



Vassar College 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan
Developed by: Lisa Kaul

Executive Summary:

The Office of Community-Engaged Learning created an initiative called "Vassar Votes" in conjunction with the Office of Residential Life and with support from the Office of the President, the Vassar Urban Education Initiative, and the student chapter of Democracy Matters. Our plan seeks to achieve 100% voter registration for all eligible students and is using Turbovote. We hired a student to serve as a "campus voting assistant" and have recruited student volunteers to serve as "voting advisors" in each of the residential dorms as well as for those students who are currently studying remotely. The voting advisors are provided training to answer questions. This team will also lead campus GOTV efforts.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Lisa Kaul (Director, Office of Community-Engaged Learning), Jean Hinkley (Assistant Director, Office of Community-Engaged Learning), John Bradley (Executive Director, Vassar Urban Education Initiative), Wes Dixon (Office of the President), Luis Inoa (Office of Residential Life)

Commitment:

Our campus has not yet 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, Posting on the Vassar College App.

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

In 2016, 60.7% of eligible students voted; 86.1% of eligible voters registered; and of those who registered, only 70.6% voted. We have a diverse student body - 57.9% identify as white, 12% as Asian, 10% as Hispanic. We have a student body of 2400; of these 2000 are on campus during the Fall 2020 semester.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Ideally, we would like to achieve 100% voter registration for all eligible students and participation. However, we will likely be unable to achieve this goal during this election cycle but aim to make this our goal for 2022 and beyond.

Strategy:

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

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

Friendly competition between residential houses to register students; social media; use of voting advisors in residential halls who can answer questions; Voting masks; providing transportation to polls; speaker events - including outreach to first-year students.

NSLVE:

Vassar College has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Analyze data from TurboVote

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 NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.