



University of Massachusetts Medical School 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan
Developed by: John Erwin

Executive Summary:

The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in August 2020. UMMS is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's only public medical school, consisting of the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Nursing and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, all of which are located on UMMS's Worcester campus.

Short term efforts will focus on educating students on how to register to vote and the different options for voting in the November 3 election and how to access those options. Longer term efforts will seek to have voter education and registration part of new student orientation and regular voter education activities in election years. This work is being led by the Office of Community and Government Relations, assisted by the Office of Student Affairs.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

John Erwin - Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
Justine Cameron, MPP - Project Coordinator, Student Affairs & Student Life
Heather-Lyn Haley PhD - Assistant Professor, Family Medicine and Community Health

Commitment:

Our campus has signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email, By posting on institutional social media channels, Intranet article

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

UMMS does not currently participate in the NSLVE so current voting rates are unknown.
Enrollment 1,234
Male 37.2%
Female 62.8%
Native American, Pacific Islander 0.2%

Hispanic 5.3%
Black or African American 6.0%
Asian 20.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native 0.4%
White 67.5%

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Short term goals - Educate student body and campus leaders on All in Democracy Challenge through campus wide communications and targeted student communication. Coordinate activities with other campus voter efforts such as Vote ER and provide opportunities for student to register to vote and apply for mail ballots on campus.
Longer term goals include regular election year registration and voter drives as well as incorporating voter education in new student orientation.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

In-person voter registration drives, Classroom voter registration presentations (in-person or virtual), Pledge to Vote drive

To date two voter education events have been held in the school library where students could register to vote or apply for mail in ballots. School of Medicine students are organized into learning communities (“houses”) that compete annually for the House Cup. Being a registered voter and voting has been approved to earn House Cup Points, so the houses will be competing against one another, earning points for students who register to vote and vote in the November 3 election.

A presentation on the All In Challenge was made to all second year students in their Social Determinant of Health Population Health Clerkship class.

NSLVE:

University of Massachusetts Medical School is exploring participation.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Because UMMS does not yet participate in the NSLVE, evaluation will be difficult. However, the completion among the learning communities in the School of Medicine will provide data on voter registration and participation rates among the student body.

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.

UMMS does not currently participate in the NSLVE.