

University of Rhode Island 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

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Executive Summary:

The goal of the democratic engagement work happening across campus is to increase the engagement of the URI student population in 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. Finally, we will offer in-person and virtual events (panels, etc.) to promote civic engagement, and students with the tools they need to be informed citizens.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

- Rachel Littlefield, Coordinator, Welcome Center
- Alicia G. Vaandering, Assistant Professor and Student Success Librarian, URI Libraries, URI

And more!

Commitment:

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

Our campus will use the following methods to communicate with students about the election: email, university social media channels

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

The voting rate in 2016 was 51.0%, in 2018 was 33.1%, and in 2020 was 71.9%. As of Fall 2021 the enrollment of URI was 14493 undergraduates, 3018 graduates, which brings us to 17511 overall.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

From 2016 to 2020 the University increased the voting rate by 20.9% from 51% to 71.9%. The goal for the 2022 midterm election would be to increase to 75%, a 3.1% increase from 2020 to 2022.

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).

NSLVE:

University of Rhode Island has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

We will analyze the number of registered voters and the voting rate through NSLVE and other school and national survey documents where permissible by law.

Reporting:

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

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