



University of Rhode Island 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Amy Albert

Executive Summary:

The goal of the democratic engagement work happening across campus is to increase engagement of the URI student population for local and national elections. Through virtual and in-person events we will increase voter registration on campus and increase education on the registration process, as measured by the NSLVE. In addition, we will ensure students have the information necessary to vote during this turbulent time and feel as though they are an educated voter base. Finally, there will be in-person and virtual events (panels, etc.) that will provide students the tools that they need to promote civic engagement and lives full of active citizenship.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

- Amy Albert, Community Engagement Coordinator, URI
- Carolyn Betensky, Professor of English, URI
- Dr. Brendan Skip Mark, Assistant Professor of Political Science, URI

And more!

Commitment:

Our campus has signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email, By posting on institutional social media channels

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

The voting rate in 2016 was 51.0% and 2018 was 33.1%. As of Fall 2019 the enrollment of URI was 14542 undergraduates, 2931 graduates, which brings us to 17473 overall.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

From 2012 to 2016 the University increased the voting rate by 6.5% from 47.9% to 51%, the goal would be to increase from 2016 to 2020 to be 10% and go from 51% to at least 56%.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

In-person voter registration drives, Classroom voter registration presentations (in-person or virtual), Virtual voter registration drives (e.g. Couch Party text banking events), Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.)

This is an all-in campus initiative. There are many great things happening across campus and the entire goal of the challenge is to bring together and support each initiative through Student Affairs, such as RAMS Vote challenge and speaker series through the Multicultural Student Services Center, faculty initiatives, and those through the URI Library (uri.libguides.com/vote).

We have done in-person registration events, virtual panel discussions, material/resource sharing, and more!

NSLVE:

University of Rhode Island has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

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Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.

Our campus hasn't confirmed a plan to post our NSLVE reports on our campus website.