

U DaytonVotes began under The Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere program six years ago with a change 3 years ago to U Dayton Votes. This year (2021-2022) we are aligned with the Campus Vote Project, the Andrew Goodman Foundation, and the Campus Election Engagement Project. Organizationally, we are a collaborative organization with mentorship provided by both academic faculty and administrative leaders.

Our focus as U DaytonVotes has been to seek partners who can amplify our outreach efforts and provide venues and support for civic education and dialogue initiatives.

Registration and voting outreach efforts continue to include regular tabling hours and social media outreach to students. Our institutional partners have provided valuable support for these efforts. New Student Orientation has incorporated voter registration materials in the orientation packet for first-year students. The Housing and Residence Life office has facilitated discussion with the Montgomery County Election Board and now provides students with easily obtainable documentation for residence verification. During 2020-2021, we built a successful initiative partnering with UD athletics, making a pledge to help register every student athlete who was able and willing to participate. This partnership went exceptionally well and opened doors for new connections with athletics, including a social media campaign. During the 2020 election season, we partnered with the Bookstore to provide an easily accessible location where students could print and mail their absentee ballot forms at no cost. Given our high number of students who vote absentee using their permanent home address, this was a significant and important initiative. This year, UD Printing Services contacted us and is offering free printing for student voting materials.

Our efforts around civic engagement and education also benefit from our close partnerships. We host an annual National Voter Registration Day debate with student political organizations and have partnered with Student Government Association on numerous events. Our educational efforts have benefitted from a unique housing system where students can earn points toward their housing assignments and we have been able to use this system to our advantage. Last year we had virtual, online modules available to students about voter registration and education and we plan to continue this outreach in 2021-2022. Finally, partnerships with academic departments and faculty

play an important role in our educational efforts. Our current year (2021-2022) plans revolve around more educational and dialogue opportunities. We are planning on two faculty-led events this spring semester. The first will be a panel discussion on redistricting and the implications of redistricting for the next Congressional election. The second event will focus on media consumption and understanding how to utilize media for political information.

Overall, UDaytonVotes has a strong history of voter registration and mobilization. We look forward to engaging with our administrative and academic partners on campus to increase voter registration and voting levels. Our focus on educational and civic dialogue initiatives is supported by both academic departments and individual faculty. We hope to continue offering students these opportunities for civic engagement and discussion through panel discussions, debates, and presentations.

List the top three things you'd like for your institution to gain and/or learn by being a part of the Voter Friendly Campus designation process?

Overall, we would like to learn from other campuses and partners the best practices for achieving our goals we have established below.

One of our goals for this year is to get the UDaytonVotes website linked to our main student portal. This will increase our ability for communication outreach for registration, mobilization, and civic engagement.

A second long-term goal is to have voter registration fully embedded into our New Student Orientation (NSO) programs for new student registration. We want students to be registered as soon as they get onto campus and ensure that freshmen are either already registered at home or know the right steps to get registered as soon as they arrive on campus. As part of this goal, would be to also understand how to reach those students who transfer to UD and don't go through NSO.

Third, we will seek to provide organization and clarity to the structure and the student leadership roles for UDaytonVotes as it transitions into a Registered Student Organization (RSO) at the University of Dayton.

Finally, since many students are from outside of Montgomery County and prefer to vote absentee, we have to communicate the extra steps and various requirement dates as part of absentee voting systems. We have a far-reaching goal of sending personalized emails to every student about their voting options.