



# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

---

## 2020 Action Plan



## 2020 ALL-IN VOTER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	3
Leadership Commitment .....	4
SMARTIE Goals .....	5
Executive Committee .....	6
Coalition Building .....	8
Strategy .....	9
Phase One: Build Campus-Wide Infrastructure .....	9
Phase Two: Implementation through Voter Education, Registration, and Turnout .....	12
Phase Three: Priming Campus for Broader Civic Engagement.....	15
NSLVE Snapshot .....	16
Immersion Vanderbilt Connection .....	20
Statement of Non-Partisanship.....	22
Contact Us .....	23



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the Vanderbilt University Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS), Vandy Votes is on the front lines of developing, facilitating, and increasing student civic engagement and student voter participation. Created in 2018, Vandy Votes is a student-led organization that is dedicated to increasing voter registration and turnout in the Vanderbilt community through collaboration with students, faculty and staff. The Vandy Votes committee is supported by one main staff member in OACS. At full capacity, the Vandy Votes committee is structured with an executive committee of nine students including an executive chair, and co-chairs for each of the four subcommittees that are responsible for communications, strategic planning, education and advocacy, and voter registration and turnout.

To date, the Vandy Votes committee has been involved in hosting voter registration drives, absentee ballot parties, presidential and vice presidential candidate debate watch parties, meaningful interactions with your candidate workshops, and constitution week activities on campus. Each year, two Vanderbilt students participate in the Harvard National Campaign Conference, hosted by the Harvard Institute of Politics. Vandy Votes is a part of the statewide Tennessee Campus Democracy Network (formerly CivicTN) that supports the work of campuses in Tennessee engaged in voter and civic engagement efforts. OACS has played a key role in organizing the Tennessee Statewide Campus Civic Summits that were conceptualized in response to Tennessee's lowest voter turnout in local and national elections as a means to actualize best policies and practices pertaining to civic participation and engagement within higher education. In spring 2019 Vanderbilt hosted the Civic TN Summit for middle Tennessee. Summit participants—administrators, faculty, and students—were able to learn from each other, and from national examples, set clear campus goals and develop integrated strategies to increase campus civic engagement. Vandy Votes has built upon the original goals developed during the 2019 summit to further institutionalize voter and civic engagement on our campus.

This plan outlines the committee's short term and long term goals, provides a strategic plan with identified action steps for how those goals will be achieved, and highlights key data points from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) that were used to identify areas for growth at Vanderbilt. The plan concludes with an overview of how the work of the Vandy Votes committee connects to Vanderbilt's academic plan and new graduation requirement, Immersion Vanderbilt.

## LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

*“Vanderbilt University is a center for scholarly research, informed and creative teaching, and service to the community and society at large.” This first line in our mission statement precisely captures what we as a university community commit ourselves to each and every day. Perhaps, one of the greatest contributions we can make to our society is graduating students who actively engage in our representative democracy, not only through voting, but by being well informed members of our communities on the issues and policies that affect our neighbors. By participating in the All-in democracy challenge, Vanderbilt endeavors to bring students, faculty, and administrators together to create a campus culture of active participation.*

*For many of our students, who will join our Vanderbilt community in the fall of 2020, the 2020 Presidential election will mark a significant time in their civic lives as they cast their first-ever vote in a Presidential election. Even for students who might not be eligible to vote, it is important that we foster an environment of civil discourse, healthy debate, and intellectual curiosity about public issues.*

*Sincerely,*

Vanessa Beasley  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
Dean of Residential Faculty

# SMARTIE GOALS

## Short-Term Goals

1. Secure TurboVote for Vanderbilt University in time for Fall 2020 enrollment
2. Provide clear, current, and accurate information to 100% of Vanderbilt students on voter registration and the absentee ballot process
3. Achieve an 85%+ registration rate among Vanderbilt students leading up to the 2020 election
4. Achieve a 70%+ voting rate among registered students in the 2020 election

## Long-Term Goals

5. Make Vanderbilt University an official polling place for the 2022 midterm elections
6. Increase political awareness and civic engagement within Vanderbilt
7. Create a Vandy Votes infrastructure for future election cycles and local civic engagement
8. Target local legislation that can be advocated for after the 2020 elections are complete
9. Create and maintain a Vandy Votes website that contains all relevant information regarding the activities of the organization
10. Achieve 95% student voter registration in time for the 2024 elections



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Executive Chair

### **Gracie Rule - Senior** *(Class of 2020 - Tulsa, OK)*

Major(s): Human and Organizational Development, Political Science  
[Katherine.rule@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Katherine.rule@vanderbilt.edu)

I am excited to be a part of Vandy Votes as I want to help make voting more accessible, especially on Vanderbilt's campus. I hope by increasing student voter engagement we can encourage our peers to stay engaged in their communities even after graduation.

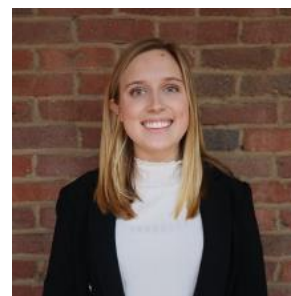


## Communications Chair

### **Frances Lavey - Sophomore** *(Class of 2022 - Nashville, TN)*

Major(s): Political Science & Medicine, Health, and Society (Mathematics Minor)  
[Frances.lavey@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Frances.lavey@vanderbilt.edu)

I have always been passionate about politics which stemmed from an AP Government class in high school and an independent study about Tennessee politics where I concentrated on Tennessee's voting record on local and national elections and issues individuals are drawn too. I hope to create a campus culture of voting and knowledge about the issues that matter most to young people.



## Voter Registration & Turnout Chair

### **Cassidy Latchford - Freshman** *(Class of 2023 - Naperville, IL)*

Major(s): Public Policy & Medicine, Health, and Society  
[Cassidy.j.latchford@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Cassidy.j.latchford@vanderbilt.edu)

I am extremely fortunate to be able to vote, especially as a woman. A multitude of women around the world are not able to have a voice in who runs their government. Any chance I get to vote and do my civic duty, I do! It is our civic duty to vote, and as co-chair, I am working with the rest of the Vandy Votes executive committee to get as many Vanderbilt students registered and at the polls as possible



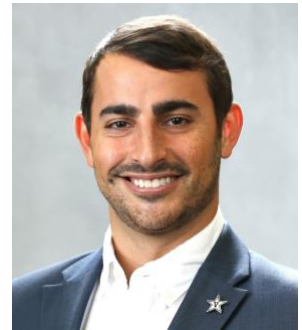
## Strategic Planning Chair

**Christian Suarez - Graduate Student** *(Class of 2020 - Miami, FL)*

Major(s): Economics (Master's)

[Christian.a.suarez@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Christian.a.suarez@vanderbilt.edu)

As a second generation Cuban-American, I believe being able to participate and be actively engaged in a democracy is an honor that should not be taken for granted. As the Strategic Planning Chair I hope to help lay down the infrastructure for a comprehensive campus voting plan that allows us to increase civic engagement and voter turnout for 2020 and beyond. Every voice and vote matters.



## Education & Advocacy Chair

**Tess Ostroff - Sophomore** *(Class of 2022 - Summit, NJ)*

Major(s): Political Science

[Tess.a.ostroff@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Tess.a.ostroff@vanderbilt.edu)

Vandy Votes is something I am very passionate about. As Vanderbilt students, we have the unique privilege of learning every day. As aware citizens, it is our duty to contribute our knowledge and vote. Voting matters!! Politicians tend to address the needs of their voters. In my role as education and advocacy chair, I hope to educate college students on the importance of voting and on issues of elections so they feel more confident in their choices.



## COALITION BUILDING

In order to shift campus culture around voter and civic participation, Vandy Votes hopes to build a coalition of student organizations and leaders invested in making engagement more accessible to students. After developing a group of committed students involved in Vandy Votes, connecting with other students across campus will be crucial in achieving our goals. Modeling our approach after the University of Texas at Austin's voting coalition, we plan on reaching out to and building relationships with existing organizations across campus, especially those that target groups of students who seem to vote less frequently such as computer science and math students (per NSLVE data). As a committee within Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service, Vandy Votes hopes to begin by connecting with other on-campus service and advocacy organizations advised by OACS and then continue to expand to other populations on campus. In the future, Vandy Votes will establish a formal coalition structure that organizations can join, with requirements of sending a representative to a semesterly meeting and registering or engaging a certain percentage of their organization population in the civic process. More details about the formal structure of this coalition will be developed as Vandy Votes continues to grow and evolve its role on Vanderbilt's campus. Vandy Votes hopes to begin this outreach and growth by connecting with OACS organizations and student organizations advised by partner offices on campus such as the Student Center for Social Justice and Identity and the Office of Greek Life.



# STRATEGY

## Phase One: Build Campus-wide Infrastructure

### 1. Secure Democracy Works (TurboVote) Contract Commitment from University Administration

Justification/Background: Allows for data collection and analysis (outside of NSLV). Increases registration/turnout across campus through integrated system that all students have access to and are automatically enrolled in (ie. registration, reminders, tips). In 2019, the Vandy Votes committee received a partnership proposal that outlined program components and a cost estimate. A three year contract, including primaries, general, and local elections would be \$2,500 per year.

University Partners: Interim Chancellor Susan Wentz, Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations Nathan Green, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Residential Faculty

Action Steps:

- Finish action plan and present it, along with Vanderbilt TurboVote proposal, to whoever needs to see it that can make a decision/referral on whether or not to allocate money for TurboVote (Spring 2020)
- Work with Vanderbilt Student Government to pass a resolution calling for the purchasing of a TurboVote subscription (spring 2020)

Resources: Nicole Costa (TurboVote); Vanderbilt University Partnership Proposal (2019)

Priority Level: High

### 2. Create Campus Infrastructure for Absentee Ballot Submission

Justification: According to NSLVE data, during the 2018 midterm election, a combined 34.9% of Vanderbilt students voted either by mail or with absentee ballots. Given that over one-third of the student body engages votes by mail and that over 90% of Vanderbilt's student body is from out of state, creating greater infrastructure to support these students voting in their home states or by mail could greatly increase student voter participation. Requesting and submitting an absentee ballot can be a difficult process, but, if partnerships are formed with offices across campus with which students already engage, we can better prepare and assist students who choose to vote by mail.

University Partners: Mail Services (Division of Administration), various campus partners such as Dean of Students Student Engagement and Leadership cluster, Experiential Learning cluster, Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, Ingram Commons

Action Steps:

- Meet with various campus partners to determine their ability and willingness to be involved in assisting students in absentee ballot processes (spring 2020)
- Develop a plan for partnering with Mail Services to help students access stamps, envelopes, etc. (spring 2020)
- Create resource packets for partner offices including instructions for assisting students, envelopes, and stamps (spring 2020)
- Inquire about making staff members of OACS and partner offices Notaries Public as many states require a notarized ballot (spring 2020)

- Design and publish a Vandy Votes website complete with this and other information to increase accessibility for students (spring 2020/summer 2020)
- Have selected staff members complete registration and training process to become notaries (summer 2020)
- Distribute resource packets to campus partners and train them to assist in absentee ballot request and submission (summer 2020)
- Create a strategy for raising awareness about absentee ballot deadlines (summer 2020/spring 2020)
- Publicize and raise awareness about absentee ballot voting requirements, deadlines, and processes (fall 2020)
- Maintain website and prepare for deadlines in 2022 (winter 2021)

Resources: CanIVote.org or RockTheVote.org for deadlines, RockTheVote.org for links to forms for every state, peer institution research from Northwestern University, Harvard University, Tufts University, and others to understand other successful absentee ballot strategies

Priority Level: High

### **3. Integrated Voter Registration in Common VU and Transfer Enrollment**

Justification/Background: According to Ask Every Student, one of the best ways to encourage and support 100% voter engagement is by getting 3-5 minutes of one-on-one facetime with students to help them register and create a civic engagement plan. Currently, Vanderbilt hosts orientations for all new students—CommonVU for first year students and Transfer Orientation for new students entering after their first year. During these orientations, groups of 15-20 new students are paired with a current student and attend a variety of mandatory orientation activities before the start of classes. By training orientation leaders to register students to vote and to help create civic engagement plans, we can reach every student in their first few days of orientation and have them actively considering the role that civic engagement will have during their time at Vanderbilt.

University Partners: Office of the Dean of the Ingram Commons, Office of Transition Programs

Action Steps:

- Meet with both offices to propose civic engagement and voter registration within orientation (Spring 2020)
- Develop civic engagement session that could be easily lead by orientation leaders (Spring 2020)
- Present proposed session to various offices for feedback (Spring 2020)
- Using existing resources, create a voter registration/civic engagement training session that could be presented to orientation leaders (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Train orientation leaders during existing pre-orientation training sessions to register voters and assist students in developing a civic engagement plan (August 2020)
- Follow up with orientation leaders to collect plans/voter registration forms and to gain feedback (fall 2020)
- Continue communications with above offices to ensure civic engagement can be included again and improve for training for orientation leaders (winter/spring 2021)

Resources: Many other universities, including Northwestern University--a champion of student voting--has introduced 50 state voter registration into their Welcome Week activities. In 2016, NSLVE data for their campus reported a 91% registration rate. We hope to model our efforts after theirs and others' successes in registering voters during orientation.

Priority Level: Very High

#### **4. Establish Vanderbilt as a Polling Location**

Justification/Background: Allowing students to access a polling place that is conveniently located on campus will be sure to drive up voting rates as most students today need to take public transportation or pay for personal taxis to get the poles. Many college campuses double as polling places and Vanderbilt should be no exception.

University Partners: TBD

Action Steps:

- TBD
- TBD

Resources: MTV's +1 the Vote

Priority Level: Medium

## Phase Two: Implementation through Voter Education, Registration, and Turnout

### 1. Strategic Voter Registration by Academic Area

Justification/Background: To target particular groups of students who are historically less involved in the political process to bring them into the fold.

University Partners: Deans of targeted college/programs, Professors of large gen ed classes (ie. Biology, Chemistry, Statistics), STEM-related groups (ie. VSVS, etc)

Action Steps:

- Reach out to Deans/Profs/Group leaders to schedule cross-promotion of Vandy Votes in a classroom setting (ie. 2 minute speech before/after class/meeting with everyone in the auditorium). (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Pinpoint classes/orgs that would be good targets for selective marketing. (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Do registration drives in a joint manner with larger orgs in targeted areas. (September 2020)

Resources: Anchor Link for orgs, YES for class schedules, profs/deans for permission

Priority Level: Medium

### 2. Identify Key Faculty Members as Civic Champions

Justification/Background: Given the OACS office transition to Academic Affairs, establish closer connections to faculty members who would be interested in being “Civic Champions” and willing to let members of the Vandy Votes Committee give classroom presentations on voting and civic engagement, reserve 15-20 minutes of one lecture during a semester to talk about how their research/academic area is related to voting and/or democratic engagement, reserve a portion of one lecture during a semester to allow student leaders to register students in their classes to vote.

University Partners: Center for Teaching, College Deans, Faculty Members in 4 undergraduate colleges, graduate faculty members, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Davidson County Election Commission or TN Secretary of State’s office (student leader training for voter registration).

Action Steps:

- Review 2018 NSLVE midterm election data to determine which major/academic areas have lowest registration and turnout to strategically target initial faculty (Spring 2020)
- Meet with VPAA and Director of Administration to determine viability of idea and receive recommendations for how to convene/contact faculty members (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Conduct outreach to faculty members in disciplines outlined in action Step 1. (Late Spring 2020/Early Fall 2020)
- Create Powerpoint presentations and student training materials (Summer 2020)
- Develop a scheduling system for classroom presentations and student volunteers (Semester(s))
- Develop a way to recognize this group of faculty members (Semester(s))
- Create short assessment for presentation and student participant perceptions of democratic engagement (Semester(s))

Resources: This idea was given during a session led by the University of Texas, Austin on building Campus Coalitions. For example, one faculty member at UT Austin researches time, and in one of

her lectures she discussed the time that people wait in lines to vote and how states could change laws/policies to lessen the time barrier for people who want to vote.

Priority Level: High

### 3. **Vandy Votes Challenge**

Justification/Background: Recognizing that the 2020 presidential election will likely be the class of 2024 first time voting, work to establish a competition among residential houses to conduct voter registration and turnout competition for the general election.

University Partners: Dean of the Ingram Commons, Faculty Heads of House, Residential College Graduate Student Workers, VUCeptors

Action Steps:

- Meet with campus partners to identify level of interest (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Develop framework/competition guidelines (Spring/Summer 2020)
- Train student leaders to properly register people to vote (Late Summer/Early Fall 2020)
- Develop transportation plan for election day (Early Fall 2020)
- Track participation in Anchor Link (Fall 2020 leading up to election day)
- Craft marketing and promotional materials (Summer 2020)
- Create assessment for competition (Summer 2020)

Resources:

Priority Level: Medium

### 4. **Educate students on races/candidates/issues, media, polling places, what they need to bring to the polls, etc.**

Justification/Background: A significant factor that hinders students from being active voters is a lack of knowledge and information. The process and procedure of voting is intimidating to students who have never voted before. Especially given that Tennessee has enacted many barriers to voting, making information about how to vote, where to go, and what to bring more available could help remove some of the obstacles to voting. In addition to a lack of knowledge of the logistics of voting, many students do not engage in the political process as they feel undereducated about the candidates and propositions on which they would be voting. By making non-partisan voter and information guides more accessible to students, we hope to aid students in learning more about the current races and thereby to enable students to vote, given that they feel more confident in their knowledge of the issues.

University Partners: Vanderbilt Office of Community and Government Relations, Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries

Action Steps:

- Research how similar peer institutions compile or present voter guides for races in all 50 states (spring 2020)
- Create a "How to" guide for voting in Nashville (spring 2020/summer 2020)
- Work with partner offices and Vanderbilt social media to bring awareness to Vandy Votes and the resources available to students (summer 2020/fall 2020)
- Publish information and resources into a centralized Vandy Votes website for students to easily access (spring 2020/summer 2020)

Resources: TBD

Priority Level: High

## 5. **Campus Wide Days of Action**

Justification/Background: When talking to students, one of their biggest reasons for not voting is a lack of knowledge around the process itself. Many students do not think ahead about how far in advance they need to register or request an absentee ballot in order to be able to cast their ballot in an upcoming election. By hosting Campus Wide Days of Action, we hope to raise awareness of the voting process and to get students to think ahead and make a plan for voting. Additionally, hosting fun events in conjunction with deadlines will help get students more interested in and excited about voting.

University Partners:

Action Steps:

- Determine deadlines for registration and absentee ballot requests for all 50 states (spring 2020)
- Set campus-wide universal deadlines for voter registration and absentee ballot requests to streamline the process (spring 2020)
- Plan celebratory event for National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020 (spring 2020/summer 2020)
- Coordinate with other campus offices to co-host large scale voter registration event
- Plan Absentee Ballot Requesting and Absentee Ballot Submitting parties according to decided upon campus-wide deadlines (spring 2020/summer 2020)

Resources: TBD

Priority Level: High

## Phase Three: Priming Campus for Broader Civic Engagement

### 1. **Provide opportunities for civic engagement outside of election years and for students who are ineligible to vote (Tandra)**

Justification/Background: promote inclusivity - recognizing not all students can vote. Take steps to ensure their voices are being heard. Advocacy. Local issues. Civic engagement packet – registration/issue collection

University Partners: International Student & Scholar Services

Action Steps:

- Roundtables to listen to issues of non-voting eligible students (feed into capitol day event perhaps).
- Acquire immigration/naturalization policy info on potential candidates/legislation to circulate

Resources: Ali Soltanshahi (Director of ISSS) (10% of students are international)

Priority Level: Medium

### 2. **Reflect and improve Vandy Votes going forward (Christian)**

Justification/Background: No organization is perfect, and Vandy Votes is no exception. It is imperative that after each academic year we take a minute to reflect on the year, how it went, and how we can improve going forward so that Vandy Votes continues to improve year after year.

University Partners: OACS, Leadership

Action Steps:

- Have an executive meeting with leadership to discuss strengths, weaknesses, and how those can be addressed moving forward
- Conduct an in-house focus group to get feedback on how Vandy Votes can improve on things we can do better and how we can emphasize the things we did well in the previous year

Resources: Committee Member Feedback, Leadership Feedback

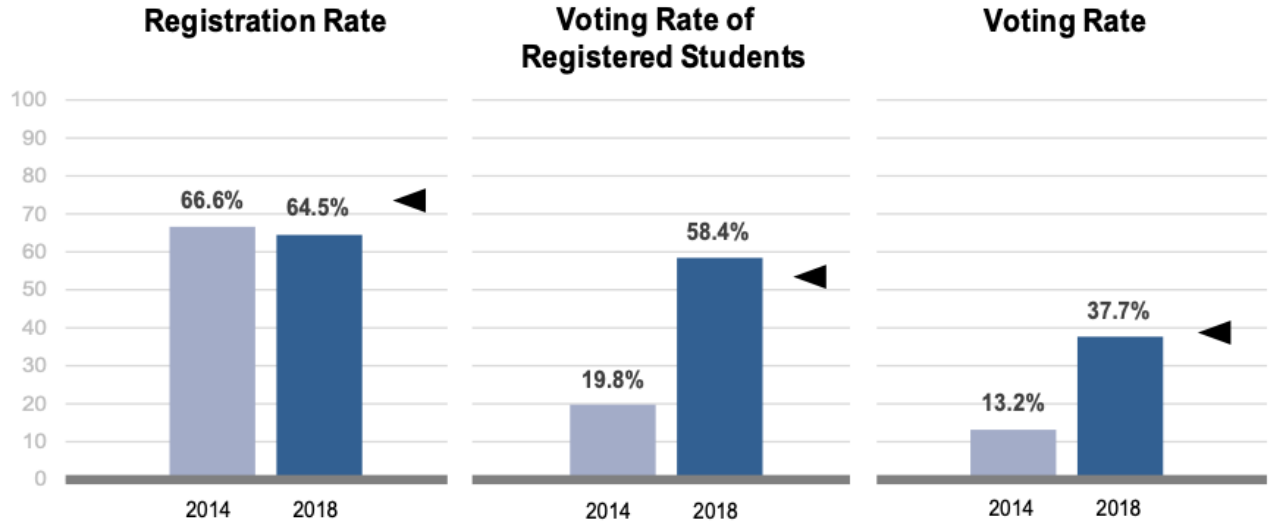
Priority Level: Low

## NSLVE SNAPSHOT

The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) offers us an opportunity to learn our student registration and voting rates as well as take a closer examination of the campus climate for political learning and engagement through data and correlations between specific student learning experiences and voting. We intend to use and analyze this data in order to target specific pockets of the Vanderbilt student population we feel would be best help increase overall voter registration and ultimately turnout. By looking at the table below we see that what a student is studying has a big impact on the likelihood of that student being politically engaged enough to go out and vote. With that in mind, and given that we at Vandy Votes have a limited number of resources, we have decided to take a strategic approach as to what groups of students we want to spend more time pursuing in an effort to get them out to the polls. Using this 2016 NSLVE data we have decided to prioritize the academic areas with not only a larger enrollment but a below average voter turnout rate, such as “Engineering and Engineering Technologies”, “Legal Professions and Studies”, and “Social Sciences”. While there are gains to be made in every academic discipline, we feel that areas such as those three give us the best opportunity to make the most gains from the least amount of resources, thus allowing us to maximize our total voter turnout.



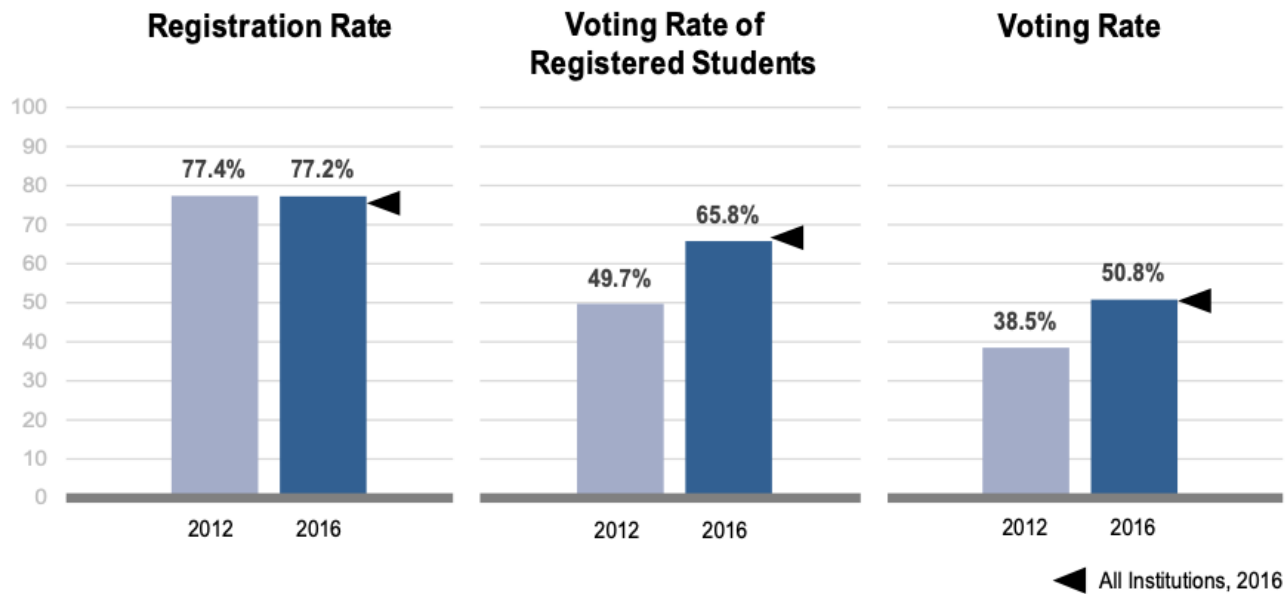
## Midterm Election Turnout (2014 to 2018)



◀ All Institutions, 2018

	2014	2018	Change
Total student enrollment	11,845	12,628	↑ 783
Age under 18/Unknown	(57)	(66)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,117)	(1,352)	
FERPA records blocked	*	*	
<b>Total eligible voters</b>	<b>10,667</b>	<b>11,209</b>	↑ <b>542</b>
Number of students who registered	7,106	7,227	↑ 121
Number of students who voted	1,405	4,223	↑ 2,818
Registration rate	66.6%	64.5%	↓ -2.2
Voting rate of registered students	19.8%	58.4%	↑ 38.7
Voting rate	13.2%	37.7%	↑ 24.5
Difference from all institutions	-6.5	-1.4	

## Presidential Election Turnout (2012 to 2016)



	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	11,622	11,500 ↓	-122
Age under 18/Unknown	(49)	(60)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,099)	(1,154)	
FERPA records blocked	*	*	
Total eligible voters	10,470	10,284 ↓	-186
Number of students who registered	8,101	7,943 ↓	-158
Number of students who voted	4,029	5,225 ↑	1,196
Registration rate	77.4%	77.2% ↓	-0.1
Voting rate of registered students	49.7%	65.8% ↑	16.1
Voting rate	38.5%	50.8% ↑	12.3
Difference from all institutions	-8.4	+0.4	

## Presidential Election Turnout by Academic Area

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	0	0	n/a	64	31	48.4%	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	0	0	n/a	923	413	44.8%	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	0	0	n/a	44	23	52.3%	n/a
Communication and Journalism	0	0	n/a	88	39	44.3%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	0	0	n/a	398	112	28.1%	n/a
Education	0	0	n/a	893	486	54.4%	n/a
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	0	0	n/a	1,453	593	40.8%	n/a
English Language and Literature	0	0	n/a	158	79	50.0%	n/a
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	0	0	n/a	56	24	42.9%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	0	0	n/a	107	46	43.0%	n/a
Health Professions	0	0	n/a	1,130	656	58.1%	n/a
History	0	0	n/a	154	68	44.2%	n/a
Legal Professions and Studies	0	0	n/a	632	203	32.1%	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	0	0	n/a	1,518	677	44.6%	n/a
Mathematics and Statistics	0	0	n/a	118	39	33.1%	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	n/a	541	299	55.3%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0	0	n/a	125	53	42.4%	n/a
Physical Sciences	0	0	n/a	294	118	40.1%	n/a
Psychology	0	0	n/a	296	120	40.5%	n/a
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	0	0	n/a	143	92	64.3%	n/a
Social Sciences	0	0	n/a	1,749	768	43.9%	n/a
Theology and Religious Vocations	0	0	n/a	201	120	59.7%	n/a
Visual and Performing Arts	0	0	n/a	239	112	46.9%	n/a
Unknown	11,569	4,029	34.8%	114	54	47.4% ↑	12.5

## IMMERSION VANDERBILT CONNECTIONS

Immersion Vanderbilt provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to pursue their passions and cultivate intellectual interests through experiential learning. This intensive learning experience takes place in and beyond the classroom and culminates in the creation of a final project.<sup>1</sup> Immersion plans are developed by students and must have a faculty adviser. Students who are interested in policy, advocacy, voting, elections, and broader civic engagement may choose to join the Vandy Votes coalition as a way to engage locally and include their involvement as a part of their larger immersion plan. The Vandy Votes coalition will be responsible for initiating campus-wide initiatives. Below are a few options students might choose to include in a larger immersion plan.

- **Participation in Vandy Votes Executive Committee as Executive Chair or in a Co-Chair Position**

Description: The Executive Chair and Co-Chairs within the committee are responsible for leading and implementing specific parts of the 2020 - 2022 strategic plan. The executive chair facilitates bi-weekly meetings of the committee and meets regularly with OACS staff to monitor progress toward goals and facilitate logistics related to large-scale campus events. Each of the co-chairs collaborates with their counterpart to plan relevant events or communications related to their specific sub area. Co-chairs work in conjunction with the Executive Chair and provide updates to the full coalition during bi-weekly meetings.

- **OACS Civic Engagement Student Worker**

Description: Each year, the OACS office hires one student worker dedicated to voter and civic engagement. This student should have a broad interest in helping to foster a campus culture of democratic engagement. The student worker is responsible for compiling voter registration kits, conducting voter registration drive training, coordinating with other campus offices and student organizations, and creating promotional materials and drafting social media content. The student is also a member of the Vandy Votes committee.

- **CEEP Fellows (beginning fall 2020)**

Description: Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP)<sup>2</sup> is a national non-partisan project that helps America's colleges and universities get students registered to vote, volunteer in campaigns, educated on issues, and turn out to the polls. Institutional Fellows help lead their campus' efforts around voter engagement leading up to national elections. Fellows receive orientation, training support and guidance from CEEP. Fellows must be currently enrolled in courses and are selected and confirmed by CEEP staff. Fellows are paid a stipend of \$500 and expected to commit to 100 hours of work during a

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/immersion/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://campuselect.org/about-ceep/2020-ceep-fellows-application/>

semester. Applications can be found at: <https://campuselect.org/about-ceep/2020-ceep-fellows-application/>

- **Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassadors**

Description: Vote Everywhere is a national, non-partisan, civic engagement movement of student leaders and university partners. The program provides extensive training, resources, as well as a peer network to support its Ambassadors while they work to register voters, bring down voting barriers, and tackle important social justice issues on their college campuses.<sup>3</sup> The OACS staff member serves as the “Campus Champion” to oversee the partnership with AGF and the work of the VE ambassadors. The ambassadorship is typically a three-year commitment. Students enter the program during their sophomore year and are encouraged to continue throughout their academic career. Beyond voter registration, ambassadors become campus organizers who take action alongside their peers to awaken and encourage lifelong commitments to participatory democracy. There are typically two ambassadors per campus.

- **Student Civic Engagement Ambassadors**

Description: Students across various academic disciplines could plug into the work of the Vandy Votes coalition by serving as a student civic engagement ambassador. Students would be responsible for helping table for voter registration and for absentee ballot parties, serve as ground support for campus wide days of action, and be trained and provide classroom presentations on voter registration, education, and turnout in identified classrooms through faculty civic champions.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://andrewgoodman.org/vote-everywhere/>

## STATEMENT OF NON-PARTISANSHIP

Vandy Votes is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and encourages student civic engagement through education and advocacy.

Vandy Votes never supports or opposes candidates for elective office or political parties.

Nonpartisanship is the core value that guides how we serve our Vanderbilt community. It guides how we interact with students, our administrators, agency officials, our community, and the public, and it motivates us to:

- serve fairly and impartially all students, regardless of party affiliation;
- acquire in-depth knowledge, develop strong analytical and communication skills, and practice the discipline of putting aside one's personal beliefs when serving the community; and
- ensure that our work is objective, balanced, and accessible.

The personal views and opinions of Vandy Votes members regarding certain parties and/or candidates do not reflect that of the organization as a whole and in no way affect the non-partisan work that we do to ensure increased student voter participation and civic engagement.

## CONTACT US

**Office of Active Citizenship & Service**

PMB 356308

2301 Vanderbilt Place

Nashville, TN 37235

(p): 615-343-7878

Website: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs/>

**Tandra Martin, M.A.**

Program Coordinator, Office of Active Citizenship and Service

[tandra.martin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tandra.martin@vanderbilt.edu)

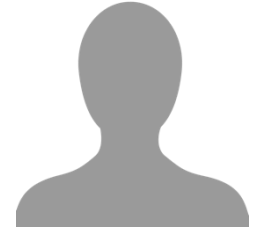
(p): 615-343-4862

**Ava Dziadzio - Year** *(Class of 20xx - City, State)*

Major(s): TBD

[Ava.dziadzio@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Ava.dziadzio@vanderbilt.edu)

This is where the short bio will go. What is your major, where are you from? What is your role in Vandy Votes and why is being civically engaged important to you? (3-4 sentences)



**Ashley Hendricks - Year** *(Class of 20xx - City, State)*

Major(s): TBD

[Ashley.c.hendricks@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Ashley.c.hendricks@vanderbilt.edu)

This is where the short bio will go. What is your major, where are you from? What is your role in Vandy Votes and why is being civically engaged important to you? (3-4 sentences)



**Emma Oliver - Year** *(Class of 20xx - City, State)*

Major(s): TBD

[Emma.l.oliver@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Emma.l.oliver@vanderbilt.edu)

This is where the short bio will go. What is your major, where are you from? What is your role in Vandy Votes and why is being civically engaged important to you? (3-4 sentences)

