

University of Montana (Main Campus)
Office of Experiential Learning & Career Success

Voter Friendly Campus Designation
Campus Action Plan

The University of Montana recognizes its students as a resource, asset and valuable voice to effect change within our community. We are writing this campus action plan to ensure the student body voice is heard, and that we are doing everything we can as an institution to support students in efforts to take action.

Our hope is that each student at University of Montana will have open access to ample opportunities to learn about candidates, policies, election processes, as well as easily accessible voter registration opportunities with multiple ways to cast their ballots during all elections.

UM is a participating campus of the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement through Tufts University. We use data from the study to inform campus voter engagement strategy each year.

We currently have a Voter Engagement Committee that meets once or twice a semester to discuss ways we can improve voter engagement on our campus and plan activities to increase and support voter engagement. This committee is made up of folks from the Experiential Learning & Career Success department, faculty from the UM School of Law, contacts at our local Missoula election office, members of MontPIRG, and ASUM students. We meet, discuss current political topics, policy changes, deadlines, etc. This committee has worked to set up satellite offices during elections, voter registration booths around campus, etc.

Looking forward, we would like to increase our voter engagement committee efforts. First, we would like to work on maintaining a consistent schedule for our meetings, creating a calendar for the whole academic year for our meetings with deadlines we should all be aware of, dates we should plan to send out reminder emails to students about deadlines, voter education opportunities, etc. We also plan to add some more engagement activities to our agenda. The following are what we plan to add to our committee's efforts for the coming year:

- Expanding voter registration into all previously implemented programs such as orientation, advising, and residence life.
- Comprehensive and accurate voter registration instructions/training and access to resources – a packet that could go out to students via email once or twice a year.
- Hosting in-person and online events such as guest speakers, panels, fairs, volunteerism activities, and/or additional activities encouraging civically-minded discussion and thoughts.

- Host 1-2 events during National Voter Registration Day, Voter Education Week, Voter Early Day, etc.
- Discussing each planned activity before execution to ensure they are all inclusive to all students and engage every demographic on campus. One way to encourage this inclusivity is to intentionally and enthusiastically include student leaders/voices/groups from different backgrounds to plan and participate in these events.

The responsibilities and procedures above will be reviewed and updated as needed every year by the UM Voter Engagement Committee. Important election dates will be included on the UM academic and events calendar to reinforce the importance of elections as a norm, not an elective.

Additional Campus Ideas/Considerations (dependent on 2022-23 committee capacity):

- Host two additional voter registration events on campus per semester.
- Host a voting party (example: rock 2 vote, party to the polls, absentee fill-out party, etc.)
- Collaborate to send monthly campus-wide emails updating people on the importance of civic engagement, or civic engagement opportunities (example: election dates, candidate forums, community conversations, dates of city council meetings)
- Collaborate across campus to get “Register to Vote” button added to UM homepage.
- Collaborate with campus entities to provide shuttle service during elections.