DRAFT

Action Plan for Civic Engagement: Trinity College

TrinVotes Coordinating Committee

Tri-chairs – Jason Rojas (Chief of Staff to the President), Joseph Barber (Director of Community Service and Civic Engagement), & Carlos Espinosa (Director of Community Relations & Trinfo.Cafe)

Staff – Exempt Staff Council reps - Mark Hughes & Elizabeth Fitzgerald; Non-Exempt Staff Council rep - Alexandra Fischbein

Faculty – John Platoff, Janet Morrison, Adrienne Fulco, and Stefanie Chambers

Students –Maddy White, Justin Landry

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Introduction:

This plan is intended as a provisional map for Trinity's election engagement efforts for 2020 and beyond. The plan includes both firm intentions and initial suggestions for how various departments might engage in this work, and as such it represents a starting point for conversations and collaborations with stakeholders that will take place throughout 2020.

Outcomes from past efforts, as well as evolving campus needs and resources, will be incorporated into future iterations of this plan as Trinity continues to participate in the NESCAC Votes! ALL IN Challenge.

Trinity College joined the NESCAC Votes! ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge with the intent of increasing student civic engagement through a four-part plan:
1. Voter Registration
2. Voter Education Campaign
3. Ballot Access Plan
4. Mobilization and Turn Out

Overview:

Using various campus resources, the TrinVotes! Coordinating Committee will work in collaboration and partnership with student organizations, residential life, Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (SAIL), Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Dean of Students office, the Dean of Faculty office, the President's office, and any other interested entities to promote the four-piece, circular plan of Voter Registration, Ballot Access, Voter Education, and Voter Mobilization and Turnout. Be it through direct engagement, education, funding sources, and/or a combination of these forms, TrinVotes! aims at increasing the number of students who:

1. Are registered to vote
2. Are informed about candidates, platforms, and issues
3. Vote

Draft Plan:

Check out an image of a strategic plan development exercise we completed at the NESCAC Votes! Summit in October 2019. Here is that image translated into a spreadsheet

Here is a link to the document with all of the tactic cards that were used to determine several of the activities in the section below.

Voter Registration	Ballot Access Plan

Voter Registration Events and Activities throughout the academic year:
 	
Fall Term - 2019:
  1. National Voter Registration Day—run by ConnPIRG; CT Secretary State visit
  2. Internal campus groups
    a. ConnPIRG—voter tables
	Provide students information regarding:
	  1. Proof of Residency
	  2. Absentee voting process by state
	
	Remove barriers to voting by addressing statutory and non-statutory obstacles
	  1. Consider contracting TurboVote as a service to help link students to registration and ultimately turning students out.

b. Political groups – approach Dems, GOP, Libertarians, and Dem Socialists to be part of committee 3. Academic Departments 4. External groups – registration tables at Mather Hall 5. Initial meeting of TrinVotes coalition 6. Other? *Winter 2019/20:* 1. registration -incorporate voter registration into new and transfer student orientation 2. *Spring Term - 2020:* 1. Primary debate viewing parties 2. Contact Hartford Registrar of Voters re: Trinity turnout '12-16 **3. Registration**- Table every Thursday in the busiest place on campus for a month **4. Turnout** work for CT primary in April 2020 **5. Registration**- Work with residential life to incorporate voter engagement into at least one residence hall/dorm meeting each semester **6. Registration**- Have College president or SGA president send out a campus wide email about importance of voting. **7. Registration –** Incorporate voter registration into an unrelated, yet popular events on campus 8. Potential - **Registration -** Incorporate voter registration into the process for student government elections 9. Potential - **Registration –** Plan and host a large-scale event focused on voter registration – options include free concert; party on quad; food trucks; set up games & info tables 10. Potential – **Registration –** Coordinate a group of students & faculty to do class raps *Summer Term – 2020:* 1. Coordinate with New Student Orientation re: integrating voter registration and education (e.g., potential meetings with RAs, mentors, PRIDE leaders)	2. Develop an educational component to inform students about state-imposed voter ID laws and requirements for ensuring full voting participation.

Fall Term – 2020 1. 1st Year Program – pre-Orientation & Orientation in September 2. Student Involvement Fair 3. **Registration**- Table every Thursday in the busiest place on campus for a month 4. **Registration -** Host an event on National Voter Registration – include more core partners than just ConnPIRG 5. **Registration**- Work with residential life to incorporate voter engagement into at least one residence hall/dorm meeting each semester 6. **Registration**- Have your institution's president or student government president sent out a campus wide email about the importance of voting	
Mobilization & Turn Out	Voter Education Campaign
1. **Turnout**- Launch a " I care about.." social media campaign 2. **Turnout**- Organize campus-wide pledge to vote campaign 3. **Institutionalize**- Apply to become a Voter Friendly Campus 4. **Turnout**- Organize walk to polls on Election Day 5. **Turnout**- Decorate dining hall for Election Day 6. **Turnout**- Host absentee voting parties, complete with stamps and envelopes for ballots. 7. **Turnout –** Do a student takeover of campus social media accounts with voting content	1. **Institutionalize**- Work with campus vote project to understand and promote student voting rights in your state 2. **Education**- Promote and host debate watch parties, complete with swag and snacks 3. **Education**- work with the student newspaper to launch series of articles about youth voting 4. **Institutionalize**- Apply to become a Voter Friendly Campus 5. **Turnout –** Do a student takeover of campus social media accounts with voting content 6. **Education** -- Create a resource with comprehensive information on voter registration and absentee ballot deadlines in each state (e.g., using Ballotpedia or Student Vote, etc.).

Evaluation & Conclusion:

● The committee will establish foundation data on:

students eligible to vote

students registered

- o Decide who on-campus should join committee and planning (e.g., faculty, students, College Dems & Republicans, Student Diversity Council)
- o Develop communications strategy
- o Determine funding source(s)
- o Develop criteria for determining success
- o National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) access

● The committee will continue collaborating with the President's office, faculty, and other campus resources to establish an integrated education program over time.

Aspiration:

Develop a process for institutionalizing this coalition as a Presidential ad-hoc committee by evaluating the overall inclusiveness of campus partners and the effectiveness of the overall effort. How well were external partners engaged, what roles they took, and were they included in decision making?

Has Institutional Research (IR) helped develop instruments to assess the effectiveness of activities and events for registering, educating, and mobilizing student voters? If so, how?