

Vanderbilt University 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Ellie Crone

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Vanderbilt University in Tennessee 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 goals for Vanderbilt University for the 2024 election are: increase student voter registration and turnout rates, create a stronger voting coalition on campus, and incorporate voting information into orientation materials.

Leadership:

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

Executive Board of Vandy Votes

Ellie Crone - outgoing President (eleonor.w.crone@vanderbilt.edu)

Celeste Dorantes - Vice President, incoming President (celeste.i.dorantes@vanderbilt.edu)

Bryce Emanuel - Senior Advisor

Barrie Barto - Treasurer

Jessie Larrinaga - Secretary

Kevin Gehl - Election Engagement Co-Chair

Ava Zins - Election Engagement Co-Chair

Ochuwa Garuba - Community Engagement and Advocacy Co-Chair, incoming Vice President (ochuwa.o.garuba@vanderbilt.edu)

Patsy Coleman - Community Engagement and Advocacy Co-Chair

Molly Katz - Partnerships Co-Chair

Jacob Ashby - Partnerships Co-Chair

Mary Awopileda - Public Relations Co-Chair

Julia Patterson - Public Relations Co-Chair

Adrienne Watson - Advisor (adrienne.m.watson@vanderbilt.edu)

These positions will change in 2024 due to executive board turnover, although the new executive board has not all been decided yet.

Athletic coaches at our institution have been involved in our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts by signing the ALL IN Coaches Voter Engagement Pledge in 2020.

Commitment:

- How is the commitment woven into campus culture and clearly reflected in the institution's mission statement, learning outcomes, curriculum, and co-curricular activities?

Vanderbilt provides the campus with services such as TurboVote, a website dedicated to making voter registration more accessible and provides useful election and voter information. Since our institution consists of many out-of-state residents, we aim to provide voter registration and useful election resources to target those who come from different areas. We understand that obtaining absentee ballots and voting from afar can be confusing and it can be hard to keep up with elections happening back home, so Vandy Votes wants to make the process for students more streamlined and convenient.

- How is the commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement communicated to the campus community?

We communicate our commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement by never advocating to vote for one side or another. We never tell and insinuate to students who they should vote for and instead encourage our campus to simply vote, regardless for who. We emphasize the importance of one's vote and to foster further engagement on campus, we collaborate with various student organizations. These organizations can be political or non-political, and if they are political then we make sure to include discussions from all partisan groups.

Vanderbilt University does not have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Previously, our institution has developed and submitted an action plan to ALL IN for 2020, which can be found on our ALL IN campus page: <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/vanderbilt-university/>

Landscape:

Election Laws Impacting Vanderbilt

Major election laws affecting Vanderbilt are the voter ID laws, requiring those who want to vote in Nashville, TN to present a Tennessee Driver's License and if that is not available, then the voter must bring a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, or a Photo ID issued by the Federal or TN state government. Student IDs, library cards, and photo IDs issued by cities, counties, and other

states may not be used. This can be detrimental to Vanderbilt students since many are out-of-state residents and if they want to become registered and vote in Tennessee and do not have their passport or a federal form of photo ID, they are hindered from voting in the state.

Dates for Upcoming Elections

February 5, 2024: Voter Registration Deadline
February 14, 2024: Early Voting Begins
February 27, 2024: Early Voting Ends
February 27, 2024: Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot
March 5, 2024: Presidential Preference Primary Election

July 12, 2024: Early Voting Begins
July 27, 2024: Early Voting Ends
July 25, 2024: Absentee Ballot Request Deadline
August 1, 2024: State and Federal Primary Elections
County General Election

October 7, 2024: Voter Registration Deadline
October 16, 2024: Early Voting Begins
October 31, 2024: Early Voting Ends
November 5, 2024: State and Federal General Election

Vanderbilt University is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2018. Our institution is designated as the following: Predominantly White Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Vanderbilt University has 13,537 students. 52% of students are female and 48% of students are male. The breakdown of the student body by race/ethnicity are: 41% White, 18% Asian, 11% Hispanic, 10% Black, 10% international, 6% two or more races, and 4% race unknown.

Vanderbilt University 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.

Our 2018 campus voting rate was 37.7%.
Our 2018 campus voting rate was 64.5%.

Vanderbilt University has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals of recognition for past elections: 2018 Silver.

Vanderbilt University participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: National Voter Registration Day (2020, 2022, 2023); National Voter Education Week (2020, 2022, 2023).

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

1. Increase student voter registration rate to 70% in 2024 and 80% in 2026.
2. Have our president/chancellor sign the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#) by March 2024.
3. Add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation for fall 2024.

Strategy:

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

In January 2024, we will implement our new State Liaison program. There will be one or two liaisons for every state that will be provided with voting resources for the state they are from. Students who are voting in their home state will be provided with the contacts of their state liaisons to ask questions about absentee ballots, upcoming elections, or other voting questions. Because Vanderbilt University has students from many U.S. states, we hope that this program will allow us to help students who have state-specific voting and election questions.

As a partner for the Civic Holidays, Vandy Votes will continue to plan programming for National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day. This year, we planned multiple events for these holidays, including a voter registration picnic, phone banking service event, voter education tabling, and a social media campaign. We plan to plan more of these events in 2024.

Vandy Votes will expand our collaborations with other student organizations on campus. From presenting at other organizations' general body meetings and tabling at various on-campus events, we will aim to register more members of the Vanderbilt community as well as encourage them to cast their ballots. Specifically, we hope to form partnerships with a diverse range of organizations, from multi-cultural organizations to university sports teams. This will allow us to have the widest reach possible to meet our goals.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Vanderbilt University 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. We will depend on the board members within Vandy Votes and the organization's advisor to lead the evaluation efforts. Our institution currently does not participate in additional evaluations.

Reporting:

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

We will work with campus administration to share our action plan and NSLVE reports with our campus community in a university-wide newsletter.