



Washington College

Washington College's 2024
Commitment to Active Participation in
Our Democracy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Development of the plan:

- The Washington College Civic Engagement Coalition is made up of student representatives, faculty and community stakeholders. This election season we will increase motivation among our student body in 2024 by increasing voter registration, addressing political apathy, while also maintaining a commitment to ensuring both voting accessibility and equity at the polls.

Purpose of plan:

- The purpose of the plan is to have comprehensive, organized, actionable steps to encourage maximum voter turnout for the 2024 elections and continue cultivating a culture of civic engagement more broadly with both the college and campus-community.

Previous Efforts:

- In association with the Starr Center for the American Experience, Dr. Patrick Nugent conducted a program entitled, “Student leaders in Civic Engagement” or (S.L.I.C.E). This program took a class in conjunction with the Maryland Board of Electors to become eligible to register individuals to vote in the state of Maryland and elsewhere. Additionally, the team was able to personally invite local government candidates from Kent County, MD in order to host a candidate forum at Washington College. The facilitation of diverse conversation real-time allowed students to better grasp the severity of various issues. The goal is to apply similar initiatives to the 2024 election campaign.

2024 Action Plan Goals:

- We utilized data from the 2022 Midterm Election gathered by NSLVE to serve as the baseline for our 2024 election goals. These goals are:
 - Ensure a 25% voter registration increase across the student-body
 - Schedule four or more voter registration tabling events across September and October
 - Coordinate a multitude of education events/speaker engagements
 - Organize trips/conferences that are open to the student body
 - Create a web of stakeholder engagement (community, faculty, clubs, athletics, affinity groups)
 - Establish a visual voter engagement campaign both on campus and on social media platforms (Instagram and Campus Groups).

Timeline Plan:

- The intended duration of the plan will be from May 2024 through November 2024. The plan will be implemented throughout the year and evaluated/adjusted to see if our initial goals have been met.

Implementation of Plan:

- The Action Plan would be implemented by the Voter Engagement Interns in association with the Student Affairs department and the Starr Center for the American Experience.

LEADERSHIP

- This Action Plan is supported by a vast network of students, faculty, staff, and the broader Chestertown community surrounding Washington College.

Civic Advisors:

- Dr. Patrick Nugent, Director of Civic Engagement at the Starr Center for the American Experience
- Tricia Connor Biles, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement and Success
- Antoine Jordan, Director of Student Engagement

Coalition Student Leadership:

- SGA Executive Board
- Athletics team Captains
- Peer Mentors
- Student Events Board
- Sorority and Fraternity Executive Boards

Faculty Leadership:

- Dr. Christine Wade, Department Chair of Political Science
- Dr. Flavio Hickel Jr., Political Science Professor
- Dr. Erin Anderson, Department Chair of Sociology
- Dr. Anne-Martee Parrish, Department Chair of Chemistry

COMMITMENT

In order to be successful this election season we will:

- Be strategic with voter registration events
- Supply the needed resources for all students to comprehend their vote and the magnitude of its impact
- Address campus political apathy by creating a space in which election season contains excitement and urgency

