



University of Massachusetts Boston 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Lizzy Cantor, Leigh-Anne Cole

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by the University of Massachusetts Boston in Massachusetts 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. The goals for University of Massachusetts Boston for the 2024 election are: **Register 200 people to vote, create 3000 “Get out the vote” contacts.**

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations which have formed the UMB Votes Coalition:

Lizzy Cantor – Assistant Director, Student Leadership & Community Engagement
Cheryl Price – Director, Student Leadership & Community Engagement
Leigh-Anne Cole, MassPIRG Organizing Director plus MassPIRG student leadership
Charles Henriques, Director, Student Activities & Leadership
Anindita Sengupta, Director, Student Multicultural Affairs
Calvin R. Hill, Vice Chancellor, Inclusive Excellence & Belonging
Tiffany Alford, Director, Community Engagement & Inclusive Excellence, Athletics plus other athletics staff
Shawn DeVeau, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Dean of Students plus other Dean of Students staff
Campus Events and Event Services
Chiquita Baylor, Assistant Dean of Students
Residential Life
Chanel Fields, President, Black Faculty Staff Association
Laurie Nsiah Jefferson, Director, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy plus other staff
UMass Boston Healey Library
Joseph Cooper, Professor, Counseling & School Psychology, Sport Leadership Department
College Democrats
College Republicans
Mass Media
Undergraduate Student Government

Mass Vote

Commitment:

Chancellor Marcelo Suarez-Orozco is a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation most recently signing the commitment in 2022.

Previously, our institution has developed and submitted an action plan to ALL IN for 2020, which can be found on our ALL IN campus page: <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/university-of-massachusetts-boston/>

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election: email, social media, in-person tabling, online visibility to drive people to studentvote.org by publicizing the website in newsletters, Instagram pages, and other forums on campus

Landscape:

University of Massachusetts Boston is a public 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020. Our institution is designated as the following: Minority-Serving Institution, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

Below are key voter registration and voting dates in Massachusetts

Voter Registration Deadline for mail, in person or online registration: Oct 26

Below are some of the top state rules around helping students to register and vote -

1. **Time to Submit:** Forms collected during drives must be postmarked or delivered within 5 calendar days of completion. All forms must be delivered prior to 8 p.m. or postmarked by midnight on the 20th day before an election. Voter registration deadlines are 20 days prior to the date of any election.
2. **Obtaining Voter Registration Forms:** If the drive wishes to use state-specific voter registration forms, they must be obtained from state or local elections officials or printed off the state website—blanks cannot be photocopied for use. If using state voter registration forms, the officials providing those forms may require that an organization provide information regarding their voter registration activities at the time that they request or receive their forms.
 - a. Groups may print their own copies of the federal form for use in a voter registration drive, so long as they do not modify the federal form in any way (e.g. by adding the organization's logo).
 - a. Blank registration forms may be printed from the Secretary of State's online registration portal.
3. **Online Registration:** Individuals with an ID from the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) may register to vote using the online portal. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>. Individuals who do not have an RMV ID may print a blank form, complete and sign it, and mail it in.
4. **Pre-registration:** Individuals who are at least 16 years old may pre-register to vote.
5. **Early Voting:** In-person and mail-in early voting is available in the eleven days prior to any biennial election (local elections may or may not permit early voting). A list of early

voting dates, times, and locations will be posted at least one week before early voting begins. Specific election dates will vary based on local election schedules. For state elections in 2022, www.MassEarlyVote.com will have a full early voting schedule closer to the date of the election.

6. **Vote by Mail:** Available to all voters for all elections, but towns can opt out of no-excuse early voting by mail. Apply to receive a mail-in-ballot here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>. Applications must reach your local election office at least 4 days prior to Election Day. Ballots must reach the elections office by the close of the polls on Election Day in order to be counted. If they are delivered over domestic mail, postmarked as of election day, and arrive by November 8th they will be counted.
7. **Voter ID:** Voters will only be asked to show ID if they are voting for the first time in Massachusetts in a federal election; an inactive voter; or casting a provisional or challenged ballot (or if a poll worker has “reasonable suspicion” and requests ID).
8. **Assisting people with disabilities:** If the applicant is prevented by physical disability from completing or signing the VR form, the applicant may authorize another person to complete and sign the affidavit on his or her behalf.
9. **Correcting a simple VR form error over the phone with registrant:** Massachusetts law does not address this issue. However, if after examination of an affidavit of registration, it appears to the registrars that the form is incomplete, the registrar must notify the applicant and give her a reasonable opportunity to remedy the defects.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

The University of Massachusetts Boston has 16,259 students.

As of Fall 2023, UMass Boston’s undergraduate student population is 84% in-state and 16% international/out-of-state. Sixty percent of UMB students identify as non-white, with 19% identifying as African American (includes Cape Verdean), 17% identifying as Asian, 20% identifying as Hispanic, and 4% identifying as two or more races. 75% of UMB undergraduates are 22 or younger, 18% are 23-30, and 7% are 31 or older.

The University of Massachusetts Boston has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and will receive campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023. Our NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

** As of October 8, 2024, Institutional Research shared that we have not yet received 2022 campus voting data.**

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 64.1%.
Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 79.9%.

Our 2018 campus voting rate was 42.6%.
Our 2018 campus voter registration rate was 73.7%.

University of Massachusetts Boston has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2018 Gold, 2020 Silver.

University of Massachusetts Boston participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on

campus: Ask Every Student - a national joint initiative that facilitates collaboration between campus leaders and nonprofit partners to help campuses ask every student to participate in the democratic process and achieve full student voter registration.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase student voter turnout rate 68% in 2024
- Increase student voter registration rate to 84% in 2024

Strategy:

University of Massachusetts Boston will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation:

Celebrate National Voter Registration Day, continue hosting community dialogues during Voter Education Week, continue engagement with Election committee, other in-person voter registration drives, especially with support from MassPIRG. MassPIRG will also do voter education events the week leading up to Election Day to help people find their polling place and come up with a plan to vote. Our goal is to make 3000 "get out the vote" contacts.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

University of Massachusetts Boston will use the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement to evaluate the increase of student voting by comparing our campus voter turnout and voter registration rates to past elections to measure progress on increasing both.

Reporting:

Our campus has not confirmed a plan to post the action plan on our campus website nor have we confirmed a plan to post our NSLVE reports.