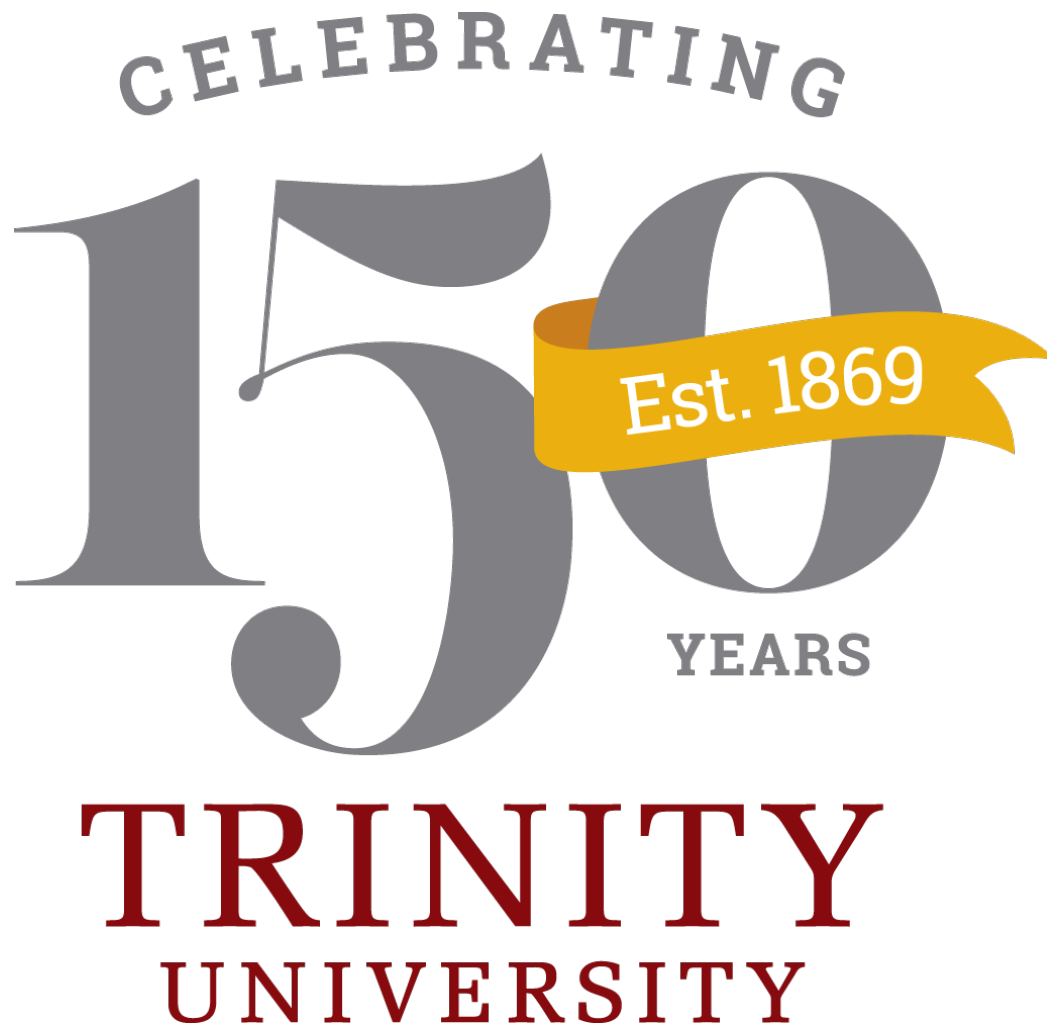


All In Challenge Action Plan



Executive Summary

Trinity University empowers students for lives of purpose. In fulfilling this mission, civic engagement is threaded throughout the campus culture, including both curricular and co-curricular initiatives. Trinity's commitment to strengthening voter participation and other civic engagement opportunities can be seen through a recently-formed committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff.

According to recent NSLVE reports, Trinity University student voting rates in the last two election cycles were up and higher than the "all institutions" data. In 2018, the Trinity University voting rate was 50.1% (compared to 39.1% for all institutions.) This is a strength that Trinity should build upon and continue in future election cycles. In addition, voter registration rates reflect a positive trend line across the 2016 and 2018 data sets. And yet, there is room for improvement in terms of building a cohesive experience in which students understand their civic rights and responsibilities.

Working from October 2019 to December 2020, the 2020 Counts committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff volunteers seeks to accomplish the following goals in 2020:

1. Increase awareness of the 2020 Census Count and the impact of being counted;
2. Lower barriers to voting;
3. Educate students about issues and candidates on ballots, including important issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in voter registration and voting, information literacy, and more;
4. Increase eligible registered voters to 90% (from 2016 in 86.8% in 2016 and 88% in 2018);
5. Increase student voting rate; and
6. Increase the voting rate from 52.5% (2016) to 65%, more than half the student population.
 - a. Increase the proportion of male students voting to 50% (from 39.9% in 2016 and 41.1% in 2018).
 - b. Increase the percentage of early voting voters to 75% (from 62.3% in 2016 and 60.1% in 2018)
 - c. Raise the lowest voter turnout rate by discipline to 50% (from 37.6% in 2016 and 37.2% in 2018).

Strategies across the calendar year 2020 will be supported by student leaders, student organizations, and engaged faculty and staff. Specific efforts will be made to engage athletic coaches, student organization advisers, and faculty across disciplines to bring relevant content into the classroom, facilitate educational co-curricular programming, and encourage student participation. The committee developed comprehensive strategies designed to engage all corners of the campus community from athletics to the classroom.

Leadership

Trinity University is comprised of civic-minded students who are ready to engage in these efforts. Available institutional resources include faculty and staff in Academic Affairs and Student Affairs who are interested in supporting these efforts.

The All In Challenge action plan will be supported by a variety of departments, faculty, staff, and students. A 2020 Counts committee comprised of volunteers was formed to dedicate time and energy to these purposes. As the next calendar year unfolds, the committee desires to expand in order to include additional faculty, Residential Life, and Athletics Department, and additional student representatives.

2020 Counts committee membership includes:

- Dr. Scott Brown, Experiential Learning (Academic Affairs), *co-chair*

- Marcus DePaul, Strategic Communications & Marketing
- Sydney Jarvis, Trinity Progressives representative
- Andrew Kinney, Philosophy Club president
- Noor Rahman, SGA senator
- Manveena Singh, Trinity Diversity Connection outgoing president
- Dr. David Spener, Sociology & Anthropology (Academic Affairs)
- Jamie Thompson, Student Involvement (Student Life), *co-chair*

Commitment

Trinity University is guided by a mission to prepare its graduates to pursue lives of meaning and purpose and to thrive in an interconnected world. Trinity's guiding values of enduring excellence, intentional inclusion, and perpetual discovery are central to its mission. At Trinity, students are expected to connect across differences while thinking deeply and acting meaningfully.

Mission

Trinity University is a transformational liberal arts and sciences university with selected professional and pre-professional programs. In pursuit of this mission, Trinity is committed to the highest levels of academic and professional excellence in teaching, research, learning, service, leadership, and personal integrity. Trinity embraces innovation in all pursuits: rigorous and relevant courses, supportive mentoring relationships, and a wealth of learning opportunities wherever they occur. Trinity prepares its graduates to pursue lives of meaning and purpose.

Vision

Trinity will redefine liberal arts education for the 21st century. By embracing innovation, Trinity will become a national leader by preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world, strengthening interdisciplinary and experiential education, and integrating academic and residential campus life.

In 2013, the Board of Trustees approved the Trinity Tomorrow Strategic Plan. As a result, in 2015 the newly formed Center for Experiential Learning and Career Success (CELCS) opened its doors. CELCS staff work with campus and community partners to expand sites of learning from the campus classroom to local neighborhoods, the city, and beyond. CELCS in addition to other interdisciplinary programs provide numerous opportunities for students to gain direct experience working with city government agencies, non-profits, cultural institutions, established businesses, and start-ups. Such opportunities include volunteerism, community service, service-learning, community-based federal work-study, internships, and undergraduate research. Students are encouraged to reflect on and consider ways in which their involvement in those opportunities contribute to civic learning and democratic engagement.

Trinity University is also concerned about the common good, which is demonstrated in its curriculum and commitment to faculty development. CELCS has worked with the Faculty Senate and University Curriculum Council to define what constitutes an Experiential Learning (EXL) course. Essentially, an EXL-designated course suggests students will have demonstrated the ability to execute a specific project or experience that involves purposeful engagement with the local, national, or global community or the natural environment outside of the formal classroom.

The university kicked off the 2019-20 academic year by hosting a symposium entitled "Inclusive Excellence: Empowering Faculty and Staff for Serving 21st Century Learners with Diverse Perspectives." The symposium

included guest speakers on topics ranging from inclusion and mental health to rethinking assumptions about race on campus.

Other efforts indicate Trinity University's commitment to improving democratic engagement. For instance, Trinity joined the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to gather data on voter turnout since the 2012 election. In the most recent federal election, Trinity witnessed a 50.1% voting rate among its student body in the 2018 election, which was a 33.2% increase from 2014.

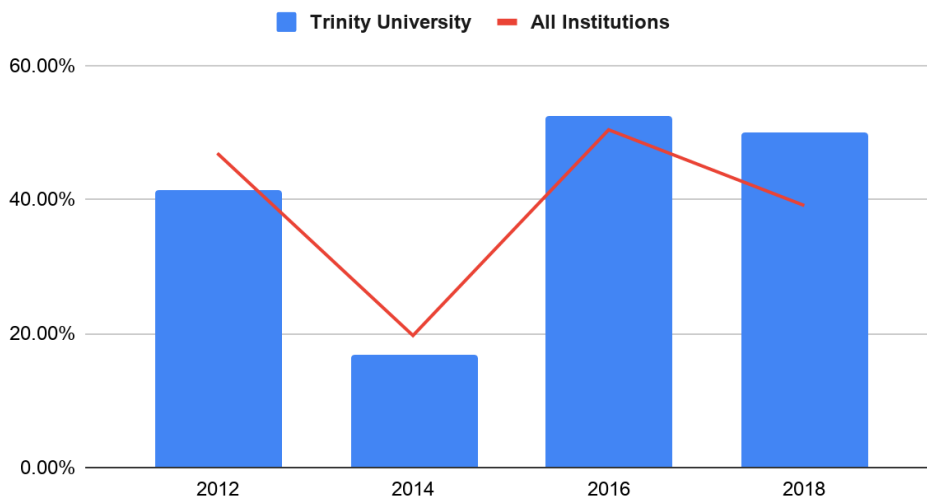
Landscape

History of democratic engagement: The NSLVE reports are a useful tool for examining areas of strength and opportunities for growth and All In Challenge action plan strategies in regards to democratic engagement. The data below provides a snapshot of the landscape of democratic engagement at Trinity University. Key patterns include:

1. Voting rates: Voting rates in the last two election cycles are up and higher than the “all institutions” data. In 2018, the Trinity University voting rate was 50.1% (compared to 39.1% for all institutions.) This is an incredible strength that Trinity should build upon and continue in future election cycles.
2. Registration rates: There is a positive trend line across the data set. This is a strength that Trinity should build upon.
3. Voting by gender: Students who identify as male vote at a significantly lower rate than students who identify as female. Efforts should be made to increase voting by male students.
4. Voting by method: The data vary. As such, there may be opportunities to increase awareness of and access to all voting methods.
5. Voting rates, by discipline: During the last two presidential elections, the lowest voting rates were found in engineering, business, English, health professions, and computer sciences. Opportunities exist to increase voting measures within these disciplines.

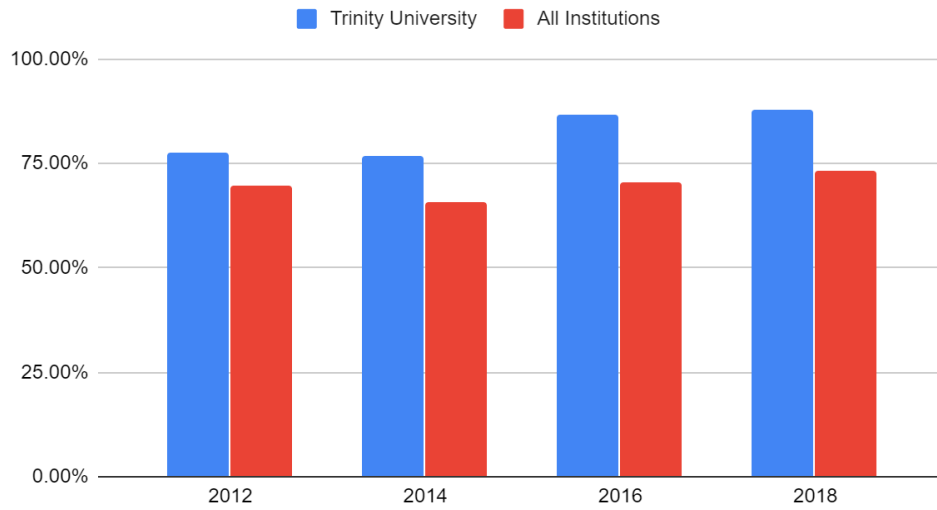
Voting rates

Voting Rates (TU and All Institutions)



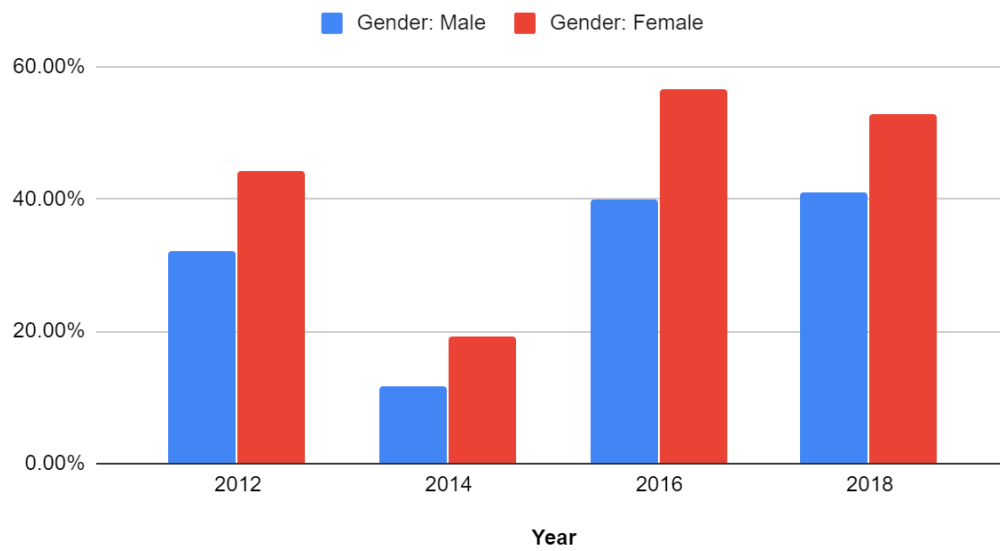
Registration rates

Registration Rates



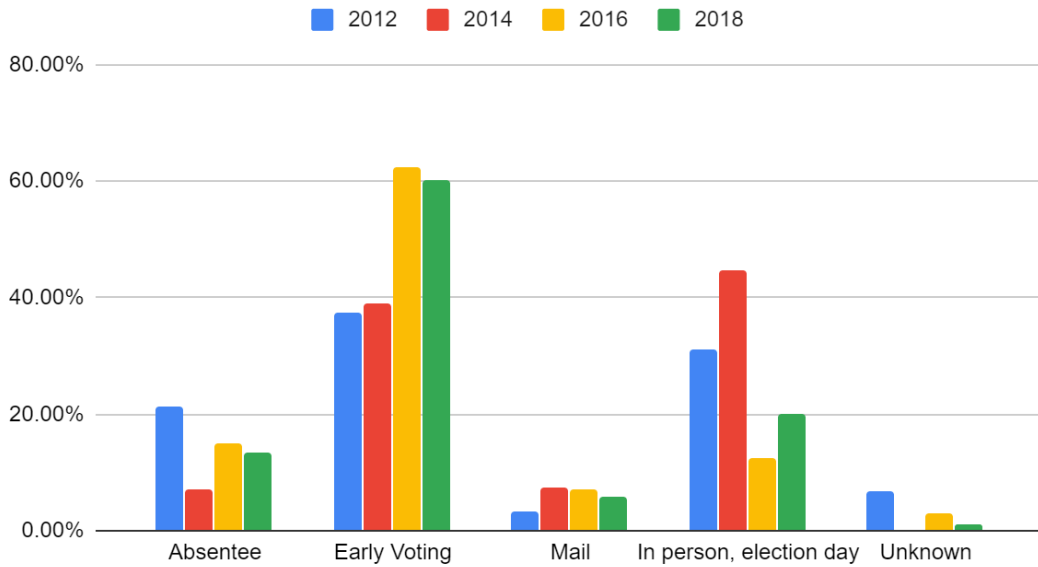
Voting, by gender

Voting Rates by Gender



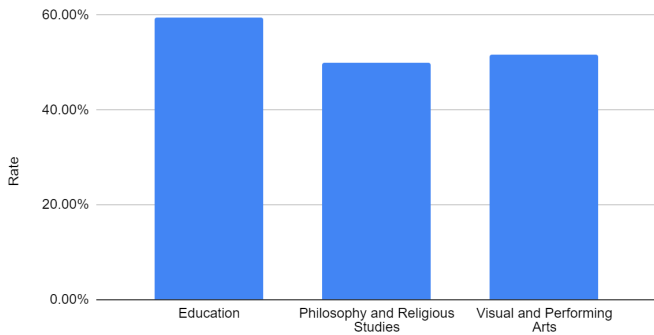
Voting method, by year

Voting Method, by year

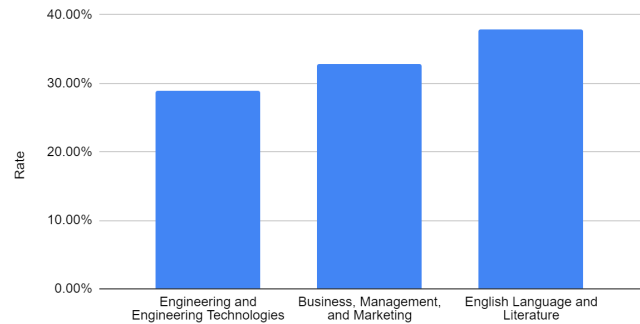


Voting during presidential elections, by discipline

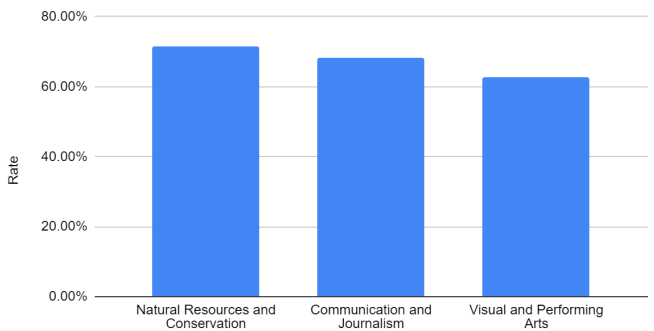
Presidential Election (2012): Highest voting rates by discipline



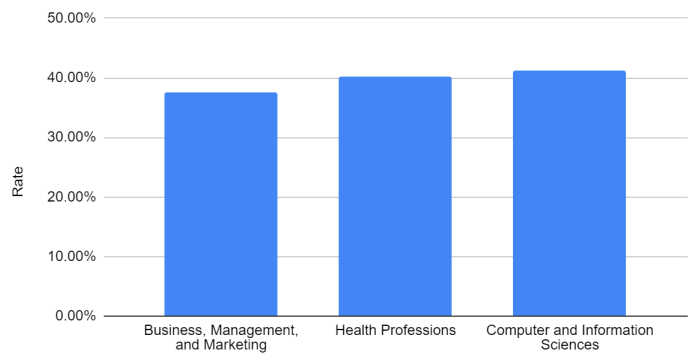
Presidential Election (2012): Lowest voting rates by discipline



Presidential Election (2016): Highest voting rates by discipline



Presidential Election (2016): Lowest voting rates by discipline



Previous and current efforts: Previous and current efforts related to campus dialogue and civic engagement are broad and reach a variety of campus constituents. Examples are provided below.

- Approximately five years ago, SGA added a cabinet position, Legislative Relations. This position coordinates voter registration and voting efforts, in collaboration with other student organizations, approximately once/year.

- Several departments and student organizations partner with a non-partisan voter registration organization, MOVE Texas. Historically, this includes collaborative efforts with Greek Council, New Student Orientation, SGA, and Trinity Progressives.
- Office of the Chapel and Spiritual Life: Interfaith Teas occur as bi-weekly gatherings for conversation and tea to encourage dialogue and discussion around interfaith issues. Worthy Questions occur as bi-weekly (free) dinner for students interested in discussion about life's big questions.
- Texas Public Radio's "Dare to Listen" campaign: Trinity University, and specifically the University President, participated in the Dare to Listen campaign in 2016 which encouraged active listening as a means to create connections between varying perspectives.
- Milk n' Cookies & Conversation: Once/semester, Student Involvement hosts a special edition of Milk n' Cookies that engages students in dialogue around specific topics.
- Dean of Students "Speaking Of" series: From 2016-2018, the Dean of Students organized and hosted a variety of events that engaged students in discussions around hot topics (athletes and the national anthem, the Muslim student experience, and more).
- Mutual Understanding Dinner: In Spring 2017, the Vice President for Student Life and the University President, in collaboration with Student Involvement, hosted student leaders from varying political student organizations for a mutual understanding dinner. The goals were to establish relationships by learning about one another and their values.
- First Amendment "Free Food" event: From time to time, the weekly newspaper, *Trinitonian*, host a first amendment event that illustrates to students why the first amendment matters and how life might be different without it.
- Trinity University has a long history of living the institutional value of perpetual discovery via campus lectures and speakers (e.g. Soledad O'Brien, Margaret Atwood, Marc Lamont Hill, Bernie Sanders, David Books, Dinesh D'souza, and David Cameron).
- Within the Divisions of Student and Academic Affairs, staff professional development over the last two years included training on critical issues impacting students (DACA, Title IX legislation, etc.).
- Trinity University is a participating institution in the [2019 Diversity, Civility, and the Liberal Arts Institute](#) hosted by Council for Independent Colleges (CIC). Participating institutions deepen students' cognitive understanding of the issues by engaging in the humanities and social sciences and strengthen diversity and civility on campus. An implementation plan is currently in progress.
- A sample of curricular initiatives are identified below that highlight community engagement efforts and Trinity's commitment to engaging students in the San Antonio community:
 - Students in the Accounting program and Arts, Letters, and Enterprise program collaborate to develop budgets for non-profit grant proposals; students also audit transactions and develop internal control procedures for non-profits.
 - Faculty in Psychology department collaborate with the San Antonio Food Bank to study mental health concerns, with a specific emphasis on eating disorders, in those living with food insecurity in San Antonio. Students also receive research course credit for participating in this ongoing research.
 - Department of Education facilitates service-learning courses that connects students to the San Antonio community. One course pairs students with community organizations that serve people with disabilities, and students in another course provide tutoring at The Winston School of San Antonio.
 - Students participating in the Trinity-sponsored summer internship program have gained experience on political campaigns, such as Senator John Cornyn and Texas State House of Representative Diego Bernal, to satisfy internship and credit requirements.

Goals

As previously addressed, Trinity University is in the final years of a 10-year strategic plan. As such, there are no long-term, campus-wide initiatives or plans to explicitly address civic engagement. That said, the abbreviated mission of the institution, “Empowering Lives for Purpose,” very closely connects to civic and democratic engagement. Administrators, faculty, and staff work in alignment with this overarching goal on a daily basis.

In the short-term, Trinity University has set the following goals for 2020:

1. Increase awareness of the 2020 Census Count and the impact of being counted;
2. Lower barriers to voting;
3. Educate students about issues and candidates on ballots, including important issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in voter registration and voting, information literacy, and more;
4. Increase eligible registered voters to 90% (from 86.8% in 2016 and 88% in 2018);
5. Increase student voting rate; and
6. Increase the voting rate from 52.5% (2016) to 65%, more than half the student population.
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 - b. Increase the percentage of early voting voters to 75% (from 62.3% in 2016 and 60.1% in 2018)
 - c. Raise the lowest voter turnout rate by discipline to 50% (from 37.6% in 2016 and 37.2% in 2018).

Strategy

Note: These are draft plans and are subject to change. Final plans will be fleshed out in Spring 2020.

Winter 2019-2020

1. Convene 2020 Counts committee
2. Complete Census Bureau Campus Committee training
3. Develop All in Challenge action plan
4. Share action plan with wide variety of constituents and seek feedback

Spring 2020

January

5. Develop a detailed implementation plan for these strategies in order to identify the who, what, where, and when for each initiative

February

6. Visit department chairs meeting to share information/updates with academic department chairs and request their participation. The following forms of faculty participation will be encouraged:
 - Develop informed voters: Use election topics to teach fact-checking and online media literacy in stand-alone programs (teach-in, panel, etc.) or embedding content in Fall 2020 courses
 - Involve faculty across disciplines in elections: Encourage faculty to work with students on election or policy questions in the classroom. Have faculty remind students to register and vote.
7. A member of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) disseminates the NSLVE report to academic department chairs and Student Life staff
8. With leadership from the Campus Conversations Committee host intergroup communication training
9. Continue to build a relationship and collaboration with MOVE Texas

10. Host a deputization training on campus in order to increase the number of Trinity University community members who can register others to vote.
 - Send out call for Deputized registrants to see who is already deputized
 - Provide desk/office/email signature notices for those who are deputized to ensure the community is aware of their options

March

11. Place an ad in the Trinitonian newspaper to inform the community about the Census, the importance of being counted, and how to be counted
12. Submit an opinion piece to the Trinitonian newspaper about the importance of the Census
13. Meet with faculty leaders in disciplines with low voting rates to discuss ways in which their departments can be supported
14. Email all department chairs with their respective voting rate data

April

15. Host Super Nacho Hour on Census Day (April 1)
16. Leverage SGA and University Sponsored Organization (USO) student leadership to recruit student volunteers / additional committee members to support Summer and Fall initiatives as members of the Get Out TU Vote! coalition.
 - Specifically, identify fraternity members, male student athletes, and students from underrepresented populations.
 - Utilize coaches, fraternity/sorority advisers, and student organization advisers to support initiatives and nominate students to participate
17. Evaluate committee membership given student attrition and graduation

May

18. Encourage faculty to include early voter registration dates/election date in their Fall 2020 course syllabi

Summer 2020

June and July

19. Students to complete van certification to transport students to voting locations in the fall
20. Participate in Student Accessibility Services Awareness Days and host a voter registration information table
21. Summer Research and Internship Program: Voter registration and event information in June 29th newsletter; paletas and voter registration event on July 1
22. Meet with Michael Hughes to discuss the ability for First Year Experience (FYE) Peer Tutors to share voter registration/education information during FYE courses
23. Encourage faculty to include early voter registration dates/election date in their Fall 2020 course syllabi

Fall 2020

August

24. Distribute welcome kits to all incoming students that includes printed collateral with registration/voting deadlines and campus events, in addition to a "I am a voter" button
25. Register first year and transfer students to vote during New Student Orientation
26. Have presence at Sophomore College Conference and Junior/Senior Happy Hours (hosted by Residential Life) during Welcome Week

September

27. Convene the Get Out TU Vote! coalition formed in Spring 2020. This group's purpose is to be a student-centered marketing group to educate the student body on voter education issues. The group will meet three times in the fall to distribute information, share resources, and delegate duties.
28. FYE (common lectures) presentations after Labor Day

29. Place an ad in the Trinitonian newspaper to inform the community about voter registration opportunities
30. Submit an opinion piece to the Trinitonian newspaper about the importance of voter registration and voter turnout
31. University leadership will send a campus email about Constitution Day and include language about voter registration and campus efforts around civic engagement
32. Host Super Nacho Hour on a Tuesday as a National Voter Registration Day celebration
33. Table in Coates Student Center on a recurring basis to:
 - Share resources (Student Voting Guide FAQ 2010, Student Voting Guide 2016, or Campus Votes Project's Student Guides)
 - Register students to vote
 - Distribute "I'm Registered!" stickers
34. Residential Life will host an inter-dorm voter registration competition with incentives

October

35. Share voting messaging via campus emails, social media platforms, including images/videos of Trinity University mascot, LeeRoy, voting
36. Table at football tailgates
37. Get Out TU Vote! coalition members give short announcements at the beginning of class
38. Table in Coates Student Center on a recurring basis to:
 - Share resources (Student Voting Guide FAQ 2010, Student Voting Guide 2016, or Campus Votes Project's Student Guides)
 - Digital photo program to capture student, faculty, staff responses to "What issues interest you in this election?" and share on social media platforms
 - Distribute "I am a voter" buttons
39. Pay postage for mailing registration forms, absentee ballot requests, and completed ballots

November

40. Place an ad in the Trinitonian newspaper to publicize early voting options and polling locations
41. Place an ad in the Trinitonian newspaper to publicize Election Watch Party
42. Provide transportation to/from polls during early voting and on election day and widely publicize schedule
43. Host election Watch Party

Long-term Goals

- Move Precinct 2055 from Alamo Stadium to Trinity University
- Build a culture of coalition-building around civic learning and democratic engagement

Reporting

The Vice President for Academic Affairs approved the 2020 Counts co-chairs' request to attend the Department Chairs meeting in February 2020 to discuss the purpose of the committee and All In Challenge campaign, review the action plan and strategies developed, and to solicit feedback and ideas. On a more continuous basis, the co-chairs plan to provide periodic updates to the Student Life Leadership Team, to the Associate Vice President for Curriculum and Faculty Development, and SGA.

It should be noted that Trinity University is undergoing a website redesign. The co-chairs have reached out to staff in the Office of Strategic Communication and Marketing and inquired about creating a website to share information and post updates on the committee's progress.

The committee, with oversight from the co-chairs, will draft a final report at the end of 2020 and after the election. The committee will review the action plan and highlight successes and challenges from the 2020 year. The committee will also share data from the NSLVE report when that is made available.

Evaluation

Evaluation of these efforts will aid future strategies and collaborative partnerships. The most significant form of evaluation will be the 2020 NSLVE report which will indicate whether voter registration rates and voting rates increased, in addition to gender, discipline, and voting methods details. Additional forms of evaluation will include:

1. Budget tracking to determine total costs for these efforts;
2. Stand-alone events will be evaluated via a brief post-event survey and participation numbers via Presence check-in platform;
3. Consideration will be given to distributing an all-campus survey via the SGA post-election day in order to measure student perception of awareness of two of the stated goals, specifically: 1) lower barriers to voting and 2) educate students about issues and candidates on ballots, including important issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in voter registration and voting, information literacy, and more.