

# UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT




## 2024 VOTER FRIENDLY CAMPUS ACTION PLAN

303 E. Kearsley St, Flint,  
Michigan, 48502

(810) 424-5483

# Table of Contents

<b>03</b> Executive Summary	<b>09</b> Short Term Goals
<b>04</b> Leadership	<b>10</b> Long Term Goals
<b>05</b> Commitment	<b>11</b> Reporting
<b>06</b> Landscape of Campus	<b>12</b> Evaluations
<b>07</b> Previous Voter Turnout	<b>13</b> Calendar of Events
<b>08</b> Barriers	



# Executive Summary



This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by the University of Michigan-Flint for the 2024 election year. The purpose of this action plan is to increase student engagement in the democratic process through nonpartisan education, voter registration, and voter turnout. By providing resources and information to students, the University of Michigan-Flint aims to empower young voters to make informed decisions and participate in shaping their future. Through collaboration with community partners and student organizations, this action plan seeks to create a culture of civic responsibility on campus.

We are a tri-campus initiative that partners with many organizations, including Turn Up Turnout, The Campus Vote Project, and The Andrew Goodman Foundation. We also work closely with the political science department and student government. Additionally, the University of Michigan-Flint hosts events such as voter registration drives and candidate forums to further engage students in the political process. This comprehensive approach to increasing voter turnout demonstrates the university's commitment to fostering an active and informed student body. The University of Michigan's goals in the 2024 election year include registering students to vote, educating students on ballot initiatives, creating a Michigan College Voter Guide, and holding Dinner for Democracy events, which are nonpartisan peer-led discussions on topics important to students and educating them about which elected offices at local, state, and federal levels matter to each issue.

Our action plan will be easily accessible for students, staff, faculty, and administration to view. Additionally, we plan to collaborate with local community organizations to expand our voter registration efforts beyond campus. By engaging students in the political process, we aim to increase voter turnout and civic engagement among the University of Michigan community.

# Leadership

Our leadership team includes:

## On Campus:

### **Gary Ashley**

Program Manager of Office of Engaged Learning

### **Jason Kosnoski**

Professor of Political Science  
Faculty Advisor for Turn Up Turnout

### **Kimberly Saks**

Assistant Professor of Political Science

### **Alimatou Sarr**

Research assistant for Turn Up Turnout  
Outgoing President for Turn Up Turnout

### **Jacquindre Brown**

Incoming President of Turn Up Turnout  
Campus Vote Project Fellow  
Student Advisory Board

### **Erica Stamps**

Student Ambassador for Andrew Goodman Foundation  
Vice President of Turn Up Turnout  
Program Assistant for Democratic Engagement

### **Sahithi Aekka**

Treasurer for Turn Up Turnout  
Research assistant for Turn Up Turnout

### **Anthony Webster Jr.**

Assistant Dean of Students

### **Abe Dabaja**

Vice President of Student Government

### **Logan LaPeen**

President of Student Government

## Organizations:

### **Campus Vote Project**

Ryan Seifferlein

### **Andrew Goodman Foundation**

Caroline Smith

### **Turn Up Turnout**

Edie Goldenberg: Tri Campus Advisor  
Phoebe Henninger: Tri Campus Coordinator

### **League of Women Voters**

Jan Watts

# Commitment

The University of Michigan-Flint has a history of democratic education and civic engagement. Through a variety of curricular and co-curricular experiences, UM-Flint students can access education about social and political issues and practice democratic citizenship. Not only is this part of our core mission, but it is also part of our obligation for our elective classification for community engagement through the Carnegie Foundation. By actively participating in service-learning opportunities and community-based research projects, University of Michigan-Flint students are able to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world situations, making a positive impact on society. This commitment to civic engagement sets University of Michigan-Flint apart as a university dedicated to preparing students to be informed, active citizens in their communities.

We have gone to great lengths to show our commitment to democratic engagement. The president of the University of Michigan as well as the chancellor of the University of Michigan-Flint have both signed the ALL IN presidential commitment to full student voter participation. Additionally, UM-Flint offers various programs and initiatives aimed at promoting civic engagement, such as voter registration drives and community service projects. These efforts reflect our dedication to empowering students to become active participants in shaping their communities and society as a whole.

Our campus works closely with the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Bi-weekly meetings are held to discuss our democratic efforts. University of Michigan-Flint is also able to share best practices and resources to further enhance student voter participation across all campuses. By working together, we can create a more unified and impactful approach to promoting civic engagement among students. By working together, we can amplify our impact and create a culture of civic engagement that extends beyond our individual campuses.

We see the same commitment to democratic engagement in the creation of inclusion and diversity within our campus, which is essential for a thriving democracy. This commitment to diversity and inclusion not only strengthens our campus community but also enriches our democratic efforts by ensuring that all voices are heard and represented. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, we can empower students to actively participate in shaping the future of our society through civic engagement.

# Landscape of Campus

## Class Standing

Class Standing	Percentage	Headcount
Freshman	20%	1,226
Sophomore	12.6%	777
Junior	15.9%	973
Senior	28.5%	1,750
Senior (2nd Major)	0.4%	24
Senior (3rd Major)	0.02%	1
Graduate	22.5%	1,379
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,130</b>

## Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Percentage	Headcount
African American	13.92%	853
American Indian or Alaskan	0.78%	48
Asian	3.13%	192
Hispanic or Latino	5.77%	354
White	66.04%	4,048
Multiple Races	2.69%	165
Nonresident Alien	2.71%	166



# Previous Voter Turnout



## → Registration Percentage

2014 - 71.4%	2016 - 82.7%
2018 - 80.6%	2020 - 91.4%

## → Registration Numbers

2014 - 4,956	2016 - 5,222
2018 - 4,781	2020 - 5,184

## → Turnout Percentage

2014 - 30.4%	2016 - 59.5%
2018 - 59.5%	2020 - 71.7%

## → Turnout Numbers

2014 - 2,110	2016 - 3,755
2018 - 3,004	2020 - 4,066



# Barriers



## COMMUTER CAMPUS

A large percentage of our students are commuters, which makes it more difficult to get a high turnout for on campus events, including registration drives.



## STUDENT BODY MAKEUP

Our student body is very diverse, which includes people from many ethnic, religious, and other backgrounds.



## INSUFFICIENT INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING

Unfortunately, the funding that we get from the university that supports our efforts is not sufficient for our commitment.





# Short Term Goals

- The university works on the visibility of democratic engagement on campus.
- The university works on securing more funding for democratic engagement efforts.
- Democratic engagement teams will work on getting expressed approval from institutional leadership.
- The university is working towards more community partnerships.



# Long Term Goals

- The university is working on creating a culture of civic engagement on campus.
- The university works on establishing the coalition as a trusted, accurate source of information.
- Democratic engagement teams will work on getting approval for one-on-one contacts with new students at orientation each year.
- The university is working to raise more institutional funds for increased civic engagement on campus.



# Reporting

We will initially share our findings with the University Provost, who is sponsoring this action plan. After consultation, we will decide the best strategy for sharing it with the entire university. This will involve coordinating with various departments and student organizations to ensure a comprehensive approach.

# Evaluating

There are many forms of evaluation, but we feel that these three strategies will help us move forward and improve our programming for future activities.

1

Results from NSLVE data

2

Attendance at Events

3

SWOT for each event



# Calendar Of Events

## Summer

### June

- Building coalitions with campus partners and organizations
- Host coalition call meeting
- Create a list of student organizations to reach out to for coalition call
- Develop social media calendar format and scheduling

### July

- General voting information
- Social media calendar and content
- Absentee ballots information
- Send existing information out
- Send campus specific information out

### August

- Non-partisan candidate information
- Orientation week
- Campus specific general voting information
- Absentee Ballot



# Calendar Of Events

## Fall

### September

- Constitution Day - September 17th
- Dinners for Democracy
- National Voter Registration Day - September 22nd
- Social media calendar
- Voter registration drives
- Sending out voting information

### October

- Voter registration drives
- Dinners for Democracy
- Social media challenge (Post registered to vote)
- Webinars on voting information

### November

- Election day - November 3rd
- Dinners for Democracy

### December

- Dinners for Democracy
- Collecting and reporting data
- Evaluating semester efforts

**Thompson Library:**  
**303 E. Kearsley St, Room 134 Flint, MI 48502**  
**Phone: (810) 424-5483**

**Hours:**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**



**OFFICE OF  
ENGAGED LEARNING**