic diversity in voter education initiatives risks perpetuating systemic inequities and disenfranchising historically marginalized populations, thereby undermining the foundational principles of democratic governance.

**Ensuring Representation and Inclusion:** Colleges serve as microcosms of broader society, comprising heterogeneous student bodies characterized by intersecting identities and lived experiences. Recognizing the inherent value of diverse perspectives in enriching democratic discourse and decision-making, colleges have a moral obligation to ensure that all voices are heard and represented in the electoral process. By tailoring voter education initiatives to resonate with the diverse backgrounds, interests, and concerns of their student constituencies, colleges promote a more robust and inclusive civic culture that reflects the plurality of democratic ideals.

**Fostering Democratic Citizenship and Civic Virtue:** Central to the mission of higher education is the cultivation of informed, responsible, and civically engaged citizens capable of contributing positively to society. Embracing demographic diversity in voter education plans not only enhances students' understanding of democratic principles and processes but also instills a sense of civic responsibility and agency that transcends individual differences. By promoting critical thinking, empathy, and active participation in the electoral process, colleges nurture a generation of democratic citizens equipped to confront societal challenges and effectuate positive change in their communities.

**Addressing Socio-Economic Disparities:** Recognizing the pronounced impact of socio-economic disparities on civic participation, TCC places particular emphasis on addressing barriers to engagement among historically marginalized communities. Through targeted interventions such as voter education workshops, voter registration drives and collaboration with community-based organizations, the institution seeks to mitigate socio-economic impediments to voter registration and turnout. By fostering an inclusive and accessible civic education ecosystem, TCC endeavors to empower all students, regardless of socio-economic background, to exercise their democratic rights.

**Intersectional Approaches to Civic Education:** Informed by an intersectional framework, TCC adopts an inclusive approach to civic education that acknowledges the intersecting identities and lived experiences of its student populace. By foregrounding issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and disability in its programming, the institution seeks to foster a more nuanced understanding of civic engagement that resonates with the diverse perspectives and realities of its constituents. Through culturally relevant curricula, affinity group workshops, and multicultural outreach initiatives, TCC endeavors to cultivate a more equitable and representative civic discourse within its campus community.

**Harnessing Technological Innovations:** In an era characterized by rapid technological advancement, TCC aims to harness data analytics tools and digital platforms to optimize its civic education efforts. The institution desires to tailor its outreach efforts to resonate with the digital-native sensibilities of contemporary students. By meeting students where they are, both physically and virtually, TCC will enhance the accessibility, reach, and efficacy of its voter education and registration initiatives.

By interrogating the intersection of demographics and civic engagement, the institution not only cultivates a more informed and politically engaged student body but also advances broader imperatives of social equity, democratic empowerment, and civic renewal.

2024 Election Dates and Deadlines:

Candidate Qualifying Period	
Federal, Judicial, State Attorney and Public Defender	Noon, April 22 - Noon, April 26
State Senator, State Representative, County Office and Special Districts	Noon, June 10 - Noon, June 14
Write-in candidates for President and Vice President	8:00 am, June 25 - Noon, July 2
Presidential Preference Primary Election	
Voter Registration Deadline (book closing)	February 20
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - for UOCAVA Voters (Absent Stateside and Overseas Uniformed and Civilian Voters)	February 3
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - For Domestic Voters (7-day mailing window)	February 8 - 15
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request Deadline (To be mailed a ballot)	March 7
Early Voting - Mandatory (8-day period starting on the 10th day and ending on the 3rd day before Election Day)	March 9 - March 16
Early Voting Period - Additional Optional Days (A county may offer early voting on one or more of these days)	March 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and/or 17
Election Day	March 19
Primary Election	
Voter Registration Deadline (book closing)	July 22
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - for UOCAVA Voters (Absent Stateside and Overseas Uniformed and Civilian Voters)	July 6
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - For Domestic Voters (7-day mailing window)	July 11 - July 18
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request Deadline (To be mailed a ballot)	August 8
Early Voting - Mandatory (8-day period starting on the 10th day and ending on the 3rd day before Election Day)	August 10 - August 17
Early Voting Period - Additional Optional Days (A county may offer early voting on one or more of these days)	August 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and/or 18
Election Day	August 20
General Election	
Voter Registration Deadline (book closing)	October 7
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - for UOCAVA Voters (Absent Stateside and Overseas Uniformed and Civilian Voters)	September 21
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Send Deadline - For Domestic Voters (7-day mailing window)	September 26 - October 3
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request Deadline (To be mailed a ballot)	October 24
Early Voting - Mandatory (8-day period starting on the 10th day and ending on the 3rd day before Election Day)	October 26 - November 2
Early Voting Period - Additional Optional Days (A county may offer early voting on one or more of these days)	October 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and/or November 3
Election Day	November 5

**Voter Registration:**

- Florida residents must register to vote at least 29 days before an election to be eligible to vote in that election.
- Registration can be done online, by mail, or in person at various locations, including the Supervisor of Elections office, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices, public assistance offices, public libraries, and other designated locations.

**Voter ID Laws:**

- Florida requires voters to present a valid photo ID with a signature at the polls. Acceptable forms of ID include a Florida driver's license, a Florida ID card issued by the DMV, a U.S. passport, a debit or credit card, military ID, student ID, retirement center ID, neighborhood association ID, or public assistance ID.

**Vote-by-Mail (Absentee Voting) Processes:**

- Florida allows any registered voter to request a vote-by-mail (absentee) ballot without providing a reason.
- To request a vote-by-mail ballot, voters can submit a request online, by mail, by phone, fax, or in person to the Supervisor of Elections office.
- The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is typically 10 days before Election Day, but voters are encouraged to request their ballots well in advance to ensure timely delivery and return.

**Early Voting:**



- Florida offers early voting, allowing registered voters to cast their ballots in person at designated early voting locations in the days leading up to Election Day. The early voting period typically lasts for at least eight days, including weekends, before Election Day.

It's crucial for Tallahassee Community College to stay informed about any updates or changes to voter registration laws, ID requirements, and voting processes by checking official sources and announcements from the Florida Division of Elections and the Supervisor of Elections for Leon County. These offices provide up-to-date information on voter registration, voting procedures, polling locations, and other election-related matters specific to Tallahassee and the broader region. That is why TCC Votes includes a close relationship with Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office so that we can stay current to any changes in voter legislation.

Colleges occupy a privileged position as catalysts for democratic renewal and civic empowerment, endowed with a moral imperative to account for diverse demographics in their campus-wide voter education initiatives. By embracing demographic diversity, colleges uphold the principles of social justice, ensure equitable access to civic participation, and foster a more inclusive and representative democracy. As stewards of democratic citizenship and civic virtue, colleges play a pivotal role in shaping the future of democracy by nurturing engaged and informed citizens capable of upholding the ideals of justice, equality, and freedom in an ever-evolving world.

**Goals:**

Short-term goals (2024):	Long-term goals:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete NSLVE authorization</li> <li>• Apply to Campus Vote Project</li> <li>• Design TCC Votes/TSC Votes logos</li> <li>• Officially change TCC Votes to TSC Votes after Florida legislature approval and rebranding is completed in July 2024</li> <li>• Create TEAMS group for TCC Votes communication and resource access</li> <li>• TCC Votes coalition will meet to solidify vision and mission statements</li> <li>• Hold at least one monthly voter education/voter registration event during fall and spring semesters</li> <li>• Track registration numbers at each event</li> <li>• Create student leadership roles within TCC Votes to encourage campaign organization, ownership and experiential learning; leadership roles include but are not limited to media coordinators, event coordinators, presentation coordinators, textbank coordinators, etc.</li> <li>• Nominate student(s) for Democracy Fellowships through Campus Vote Project for fall 2024 and spring 2025</li> <li>• Train student leaders within TCC Votes to organize via the Ask Every Student Academy virtual workshop</li> <li>• Invite local and state candidates to speak at a "forum" event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2025, create sustainable partnership with FloridaPIRG</li> <li>• By 2025, be designated as a "Voter Friendly Campus" by Campus Vote Project</li> <li>• By 2025, create and execute an annual voter education workshop to inform student organization and institutional leadership teams about the steps to register students to vote</li> <li>• By 2025, hold monthly voter registration drives with various on-campus student and institutional clubs and organizations</li> <li>• By 2025, invite local media to report on our voter education and voter registration efforts</li> <li>• By 2026, establish voter education and voter registration presentations in SLS1510: College Success and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create TCC Votes social media accounts: Instagram, Facebook, etc.</li> <li>• Add TCC Votes to “community initiative” webpage on TCC’s institutional website: <a href="https://www.tcc.fl.edu/about/community-initiatives/">https://www.tcc.fl.edu/about/community-initiatives/</a></li> <li>• Create webpage for TCC Votes that includes voter education and ballot information, voter registration and updates, links to resources, and FAQs</li> <li>• Create QR code that directs students to TCC Votes webpage for voter education and voter registration information</li> <li>• Post on social media at least twice a month that includes event details or action links</li> <li>• Execute TCC Aspire Day and Black Male Achievers Voter Registration Drive: April 19, 2024</li> <li>• Execute TCC Votes – Voter Registration Drive at Word of South Festival: April 27-28, 2024</li> <li>• Create and execute TCC Votes Registration Drive for “National Voter Registration Day”: September 17, 2024</li> <li>• Create and execute TCC Votes Registration Drive for “Voter Education Week”: October 7-11, 2024</li> <li>• Create and execute TCC Votes Registration Drive for “National Vote Early Day”: October 29, 2024</li> </ul>	<p>SLS2261: Leadership Development as a part of course framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2026, apply for TCC’s College Innovation Fund: “TCC Foundation’s College Innovation Fund provides financial support for faculty and staff to develop and implement innovative projects that will increase student success.”</li> <li>• By 2026, establish annual partnership drive between Florida State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Tallahassee Community College</li> <li>• By 2026, encourage the institution to add voter education to its strategic plan (as “civic engagement” specifically is mentioned in the institutional mission statement)</li> </ul>
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**Strategy:**

Tallahassee Community College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

<p><b>Voter Education Strategies:</b></p>	<p>TCC Votes aims to provide students with voter education by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creating and publicizing easily accessible comprehensive resources to help voters feel competent and prepared to vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a dedicated webpage on the TCC website that includes various voter education basics: steps to registering and links to registration at Leon Co. SOE Office; add TCC Votes to “community initiative” webpage on TCC’s institutional website: <a href="https://www.tcc.fl.edu/about/community-initiatives/">https://www.tcc.fl.edu/about/community-initiatives/</a></li> <li>○ information on updating address, requesting a mail-in ballot or sample ballot, locating your polling place, etc.</li> <li>○ include FAQs section</li> <li>○ links to non-partisan ballot and candidate information</li> <li>○ important voting dates and deadlines</li> <li>○ upcoming voter registration drives and candidate forums on campus</li> <li>○ contact information and meeting dates/times for TCC Votes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creating student leadership roles within TCC Votes to encourage campaign organization, ownership and experiential learning; leadership roles include but are not limited to media coordinators, event coordinators, presentation coordinators, textbank coordinators, etc.</li> <li>• nominating student(s) for Democracy Fellowships through Campus Vote Project for fall 2024 and spring 2025 and mentoring them as voter education leaders on campus</li> <li>• creating and executing an annual voter education workshop to inform student organization and institutional leadership teams about the steps to register to vote</li> <li>• establishing voter education and voter registration presentations in SLS1510: College Success and SLS2261: Leadership Development as a part of course framework</li> <li>• encouraging the institution to add voter education to its strategic plan (as the mission statement includes “civic engagement” as a key objective)</li> <li>• training student leaders within TCC Votes to organize via the Ask Every Student Academy virtual workshop</li> <li>• inviting local and state candidates to speak at a “forum” event</li> <li>• creating TCC Votes social media accounts: Instagram, Facebook, etc.; posting on social media at least twice a month that includes event details or action links</li> <li>• creating a QR code that directs students to TCC Votes webpage for voter education and voter registration information</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voter Registration Strategies:</b></p>	<p>TCC Votes aims to increase student voter registration by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• holding voter registration events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ at least one monthly voter education/voter registration event during fall and spring semesters</li> <li>○ tracking registration numbers at each event</li> <li>○ TCC Aspire Day and Black Male Achievers Voter Registration Drive: April 19, 2024</li> <li>○ TCC Votes – Voter Registration Drive at Word of South Festival: April 27-28, 2024</li> <li>○ TCC Votes Registration Drive for “National Voter Registration Day”: September 17, 2024</li> <li>○ TCC Votes Registration Drive for “Voter Education Week”: October 7-11, 2024</li> <li>○ TCC Votes Registration Drive for “National Vote Early Day”: October 29, 2024</li> <li>○ hold monthly voter registration drives with various on-campus student and institutional clubs and organizations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• create sustainable partnership with FloridaPIRG through Ted Duggan (coalition member)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• invite local media to report on our voter education and voter registration efforts</li> <li>• establish voter education and voter registration presentations in SLS1510: College Success and SLS2261: Leadership Development as a part of course framework</li> <li>• establish annual partnership drive between Florida State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Tallahassee Community College</li> </ul>
<b>Voter Turnout Strategies:</b>	<p>TCC Votes aims to facilitate student voter turnout by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creating effective communication methods for upcoming elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ create TEAMS group for TCC Votes communication and resource access</li> <li>○ create webpage for TCC Votes that includes voter, such as voter education and ballot information, voter registration and updates, and FAQs</li> <li>○ create QR code that directs students to TCC Votes webpage for voter education and voter registration information</li> <li>○ post on social media at least twice a month that includes event details or action links</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Evaluation:**

Community colleges serve as vital hubs for civic engagement and democratic participation, providing diverse student populations with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for active citizenship. By elucidating the key criteria in our short-term and long-term goals, data collection methodologies such as voter registration data and the NSLVE report, and formal and in-formal evaluation and analytical techniques, this TCC Votes framework facilitates a rigorous assessment of the impact and effectiveness of civic engagement initiatives within the higher education context at Tallahassee Community College moving forward.

TCC Votes will employ:

**Establishing Evaluation Objectives:** Central to the evaluation process is the delineation of clear and measurable objectives aligned with the overarching goals of the civic education strategy. These objectives may encompass metrics such as voter registration rates, voter turnout rates, levels of civic knowledge and engagement, and perceptions of the campus climate for civic participation. By articulating specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound goals, TCC Votes coalition evaluators can effectively gauge the extent to which the cumulative strategy has achieved its intended outcomes and identify areas for improvement in relation to our short-term and long-term goals.

**Assessing Program Implementation:** A critical component of the evaluation process entails assessing the fidelity and effectiveness of program implementation vis-à-vis the intended strategies and activities outlined in the action plan. We plan to scrutinize factors such as **program delivery, accessibility, outreach efforts, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement** to ascertain the extent to which the cumulative strategy has been faithfully executed and its reach extended to diverse segments of the campus community.

**Analyzing Impact and Outcomes:** Through rigorous data analysis, the TCC Votes coalition will **discern patterns, trends, and correlations** indicative of the cumulative strategy's impact on civic education, voter registration, and voter turnout. Statistical analyses and comparative assessments facilitate the identification of key findings, emergent themes, and areas of strength and weakness. By triangulating diverse sources of evidence, we will construct a nuanced understanding of the basis for underlying changes in civic knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among community college students.

**Feedback and Continuous Improvement:** Central to the evaluation process is the cultivation of a culture of continuous improvement informed by **formal and informal feedback and stakeholder engagement**. By soliciting input from students, faculty, administrators, and community partners, we will gather diverse perspectives on the strengths, challenges, and opportunities inherent in our civic education approaches and strategies. We will require **two cumulative review sessions per year to evaluate action plan progress**. This crucial feedback informs strategic decision-making, program adjustments, and resource reallocation aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of civic engagement action efforts over time.

By systematically assessing the accuracy, effectiveness, and impact of civic engagement initiatives, TCC can elucidate the pathways to civic empowerment, democratic participation, and social change within the higher education context.

\*Tallahassee Community College needs to authorize the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) in order to receive campus voting data to help with the evaluation of our action plan and nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts. Once the NSLVE has been approved and the results have been returned, the TCC Votes coalition will rely on this data to further facilitate and inform our campus-wide interventions.

## Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/tallahassee-community-college/>

Additionally, Tallahassee Community College's 2024 Action Plan will be shared with

- TCC Votes coalition
- Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office
- TCC administration and TCC Student Affairs
- And national partners associated with the ALL IN: Campus Democracy Challenge