2022 Campus Vote Plan
University of Cincinnati

Point of Contact:

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Commitment:
The University of Cincinnati serves the people of Ohio, the nation, and the world as a premier, public, urban research university dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, experience-based learning, and research. We are committed to excellence and diversity in our students, faculty, staff, and all of our activities. We provide an inclusive environment where innovation and freedom of intellectual inquiry flourish. Through scholarship, service, partnerships, and leadership, we create opportunity, develop educated and engaged citizens, enhance the economy and enrich our University, city, state, and global community.

Part of being an engaged citizen is exercising one's responsibility to vote. For this reason, the Center for Community Engagement has created UC Votes-- a democratic engagement program that aims to register students to vote, educate students on the issues, ensure ballot access, and get out the student vote. UC Votes is committed to providing students with the necessary information and materials needed to vote in every local, state, and federal election. The UC Votes Coalition is an ad-hoc committee that aims to institutionalize democratic engagement at the University of Cincinnati. Students, faculty, staff, and community partners are all part of the UC Votes Coalition.

UC Votes Coalition:
The UC Votes Coalition consists of representatives from the following areas at the University of Cincinnati:

Faculty/ Academic Programs:
- Political Science
- Law & Society

- Criminal Justice
- History
- Social Work
- Education
- Experiential Education
- Exploratory Studies
- Faculty Emeriti

Staff/ Staff Departments:
- Center for Community Engagement
- African American Cultural Resource Center
- Women's Center

Students/ Student Groups:
- Democracy Fellows
- Programs and Activities Council
- We the People

Community Partners:
- Campus Vote Project
- City of Cincinnati
- Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio

Student Voting Data (from NSLVE):

The University of Cincinnati recently joined the NSLVE study in December of 2021, so we currently do not have voting data for previous elections. By participating in NSLVE, we will be able to track our student voting rates over time and make data-informed decisions regarding new democratic engagement programming.

Goals for 2022-2023:

We have three primary goals for the 2022-2023 academic year:
1. Uniting organizations and growing partnerships to continue institutionalizing democratic engagement across the university.
2. Embedding voter registration in new student orientations and first year experience courses.
3. Facilitating high-quality voter education experiences that prepare students to make informed voting decisions.

Strategy:

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the programs and events below will help to: register students to vote, educate students on relevant voting issues, ensure ballot access, and get out the student vote.
1. Voter registration:
   a. Hiring additional democracy fellows to assist with voter registration and other democratic engagement initiatives.

b. Facilitating voter registration during new student orientations and at unexpected events like convocations, games, club events, etc.
c. Completing in-class voter registration drives during the first two weeks of the semester in First Year Experience courses.
d. Facilitating National Voter Registration Day and a Last Minute Voter Registration Day.
e. Creating voter registration resources and facilitating voter registration events for students who live on campus.
f. Facilitating an online forum explaining registering to vote at home vs. registering students to vote using a campus address.
g. Adding online voter registration information to UC Votes' website.
h. Disseminating email reminders about voter registration through the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

2. Voter education:
a. Facilitating tabling events to distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan groups.
b. Facilitating debate watch parties and encouraging students to attend local debates.
c. Facilitating an online forum explaining ballot issues outside of Ohio, specifically focusing on Kentucky and Indiana.
d. Facilitating issue forums on timely voting issues (online or in-person).
e. Celebrating Constitution Day.
f. Creating short voter education presentations that democracy fellows/ UC Votes Coalition members can present in classrooms and learning community meetings.
g. Adding voter education information to UC Votes' website.
h. Disseminating email reminders about voter education through the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

3. Ballot access:
a. Facilitating tabling events to help students create their voting plans, understand voter ID requirements, and request absentee ballots.
b. Facilitating a Vote Early Day.
c. Facilitating an online forum on minority voting.
d. Facilitating absentee ballot request tabling events.
e. Facilitating a polling location shuttle on Election Day.
f. Facilitating on online forum to help students create their voting plans.
g. Creating and utilizing a UC Votes GroupMe for voting reminders.
h. Providing proof of residency information to students who are registered to vote using their campus addresses.
i. Adding ballot access information to UC Votes' website.
j. Disseminating email reminders about ballot access through the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

4. Get Out the Student Vote:
a. Facilitating "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election.

b. Facilitating a "My reason why" social media campaign using the Center for Community Engagement's social media accounts.
c. Facilitating an Election Night Watch Party.
d. Promoting key election dates via print marketing.
e. Sending out email reminders about the election via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

Timeline:
The UC Votes Coalition will use the timeline below to ensure a robust offering of democratic engagement programs and services during the 2022-2023 academic year:
- Frequency of meetings:
  a. The Coalition meets before and after each election cycle. The UC Votes Coalition met in February of 2022 to review the draft campus vote plan and review programming leading up to the Ohio Primary Election in May of 2022. They will meet in late August or early September of 2022 to make last minute changes to UC Votes programming and to have coalition members sign up to help facilitate programs and events. The Coalition will then meet in December of 2022 or January of 2023 to review accomplishments
- Key milestones
  a. By halfway through the summer semester, we will have:
     i. Completed voter registration drives during student orientations.
     ii. Prepared content for email communications to be sent out during the fall semester.
  b. By the end of the summer semester, we will have:
     i. Completed voter registration drives during student orientations.
     ii. Printed voter registration cards, absentee ballot forms, and purchased stamps for the fall semester.
     iii. Updated voter registration/ voter education/ ballot access information on UC Votes' external website.
  c. By halfway through the fall semester, we will have:
     i. Hired campus democracy fellows, in partnership with the Campus Vote Project.
     ii. Completed in-class voter registration drives during the first two weeks of class in First Year Experience courses.
     iii. Created voter registration resources and facilitated voter registration events for students who live on campus.
     iv. Created short voter education presentations that democracy fellows/ UC Votes Coalition members can present in classrooms and learning community meetings.
     v. Facilitated National Voter Registration Day, Last Minute Voter Registration Day.
     vi. Sent out email reminders about voter registration, voter education, and ensuring ballot access via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

      vii.   Assist students with printing out their proof of residency via UC's Catalyst system.

      viii.   Assisted students with voter registration checks, polling location checks, and absentee ballot requests.

      ix.   Promoted key democratic engagement and election dates in print marketing and on social media.

      x.   Completed tabling events to distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan groups.

      xi.   Celebrated Constitution Day.

d. By the end of the fall semester, we will have:

      i.   Sent out email reminders about the election via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

      ii.   Sent out voting reminders via the UC Votes GroupMe.

      iii.   Facilitated an online forum explaining registering to vote at home vs. registering to vote using a campus address.

      iv.   Facilitated an online forum explaining ballot issues outside of Ohio, specifically focusing on Kentucky and Indiana.

      v.   Facilitated tabling events to help students create their voting plans, understand voter ID requirements, and request absentee ballots.

      vi.   Facilitated an online forum to help students create their voting plans.

      vii.   Facilitated a "Vote Early Day".

      viii.   Facilitated an online forum on minority voting.

      ix.   Facilitated "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election.

      x.   Facilitated a "My Reasons Why" social media campaign using the Center for Community Engagement's social media accounts.

      xi.   Facilitated debate watch parties/ students will have attended local debates.

      xii.   Facilitated issue forums on timely voting issues.

      xiii.   Facilitated the Election Night Watch Party.

      xiv.   Facilitated a polling location shuttle on Election Day.

      xv.   Prepared our Campus Vote Report for the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

e. Evaluating the 2022-2023 Campus Vote Plan:

      i.   The UC Votes Coalition will meet again in late January/ early February of 2023 to check in on our progress and to plan for the next election cycle.