

All in Plan for Vassar College

The students, faculty, and administrators of Vassar College are committed to increasing rates of civic engagement among the Vassar student body. The plan detailed below entails various measures to ensure every student has the potential to register to vote, in Dutchess County, New York or their home district, as well as to solidify plans for transportation to the polls on election day.

The student organization most involved in these efforts is Democracy Matters, a student organization focused on getting big money out of politics and increasing student political participation. Democracy Matters will be instrumental in organizing a group of student volunteers who will register their peers to vote. One key opportunity to register students to vote is first-year orientation. During orientation, all incoming students are asked to sign a matriculation book – Democracy Matters will set up voter registration tables next to the area in which the book signing takes place and register first-year students to vote after they sign the matriculation book. The administration will loan laptops to Democracy Matters members for this and Democracy Matters will procure paper ballots for New York voters. Before the signing of matriculation, the Dean of Students Office will email all first-year students with information letting them know they will have the opportunity to register to vote during orientation. Additionally, Democracy Matters will set up voter registration tables at room-key pick-up locations for non-first year students. This will ensure that students whose addresses have changed since their first-year at Vassar are able to re-register under their new address which may correspond to a new voting precinct.

For transportation, the administration will ensure that Security employees will drive vans to the three voting polls in which Vassar students preside throughout election day. Should early voting pass in New York, there will be expanded opportunities for students to get rides to the polls. Furthermore, administration, specifically the Dean of Students Office, will send out campus wide emails letting students know where their local voting poll is located and information pertaining to the vans.

The Vassar administration will also work with the Dutchess County Election Commission to evaluate the possibility of Vassar serving as a polling station.

The campus coordinator for Democracy Matters and the Dean of Students Office should be in regular contact for potential non-partisan democratic collaborations that would inform and encourage student participation in the political process.