



## 2022 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; Non-Exempt Staff Council rep - Alexandra Fischbein; Courtney DeMeglio

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

Students – **ADD MORE STUDENT NAMES**

External Partners – The Links, Inc., Hartford Votes!, Hispanic Federation; and the City of Hartford Registrar of Voters

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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 2022.

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 NESAC Votes! ALL IN Challenge.

Trinity College joined the NESAC 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, The Bantam Network, Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (SAIL), Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Office of Student and Community Life, 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 NESAC 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
Voter Registration Events and Activities throughout the academic year:  <u>Fall Term - 2021:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. National Voter Registration Day—run by ConnPIRG</li><li>2. Work with the President’s Office to formalize TrinVotes as a permanent college-wide committee; secure funding for a graduate assistant to staff the coalition; and secure a budget of \$2500 to support student workers and a mini-grant funding pool for activities and events.</li><li>3. Continue relationship with HartfordVotes coalition.</li></ol> <u>Spring Term - 2022:</u>

1. **Registration** – Incorporate voter registration into unrelated, yet popular events on campus- GreenFest and SambaFest.

Summer Term – 2022:

1. Coordinate with New Student Orientation re: integrating voter registration and education (e.g., potential meetings with RAs, mentors, PRIDE leaders)
2. Work with Registrar/First Year Program to incorporate questions into mandatory paperwork that helps us assess voter registration status for all incoming students.
3. Potential - **Registration** - Incorporate voter registration into the process for student government elections
4. 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
5. Potential – **Registration** – Coordinate a group of students & faculty to do class raps
6. Develop a student-led social media team or social media strategy with student clubs and the Communications Office.
7. **Registration** - Promote TrinVotes to summer research programs
8. Develop TrinVotes registration tools – posters, laminated registration cards, etc.

Fall Term – 2022

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Year Seminar Program – pre-Orientation & Orientation in September – ask faculty teaching seminars to promote voter reg info and promote National Voter Registration Day event and others
2. Student Involvement Fair – registration table for this event
3. Host a large event for National Voter Registration Day on 9/20/22. Plan and organize with ConnPIRG and other interested internal and external groups to include multiple registration activities, including a public event with key public figures and with speakers/debate on issues for student education component.
4. Registration- Table every Thirsty Thursday in the busiest place on campus for a month (mid-Sept.to end of Oct.)
5. Registration – partner with Underground Coffee House and Peter Bs for registration. Giveaway a \$20 gift card.
6. Registration - Host an event on National Voter Registration – include more core partners than just ConnPIRG
7. Registration- Work with residential life to incorporate voter engagement into at least one residence hall/dorm meeting each semester
8. Registration- Have the president and student government president sent out a campus wide email about the importance of voting, where to vote, enthusiastically mobilizing students on Election Day.
9. Contact Hartford Registrar of Voters re: Trinity turnout ‘20
10. Goal – ID # of students abroad, what % are registered, and develop a strategy for getting them registered - Work with the Office of Study Away (Katie Claire)
11. Education - Recruit a speaker/event/debate in the fall term (with external partner, perhaps Hartford Votes, The Links, Inc., AKA, etc.)
12. Registration- Work with the Bantam Network to incorporate voter engagement into at least one residence hall/dorm meeting each semester
13. Registration- Have College president or SGA president send out a campus wide email about importance of voting. Link to campus wide events in #8

14. Monitor the Bicentennial planning to find opportunities for TrinVotes registration activities.

Winter 2022/23:

1. Reassess and evaluate our effectiveness for the Fall 2022 midterms
2. registration -incorporate voter registration into new and transfer student orientation

Spring Term - 2023:

1. **Registration** – Incorporate voter registration into unrelated, yet popular events on campus- GreenFest Hip-Hop Fest, and SambaFest.
2. Potential - **Registration** - Incorporate voter registration into the process for student government elections
3. 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
4. Potential – **Registration** – Coordinate a group of students & faculty to do class raps
5. Develop a student-led social media team or social media strategy with student clubs and the Communications Office.

Mobilization & Turn Out

1. Turnout- Launch a social media campaign that uses non-partisan personal stories.
2. Turnout- Organize campus-wide pledge to vote campaign
3. Institutionalize- Establish Voter Friendly Campus status
4. Turnout- Organize walk to polls on Election Day through the Residential Life Office – contest for which dorm can organize the highest percentage of their residents to vote.
5. Turnout- Decorate dining hall a week prior to Election Day & schedule watch party for election results.

Ballot Access Plan

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.

### Voter Education Campaign

1. Institutionalize – Develop campus programming to promote a better understanding on campus of voting rights
2. Institutionalize – Apply to become a Voter Friendly Campus
3. Promotion – Work with the *Tripod* to launch series of articles about youth voting
4. Education – Use the TrinVotes website to direct students to resources with comprehensive information on voter registration and absentee ballot deadlines in each state on Vote.Org.

### Evaluation & Conclusion:

- The committee will establish foundation data on:

# students eligible to vote

- Work with the First Year Program to include a question on enrollment paperwork designating voter registration status

# students registered

- Decide who on-campus should join committee and planning (reconstituting the membership based on new permanent committee status per the President's designation)
- Develop communications strategy
- Determine funding needs (baseline vs. aspirational needs)
- Determine funding source(s) in addition to the \$3000 committed by the President's office
- Develop criteria for determining success
- 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 educational program over time.

#### *Aspiration:*

Continue to more fully institutionalize this coalition as a permanent Presidential 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?

Determine what data TrinVotes needs and how to gather that data either through Institutional Research or other means.