



**All-In Democracy Challenge**

**The University of Scranton 2024 Action Plan**

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## Executive Summary:

The University of Scranton is working across campus to ensure that every eligible voter is prepared to vote during elections, is attuned to their civic responsibilities, and is empowered to become a democratically engaged member of the community. This campus initiative is led by the Office of Community and Government Relations in collaboration with the University of Scranton Student Government along with several on/off campus partners. Campus partners include the Political Science Club, Political Science Department, Student Life, Residence Life, The Political Dialogue Working Group, the Center for Ethics and Excellence in Public Service (CEEPS), and Campus Ministries. Our plan is informed by our Jesuit mission and core values with the aim of cultivating engaged citizens across campus that are women and men for and with others.

This plan was developed by the Office of Community and Government Relations in collaboration with our partners to ensure that The University of Scranton has a cohesive, continuous, and clear strategy in place to engage constituents across campus in the democratic process of voting and to foster civic engagement as a priority on our campus. We are working collectively under the leadership of the Office of Community and Government Relations in collaboration with Student Government.

This 2024 plan is already being implemented and will continue to develop based on All In's feedback as we prepare for the 2024 presidential elections. This plan is dynamic and will continuously adapt based on the campus needs. The Royals Vote dedicated website is updated frequently to establish the legacy of voting and provide ongoing resources to The University of Scranton community ([www.scranton.edu/RoyalsVote](http://www.scranton.edu/RoyalsVote)).

The main goals of our plan are:

1. Ensure all eligible voters in our campus community are prepared for elections by registering to vote, knowing how to vote, and understanding their voter rights.
2. Providing voter education and resources to help prepare our campus population to make an informed decision on their ballots that reflect their personal values, morals, and causes.
3. To work across differences to find common ground that keeps our campus community one of inclusiveness, solidarity, and diversity.
4. Provide resources to our first-time voters that will help establish living a life as an engaged citizen.
5. Asking ourselves, "How can we continue the legacy of voting?" after Election Day by remaining civically engaged and active to the causes our student's support.

Our goals are both short and long term. Immediate short-term goals focus on ensuring that all eligible campus constituents are registered and ready to vote. The long-term goals focus on continuously broadening our coalition and bringing in additional collaborators to ensure that The University of Scranton is democratically and civically engaged. This 2024 action plan is implemented on our campus in Scranton, PA. Every vote matters, and as a "purple" state, Pennsylvania also plays a unique role in Federal elections.

This action plan was developed to ensure that there is a consistent and clear plan in place to address the important issues of civic and democratic engagement at The University of Scranton in alignment with our Catholic and Jesuit values, which call us each to recognize the wholeness of each person, care for our common home, and remember that we are men and women for and with others. These Jesuit values are not just words on paper, but instead an active lived mission

that animates all that we do here at The University of Scranton. Voting is an act of love and by working with our campus constituents, we aim to cultivate a campus climate that is inclusive, engaged, and socially responsible.

### Leadership:

Our leadership team includes students, faculty, and staff from across our campus community that represent the key areas of focus. We have expanded our leadership team with the goal of meeting over the summer to prepare for the Fall 2024 semester. Faculty members may not be available for summer meetings, so we have a goal to meet again in the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester to organize for the upcoming midterm election cycle and to discuss new programming. The core leadership team works closely together to ensure they are addressing the current needs of our campus population.

The campus leadership team is as follows:

1. Daysi Carreto; Asst. Director of Community and Civic Engagement (Civic Captain)
2. Julie Schumacher Cohen; Assistant Vice President for Community and Government Affairs
3. Student interns in the Office of Community & Government Relations
  - a. Civic Engagement Interns for AY 24-25 are Breanna M. Long and Sajidul Alam
4. CEEPS student intern
5. Student Government Officer(s) (this year, President Maria Stephen, Vice President Amanda Campbell, Director of Communications Mia Familetti, and Johnny Sinclair III, who will serve as the Royals Vote liaison.
6. Dr. JoyAnna Hopper; Political Science Faculty/Co-Director CEEPS\*
7. Dr. Jean Harris; Political Science Faculty/Co-Director CEEPS/member, League of Women Voters\*
  - a. (alternate; Dr. Michael Allison)
8. Dean Lauren Rivera, Vice President Student Life & Dean of Students
9. Adrianna Smith, Student Life Special Projects Coordinator
10. Dr. Shaefny Grays, Assistant Dean, Culture and Inclusion
11. Brandice Riccardi, Assistant Director, Cultural Center, Jane Kopas Women's Center
12. Jose Sanchez, Assistant Director, Cultural Center
13. Kayla Betacchini, Assistant Director, Center for Student Engagement

In addition to the campus leadership team, representatives from other campus groups and clubs including the Campus Republicans, and the Political Dialogues Working Group have supported and collaborated with the leadership team on civic and democratic engagement efforts. Additionally, for the 2024 plan, the leadership team will outreach and collaborate with representatives from the Commuter Student Association, the Office of Equity and Diversity, the Louis Stanley Brown Black Student Union, the newly formed Muslim Students Association, the Society for Sustainability and Conservation, and Health Professions Organization. We will be providing opportunities for any interested student club or organization to join our coalition. It is also our long-term goal to identify and outline specific ways in which Royals Vote can be supported and collaborate with Athletics and our Alumni Engagement Office.

Our campus leadership team works closely with local, regional, and national (and international in the case of non-partisan dialogue and the Jesuit network) organizations including:

1. The City of Scranton (Mayor's Office)
2. Black Scranton Project
3. Scranton Public Library
4. The Greater Scranton MLK Commission
5. League of Women Voters
6. Ignatian Solidarity Network
7. Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (includes collaboration with subgroups in community relations and community-based learning)
8. Essential Partners
9. When We All Vote
10. ALL-IN Campus Democracy Challenge
11. PA Department of State
12. Christians for the Common Good\*
13. The Jesuit Student Government Alliance\*
14. Fair Election Center's Campus Vote Project

Since the last voting plan was submitted in 2022, we were designated a voter friendly campus. The core leadership team (Carreto, Schumacher Cohen, Office of Community Relations Interns) will meet with faculty member and CEEPS co-director Dr. JoyAnna Hopper to discuss a plan to connect more closely with the local election's office. Typically, candidate debates are hosted by the League of Women Voters (represented by Dr. Jean Harris on this leadership team). Dr. Harris will be engaged along with the members of the leadership team to collaborate on outreach and connecting with the Lackawanna County Board of Elections to identify modes of collaboration, which may include procuring materials and information related to candidates running in Scranton, PA.

The captain of our leadership team (Civic Captain) is Daysi Carreto, Assistant Director of Community and Civic Engagement, within The Office of Community & Government Relations. This office maintains at least 2 interns year-round, who serve as student leaders. Incoming 2024-2025 Civic Engagement interns are Breanna M. Long and Sajidul Alam. The Office of Community and Government Relations leads our campus effort with the Assistant Director of Community and Civic Engagement and interns having civic and democratic engagement embedded in the responsibilities of these roles (regardless of the individuals in those positions).

Additional key leaders are members of the Student Government Cabinet, which include Student Government President Maria Stephen for the 2024-2025 Academic Year, and John Sinclair III serving as the Royals Vote Liaison. To keep the working group engaged, the Student Government has developed a continuance plan to ensure this key department is continuously involved and represented.

Prior to the start of the 2024-2025 Academic Year, the Democratic Practices group, a broader group comprised of various offices and disciplines across campus, will meet in-person to discuss upcoming Civic Engagement programming for Fall 2024. The Democratic Practices group will plan to reconvene in mid-October 2024 to review Civic Engagement programming s and discuss potential programming in Spring 2025.

The Royals Vote working group, the sub-committee focused on voting registration and voting engagement efforts, will meet in-person prior to the Academic Year to identify

opportunities for collaboration and coordinate voter registration drives. In the event an in-person meeting is not possible, the Royals Vote working group will meet virtually and communicate via email throughout the Fall semester in the lead up to the 2024 Presidential Election. The Royals Vote working group will be convened for quarterly meetings to review progress and opportunities for growth.

Should a member of the working group or office decline or step away from participation, the leadership team will work together to encourage participation and/or identify alternate representation. We work to remind our campus collaborators that civic engagement and democratic engagement are mission oriented and tied to our University learning outcome for students to “Employ their knowledge and intellect to address situations in a way that demonstrates a devotion to the spiritual and corporal welfare of other human beings and by a special commitment to the pursuit of social justice and the common good of the entire human community.”

### **Commitment:**

The leadership team is committed to visibility, embracing communication with the student body about voting. In July 2022, The University of Scranton President Fr. Joseph Marina, S.J. signed the ALL IN Democracy Challenge’s Higher Education Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

We have implemented use of social media channels, regularly updating the Royals Vote dedicated voter resource website, using posters around campus with QR codes to register voters from their smartphones, and creating outreach programming to First-Year Experience courses and within residence halls via Residence Life.

The leadership team is committed to identifying new ways to further enfold civic and democratic engagement into the full scope of our campus experience. As mentioned, our campus frequently hosts civic events such as candidate debates, lectures, film screenings, city, and county meetings (open to campus community).

Over the past two years, the Scranton community has explored themes of history, belonging, and identity through Scranton’s Story: Our Nation’s Story, a series of humanities-based programs that culminated in an oral history initiative called “Scranton Stories.” This National Endowment for the Humanities project is composed of an exhibition that highlights portraits, personal statements, and interview links from 33 community members to give voice to a broad array of Scranton experiences and connect them to our national story. Future project programming is slated for Fall 2024 and will expand on the central themes of democracy and cultivating community and civic engagement using our Political Dialogue format.

Student civic leaders participate annually in AICUP (Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania) Advocacy Week with students meeting with local legislators to discuss the importance of PHEEA grant funding and other principal issues. Before this event, students meet with the Assistant Director of Community and Civic Engagement to learn about the importance of advocacy work and discuss the process for engaging with their legislators. In Spring 2024, 3 University of Scranton students, along with the Assistant Director of Community and Civic Engagement, participated in AICUP Advocacy Day in Harrisburg, PA. Unfortunately, after a careful review our campus was in the past determined to not meet the requirements to become a polling location by the Lackawanna County Board of Elections due to accessibility requirements, however the closest polling location to campus is 530 Monroe Ave

(0.4 miles from the main campus address and even closer to our residence halls and off-campus housing) and we hope to continue to revisit this possibility in the future. We are in the process of contacting our county office and renewing this conversation including in light of a new building the University of Scranton is currently constructing. To address potential transportation challenges, the Royals Vote working group will coordinate transportation to students interested in voting in-person, specifically first-year students who may not have access to transportation.

The University of Scranton's Core Educational Mission animated by Ignatian spirituality, particularly by two key concepts:

**-*Magis***, which describes the quest for excellence and inspires one to do more, beyond their perceived capabilities. Through this inspiration students will aspire to high levels of accomplishment that enhance personal achievement and their preparedness and ability to contribute and lead as members of society. Civic and democratic engagement are two key features of *Magis*.

**-*Cura personalis*** means recognizing students as unique individuals and helps them to develop intellectually, socially, and spiritually in diverse manners. The University of Scranton is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the uniqueness of each student and in turn encourages students to see this same uniqueness in each person they encounter. This focus on the nuances of humanity is vital to our students as they work to become men and women for and with others.

The 2022 plan was The University of Scranton's first year utilizing an action plan. Additionally, the newly envisioned position of Assistant Director of Community and Civic Engagement has empowered the University to take clear action leading up to the 2024 election and beyond. There is a clear connection of civic and democratic engagement to the University's overall mission and core values that made its incorporation into our campus climate a natural fit.

In addition to the presentations to First Year Seminar courses, it is the aim of the leadership team to begin to foster a closer relationship with academic affairs to incorporate the civic dimension of life into their courses and curriculum as a long-term goal. Co-circular engagement includes the various modes and methods previously outlined, which include nonpartisan political dialogues, voter registration drives/posters, social media campaigns, conference presentations, and one-on-one voter support.



## Landscape:

Our campus demographic data and voting data is subject to change each year. The most recent University of Scranton report (from 2023-2024 Fact Sheet) is as follows:

### Fall Student Enrollment as of October 1<sup>st</sup>

*Due to COVID-19, enrollment in 2020 is as of 9/17/2020. The University of Scranton considers 6 credits full-time at the master's level; IPEDS government reporting considers 9 credits full-time at the master's level. All data on this report uses the IPEDS definition of FT/PT.*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>3,792</b>	<b>3,658</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>3,593</b>	<b>3,666</b>
College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)	1,640	1,602	1,588	1,634	1,822
Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS)	1,204	1,158	1,091	1,123	952
Kania School of Management (KSOM)	846	832	759	770	820
No School Affiliation (includes former CGCE)	102	66	49	66	72
<b>Graduate</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,159</b>
College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)	45	39	36	53	81
Panuska College of Professional Studies (PCPS)	828	719	667	613	548
Kania School of Management (KSOM)	577	536	488	455	521
No School Affiliation (includes former CGCE)	11	5	14	17	9
On-Campus Graduate	711	693	685	706	n/a
Online Graduate	750	606	520	432	n/a
<b>Total University</b>	<b>5,253</b>	<b>4,957</b>	<b>4,692</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>4,825</b>
Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTES)	4,519.6	4,326.3	4,127.3	4,209.6	4,313.0

*Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTES) = Total Number of FT Students + 1/3 PT Students (Common Data Set definition); status is determined by adding regular term credits and special term credits. Effective Fall 2023, the Registrar's Office with directions from the Program Implementation Committee started using campus code 1 for hybrid students so the Office of Institutional Reporting and Data Analytics is no longer able to determine whether a student is an on campus student or a hybrid student.*

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female Students	3,131	59.6%	2,964	59.8%	2,773	59.1%	2,741	57.9%	2,764	57.3%
Male Students	2,122	40.4%	1,993	40.2%	1,919	40.9%	1,990	42.1%	2,061	42.7%
New Transfer Students (UG only)	44	1.2%	42	1.1%	46	1.3%	59	1.6%	58	1.6%
International Students	104	2.0%	89	1.8%	109	2.3%	174	3.7%	255	5.3%
Underrepresented Minority Students	766	14.6%	781	15.8%	764	16.3%	822	17.4%	850	17.6%
First Generation Students (UG only)	841	22.2%	782	21.4%	739	21.2%	823	22.9%	924	25.2%
<b>Full-Time (FT) or Part-Time (PT):</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PT</b>
Undergraduate	3,626	166	3,499	159	3,349	138	3,445	148	3,511	155
Graduate	527	934	512	787	496	709	504	634	546	613

*Underrepresented minority students are categorized as one of the following: Hispanic/Latino, Two or more races, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. First Generation is determined by a current FRST (First Generation) attribute.*

Figure 1. Fall Student Enrollment (Based on 2023-2024 Fact Sheet)

	First-time, Full-time Degree-Seeking First Year Students as of October 1 <sup>st</sup>	International Students	% Underrepresented Minority	% First Generation
2014	1,062	6	15.3%	n/a
2015	907	9	16.8%	n/a
2016	1,001*	11	14.3%	28.4%
2017	901*	6	14.3%	23.4%
2018	940	5	15.3%	21.1%
2019	994	7	18.3%	25.4%
2020	879	6	18.1%	24.0%
2021	813	3	18.0%	25.3%
2022	1,043	6	22.7%	30.3%
2023	1,026	1	18.9%	35.2%

*Due to COVID-19, enrollment in 2020 is as of 9/17/2020. Underrepresented minority students are categorized as one of the following: Hispanic/Latino, Two or more races, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. First Generation is determined by a current FRST (First Generation) attribute. Deceased students that did not graduate within four years have been removed from the cohorts.*

Figure 2. First-time, Full-time, Degree-Seeking First Year Students as of October 1<sup>st</sup>.



**NSLVE Report:**

The University of Scranton has authorized NSLVE (The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement). The following data is from the 2022 NSLVE report:

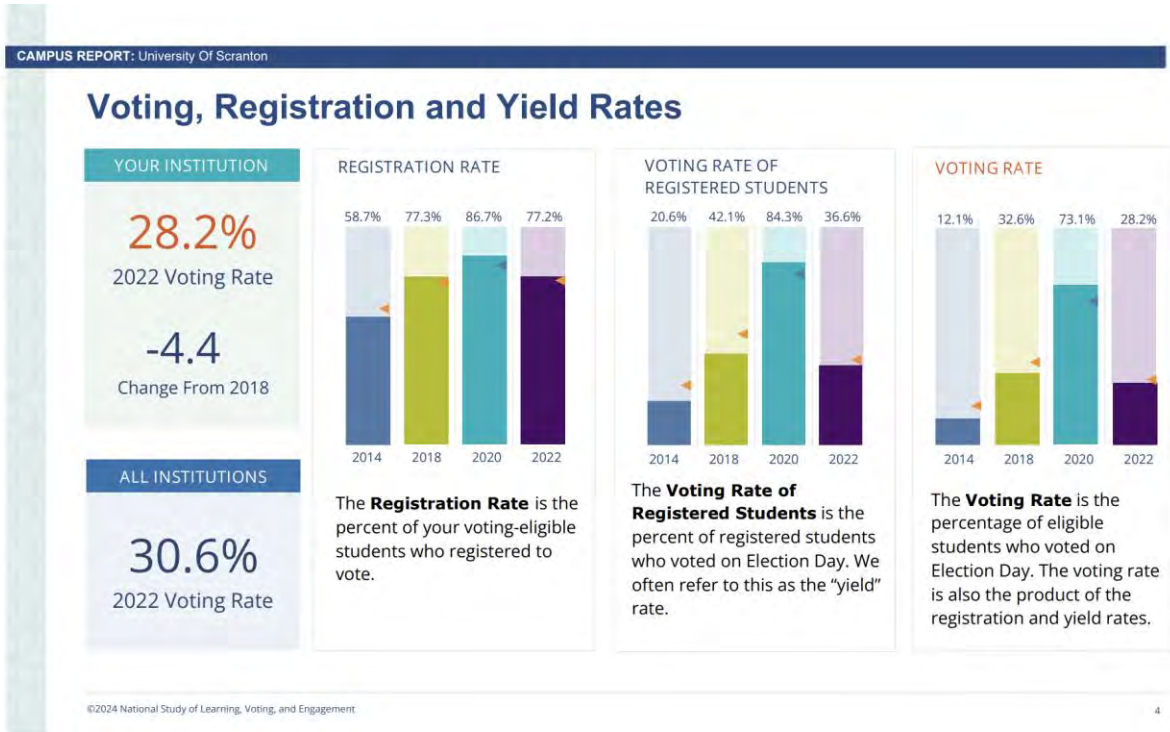


Figure 3. Campus Report: University of Scranton Voting, Registration and Yield Rates.

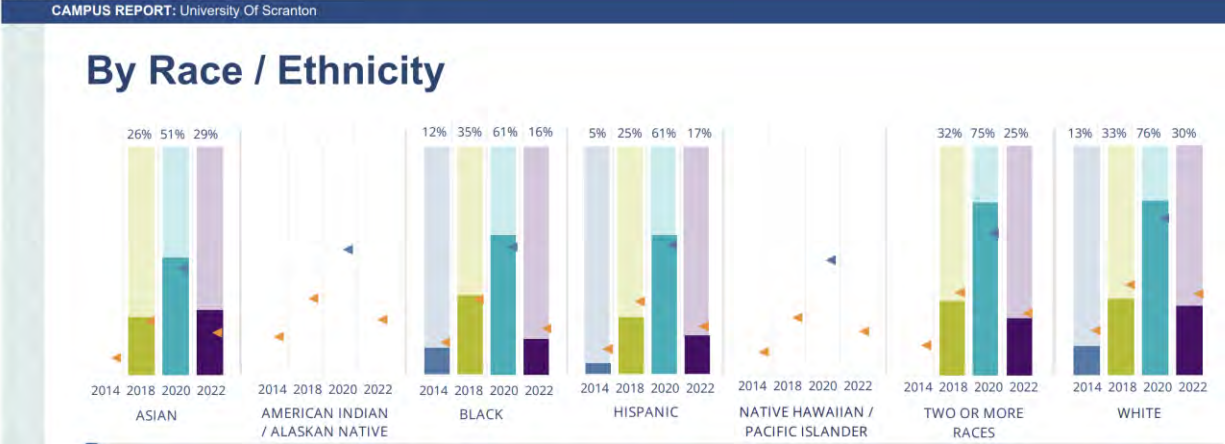


Figure 4. Campus Report: University of Scranton Voting Rates by Race/Ethnicity.

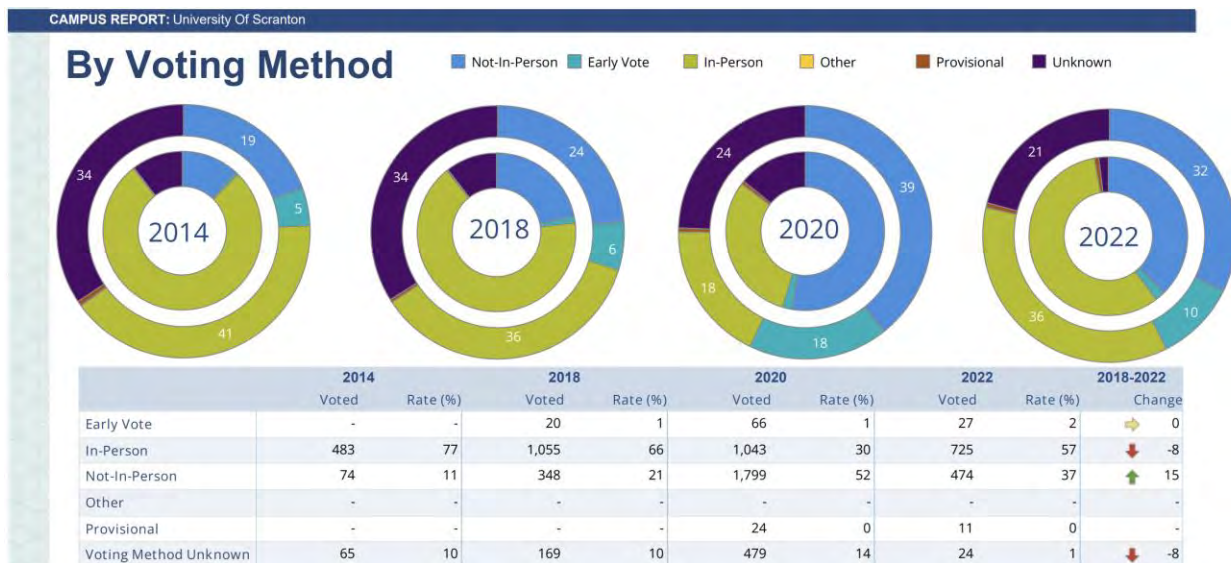


Figure 5. Campus Report: University of Scranton by Voting Method

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
18-21	3,511	207	5	3,246	851	26	3,260	2,344	71	3,215	687	21	↓ -4
22-24	636	81	12	707	248	35	660	510	77	686	240	34	↔ 0
25-29	463	82	17	365	136	37	281	180	64	253	103	40	↑ 3
30-39	425	128	30	413	191	46	332	214	64	269	111	41	↓ -4
40-49	191	78	40	159	91	57	138	101	73	128	59	46	↓ -11
50+	84	51	60	106	80	75	79	62	78	85	61	71	↓ -3

Figure 6. Campus Report: University of Scranton by Age Group

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Female	3,020	324	10	2,942	1,024	34	2,843	2,131	74	2,686	784	29	↓ -5
Male	2,290	303	13	2,054	573	27	1,907	1,280	67	1,949	476	24	↓ -3

Figure 7. Campus Report: University of Scranton by Sex

FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	617	58	9	573	203	35	562	418	74	516	157	30	↓ -5
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,391	211	15	1,431	466	32	1,346	949	70	1,220	344	28	↓ -4
Communication and Journalism	179	14	7	123	34	27	153	114	74	164	36	21	↓ -5
FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Computer and Information Sciences	54	-	-	88	25	28	104	64	61	108	27	25	↓ -3
Education	467	116	24	255	109	42	180	129	71	184	57	30	↓ -11
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	54	-	-	75	20	26	73	46	63	111	22	19	↓ -6
English Language and Literature	47	-	-	37	18	48	29	23	79	36	18	50	↑ 1
Health Professions	1,093	81	7	1,241	359	28	1,134	830	73	1,066	261	24	↓ -4
History	55	-	-	51	25	49	55	45	81	51	18	35	↓ -13
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	128	-	-	136	37	27	165	114	69	210	51	24	↓ -2
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	290	-	-	253	52	20	243	180	74	229	43	18	↓ -1
FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	316	41	12	171	38	22	158	94	59	153	20	13	↓ -9
Mathematics and Statistics	25	-	-	24	-	-	29	21	72	34	13	38	-
Philosophy and Religious Studies	28	-	-	21	-	-	18	14	77	13	-	-	-
Social Sciences	142	22	15	96	39	40	114	86	75	123	49	39	→ 0
Unknown	22	-	-	75	43	57	42	32	76	62	32	51	↓ -5

Figure 8. Campus Report: University of Scranton by Field of Study



## Goals:

Short Term Goals	Strategies
Goal #1: Increase voting rate to 50% in 2024 Election Cycle (28.2% Voting Rate from 2022 NSLVE Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide in-class presentations on voting registration and process to provide an overview to first-time voters (Ex. First Year Seminar classes).</li> <li>• Host voter registration drives two times per week leading up to Election Day and in conjunction with University of Scranton Civic Engagement programming.</li> <li>• Schedule “drop-in” hours to assist students with voting-related questions (Ex. Navigating process for students interested in registering in their college state (PA) or home state).</li> </ul>
Goal #2: Increase voter engagement across University Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key stakeholders across the University community to conduct outreach as we seek to improve our engagement with diverse student groups (Sex/Race/Ethnicity/Field of Study/Age Groups)</li> <li>• Conduct outreach with offices and student organizations across campus to explore potential opportunities for collaboration.</li> </ul>
Goal #3: Identify and address potential barriers to voting (Transportation, Voter Registration Forms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate transportation options for students interested in voting in-person on Election Day.</li> <li>• Collect and deliver voter registration forms to Local County Election Office for students unable to mail/drop off forms.</li> </ul>
Goal #4: Host Non-Partisan Community-Wide Voter Registration Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify community partners interested in participating in non-partisan voting registration event.</li> <li>• Conduct outreach to local community partners to coordinate event.</li> </ul>
Goal #5: Coordinate Social Media Campaign: Voting Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct outreach to colleagues responsible for overseeing social media platforms for the University of Scranton.</li> <li>• Coordinate meeting and campaign related coordination.</li> <li>• Schedule campaign in accordance with upcoming PA voter registration deadlines (10/21/24).</li> </ul>

The Royals Vote working group will continue to review data from 2022 NSLVE (National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement) to identify target areas of focus. To further promote civic engagement across the greater Scranton community, The University of Scranton will collaborate with the City of Scranton and other local community partners to provide voter registration and civic engagement education to local community members through

several events including two community events taking place earlier in Summer 2024. The University of Scranton, in collaboration with the City of Scranton, will look to host a non-partisan community-wide voter registration initiative during First Friday, a monthly event for community members to explore the artistic scene in Downtown Scranton, support local artists and businesses, and enjoy all that the City of Scranton has to offer.

Our long-term goals are as follows:

Long Term Goals	Strategies
Goal #1: Continue to engage and educate the University community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and host additional civic engagement opportunities for students at the University of Scranton.</li> <li>• Emphasize the importance of midterm and local elections, along with providing opportunities for education and discussion around staying civically engaged outside of election cycles.</li> </ul>
Goal #2: Create a Royals Vote Student Civic Ambassadors & Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and conduct outreach to prospective committee members.</li> <li>• Plan logistical details for the student civic committee and convene committee meetings.</li> <li>• Offer training opportunities for engaged students to serve as peer-leaders.</li> </ul>
Goal #3: Expand Royals Vote Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a leader from each of the University's 3 colleges to serve as a liaison or representative on the leadership team.</li> </ul>

### Strategies (Past & Future):

Our leadership team has used numerous strategies and organized various events to engage our campus community in the civic process. With the help of our student leaders and faculty members of the Political Science department: classroom voter presentations (in-person or virtual), virtual voter registration drives, virtual education events including film screenings, debates, lectures etc., nonpartisan political dialogues, officer hours dedicated to answering voters' questions, and posters scattered across campus with QR codes that immediately link an eager voter to a nonpartisan voter guide.

At The University of Scranton, our mission and core values are infused with our strategy to increase student voter turnout. As a Catholic and Jesuit institution, we believe it is important that our campus community sees engaging the democratic process of voting and being civically engaged as an extension of how we live our faith and show love for others. We are inspired by our partners at the Ignatian Solidarity Network who proclaim, "Voting Is an Act of Love." We seek to create multi-issue voters here on campus who understand how their involvement in civics can bring change to our world. Additionally, our core campus value emanates from the Ignatian-Jesuit characteristic of *cura personalis*, Latin for "care for the whole person." This value embodies the dedication to promoting human dignity which our campus community finds in the power of voting.



Our strategies, concentrate on connecting with students via the modes and methods most frequently used that include multiple touchpoints both virtually and in-person through the use of social media platforms along with lectures, nonpartisan political dialogues, reflection on social justice issues and guided “Examens” hosted in collaboration with Campus Ministries, and our flourishing “Royals Vote” resource page dedicated in providing up-to-date voting information. Specifically:

1. The University of Scranton Student Government created election related info graphs we posted across social media. These topics included registering to vote, making a voting plan, understanding the ballot, and a general student voter guide.
2. Creating a dedicated resource page to share nonpartisan voting information, links to important voting websites, and to offer ways to reflect on values and issues before voting.
3. Various social media campaigns that involved the campus community to submit comments or pictures. Such campaigns included: “What’s Your WHY?” for National Voter Registration Day and “Vote Today! Be and Active Citizen Tomorrow!” to engage student interest in civic education beyond Election Day.
4. Hosting nonpartisan political dialogues for students held on or around Constitution/Citizenship Day, prior to elections, and every spring semester.
5. Collaborating with the Political Science Department and CEEPS in an Analysis and Q&A session for anyone who has voting related questions.

### **Civic Engagement Programming Fall 2024: Civic Engagement opportunities for the University of Scranton community and greater Scranton community.**

(Voter Registration Drives to be held in conjunction with events)

- Sept. 10, 9pm: **Presidential Debate Screening**, Political Science Club and College Democrats & College Republicans, (University students)
- Sept. 12, 1pm: **PCN 2024 Election Panel Discussion**, Political Science, Pearn Auditorium
- Sept. 12, 6:30pm: **What are your Hopes for the Nation? A Scranton Conversation**, Scranton Public Library (**Open to the public and campus community**)
- Sept 17, 11:30am: **Ballots & Rights: Your Vote Your Voice A Conversation on Navigating Political Activity Safely within the Present Climate**, Lunch and Learn hosted by Residence Life & Housing and the JKWC (for University students), Multicultural Center
- Sept. 19-22, **“What the Constitution Means to Me”** presented by The University Players. Studio Theater, McDade Center for Literary and Performing Arts. (**Open to the public and campus community**)
- Sept. 24, 11:30am-1pm: **Election Issues & the Classroom**, Center for Teaching Excellence (workshop for University faculty), lunch is provided.
- Sept. 24, 8pm: **Election Voices in the Community: Values**, hosted by Multicultural Center
- Sept. 27, 3pm-4:30pm: **Ballots and Bites**, The Center for Ethics and Excellence, snacks provided.
- Oct. 1, 11:30am: **Curious Conversations**, Facilitated by the Dean of Students Office over lunch (for University students).
- Oct. 4, 5:30pm: **“Let’s Vote Scranton!”** Non-partisan community-wide voter engagement initiative in collaboration with the City of Scranton and community partners; part of First Friday event in Downtown Scranton. (**Open to the public and campus community**)

- Oct. 5, 9am-12:30pm, "**Empower Her: Political Pathways for Women,**" Center for Ethics and Excellence in Public Service (CEEPS).
- Oct 28, 7pm: **Fall Political Dialogue on Presidential Elections: Your Vote and Values** (for University students).

### Voter Registration Drives

Throughout the fall semester in the run-up to the election on Nov. 5 the [Royals Vote](#) coalition, comprised of Community Relations, Student Government, CEEPS, Student Life and additional partners, is organizing a series of table-site voter registration drives. In the month of September, 11 table-site voter registration drives have taken place with additional coordination underway for October.

### Civic Holidays Fall 2024

- **Constitution Day & National Voter Registration Day – Tuesday, September 17, 2024**
  - Celebrate this day by hosting a voter registration drive in conjunction with “Ballots & Rights: Your Vote Your Voice A Conversation on Navigating Political Activity Safely within the Present Climate” event.
- **National Voter Education Week – Monday, October 7, 2024, to Friday, October 11, 2024**
  - Monday, October 7: Host voting pledge event in collaboration with the Office of Student Life.
  - Tuesday, October 8: Social media post to highlight National Voter Education Week.
  - Wednesday, October 9: Civic Engagement interns in the Office of Community Relations to help with voter registration drive with Resident Assistants and Office of Resident Life.
  - Thursday, October 10: Hold voter registration drive on campus.
  - Friday, October 11: Social media post to highlight end of National Voter Education Week.
- **Vote Early Day – Tuesday, October 29, 2024**
  - Schedule "drop-in" hours to assist students with voting-related questions and ensure they are prepared to vote (Ex. Making a voting plan, verifying voter registration status, researching polling places, etc.) \*Tuesday, October 29 is the last day to request a mail-in ballot in the state of Pennsylvania.
- **Election Day – Tuesday, November 5, 2024**
  - Transportation: Shuttle service to be provided to students interested in voting in-person. Royals Vote Coalition members to assist with Election Day coordination, including transportation logistics and serving as resources at local campus polling place.
  - Democratic Celebration: CEEPS to host a "Democracy and Donuts" event in the morning of Election Day for anyone with voting-related questions. Royals Vote Coalition members will host a celebration to recognize the University's community commitment to voting.

### **Evaluation:**

The evaluation of our civic action plan will be done by the Office of Community and Government Relations. We will evaluate our action plan by soliciting student feedback on the civic engagement process and the aftermath. To evaluate their feedback, we will meet key student groups and work with leaders of students' groups including Student Government President and Royals Vote Liaison, Dean of Students, and members of Residence Life.

In addition to student feedback, several metrics will be analyzed to determine success and efficiency of initiatives including:

- Number of students attending table-sits;
- Number of completed voter registrations;
- Attendance dates/numbers for civic engagement programming;
- Engagement numbers on social media platforms with Royals Vote content;
- Analytics Monthly Report to the Royals Vote page on the University of Scranton's Community Relations website.

### **Reporting:**

Any feedback will be discussed with the Royals Vote and Democratic Practices working groups to identify opportunities for growth, implement proposed changes to the Action Plan, and monitor outcomes. We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports by posting these documents on our campus website and sharing with our campus community.

The University of Scranton was recently recognized for its student voter engagement efforts in 2022 and received a Bronze Seal from the ALL IN Democracy Challenge. This award signifies 20-29% voter participation or higher in the 2022 Midterm Election. This seal will be added to the Royals Vote page to illustrate the University's continued commitment to voter and civic engagement.

The University of Scranton received positive feedback about the University's commitment to voter engagement efforts. Through these ongoing voting engagement efforts and strong student enthusiasm to vote, we anticipate a higher rate of voter participation in this election cycle. This is our shared commitment, and we are proud to continue this timely work across campus and the greater Scranton community.