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University of Notre Dame 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

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Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by University of Notre Dame in Indiana 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.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Claudia Francis – Associate Director, Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy

Student Government, National Affairs and Political Engagement Department

NDVotes - a nonpartisan student club that offers programming encouraging students to exercise their right to vote and be informed citizens.

ND Democracy Initiative - As part of its Strategic Plan, the University has identified democracy as a key theme that will guide its future growth and programming.

Office of the President - Notre Dame's president will be stepping down at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. Traditionally, democratic engagement programming, such as debate watch parties, has been overseen by the Office of the President.

Commitment:

Each academic year, the President of Notre Dame selects a theme for the year. The Office of the President coordinates multiple events throughout the year that speak to the theme. For the

2023-2024 academic year, the theme is “The Future of Democracy” and events in 2024 (to be announced) will engage that theme.

University of Notre Dame does not have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. The new President may be willing to do so.

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-notre-dame/>

Landscape:

The University of Notre Dame is a private 4-year institution enrolls 12,809 students (including 8,8745 undergraduate and 3,935 graduate students). Our institution is designated as the following: Predominantly White Institution (65% of students identify as white). All undergraduate students (100%) are 24 years old and under, meaning that they are relatively new voters. Developing a habit of civic engagement at a formative age is key for long term participation.

Eighty-four percent of undergraduate students are out of state residents, and due to Indiana’s Voter ID law, must vote using their home address. (Because ND is a private university, student IDs are not valid identification for voting.) This adds an additional challenge for the University to educate students on registration and absentee ballot requests.

Further, 10% of undergraduate students are international students, and are ineligible to vote.

Beginning in Fall 2023, Notre Dame began using the voter registration portal provided by ALL IN to facilitate voter registration efforts.

The University of Notre Dame has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). The 2022 NSLVE data have not been released as of the writing of this report.

Our 2020 campus voting rate was 71.4%.
Our 2020 campus voter registration rate was 89.1%.

Our 2018 campus voting rate was 37.1%
Our 2018 campus voter registration rate was 79.6%

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

Goals:

Our institution’s nonpartisan democratic engagement goals for the 2024 election season:

- Maintain high voter registration and participation numbers:
 - Maintain or increase beyond 89% of students being registered to vote.
 - Maintain or increase beyond 80% turnout.

- Continue to provide access to voter registration tools.
- Support student voting by providing information on how to vote by absentee ballot.
 - ND Votes will update its website which provides state-based deadline information on registration, absentee request and return deadlines.
 - ND Votes will explore and document challenges to voting faced by students studying abroad.
 - ND Student Government will explore the possibility of providing stamps to students who need to mail election-related documents.
 - ND Student Government will provide access to notaries for students who need to notarize their ballot.
- Engage students in the civic and democratic process through a diversity of nonpartisan programming offered by student clubs, academic and administrative units.
 - Student clubs will expand membership and leadership opportunities
 - Student clubs will raise awareness of the importance of civic engagement through “merch” such as stickers and t-shirts.

Strategy:

University of Notre Dame will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Student Government will host a civic engagement week in April 2024, which will include:
 - Voter Registration tabling using the voter registration portal from ALL IN
 - Asking students to sign ALL IN’s Pledge to vote
 - Information and workshops on absentee ballot request and voting process
 - A juried art exhibit on the intersection of art, civic engagement, and democracy
- Academic units will host events to encourage students to learn about American democracy and current events
- NDVotes will host their series “Pizza, Pop, & Politics” on topics related to understanding democracy and politics
- Student groups will continue to table with information on voter registration and absentee ballot requests
- Academic and/or administrative units will host election debate watch parties

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- University of Notre Dame 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.
- Our institution will use our ALL IN voter registration portal dashboard to track the number of students who have started and completed their voter registration.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/university-of-notre-dame/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.