



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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## Executive Summary

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by the University of Arizona for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. As an institution, we believe student-to-student engagement is the most effective way to encourage students to vote, so much of the voter outreach and engagement was initiated and implemented by our student leadership and is supported by faculty and staff across the institution. Our primary goal for this election cycle has been to foster an environment where students recognize the power of their vote and understand the importance of expressing themselves at the ballot box and beyond as civic leaders.

## Leadership

Our leadership team will include, but is not limited to, the following campus partners:

The Associated Students of the University of Arizona

Residence Life

UA Athletics

Government and Community Relations

UA Marketing

Collaborations with the UA Office of Inclusion will also be attempted in order to ensure equity and diversity in all programs.

These efforts will be led by Jeff Winkelman, Assistant Director of Career Development and Community Engagement with the School of Government and Public Policy.

In the event that leadership experiences turnover, we will save this plan and all materials as they are created to be given to the next director of the School of Government and Public Policy.

## Commitment

The University of Arizona's mission is to develop adaptive problem-solvers capable of tackling our greatest challenges. We empower our students to tackle a broad array of challenges across disciplines and encourage every student to use their knowledge and expertise as they contribute fully to civil society. This is why our campus has signed the Higher Education President's Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation and supports an active student government that gives students direct experience in representative democracy. Additionally, the University of Arizona promotes, encourages, and supports all campus units as they engage with and better serve our communities at-large, which provides all students the opportunity to develop and grow the community-centered mindset that ultimately drives voter participation.

## Landscape

The University of Arizona is a public 4-year institution and joined the All IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2019. We are a Minority Serving Institution, a Hispanic Serving Institution, and we are currently pursuing the Carnegie Classification as a Community Engaged Institution. We proudly serve



40,684 undergraduate students and 10,991 graduate students. Of the Spring '24 undergraduate student population, there are 24,312 in-state residents, 23,979 non-residents, and 3,384 international students. 37,036 undergraduate students on the Main UA campus, 9,273 students online, and 5,366 students at other, smaller UA campuses.

## **Goals**

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

### Increasing Turnout

In the 2022 midterm elections, the percentage of University of Arizona students who voted was 60.5%. With this in mind, our goal is to increase this to 63% during the 2024 election. As this is the first year that UA will be participating in the VFC program, we keep this number realistic, with hopes to build in the future.

In the long-term, we seek to reach a goal of 70% student voter participation on the UA campus as civic engagement becomes more ingrained in campus culture.

### Increasing Access

The University of Arizona will provide on-campus voting opportunities that are available to all students by partnering with the Pima County Recorder's Office, Campus Vote Project, and the Arizona Students Association. We will provide a standing ballot box on campus to allow accessible and easy ballot drop-off that students can trust. We will also have an on-site polling location for students to use on election day.

### Institutionalization

The University of Arizona will begin taking the necessary steps to institutionalize student civic engagement on campus. By hiring and training 5 campus-wide student fellows to carry out the work outlined in this action plan, we seek to gain cross-campus support and energy to promote voting in all spaces. In order to promote equity and inclusion, we will work with student organizations to involve a diverse population. We will also seek to hire fellows from diverse backgrounds and different majors to reach a broader student population.

## **Strategy**

Our campus will attempt to implement these strategies, communications, and events to increase both voter registration and voting rates:

Town Halls & Community Discussions

Partnerships with CVP, ASA, VoteRiders, All-In

Collaborations with Panhellenic Societies and the Athletic Department

Through these collaborations, we will host ID/VR clinics and promote community discussions. We also seek to incorporate voter registration and information into the orientation and student move-in processes to provide more broad opportunities for participation. We will also attempt to collaborate with the UA IT department to integrate pushes for registration and voting into the UA LMS in order to reach all actively enrolled students. We will also collaborate with Community Town Hall to host an event for students promoting voting information on campus in early September.

## **NSLVE**

The most recent UA NSLVE data available is from 2020. In this election cycle, the University of Arizona voted at a rate of 60.5%, 5.5% lower than the national average of 66%. Of the 43,022 students eligible to vote, 32,370 students registered and 26,022 actually participated in the election. This indicates a need on campus not only for more robust registration opportunities, but for a continuation of these efforts to include get out the vote opportunities to encourage students to actually submit their ballots. The lowest rates of student participation were found in the computer science, mathematics and



statistics, and physical science departments, which indicates a need for more direct voter outreach in the STEM schools at UA.

### **Evaluation**

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Government & Community Relations, in partnership with CVP will evaluate success using 2020 NSLVE voting data compared to the 2024 results after they are posted. Students in the fellowship program will receive a survey at the end of their term, evaluating successes, areas for improvements, and targets for the following semesters. We will also track voter registration forms collected and attendees at events to gauge interest. We will then use attendance and student survey feedback to adjust programming in the future so that it is in alignment with content that holds student interest.

### **Reporting**

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

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

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website. We will collaborate with the UA Marketing department to promote efforts for civic engagement to the broader community.

