



## Waubonsee Community College 2020 Action Plan

Developed by: Mary Tosch

### Executive Summary:

Waubonsee Community College is excited to be a part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge where we encourage our students to use their voices in the electoral process. We hope that during their years in college, we instill in them the practice of being engaged in their communities and beyond, so that they can graduate being lifelong responsible community members.

Voting offers the ability for people to use their voices and elect leaders that have both their community and the country's best interest at heart. It's more important now than ever to speak out and take action. That is why Waubonsee Community College's All In Campus Democracy Challenge committee developed an action plan to educate our students and provide opportunities for civic engagement.

Student Life, part of Student Development, took on the All In Democracy Challenge as the leaders for this initiative. As part of their on-going mission is to seek student opportunities for volunteerism, civic engagement and voter participation, this project is one which they have the experience and insight to make successful. As such, the Student Life Manager took the helm with the Student Life Coordinator taking on many of the duties of project administration.

The group of other interested college representatives met almost weekly with Student Life project leaders for hour long virtual check-ins. The working group included a faculty member (Assistant Professor of Humanities), a Circulation Assistant from the college's main library, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator, the Student Senate President and a Special Projects Analyst from Institutional Effectiveness. All members of the working group volunteered enthusiastically due to their interest in civic engagement and had the support of their respective administrative leaders.

The team began their work in June of 2020 and will continue through May 2021. The short term goals were to provide education about voting, resources, the importance of local elections, and being engaged in your community.

### Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Dr. Aaron Lawler, Assistant Professor of Humanities  
Kathy Osman, Special Projects Analyst, Institutional Effectiveness  
Jane Zwergle, Circulation Assistant, Library  
Jamie Feiza, Marketing and Communications Coordinator  
Michelle Dahlstrom, Student Life Coordinator  
Rachel Diaz, Student Senate President  
Dr. Mary Tosch, Student Life Manager

### 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

**Landscape:**

Our campus demographic and voting data:

2016 voting rate was 51.2%. As of 2019, 13,696 students were registered for credit. 56% Female, 44% Male, 42.8% students of color, 82% are part time students, 18% are full time students

**Goals:**

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Short term goals was to provide information on voting, resources on voting, and the importance of local elections. Long term goals is to instill in students the practice of being engaged in their communities and beyond, so that students can graduate being lifelong responsible community members.

**Strategy:**

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

In-person voter registration drives, Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.), social media campaign

Social media strategies included posting educational materials, information on voting, videos addressing FAQs of voting, online scavenger hunts that provided tools and information on voting, a virtual lecture with David Otunga providing the importance of local elections and a website dedicated to voting resources and information. In addition, drive-thru voter registration drive was held on two of the four physical locations, virtual recruitment by local service agencies to be engaged in the community, virtual student activist panel hosted with 5 other Illinois community colleges, virtual constitution day panel hosted with Forsythe Tech in North Carolina, and information shared with faculty to post in their Canvas shells if desired. Discussions will continue in Spring 2021 as the focus will shift to local elections in April, Alternative Spring Break and other civic engagement activities.

**NSLVE:**

Waubonsee Community College has authorized NSLVE.

**Evaluation:**

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

There will be multiple ways to determine success of the events and strategies. NSLVE data will be reviewed to determine if there was an increase in voter participation. Attendance for all events will be kept and measured against past efforts. Social media reports will be used to inform strategies throughout the campaign to determine what resonates and increase the reach of our social media channels. The team will work collectively and utilize their expertise in the evaluative process to inform future plans.

**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.