



JAYHAWKS VOTE

2022 University of Kansas Campus Action Plan ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge



Executive Summary

Leadership

Civic engagement initiatives at the University of Kansas are primarily led by two entities: the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics and the Center for Service Learning. This campus action plan has been put together through a partnership between these two entities, with support from a variety of stakeholders.

Dr. Barbara W. Ballard, Senior Associate Director of the Dole Institute, and Kate Kemper, Associate Director for Student and Civic Engagement at the Center for Service Learning, lead the respective civic engagement groups below and both participate in ALL IN's Big XII Votes Challenge on behalf of KU.

Since 2004 the Dole Institute has sponsored KU Civic Engagement and Leadership – three to four weeks of programs, speakers, and activities including Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote (GOTV). The newly created Hemenway Civic Engagement Team will work with the Dole Institute and the KU Civic Engagement and Leadership Council to execute our Campus Action Plan. Robert Hemenway was the long-time Chancellor of the University of Kansas.

Dole Institute KU Civic Engagement and Leadership Council

- Dole Student Advisory Board
- Hemenway Civic Engagement Team
- Association of Residence and Scholarship Halls
- Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center
- KU Student Senate
- Student Union Activities
- KU Sororities and Fraternities
- KU Athletics
- Center for Community Outreach
- Alternative Breaks
- KU ROTC
- KU Young Democrats
- KU College Republicans

The Dole Institute sponsors programs such as *Pizza and Politics* and *Discussion Groups* that help bring experts face-to-face with students on various political topics. Additionally, the Dole Institute Student Advisory Board (SAB), a student volunteer group from diverse academic disciplines of over 100 members, plays a major role in Voter Registration and GOTV.



COVID-19 has changed the way we function on the KU campus. We were a closed campus in 2020 but resumed in-person classes in 2021. We will continue to look at digital opportunities/possibilities including social media and maintaining our work with Douglas County Clerk's Office to accomplish our stated goals.

The Center for Service Learning oversees KU's Civic Engagement Hub and convenes a Civic Engagement Ambassador program. The *Civic Engagement Hub* serves as a "one-stop shop" for all things civic engagement, from resources about voter registration and the census to guides on discussing political topics in the classroom and processing election results.

Civic Engagement Ambassadors meet twice per semester, and include representatives from offices and units across KU's campuses:

- Academic Retention and Engagement Center (Academic Success)
- The Commons
- Dole Institute of Politics
- Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity (Student Affairs)
- Institute for Policy and Social Research- Kansas State Data Center
- School of Public Affairs and Administration
- School of Social Welfare
- Staff Senate
- Student Involvement and Leadership Center (Student Affairs)

In the fall of 2021, the Civic Engagement Ambassadors engaged in a process to determine priority change levers related to civic learning and democratic engagement within these five theme areas:

- Co-curricular educational programming related to civic engagement, voter registration, advocacy, etc.
- Institutionalization of civic engagement practices and recognition of civic engagement efforts
- Integration of civic education into the new student experience
- Enhancement and coordination of communication and outreach initiatives related to civic engagement topics
- Integration of civic engagement themes into course curriculum across the university

Small working teams within the Civic Engagement Ambassadors group are working toward achieving change levers for specific themes- updates and workshopping opportunities are shared at each Ambassador meeting.



Commitment

KU Mission: The mission of the University of Kansas is to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that change the world.

KU Dole Institute Mission: The Dole Institute of Politics programs, events, and volunteer opportunities have been an annual event for over seventeen years. Civic engagement and public service are included in the Dole Institute's mission statement.

The mission of the Dole Institute of Politics is to promote political and civic participation as well as civil discourse in a bi-partisan, balanced manner. By providing a forum for discussion of political and economic issues, fostering for public service leadership and encouraging participation in the political process, we emphasize that politics is an honorable profession and that only through political and civic participation can citizens redirect the course of our nation.

The Student Legislative Awareness Committee (SLAC) was created by KU Student Senate to give the student body a platform to voice their opinions and protect their interest. SLAC aims to foster a civically engaged student body by, but not limited to: registering student voters, lobbying the Kansas Legislature for higher education, and collaborating with the other Kansas Regents Institutions and informing students on the most recent issues affecting them, and ultimately holding elected officials accountable for their actions.

Thanks to a partnership between the Dole Institute and student organizations at the University of Kansas, KU possesses a strong commitment to furthering the political awareness and participation of students. The Dole Institute and Center for Service Learning fully support participation in the 2022 ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and look forward to a successful Voter Registration Drive and Get Out the Vote campaign.



Dole Institute Goals:

- Increase tabling at Mrs. E's (Campus Dining facility for several residence halls) in order to reach on-campus students, most of whom are 17 or 18 year-old freshmen.
- Register students to vote at the Dole Institute's Constitution Day Event.
- Partner with the All Scholarship Hall Council (ASHC) and Association of University Residence Halls (AURH)
- Attend or send materials to sorority and fraternity chapter meetings to promote civic engagement and encourage Greek life students to register to vote.
- Increase tabling on Wescoe Beach (a high traffic area).
- Register students to vote on campus in various locations.
- Increase voter registration among Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American students.
- Create a unified social media effort across student organizations to encourage voting.
- Host an event at the weekly Student Union Activity *Tea at 3* to reach students who live off-campus.
- Increase turnout at 2022 KU Civic Engagement and Leadership events, specifically *Pizza and Politics* and *Discussion Groups*.

KU Center for Service Learning Mission: Through community and campus partnerships, the CSL advances service learning, community-engaged scholarship, and civic engagement that fosters a commitment to participation for a diverse, just, and global society.



KU's Chancellor, Dr. Douglas Girod, has signed onto the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's [President's Commitment to full Student Voter Participation](#). Chancellor Girod is one of five Kansas college/university leaders and one of eight Big XII college/university leaders to sign onto this commitment.

[Jayhawks Rising](#) working groups for Strengthening Service to Local and Global Communities and Improving Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging speak to various aspects of civic engagement, from individual to institutional.



KU Core: The KU Core is designed to yield fundamental skills, build a broad background of knowledge, generate capacities and opportunities for blending and creating ideas, strengthen an appreciation of cultural and global diversity, and cultivate ethical integrity.

KU students are required to complete the KU Core in order to graduate. Core requirements that may expose students to civic engagement-related topics and themes include:

- *Core Goal 1.1- Critical Thinking:* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to analyze and evaluate assumptions, claims, evidence, arguments, and forms of expression; select and apply appropriate interpretive tools.
- *Core Goal 4.1- Culture and Diversity:* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to investigate the diversity of human experience within the United States, considering, for example, age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and social class, and appreciate the contributions of different social groups.
- *Core Goal 4.2- Culture and Diversity:* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish their own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews.
- *Core Goal 5.1- Social Responsibility and Ethics:* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to develop and apply a combination of knowledge and skills to demonstrate an understanding of social responsibility and ethical behavior.
- *Core Goal 5.2: Social Responsibility and Ethics:* Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to act on this understanding of social responsibility and ethical behavior to others in one's local, national, or global community, and contribute positively via leadership, collaboration, or other direct action.

Student Organizations: According to [Rock Chalk Central](#), KU's student organization hub, there are over 70 registered student organizations focused on social change/advocacy and/or political themes. These include organizations that are partisan in nature, focused around specific social issues or causes, etc.

Landscape

The University of Kansas' flagship campus is located in Lawrence, with additional campuses in the Kansas City area and other parts of the state. A majority of KU's student population are in-state residents, but there is a significant out-of-state and international population at the institution as well.



Across the board, KU's student voting rates increased from 2016-2020. The voting rate of 18-21 year-old Jayhawks increased significantly to 69%. This subset of the student population voted at a higher rate than 22-24, 25-29, 30-39, and 40-49 year-old students. While it is encouraging to see new voter engagement rates increase this significantly, we know that typically student voting rates, along with those of the general population, dip during mid-term years.

Like other states, Kansas is in the process of redistricting, the results of which may have a major impact on the state and local races that will show up on KU students' ballots if they are voting in Lawrence.

There are a variety of state laws that impact how individuals have access to the ballot box:

HB 2183, which became law effective 7/1/21, created the crime of false representation of an election official. Due to some clarity issues as to whether someone could be charged with a felony as a result of being incorrectly perceived to be an election official while helping someone register to vote, a group of civic engagement organizations sued the state and ceased all voter registration activities leading up to the 2021 general election.

HB 2585, which was referred to committee on 2/1/22, would require all advance ballots to be returned by 7pm on election day, would remove a multi-day buffer previously in place to allow for mail delays and other extenuating circumstances. **SB 394**, the Senate counterpart to HB 2585, was referred to committee on 1/27/22.

SB 388, which had a hearing on 2/10/22, would require the use of the United States postal service when returning an advance ballot by mail.

SB 445, which had a hearing on 2/17/22, would prohibit the use of additional ballot boxes for the return of advance voting ballots.

Goals

NSLVE

Goals for 2022 based on 2020 NSLVE results include:

- Registration rate: 85% (2018 rate was 79.4%)
- Voting rate of registered students: 63% (2018 rate was 57%)
- Voting rate: 50% (2018 rate was 45%)
- Sustain increased turnout rate for 18-21 age group of above 45% (2018 rate was 37%, 2020 rate was 69%)

Strategy

ALL IN to Vote: The Center for Service Learning has requested a branded ALL IN to Vote site for KU. This site, once finalized, will be used throughout Orientation, Hawk Week, and other opportunities to engage with students and encourage them to vote. Other offices and departments will be made aware of this resource and encouraged to use it as well.

Civic Engagement Canvas Module: The Center for Service Learning will roll out an open-access Canvas module with voter registration and education resources before the start of the fall semester. This resource will be communicated to course instructors through the CSL's newsletter platform. The CSL's civic engagement graduate intern will be primarily responsible for curating this resource during the summer of 2022.

Hawk Week 2022: The Center for Service Learning will be tabling at a variety of student-facing events throughout Hawk Week, KU's welcome week. At the table, they will have information about students' voter registration options.

National Voter Education Week: In celebration of National Voter Education Week, the Center for Service Learning will promote civic action across social media platforms to encourage students to educate themselves about candidates and issues on the ballot in November. NVEW ends just before Kansas' voter registration deadline.

Orientation: The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics and The Center for Service Learning will be tabling at each orientation session throughout the summer. At the table, they will have information about students' voter registration options.

Tentative Timeline for Activities

- National Volunteer Week: April 17-23, 2022
- Hawks Vote Panel: April 26, 2022
- Orientation: June-July, 2022
- Hawk Week Programming: August 19-28, 2022
- 2022 KU Civic Engagement and Leadership: TBD
- Constitution Day is September 17, 2022. Civic Engagement Program and KU Football Game: TBD
- National Voter Registration Day: September 20, 2022
- Homecoming: September 26-October 1, 2022
- National Voter Education Week: October 3-7, 2022
- Get Out the Vote (GOTV): October 19 – November 2, 2022
- Vote Early Day: late October
- Kansas Service and Civic Engagement Conference: early November, 2022
- Election Hero Day: November 7, 2022
- Educate and Act Events: TBD



- Candidate Debates: TBD
- Voter Registration Deadlines
 - Primary: July 12
 - General: October 18
- Election Days
 - Primary: August 2, 2022
 - General: November 8, 2022

Reporting

The Campus Plan will be reviewed by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, the KU Civic Engagement and Leadership Council and The Center for Service Learning.

Evaluation

2022 Voter Registration of KU students, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and stated goals will be compared to previous years. The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) reported data will be evaluated to determine if the University of Kansas increased voting rate overall. The data will be analyzed to help set future goals.

