

University of Oregon
ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge
2022-2023 Action Plan

The University of Oregon has a longstanding tradition of leadership in registering students to vote and participate in elections. It is regularly a point of pride for student leadership. Given the national political dynamic and challenges associated with remote instruction due to the pandemic, there was a heightened focus on non-partisan voter registration efforts in 2020, and even more partners than normal participated in engagement efforts across campus. That increase in partnerships has continued. Our participation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and the Pac-12 Voter Challenge is a catalyst for improving communication and coordination of these efforts.

Key dates and considerations

- October 18, 2022 – Last day to register to vote
- October 19, 2022 – First day ballots can be mailed
- October 25, 2022 – Last day to mail ballots
- November 8, 2022 – Election Day

Those registered in other states are directed to ALLINtoVote.org and other voter engagement online resources for key dates. The Holden Center also works to provide ballot information for the most common out-of-state students (California, Washington, etc.)

The state of Oregon allows on-line voter registration for individuals with certain forms of identification or people may register in person at county elections offices. Voting occurs by mail (no stamp required), or at county ballot drop sites. A ballot drop box is located on the University of Oregon campus at the student union. All ballots must be deposited in an official box or postmarked by 8 p.m. election day. Ballots postmarked by Election Day are considered on time as long as they arrive at the elections office up to 7 days after the election.

The University of Oregon allows student groups to deliver non-partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote announcements during the first ten minutes in certain classes, a key tool for civic engagement. In addition, a register to vote link to is displayed in multiple online locations, including:

- [ASUO Student Government Website](#)
- Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships [Consumer Information page](#)
- UO Government and Community Relations [register to vote page](#)
- [Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement](#) civic engagement page
- Distribution to residential hall students in Housing newsletter

Information is disseminated directly to students through Quick Quack, a student-facing portal for university information, and through multiple social media channels.

People involved/outreach strategies:

Liaisons to Pac-12 Voter Challenge:

- Karen Hyatt - director of intergovernmental relations, Office of Government & Community Relations, is serving as administrative co-lead and liaison to the President's Office.

- Hannah white – Coordinator for Leadership and Community Engagement, Dean of Students, is serving as administrative co-lead and oversees Civic Engagement Committee (of which student serve in the PAC-12 Students group as noted below)
- Anna Mills, 4th year student
- Alexis Han, 4th year student

Campus democratic engagement coalition: Student groups and campus organizations across campus are involved in voter and civic engagement. We re-launched the Civic and Voter Engagement Working Group this spring, which pulls together many of these partners into one space. These are just some of the partners who are communicating frequently, promoting voter engagement via a variety of communications methods, organizing events, and sponsoring activities:

- **Assessment and Research (In the Vice President for Student Life’s office):** we are partnering with our assessment colleagues to understand NSLVE data and institutional information clearly and work together strategically on next steps in terms of targeted outreach efforts
- **ASUO (Associated Students of the University of Oregon student government)** is connecting student groups and communicating through social media and their website the importance of voter registration and participation.
- **Athletics/BEOREGON:** Through BEOREGON, student-athletes and coaches are prioritizing voter engagement. In 2020 and with support from OSPIRG they created the Keep It 100 initiative, a call to action for all eligible Ducks (student-athletes, coaches, staff and the larger Duck community) to utilize their right to vote and be committed to 100% participation in voter registration and make a lifetime pledge to “Keep It 100” in their individual stand against racism and hatred. We expect similar efforts in 2022, and we understand the PAC-12 Conference is working with all athletic departments on similar efforts.
- **Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI):** DEI is committed to ensuring the voter participation experience is complemented with a culture of civility and education regarding democracy. Tactics include aligning this initiative with multiple lecture series, programming, workshops, and faculty collaborations; highlighting voter engagement through the Multicultural Center and Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence; collaborating with the local NAACP chapter on voter engagement for Black and underrepresented members of the Eugene/Springfield community; and commitment to establishing a long-term, sustainable model to support voter registration and non-partisan programming campus-wide.
- **Government and Community Relations:** In addition to serving in a role of understanding, supporting and explaining voter engagement across campus, Government and Community Relations is promoting voter engagement on UO Advocates social media channels and maintains a Register to Vote webpage.
- **The Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement:** The Holden Center has established a commitment to deeply embedding civic and voter engagement as a pillar of the programming and initiatives offered and is working to collaborate closely with other entities. In 2021, student staff employees and one pro-staff (hannah) established the Civic Engagement Committee. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the Holden Center secured funding to dedicate an entire student staff position to Civic Engagement. That person will continue many of the efforts started this year, which include:

- Pizza and Politics – casual dialogue/discussion spaces where students can engage in conversation, learn about social issue areas or topics, get informed on upcoming ballots, and gain skills in how to have conversations across difference – 1-2x per term
- PAC-12 Votes Student Group leadership – Anna and Alexis (noted above) provided leadership in convening group meetings and identifying content
- Education and Outreach – developed social media series around 4 types of civic engagement, consistently getting out more digestible and relatable information for ballots and elections
- Civic Engagement as Activism workshop – offered upon request – demonstrates different types of civic engagement and engages students specifically on how they or their student group can be more intentional
- Tabling – students staff a table to share information about how to register, important dates, and where to find ballot information
- **Oregon Student Association:** with a new contract just signed, we are determining what partnerships will look like, however OSA in the past has been a part of canvassing efforts, class presentations and tabling for voter registration
- **OSPIRG (Oregon State Public Interest Research Group):** OSPIRG in 2020 took on voter engagement on campus by working with BEOREGON/UO Athletics (see above), doing virtual canvassing and reminders to turn in ballots, and attempting to do class raps in virtual classes. In 2022 they have again expressed enthusiasm and interest in voter engagement; details about OSPIRG's role will be refined over the summer.
- **Student Orientation Programs:** we are hoping to partner with the Student Orientation Leaders to provide them with resources to provide and talking points about why voting and civic engagement is part of being a Duck
- **University Housing:** Traditionally before the pandemic, student groups were present at Move In Day to encourage students to register to vote. We are exploring partnership with University Housing to have voter registration and address updating tabling stations at move in, as well as facilitating discussions in the residence halls at the start of the year to encourage civic and voter engagement in general. We are also analyzing 2020 voter precinct data that will give us a better understanding of voter registration rates by students living in residence halls and use this to inform our voter engagement strategies with students, mostly freshmen, living in residence halls.

Measuring success

Historically, the University of Oregon has exceeded peer institutions in registration and participation rates, however the most recent NSLVE data shows the UO's voting rate remained the same at 56.2%, as compared to an increase among almost 90% of peer institutions at 66%.

- **Voter registration and participation analytics:** UO will compare participation and turnout in 2020 to previous cycles.
- **NSLVE reports:** The UO is a participating campus in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement and uses and shares data reports. Noting that voter turnout is especially low for students studying business (one of our largest majors) and in some STEM majors, we will do some targeted outreach to these groups of students and note an impact of this outreach.

- **ALL IN tools:** Partners across campus are promoting the ALL IN take the pledge and ALLINtovote.org registration resources and will use all related analytics.
- **Studentvote.org:** OSPIRG is encouraging students to register through the studentvote.org system. We will work to share counts between studentvote.org and ALLINtovote.org systems.
- **Keep It 100:** UO's approximately 500 student-athletes, coaches and staff have already met their commitment to register 100% of all willing and able voting population. They have teamed up with OSPIRG and are also registering students through studentvote.org.
- **Vote Early Day:** The Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement utilizes the Voting Early Day social media campaign and encourages students to get registered and vote early.

Additional resources and partners:

- Lane County Elections Office
- League of Women Voters of Lane County
- History of Vote by Mail in Oregon (Multnomah County)
- CAUSA (Oregon immigrant rights organization): Civic Engagement
- Oregon Secretary of State Voter Registration Ballot Tracker