

UC Davis

Democratic Engagement Action Plan 2024-2025

I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at UC Davis. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2024-2025, on and around our campus in Davis, California.

The following groups will be leading this work at UC Davis to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Government and Community Relations Staff
- Student Affairs Staff
- Student Government (ASUCD)
- Civic Minded Student Groups
- Housing and Dining
- Student Disability Center

The mission of our initiative is to encourage, facilitate, and inform on how to become involved in civic engagement.

This action plan documents UC Davis' efforts to increase civic engagement and voting among students, staff, and faculty.

II. University Overview

UC Davis is a four-year research university founded in 1908 to serve the state of California. Located in Northern California, the University is housed on two campuses:

- the main campus is in the college town of Davis, and
- the UC Davis Health campus is located in Sacramento, the state capital

III. UC Davis Leadership and the Aggies Voter Coalition

UC Davis leadership is fully committed to advancing voter and civic engagement among students and the campus community.

The Voter Engagement Coalition is comprised of students, staff, and faculty from various departments across campus, including the ASUCD and Center for Student Involvement; the Student Disability Center, Government and Community Relations; ASUCD Creative Media; Student Affairs Marketing and Communications and members of the We Vote Student Committee.

The Coalition meets regularly to share information, plan events, and to strategize to find best practices for increasing voter access, awareness, engagement and participation.

IV. Commitment

Our senior leader has committed to civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus. Examples of this are evident through:

- Voter education resources
- Political clubs or student organizations
- Campus leaders promoting voting
- On-campus polling place
- Permanently Installed Ballot Drop-Boxes
- Voter registration tables
- Protests/rallies /walkouts
- Signage promoting Election Day

On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Political speakers
- Town halls
- Registering to vote

V. Goals

UC Davis aims to increase our voter registration and voter turnout by ten percent.

UC Davis has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

- We have a coalition of people positioned to implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- We have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- We have ways in which we communicate voting information to our students.
- We use readily available resources to develop and implement civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
- The voter engagement work on our campus is distributed throughout many offices and areas of expertise.
- Voter engagement efforts on campus are nonpartisan.
- We can engage student leaders to lead our initiative.
- We have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We work with community partners invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.

VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined our strategy and efforts for bringing this vision to life in the coming months and years.

- Organizing creative voter registration events
- Housing a voter registration button on the schedule builder page
- Providing links to voter registration and resources, election information, and voting guides on the Aggies Vote website
- Hosting a Voter Assistance Center on Campus for each election

VII. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

Our campus has access to our National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data for 2022 and 2020, which exceeded the national average. In 2022, our voting rate was 32.8 and our voting rate among registered students was 42.3.

In 2020 our registration rate was 86.6, our voting rate was 75.7, and our voting rate among registered students was 87.5.

VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly