



University of Portland Democratic Engagement Action Plan: 2022-23

This plan was created using the Votes & Ballots Action Planning Form. We highly recommend editing and expanding upon this draft before submitting for review.

Throughout this document, we mention the Strengthening American Democracy Guide as a resource for your review. We encourage you to turn to that resource for guidance and support as you complete your action plan!

I. Executive Summary

This action plan was developed by Maye Henning, Assistant Professor to communicate our strategy for increasing both the registration and turnout rates of voters at University of Portland. The planned activities outlined here will be carried out over 2022-23, on and around our campus in Portland, Oregon.

The following groups will be leading this work at University of Portland in order to accomplish our goals and further institutionalize our commitment to civic learning, democratic engagement, and youth participation in elections:

- Faculty
- Student Affairs Staff

How can you improve this section? Visit the Strengthening American Democracy Guide and review the Guiding Questions to ensure your Executive Summary includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

II. Leadership

Tamara Herdener, Associate Vice President for Student Development will be overseeing our work to increase civic learning and democratic engagement on campus. They will be supported in this work by:

- Undergraduate students
- Faculty
- Jeromy Koffler, Director of Student Affairs
- Moreau Center for Service and Justice
- Tamara Herdener, Student Development

This coalition is diverse and inclusive of:

- Representation from different parts of campus, including student leadership, Representation from different perspectives and areas of expertise, Leaders who can help with outreach and power building by bringing more people across campus in to our work

Our group plans to meet Bi-semesterly at TBD

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Leadership Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

III. Commitment

Our institution and our campus leadership demonstrates commitment to improving civic learning and democratic engagement. We also see this same commitment reflected in our institution's values. They state, "As one of the core habits—Literacy, Dialogue, and Expression Emphasizes understanding and engaging in important debates"

In addition, our campus has mentioned civic learning and democratic engagement in their strategic plan, stating Engagement in solving global and community issues

On campus, we've seen:

- Political clubs or student organizations
- The University of Portland has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation since 2022

On campus, we've experienced:

- Voting in student body elections
- Deliberative dialogues

The emphasis on civic learning and democratic engagement could be increased.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Commitment Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

IV. Landscape

We do not have access to comprehensive demographic information about our student body at this time.

The University of Portland is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2022.

University of Portland has 3,999 students.

University of Portland has authorized NSLVE.

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Landscape Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

V. Goals

Before setting our civic learning and democratic engagement goals on campus, we took the following information into consideration.

We know our campus faces following challenges internally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- We don't have someone whose job responsibility is to foster civic learning and democratic engagement on our campus.
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- We don't have processes in place for registering large percentages of our students.
- We don't have sustainable or consistent funding.

We also know our campus faces the following challenges externally when it comes to get out the vote efforts and registering voters:

- We don't have a working relationship with our local election office.
- We don't have working relationships with community partners who are invested in civic learning and democratic engagement.
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With that said, we know our campus has the following strengths when we approach our voter engagement work:

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With this in mind, we have set the three goals that we would like to achieve over the next academic year:

1. Enroll in the NSLVE and begin collecting and analyzing data
2. Get students more engaged in the ALL IN Campus Democracy challenge
3. Create more initiatives on campus to promote political engagement

We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:

1. Embed within the university bureaucracy an office or individual responsible for political and community engagement
2. Form partnerships with community members/organizations to get people registered to vote on campus
3. Increase voter registration and voting

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Goals Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VI. Strategy

Below, we have outlined a strategy describing how we will bring this vision to life in the coming months and years.

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

These are tactics that we **are already doing** in the **short term** (within the next year):

- Talking about the election and democratic engagement in classes

These are tactics that we **plan to do** in the **short term**:

- -Make resources available to students about voting (including information on absentee voting, registering to vote)
- -Host a forum to discuss the upcoming 2022 midterm election

These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **short term**:

- Collect data on political participation on campus and with that data develop targeted initiatives to increase political participation

These are tactics that we **are already doing** for the **long term** (beyond the next year):

- Developing websites dedicated to resources on community engagement and voting

These are tactics that we **want to do** in the **long term**:

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These are tactics that we **hope to do** in the **long term**:

- Ideally, develop partnerships with non-partisan non-governmental organizations dedicated to helping the campus community get registered to vote and then vote

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your Strategy Section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VII. National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your NSLVE section includes everything that you feel should be addressed.

VIII. Reporting & Evaluation

We plan to share this Action Plan internally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

- Email to members of our campus coalition
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We plan to share this Action Plan externally when it is complete by taking the following actions:

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We will collect feedback on this plan by:

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- Enroll in the NSLVE

We plan to evaluate our success by:

- Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year
- Seeking out feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside of our action planning team
- Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly
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How can you improve this section? Visit the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide* and review the *Guiding Questions* to ensure your *Reporting & Evaluation Section* includes everything that you feel should be addressed.