

## University of Redlands 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Jennifer Tilton

### Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by University of Redlands in California 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. The goal for University of Redlands for the 2024 election is to create an environment where students feel empowered to engage in civic activities, including voter registration, educational sessions on the democratic process, and voter participation initiatives.

### Leadership:

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

- **Anthony Castellon**, Resident Coordinator, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies
- **Brian Charest**, Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor and Co-Director of Center for Educational Justice for School of Education Department of Teaching and Learning
- **Byran Whitehead**, President, Redlands Student Government
- **Christina Salinas**, Executive Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs
- **Christopher Jennings**, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Strategy & General Counsel
- **Christopher Jones**, Senior Diversity & Inclusion Officer
- **Eric McLaughlin**, Associate Professor of Political Science
- **Erin Sanborn**, Director of Sustainable Education and Senior Associate Director, Community Service Learning
- **Gemma Lang**, Community Service Learning Graduate Assistant
- **Heather King**, Department Chair & Professor of English
- **Ibrahim Bedrous**, Assistant Director of Student Engagement, Student Involvement & Success
- **Jennifer Tilton**, Associate Professor, Race and Ethnic Studies, & Co-Director of Liberal Studies Race & Ethnic Studies

- **Jillian Strong**, Assistant Director of Student Involvement, Student Involvement & Success
- **Justin Rose**, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences
- **Mikela Bjork**, Assistant Professor, Co-Director of Center for Educational Justice and Assistant Professor for School of Education Department of Teaching and Learning
- **Monique Stennis**, Senior Director of Diversity Initiatives, Office for Inclusion and Community
- **Renee Van Vechten**, Director, Public Policy; Professor, Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair in American Politics & Policy Faculty, Department of Political Science
- **Sandra Vasquez**, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
- **Savannah Cox**, Head Women's Volleyball Coach & Student Athlete Advisory Committee Advisor
- **Sylvia Ellis**, Greek Life Coordinator, Student Involvement & Success
- **Tim Seiber**, Director of Johnson & Professor of Science and Media Studies Johnston Center for Integrative Studies
- **Alyssa Rodriguez**, Undergraduate Student Representative
- **Christine O'Brian**, Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative
- **Student Representative**, Greek Life
- **Adelaide Hubble**, DAWGS/Student Activities

The group meets weekly and maintains engagement through regular updates, collaborative planning sessions, and delegating responsibilities for events. We also have support from upper administration, ensuring access to resources and venues.

### Commitment:

University of Redlands does not have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation. The University of Redlands is deeply committed to fostering a culture of civic engagement. Through the efforts of the Civic Engagement Committee, we are confident that we will continue to create meaningful opportunities for students to learn about and participate in the democratic process. With our short-term and long-term goals, we aim to increase voter registration, encourage thoughtful civic participation, and build a robust coalition of faculty, staff, and students dedicated to promoting civic empowerment on campus.

### Landscape:

University of Redlands is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2021. Our institution is designated as the following: Minority-Serving Institution, Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

University of Redlands has 4,566 students.

University of Redlands has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and will receive campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023. Our NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

We have initiated strategies through events, tabling efforts, and digital engagement campaigns. To increase voter registration and engagement, we have launched a series of activities, including tabling events at New Student Orientation and the Involvement Fair, voter registration campaigns, and digital and printed flyer distributions.

## Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

### Short-term (2-year) Goals:

- Increase student voter registration and turnout by 20% through targeted campaigns.
- Establish a campus-wide coalition dedicated to civic engagement and voter education.
- Revive the "Bulldogs Vote" student group and working collaboratively with the Redlands Student Government to increase awareness on the importance of voting.
- Expand our event programming to include at least three civic engagement events per semester, such as debate watch parties, Constitution Day celebrations, and educational workshops on the democratic process.
- Establish a comprehensive, dedicated Campus Civic Engagement website.
- Introducing presentations on the importance of voting by faculty members.

### Long-term (5-year) Goals:

- Achieve a voter registration rate of 80% among eligible students.
- Institutionalize civic engagement as a core component of the University of Redlands experience through regular events and curriculum integration.
- Strengthen the Bulldogs Vote! group and create a sustainable leadership pipeline to ensure continuity.
- Establish a strong collaboration between the Civic Engagement Committee and local election offices, voter advocacy groups, other education institutions, and the California Secretary of State's Office.

## Strategy:

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

- **September 10, 2024:** Presidential Debate Watch Party and Q&A Session.
- **September 17, 2024:** Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day (included distribution of the U.S. Constitution in English and Spanish).
- **September 29, 2024:** Workshop on "The ART of Inclusive Communication" in collaboration with the NCRC and the Title IX Office.
- **October 1, 2024:** Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party and Q&A Session, followed by a voter registration drive.

- **October 14, 2024:** Lecture by Dr. Adrian D. Pantoja on "The Importance of Voting in 2024 and Beyond."
- **AY 2024 - 2025:** Civic Empowerment Workshop, tabling, information resources, focusing on voter rights and the democratic process including communications.
- **Sustained Dialogue Events:** October – November 2024 (schedule below)

Each event is designed to build a culture of civic engagement on campus, with a focus on educating students about the importance of participating in the democratic process and providing them with the tools to do so. We will continue to monitor and adjust our plans based on event turnout and feedback from participants.

### Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

University of Redlands 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.

### Reporting:

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

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

LOOKING FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW  
SKILLS THROUGH SUSTAINED DIALOGUE?



SIGN UP FOR THE



## *Pre-election Healthy Conversations Skills Series*

Imagine a world where all have the skills to **collaborate, advocate, and speak up** in ways that build relationships and new partnerships. In this world, conversations over any meal go smoothly, even when we don't agree. *Are you hoping to build skills as a student, staff, faculty, or Redlands community member?* Be a part of building that world, and maybe even learn to facilitate stronger conversations through this skill series.

**Drop in to a session or complete them all to learn how to enhance your skills for topics that you care about!**

Each virtual session will be fun and interactive, led by Rhonda Fitzgerald and Elena Martínez Torres of the Sustained Dialogue Campus Network based in Washington, D.C.

**October 1:** When does dialogue work, and when should we debate instead?

**October 8:** Skills for Conflict De-escalation

**October 15:** Managing Emotional Responses in Challenging Conversations

**October 22:** Skills practice: Asking questions in tough conversations

**(IN-PERSON) Nov. 5:** (Election Day) Special election day drop-in gathering over food!

**Nov. 12:** Expressing yourself: A Post Election Dialogue Opportunity



All sessions are held on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. on Zoom (except for November 5, this will be an in-person meet-up!)

**Scan this QR code for the Zoom link or use Meeting ID: 837 5258 9693**

Questions? Please contact [monique\\_stennis@redlands.edu](mailto:monique_stennis@redlands.edu) or [mikela@bjork@redlands.edu](mailto:mikela@bjork@redlands.edu)

Photo Gallery

UNIVERSITY OF Redlands  
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN 2024 AND BEYOND

A DISCUSSION BY **ADRIAN D. PANTOJA**, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL STUDIES AND CHICANO STUDIES AT PITZER COLLEGE AND OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS EXPERT POLLSTER AND DATA ANALYST OF THE LATINO ELECTORATE

**OCT 14TH**  
**7:00 PM**  
**HOL 100**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY PUBLIC POLICY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, STUDENT AFFAIRS, THE 2024 ELECTIONS BULLDOG CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE, PI SIGMA ALPHA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANT, AND DAWGS

UNIVERSITY OF Redlands  
**BULLDOG**

## PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

TUESDAY  
**SEPTEMBER 10**  
6:00PM  
ONLINE (SCAN BELOW)



**DONALD TRUMP**  
REPUBLICAN PARTY



**KAMALA HARRIS**  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Followed by a Q&A session led by **Renee Van Vechten**, Professor of Political Science and Director, Public Policy.

We bring you a **LIVE** debate featuring the candidates vying for your vote!

Brought to you by Armacost Library, Office for Inclusion & Community, and Student Involvement & Success



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## CONSTITUTION DAY

— 17 SEPTEMBER —  
HUNSAKER PLAZA  
12:15 PM

JOIN US FOR A READING OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION!  
GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION  
ENJOY DELICIOUS, CONSTITUTION-THEMED DESSERTS!



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Your Voice Matters!

**DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IS COMING UP SOON!**

## BULLDOGS REGISTER TO VOTE



Scan Me..



