

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

2024 Voting Action Plan

Executive Summary

The 2024 Action Plan was developed by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Husker Vote Coalition and was written specifically by Andrew Brown, Assistant Director of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement Office, and Luke McDermott, student Chair of the Husker Vote Coalition (HVC), with input from student leaders, student affairs, academic affairs, athletics, alumni and community partners.

This action plan uses the framework described in Strengthening American Democracy, Fourth Edition. The plan enumerates UNL’s student voter engagement strategy for the 2024 Primary election and 2024 General election. Specifically, it is designed to increase voter registration and translate that into increased voter turnout rates for the 2024 Primary election and 2024 General election. This will be emphasized through voter registration, voter education and election protection opportunities. These efforts work towards our long-term goal of sustained engagement, participation, and the institutionalization of civic engagement through voting.

The plan ties in directly to the institution’s stated goals to educate students to be engaged citizens, and is reflected in its Mission and Vision statements, its programming priorities, and in administrative, faculty, staff, and student culture. This action plan also serves as a road map with specific strategies and evaluation targets to measure the team’s success.

This action plan begins on January 2, 2024, and continues through January 2, 2025. The action plan will be updated as needed and as circumstances arise. The action plan will be available on the Husker Vote Coalition website and distributed to stakeholders on and off campus.

The action plan will be implemented by the members of the Husker Vote Coalition and the Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement. However, they will partner with community partners, alumni, faculty, staff, and students from across campus to carry out specific strategies.

The values of diversity, equity, and inclusion are woven throughout this document. Specifically, they include working with Academic Colleges, Diversity and Inclusion Division and Student Affairs offices who serve underrepresented student groups, outreach to commuter students and academic colleges with low-turnout populations, targeted messaging, and engagement with STEM students, and engaging international students.

Leadership

University of Nebraska – Lincoln's voter engagement work is coordinated by the Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement Office and the Husker Vote Coalition Committee.

About Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement (SLICE)

Through engagement, Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement Office provides meaningful experiences and support for students to gain life skills and serve their communities. From starting or leading an organization to helping peers register to vote, planning campus-wide events and engaging with the Lincoln Community, the SLICE Office is here to support students, faculty, staff, and alumni as they enhance their own experiences while contributing to stronger communities and a more engaged university. The SLICE Office provides a staff member that advises the Husker Vote Coalition and provides funding for the coalition.

Husker Vote Coalition (HVC)

HVC is a non-partisan initiative designed to support civic learning and democratic engagement at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln by coordinating voting activities across campus. The goal of this coalition is to increase campus-wide democratic engagement with a focus on voter registration, voter education, and voter engagement. With representatives from a broad cross-section of student organizations, university departments and academic units from across campus, the Coalition will leverage current resources, provide support for existing activities, and expand opportunities for engagement.

HVC Executive Committee

The Executive Committee supports HVC in assessing our current voter engagement work, brainstorming ideas for expansion, developing plans for voter engagement activities, and communicating with partners. The HVC Executive Committee efforts are sorted into four different initiatives—voter registration, voter education, and election protection —each with a paid student position and supported by a staff advisor. The executive Committee meets bi-weekly during the academic year. The advisor of the HVC executive Committee is a full-time staff member and the student positions that serve on the executive committee are part-time paid student positions.

Executive Committee Members

- Luke McDermott, the Student Chair of HVC plans monthly meetings, sets priorities for the coalition, and serves as the point of contact with community partners.
- Mel Schwensen, the Vice Chair of HVC coordinates night of listening sessions to educate general members and the UNL community about the voter process, voting rights and upcoming elections.
- Mildred Ciprian, the Director of the Election Protection coordinates voting rights and election anomaly responses leading up to, during, and following an election.
- Maggie Nielsen, the Director of Voter Registration coordinates voter registration, and engagement procedures for the campus.

- Ivan Molina Jr, the Director of Voter Communications creates and maintains a variety of educational materials for voters and distributes them via print, video and social media platforms.
- Andrew Brown, the Advisor of HVC is a full-time staff member serving as the Assistant Director of Community Engagement in the Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement at UNL. The Advisor manages the funds of the organization.

Selection of Executive Committee Members for HVC

The Coalition uses experience-driven competitive hiring practices for serving on the Executive Committee. Each Officer of the Executive Committee is hired for the term defined by the university administration as the school year. The timeline is as follows:

In April of each school year, committee members notify the Advisor of their intentions to continue their employment. The Advisor reserves the right to decide whether the Coalition will employ a particular Officer in the following year. In May of each school year, the Coalition will prepare job postings to fill any vacant positions on the Executive Committee should they exist. The Coalition will then hold an open application process for any empty roles, interview applicants, and vote on the selection of a candidate

HVC General Member Positions

The HVC General members comprise a university-wide approach to include students, staff, faculty, and alumni throughout the University. Our goal is to have representation from all academic colleges, student organizations, athletic teams, and non-academic departments throughout campus. Coalition members will join on a rolling basis, are not paid, and will serve one academic term, with the option of renewal. In addition to the individual roles each member attends a monthly meeting led by the HVC Executive Committee. These meetings provide members with the opportunity to help plan events and hear from an elected official teaching students about the district they represent and initiatives that they are leading.

- **Vote Ambassador:** The Coalition recruits Vote Ambassadors to help register voters across campus. Vote Ambassadors are trained by the Lancaster County Chief Deputy Election Commissioner as Deputy Registrars in the State of Nebraska and are given additional training by the Director of Voter Registration and the Chairperson on campus-specific strategies to engage voters. Most registrations taken on campus are taken by students and are processed within 24 hours as required under Section 32 of the Neb. Rev. Statutes. Students can sign up to serve as vote ambassadors by [completing an online form](#) and attending training.
- **Election Observer:** The Coalition recruits Election Observers to help observe polling locations during city and statewide elections. Observers are trained to collect information detailing handicap accessibility, provisional ballots, wait times, voter issues, and more. On the day of elections, our observers across the state visit polling stations to note the physical accessibility of the polling place and accessibility of the ballot itself. Election Observers are trained by Civic Nebraska and are given additional training by the HVC Advisor. Individuals can sign up to serve as election observers by [completing an online form](#) and attending training.
- **Capitol Experience Volunteer:** The Coalition recruits Capitol Experience Volunteers to help provide additional supervision and assistance where needed to ensure a positive educational experience for groups of 10 to 30 K-12 students. As a volunteer, individuals assist with leading

students on a tour of the capitol, facilitating activities and introducing students to elected officials. Individuals can sign up to serve as a Capitol Experience Volunteer by [completing an online form](#) and attending training.

Selection of General Members

Recruitment for membership is done through the HVC committee by advertising on campus, on social media, and through email. Interested members attend a training course led by the Advisor of HVC and community partners which includes in-depth tutorials on how to serve in their roles.

HVC Partnerships

The Husker Vote Coalition partners with external organizations, including registered student organizations (RSOs) as defined by the Association of Students at the University of Nebraska, community nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, and any other group as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

Here is a list of a few of our Partners across the institution:

- **Recognized Student Organizations (RSO)** - Multiple RSOs hosted events and activities in collaboration with the HVC. Student organizations also provided space for the Vote Ambassadors and staff to share about ongoing civic initiatives and keep students informed on voting rights and procedures.
- **Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement Office (SLICE)**: The SLICE Office provided funding, institutional resources, and an innovative marketing campaign.
- **Greek Life** - Multiple Greek organizations hosted events and activities in collaboration with the HVC. HVC was able to train Greek Life Philanthropy Chairs to serve as vote ambassadors (deputy registrars) so they can register members in their organization to vote.
- **Athletic Teams** - Multiple Athletic teams hosted events and activities in collaboration with the HVC. The Student Athletic Council hosted vote ambassadors to attend their monthly meetings so they could provide students with election information and walk student athletes through the process of registering to vote and voting by mail.
- **Chancellor's Office**: The Chancellor of UNL signed the All in Campus Presidential Commitment and highlighted Democratic Engagement work inside the N2025 strategic plan. In addition, our HVC chair and Advisor attend quarterly meetings with the Government Affairs Director to provide updates about the work we were doing. The HVC student chair also meets annually with the Chancellor to share updates and gain additional support.
- **University Communications**: The University Communications team assists HVC in writing articles that inform students, staff and faculty about upcoming elections and the process for getting registered to vote. Newsletters are featured in Nebraska Today, NextNebraska and included in academic colleges newsletters.
- **Academic Colleges**: The HVC Advisor had quarterly conversations with colleges Dean about the ways faculty can assist with registering students to vote. After the conversations information was sent out to faculty and provided faculty with a Microsoft teams page that included resources, they could use in classrooms to promote elections and help students get registered to vote.

- **Emeriti and Retirees Association (ERA):** The HVC team annually facilitates a presentation to the ERA board members highlighting the work we are doing and ways their members could be involved in leadership roles. ERA members can serve as vote ambassadors, capital experience day volunteers and election observers.
- **New Student Orientation:** The HVC team held presentations and tables during the Summer New Student Orientation days (June-July). During these experiences we were able to speak with incoming first-year students, transfers, and their parents about registering to vote and upcoming elections to be aware of. The HVC team also hosts a voter registration table during new student move-in at the central check-in location.
- **Living Learning Communities:** Multiple Living Learning Communities hosted events and activities in collaboration with the HVC. Living Learning Communities also provided space for the Vote Ambassadors to share about ongoing civic initiatives and keep students informed on voting rights and procedures during their welcome events in the summer.
- **Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN):** HVC collaborates with ASUN in planning the Unify America Challenge and the Converge event. Converge is a guided conversation between a student and another student who together to talk about topics including Nebraska elections, Nebraska base laws, candidates running and other topics. The idea is to help students learn about different laws that exist in Nebraska and have a chance to share their thoughts with other students.
- **College of Journalism and Mass Communication (COJMC):** HVC collaborates with COJMC in facilitating Democracy Day. The event published articles on the Nebraska News Service and other COJMC platforms that highlighted Nebraskans on the frontline of democracy. The event also featured elected officials speaking and networking with students.
- **UNL Libraries:** HVC collaborates with UNL Libraries and the American Civil Liberties Union in hosting an interactive kiosk located in the Love Library South Link that helped students learn about the United States Constitution, take a knowledge test, and pick up a mini constitution for themselves.
- **College of Law:** HVC Collaborates with the College of Law in sending students to teach about the bill of rights and constitution to local Lincoln Public School Elementary and Middle School students on National Constitution Day.

Partners across the Community:

- **Lancaster Election Commission:** We formed a partnership with this office to train our vote ambassadors to serve as Deputy Registrars. As a Deputy Registrar our vote ambassadors can assist people with registering to vote and can collect their form and drop it off at the election office.
- **Civic Nebraska:** We formed a partnership with this nonprofit to train students to serve as Election Observers on election day. Observers are trained to collect information detailing handicap accessibility, provisional ballots, wait times, voter issues, and more. Once all the data has been turned in, Civic Nebraska and members of our Coalition use the information to build a post-election report, which is shared with county election.
- **Nebraska Based Institutions:** We held quarterly meetings with other institutions in Nebraska that had voter coalitions. The universities who attended our quarterly meetings included

University of Nebraska – Omaha, University of Nebraska – Kearney, Southeast Community College and Doane University. The HVC team will continue to plan these quarterly meetings with Nebraska based institutions to provide everyone with election resources and learn about what each campus is doing to register students to vote.

- **The Lincoln Get Out the Vote Coalition:** In addition to leading meetings with student groups, organizations and campus offices, the Coalition also participates in a weekly meeting with nonpartisan organizations located in the Lincoln Area. During these meetings each nonprofit shares upcoming events and together develops nonpartisan resources for voters to obtain information about upcoming elections. The Husker Vote Coalition members who attend this meeting include one student representative (typically the Chairperson, Ken Bartling) and one staff representative (Andrew Brown, Assistant Director of SLICE). The Community Partners who attend these meetings are included below. Each partner sends 1 representative to attend each bi-weekly meeting. ▪ Civic Nebraska ▪ Nebraska Civic Engagement Table ▪ League of Women Voters Lincoln ▪ Cause Collective ▪ Nebraska Applesseed ▪ Coalition for a Strong Nebraska ▪ OutNebraska ▪ Lancaster County Election Commission ▪ Asian Community and Cultural Center ▪ Collective Impact
- **Elected Officials:** The HVC advisor held quarterly meetings with the deputy secretary of state to gain resources (paper registration forms) and share information about what we are doing as a group to help students get registered to vote. The team also invites elected officials to attend monthly meetings with our HVC leadership team to share updates about what was happening in the legislature or within the local community.
- **Local Public Schools:** The HVC team collaborates with the Lancaster County Election Commission in sending vote ambassadors/deputy registrars to assist Lincoln Public Schools students with registering to vote. The Lancaster County Election Commission also trains LPS Students to serve as deputy registrars. In addition, the HVC advisor and general members of HVC speak to LPS classrooms about on or close to constitution day to inform students about upcoming elections and provide them with information about the constitution.

Partners across the Nation:

- **The All in Challenge:** The HVC team collaborates with Civic Nation and All in Challenge to utilize their online voter registration portal. This portal assists students with registering to vote in Nebraska and in other states who had online voter registration aspects. In addition, it provided relevant information for our HVC team to see where students were registering and how many registered. In addition, the HVC advisor attended monthly meetings with the Big Ten All in Challenge team.
- **NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Knowledge Community (CLDE):** Our HVC advisor serves as the Co-Chair Elect of the NASPA CLDE Knowledge community and attends monthly meetings. Information gathered from these meetings is shared with the students. HVC also sends 2 students to attend the CLDE Conference annually held in June.
- **Student Learn Students Vote Coalition:** The HVC Student Chair attends monthly meetings and participates in the National Student Vote Summit.
- **NationalVoterRegistration.org:** The HVC Team partners with this organization by ordering stickers and posters to assist our team with promoting National Voter Registration Day on Campus.

Commitment

University of Nebraska - Lincoln institutional commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement is evidenced in its Mission Statement, its Vision Statement, in the Core Values, in its Core Curriculum, its programming priorities, and in administrative, faculty, staff, and student culture. There is a significant and highly visible commitment on the part of the Chancellor –and across campus—to community engagement. That commitment extends through the institutional hierarchy to administrators, faculty, staff, and students and is highly visible both internally and externally. Civic learning and democratic engagement are prioritized in both the curriculum and in co-curricular initiatives.

The Universities core values of “engagement with academic, business, and civic communities throughout Nebraska and the world” sets the tone for how our campus prioritizes civic learning. In addition, our institutional statement of Beliefs on Diversity and Inclusion further defines our institutional and individual commitment to creating a learning, living, and working environment of respect, dignity, and acceptance. At the University of Nebraska, “(we) believe in the freedom of speech, and encourage the civil and respectful expression of ideas and opinions”.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln [Achievement-Centered Education](#) curriculum (ACE) is built around 10 domains of student learning, all of which relate directly to the skills and values upon which democratic political culture are based. Conversations to broaden student perspectives are brought into classrooms that are listed as a Civic Engagement Certificate Courses. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours through the 700 courses that are listed as [ACE](#). Faculty teaching the courses spend time during the semester providing students with information in the areas for civic action, civic identity, and civic literacy. Through participating in the courses students can exercise individual and social responsibilities through studying ethical principles and reasoning, application of civic knowledge, interaction with diverse cultures, and engagement with global issues.

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln was one of the first universities in the state to integrate a student led vote coalition that helped students with registering to vote back in 2001 through the [UNL Vote 2000 Campaign](#) and those efforts are now institutionalized at the University. The University, in partnership with HVC, includes voting information in campus wide communication during each election season. In addition, the University works with the Lancaster County Election Commission to host one on campus polling place for each election. The Chancellors Office also supports the Universities participation in NSLVE and the All in Challenge. This commitment is outlined in the [Letter From the Presidents of the Big Ten](#) and in 2022, UNL’s Chancellor, signed the ALL IN Voting Challenge Presidential Commitment to make a visible commitment to reaching full student voter registration and voter participation in all elections.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln is commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement is evidenced in its programing priorities.

- [Dish it up](#) is an interactive conversation where individuals can share their personal views, learn from others and engage in civil discussions concerning current events, topics affecting students' lives, UNL, and national/international happenings.

- [Student Affairs](#) educational priority to facilitating co-curricular activities is focused on helping students positively transform their communities through bold and inclusive actions. This is evident through the SLICE Office providing funding and support the Husker Vote Coalition and the Student Affairs division providing advisement to the ASUN Government Liaison committee focused on communicating student views about laws to the legislature.
- [Honors 99H](#) program that awards honors credit to students who complete independent civic engagement projects through their zero-cost UHON 99H course. For example, students can participate as a Vote ambassador or by volunteering at a nonprofit and earn honors credit.

Further evidence of institutional commitment across and throughout the University can be found in the willing and eager participation of the plethora of University departments referenced above in our voter engagement work, as well as the efforts of the many faculty, staff, students, and alumni who participate in civically engaged teaching, learning, research, and community pursuits, and integrate civic and democratic engagement into their efforts inside and outside the classroom.

Our Civic Engagement programs are primarily assessed through the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Other evaluations are included in the “Landscape” section of this document.

The support in our guiding documents, financial resources, and staff development set our institution up for success when attempting to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.

Landscape

NSLVE Data (2016 - 2020) - **To note Data from the 2022 NSLVE Report will be included in this document once we receive it from NSLVE. **

Data obtained from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) indicates that UNL students have become more democratically engaged over the past two presidential elections. In 2016, the UNL voter registration rate was 88%, which increased to 92% in 2020. Voting rates of registered students rose from 69% in 2016 to 81% in 2020, and the overall voting rate increased by 12 points.

NSLVE data shows that in the 2020 presidential election cycle, UNL students voted at a higher rate than the national average of all institutions (66% to 74% respectively). NSLVE data from the 2018 midterm election also demonstrates that UNL students voted at a higher rate (44.2%) than the national average (39.1%).

Students ages 18-21 represent the largest demographic at UNL, and that group had a voting rate of 70% in the 2020 presidential election. Voting rates for five out of six age groups increased from the 2016 to 2020 elections, which students aged 30-39 showing a slight decrease 56% in 2016 and 54% in 2020).

NSLVE data from the 2018 midterm election reveals that UNL students who identify as ethnically diverse are less likely to vote than students who identify as white or multiethnic. Voting rates by student race/ethnicity in 2018 were:

- Asian 18.3%
- Black 26.2%

- Hispanic 34.4%
- American Indian/Alaska Native 38.6%
- 2 or More Races 39.4%
- White 42.2%

Of those students who voted in 2020, the disciplines with voting rates below the national average for that election cycle were:

- Physical Sciences 55%
- Computer and Information Sciences 60%
- Philosophy and Religious Studies 64% • Liberal Arts/Sciences/Humanities 63%
- Health Professions 64%
- Law Enforcement, Firefighting, & Protective Services 65%
- Engineering and Engineering Technologies 65%
- Mathematics and Statistics 64%
- Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguist 61%

Internal Resources to Support our Work: UNL enjoys a number of internal factors that help encourage student voting engagement. They include:

- **Voting FAQ Website:** The Husker Vote Coalition created and maintains a student voting FAQ website that provides students with information about key dates, a guide on what will be included on the ballot, and a registration portal that makes it easy for students to register to vote in Nebraska or their home state.
- **Financial Resources:** The Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement office has funded a full-time staff member and student workers to support voter engagement activities. The office also provides funds to support planning signature events based around voter engagement activities.
- **Vote Ambassadors:** We have a team of students, staff, and faculty serving as deputy registrars to help members of our campus community register to vote in Nebraska. Any student, staff, or faculty member can get deputized to register voters in one of the 93 Nebraska Counties via paper forms (in person tabling).

External Resources to Support Our Work: UNL enjoys a number of external factors that help encourage student voting engagement. They include:

- **Civic Nation:** UNL partners with Civic Nation and the All in Challenge team to provide students with an online voter registration portal to assist students in registering to vote across the Nation.
- **Government:** UNL partners with Nebraska-based County Election Commission offices that provide training for our Vote Ambassadors to become deputy registrars so they can register voters. UNL also partners with the Lancaster County Commission office to host a mail-in ballot box on campus and a polling site located in the Nebraska Union on election day to facilitate convenient voting.
- **Election Observation:** UNL partners with Civic Nebraska and the Lancaster County Election Commission to send students to election polling sites across Lincoln and observe polling stations

to ensure the integrity of our elections. At the end of the experience, students give Election Officials an election protection report that highlights the limitations and success of polling sites in Lancaster County and other Nebraska-based Counties.

Barriers to Success

- **Resources for International Students:** We learned that our international student community represented a wide array of countries whose democratic processes we were not aware of. We will be developing resources to assist international students with registering to vote back in their home countries and sharing information about when upcoming elections are occurring.
 - **New Voter ID Law:** On June 1, 2023, the Governor signed LB514 following a statewide referendum to require voter identification. The first election following this requirement will be the statewide primary election on May 14, 2024.
-

Goals

The Husker Vote Coalition team has identified short-term and long-term goals for its student voter engagement efforts leading up to the 2024 general election:

Short-Term Goals (2024-2026)

- **General Election student voting rates:** By 2024, the institutions student voting rates will increase by 4% over 2020 turnout levels, with students of color voting at the same rate as white students.
- **Midterm Election student voting rates:** By 2026, the institutions student voting rates will increase by 4% over 2022 turnout levels, with students of color voting at the same rate as white students.
- **Student Group Engagement:** By 2024, Recognized Student Organizations will participate in an annual orientation that will inform their leadership team about the steps to register to vote and provide each group with a designated vote ambassador that will help their members register to vote.
- **Academic Colleges Engagement:** By 2026, Academic Colleges will have faculty include voter registration information in course syllabi and provide students who serve as vote ambassadors with experiential learning credit.
- **First year/transfer student engagement:** By 2024, HVC will ensure that first year and transfer students are exposed to voter registration information at least three times during the first six weeks of the fall and spring semester.
- **Sustainable Partnerships:** By 2026, HVC will have established sustainable partnerships between the Husker Vote coalition and nonpartisan community organizations that promote democratic engagement, inclusion and equity.

Long-Term Goals (2028-2030)

- **General Election student voting registration rates:** By 2028, the institutions student registration rates will increase by 4% over 2024 registration levels, with students of color voting at the same rate as white students.
 - **Midterm Election student voting registration rates:** By 2030, the institutions student voting registration rates will increase by 4% over 2028 Registration turnout levels, with students of color voting at the same rate as white students.
 - **Nebraska System Collaborations:** By 2028, the Institution will establish quarterly meetings with other institutions in the Nebraska System and their vote coalition leadership teams.
 - **Learning Outcomes specific to Democratic Engagement:** By 2030, the institution will develop student learning outcomes for first year seminars (First Huskers, Honors, OASIS (Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services), William H Thomson Scholars, Trio Scholars, and Athletics Life Skills).
 - **Increase Number of Ballot Drop Box:** By 2028, the institution will work with Lancaster County Election Commission in exploring the option of adding additional ballot drop box a ballot drop box on or near city and east campus to assist students with returning their early voting ballot.
 - **Monitor Polling Sites in Lincoln:** By 2030, students serving as election observers will have monitored 100% of polling sites across Lincoln.
-

Strategy

The Husker Vote Coalition team has identified strategies that will assist our team in creating a culture of civic engagement on campus, and to create and implement sustainable programming that is year-round.

The action plan seeks to meet our short-term and long-term goals in democratic engagement efforts through the following:

Area One: Voter Registration:

- **Vote Ambassadors**
 - Ambassadors raise awareness about the elections through announcements in classes and student group meetings, conduct 1-on-1 conversations within their networks, share voting reminders on social media, and organize events and activities to educate, motivate, and turn out their peers. Vote Ambassadors are also deputized by Lancaster County election commission to register students to vote via paper forms.
- **Integrated Registration During Orientation**
 - HVC team staffs Voter Registration Station during new student move, offering every incoming first year, returning student or transferring undergraduate student the opportunity to register to vote for the first time, update their registration, or request an absentee ballot to vote by mail. We also host tables during New Student Enrollment days and Transfer enrollment days held in January, June, and July.
- **General Registration Tables**
 - HVC typically organizes and staffs Voter Services Stations in the Student Leadership, Involvement and Community Engagement Office and in key locations across campus

during the second week of the month, where students can check their registration status, register to vote or update their voter registration information, request absentee ballots or check on the status of ballot requests, access copying and mailing services, get answers to registration and voting related questions, and more. Outside of our central local within the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement office we will also host our tables in every academic college, Residence Halls front desks, library, dining centers, Living learning Communities, Greek chapter houses and during athletic team meetings.

- **Online Voter Registration Portal**
 - We partner with Civic Nation in marketing an [Online Voting Portal](#). The portal helps students register to vote in Nebraska and other states. The portal is featured on our Husker Vote Coalition website, on the website students use to register for classes and appears as a pop-up window on our unl website during National Voter Registration Day.
- **On Campus Drop boxes**
 - We are currently in conversations with the Lancaster County Election Commission to add Droboxes & Mailing Support Stations across campus for students to drop off registration, ballot request forms, or pick up stamps to mail ballots. New Dropbox locations have been placed at local libraries and two of them near campus that students can utilize. Drop Box across Nebraska can be located [via a google map](#).
- **Outreach to Study Abroad Students**
 - We will partner with the Office of Global Experiences in providing voter registration and mailing ballot information to students studying abroad via email and by including information on their website.

Area Two: Voter Education:

Special Events:

- **Husker Vote Coalition Meetings:** We host monthly educational workshops for students, faculty and staff to inform students on the voting process, voting rights and provide space for students to become more civic-conscious leaders. During the meetings students hear from nonpartisan organizations and gain information about the election and political industry.
- **Capitol Experience Days:** The Husker Vote Coalition partners with the State Capitol Building in hosting capitol experience days for student groups and classrooms at local Lincoln Public Schools and at UNL to sign up and attend. The experience is designed to teach critical thinking, civil discourse and the governing process through an interactive lineup of state legislators, executive branch official and supreme court justice member.
- **Night of Listening Sessions:** We host quarterly night of listening sessions for students, faculty, and staff to provide them with the opportunity to hear from elected officials and gain information about their career journey and things happening within the state.
- **Dish it up:** This event occurs weekly and is an interactive conversation where individuals can share their personal views, learn from others, and engage in civil discussions concerning current events, topics affecting students' lives, UNL, and national/international happenings.

- **Nebraska Unify Challenge:** The Unify Challenge is a live, one-to-one online video conversation program designed to connect pairs of Nebraskans across political, ideological, geographical, and other demographic divides. The program will help students connect with another Nebraskan to engage in constructive dialogue about goals for our state and our nation. The program is held once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester. The challenge is a partnership between Unify America, the Coalition and Civic Nebraska.
- **I Love NU Day:** The ASUN student government plans “I love NU” day. The event invites our campus community to visit the State Capitol, network with state senators, and gather in the balcony of the Norris Legislative Chamber to be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature.

Marketing:

- **Website and Online Voter Education Guide:** HVC will continue to publish and promote online voter education guides located on our [HVC Website](#) for both the Primary and General Elections, to provide the entire University community with accessible and understandable information about voter registration and voting deadlines and procedures, ballot education resources, and answers to frequently asked questions. The website will also have information on how students can join the coalition.
- **Campus Wide emails:** HVC will continue to work with campus partners to send emails to the entire University community for the Primary and especially the General Election, with timely information about voter registration deadlines, procedures for absentee voting, early voting, and voting on election day, and ballot education resources.
- **Civic Notes Blog:** The Coalition will have 2 Vote Ambassadors that specialize in running our Civic Notes nonpartisan blog. This blog will help students stay up to date about the most-common voting topics and ensures that students are empowered, no matter how they are planning to cast their ballot during an election. Students can either sign up and subscribe to the blog or read one of our stories featured in UNL’s student newsletter. Our partnership with the newsletter helps us target our messaging to the student body and ensure that our messaging reaches all students.
- **Canvas/Microsoft Teams Page:** HVC team will be piloting a new Microsoft teams page or Canvas module offering introductory voter education and online voter services tools that faculty could import into their course sites. We also will be creating a new resource for faculty with additional ideas to integrate voter education and engagement activities into their courses and classrooms, including the option to request a class presentation from a trained HVC Vote Ambassador.
- **Registering to Vote Handout:** The Coalition has also created a handout that is provided to students during our tabling events that highlights key election dates, and additionally links to an online registration portal to help students register to vote or check their registration status.
- **Social Media and Educational Video Approach:** The Coalition will develop [Instagram stories](#) that provide students with information about upcoming elections. These stories will then be shared with our Vote Ambassadors and published on other channels across campus. HVC also develops short [education videos](#) that teach students about the steps

to register to vote, how to locate their ballot or find their polling place. In addition, with Ucomm in facilitating the “I am a Husker and I vote” Campaign that asks students to share information about [why they vote](#).

Election Day:

- **Election Observers:** Election Observers monitor polling places on election day by gathering information and chronicle data about how elections are run in Nebraska. Election Observers also record any irregularities or different treatment of voters. Observers will also confirm that polling places are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The data is shared with Civic Nebraska who build a [post-election report](#), which is shared with county election officials, state election officials, and the public to identify areas of success and improvement.
- **Campus Voting location:** UNL’s City Campus is in a contiguous, complete voting precinct (Lancaster County, [Precinct 3D](#)) with a polling location on campus. This precinct includes some off-campus apartments, enabling students who may not be living on campus to vote on campus. In addition, a week before each election cycle students who are registered to vote will receive a letter in the mail that highlights where their polling location is. We partner with our Nebraska election commission offices to get that information out to students.
- **Voter Van and Early Voting:** The Voter Van offers transportation to and from the local early voting site during the week leading up to Election Day, enabling students to take advantage of early voting or same-day registration and voting. Ambassadors also hold a polling place locator booth outside of each dining center on election day to help students with maps to help them find their polling site.

Area Three: Voting Research

- **Election Law Tracker**
 - We track election laws and proposed legislation across all 50 states and DC. For 2023 we are tracking 1,982 bills. Our tracker explores pending legislation and existing state laws across major voting issues (Voter Registration, Mail voting, in person voting, ID requirements, voting and criminal justice system, voter list maintenance, election administration and emerging issues). We keep an updated list of the election laws we are tracking that UNL students can use to search via our Microsoft Teams Page.
- **Decoding the Ballot**
 - The Coalition has developed a [digital document](#) that students can view online that decodes the ballot in Nebraska. The document is a nonpartisan guide that explains the roles, responsibilities, and compensation for elected officials on ballots for upcoming elections in Nebraska. Our goal is to expand this guide to cover more states in future elections.
- **Student Voting Process Assessment**
 - Following an election our team sends a survey to students to help our campus better understand the motivators and barriers to student voting and assist HVC team when deciding on the best ways to serve students in the future.

Participants are asked to answer a series of questions related to their voter experience and evaluate the impact of a range of factors on their likelihood to vote in upcoming elections. Additionally, respondents may choose to participate in a follow-up interview focused on civic and political conversations, activities, and experiences among students. Participation in the follow up interview is completely voluntary.

- **State Specific Voting Data**
 - We will be exploring the option of using the voter turnout data and voter registration data from the Nebraska Secretary of States Voter file. This file will list every registered voter in Nebraska and includes data on whether an individual cast a ballot in previous elections. With the date HVC will compare that information with our student directory so we can get a breakdown for how many UNL students voted in the state of Nebraska. Currently with NSLVE we only get total numbers, but we do not get state breakdowns.
- **NSLVE Data**
 - We consider the primary metric of our success to be UNL students' actual voter turnout rates in the 2020 General Election, as measured by the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NLSVE). We use NSLVE data to assess the success of our efforts and set goals for future years, both for overall turnout rates, and for turnout among specific populations of students. Once we receive our 2022 NSLVE data, we will use this information too.

Reporting

The 2024 Action Plan for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln will be publicly available on the Husker Vote Coalition website and publicly featured by some of our partner organizations. Vote Ambassadors will share this plan with their student groups, campus offices and academic colleges. The plan will also be shared with members of the chancellor's council. The NSLVE data, which was used to develop the plan will be publicly available on the Husker Vote Coalition website.

Evaluation

The effectiveness of this plan will be evaluated through surveys, observations, analyzing data and in-person conversations. Metrics collected will include how many people were impacted by each event, if those students found the events helpful, and if those numbers are reflected in the final voter registration and turnout numbers. This information will be collected and evaluated by members inside of the Husker Vote Coalition.

Event Attendance: Attendance during events will be tracked utilizing our Nvolve U platform and event pass. This information will be used in the next campus plan, which will also be shared publicly.

Voter Registration Portal: Users of the portal will be tracked by working with Civic Nation in downloading a monthly activity report. This information will be used in the next campus plan, which will also be shared publicly.

Follow-up Surveys: After events, if emails are collected, follow-up surveys will be sent to see what students found valuable about the event during our baseline platform. This information will be used in the next campus plan, which will also be shared publicly.

Post Election Reports: In addition, HVC intends to author post-election reports (Election Protection report and Voter Process Survey) to evaluate success and growth metrics, which help guide the development of new strategies and build upon previously successful work. These reports will be published on the HVC website and remain available to the public.

NSLVE Data: NSLVE data will continue to be used for insight into the voter turnout and registration numbers. The data will also assist our team in gathering information on which academic areas have the most turnout or registration numbers. This information will be used in the next campus plan, which will also be shared publicly.

Husker Grow Conversations: HVC Executive team members facilitate end of year meetings with individuals who serve as General members to help connect the positions that members hold within HVC to course work and career ambitions.

Research: Through our Husker Vote Coalition research initiatives, we will work to produce research for academic studies, as well as white papers for recommendations around voter engagement in higher education spaces. This research will help improve understanding of the status of political participation on UNL campus and allow for effective planning in the future.

Using the Action Plan as a guide, and our other Evaluation methods mentioned above HVC can effectively determine whether the approaches taken, and proposals made have resulted in the desired impacts across strategies related to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners.