
Widener University 2024 Political Engagement Action Plan

APRIL 2024
(REVISED SUBMISSION)



Executive Summary

Widener University's 2024 Political Engagement Action Plan for the PA Campus Voting Challenge and All in Democracy Challenge was developed in accordance with our institution's historic mission and strategic commitment to civic and political engagement. The 2024 Action Plan, which covers the Widener main campus in Chester, Pennsylvania, was crafted by team of individuals aligned with the Political Engagement Committee and the Center for Civic Engagement. The Political Engagement Committee and the Center for Civic Engagement act as umbrella entities, aiding coordination of political engagement activities and programming across previously dispersed campus programs and initiatives, the Political Science department, faculty, community partners, and students. This partnership oversees implementation of the action plan, featuring collaboration, encouragement and facilitation of events and activities that promotes engaged, civil and informed political participation.

The intentionality of the political action plan is to leverage existing civic and political engagement initiatives, improve student voting rates, expand our two-phased political education model, and encourage civic preparedness, active citizenship, and critical engagement with complex societal issues. The 2024 Action Plan is designed to guide the next two years of political engagement programming, while our long-term goals strive for continued development of a campus culture that is primed to educate engaged citizens who are fully prepared to be thoughtful and committed contributors to civic life in their communities.

Widener seniors were significantly more likely than all seniors participating in the NSSE Civic Engagement Topical module to indicate that the institution places quite a bit of emphasis on organizing activities focused on important social, economic, or political issues (62% compared to 44% of all seniors), discussing important social, economic, or political issues with others (51% compared to 45%), and encouraging free speech and expression (72% compared to 62% of all seniors).

2023 NSSE Report

Leadership

Widener's 2024 Political Engagement Action Plan will be coordinated and facilitated by the campus-wide Political Engagement Committee, working in partnership with the Center for Civic Engagement and a cross-section of faculty, staff and student representatives from across campus. The 2024 Action Plan was jointly crafted by the Assistant Provost for Civic Engagement, the Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, the Chair of the Political Engagement Committee, the prior Campus Program Director of Project Pericles, and the student holding the position of Political Engagement Coordinator within the Center for Civic Engagement.

The Political Engagement Committee is tasked each year to create a forward-looking engagement plan designed to promote political participation and help publicize political engagement activities on campus. The team focuses on identifying curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities related to political engagement that will be taking place on campus and reaches out to participating faculty and community groups to coordinate campus and local events.

This year the committee will expand recruitment efforts for faculty members, student organizations and community partners who have indicated an intent to incorporate a political engagement component to their classes, group activities and organizational outreach. Committee representatives will stay in contact throughout the semester with these partners to keep them apprised of political engagement activities and explore options to enhance participation and content programming through stronger linkages to the curriculum and community engagement.

The structure of the Political Engagement Committee has recently been reformulated to provide for more sustained representative membership from numerous administrative offices, academic units, student organizations and community partners. Special attention has been given to establishing ongoing relationships with various student organizations on campus that have been underrepresented in past years (such as the Student Nurses Association and the Graduate Physical Therapy Student Association) to assure broad student engagement across campus and to promote smooth transitions to new representatives when students depart following graduation.

Membership of the Campus-Wide Political Engagement Committee:

Administration/Faculty

- Assistant Provost for Civic Engagement
 - Dr. Marina Barnett (Interim)
- Chair of the Political Engagement Committee
 - Dr. J. Wesley Leckrone, Chair of the Political Science Department
- Campus Program Director of Project Pericles
 - Dr. Lauren Shermer, Professor of Criminal Justice
- At-Large Faculty Representatives
 - Dr. Angie Corbo, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Communications Studies
 - Dr. James Vike, Associate Dean, Social Science Division

Student Affairs Staff

- Director, Center for Civic Engagement
 - LaShanda Patton
- Director of Student Organizations, Office of Student Engagement
 - Victoria Fine

Students Organizations / Student Representatives

- Center for Civic Engagement's Service Scholar's Program
 - Taylor Easter, CESS Political Engagement Coordinator (2022-2024)
- Student Government Association President
 - Arielle McRae 2023-2024
- Widener Student Nurses Association Representative
- Widener Graduate Physical Therapy Student Association Representative
- At-Large Undergraduate Student Representatives
- At-Large Graduate Student Representatives

Community Partners

- Delaware County Voter Services Office
- League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County
- Next Gen (local voting organization)
- New PA Project (local voting organization)

Commitment

Widener University continually demonstrates its enduring commitment to increasing civic learning and democratic engagement through both words and deeds. The university has continually expressed this allegiance through communication of core values, programmatic and resource commitments, influential affiliations, and innovative initiatives. It is safe to say that the commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement is demonstrably weaved into the fabric of campus life.

Widener University remains a part of the Project Pericles consortium along with 30 colleges and universities that promote civic engagement and social responsibility within higher education. Periclean colleges and universities support curricular and co-curricular initiatives that prepare and encourage students to become active, responsible citizens. These initiatives span an array of efforts in the classroom, on campus, and in the community. As a partner of the Bonner and Maguire Foundations, Widener is among the many colleges and universities working to improve the lives of individuals and communities.

The Political Engagement Committee continues promoting political learning, civic discourse, and political participation. The committee's charge remains coordinating efforts across academic and administrative units while championing the development of active democratic citizenship. The dual phase approach already in place will continue to offer students exposure to knowledge building, information sharing, and civil discourse exercises in a context that is more conducive to productive exchanges, while also offering experiential learning opportunities to enhance their ability to convincingly express preferences and effectively advocate for desired change.

During the pandemic, Widener's Common Ground conversations allowed university leadership to engage students, faculty, and staff in civil dialogue and teach them to listen to differing perspectives in meaningful ways. The initiative has continued to flourish as an ongoing effort to activate participation in a thriving democracy by engaging the Widener community in challenging conversations that explore differences in open and respectful ways. The Widener Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees recently reaffirmed their commitment to building a robust culture of civil discourse and vibrant political engagement on campus by authorizing development of an ambitious engagement leadership initiative designed to expand political engagement-oriented experiential learning opportunities and strengthen

curricular/co-curricular connections in the semesters to come. More details on this initiative are highlighted in the strategies section later in this document.

Lastly, it is important to note that Widener has received many honors recognizing its commitment and fulfillment toward institutional values centered on civic and democratic engagement. The various honors include:

- Recognized as a “National College of Distinction in 2023-24 for quality teaching, student engagement and successful outcomes.
- 2023 Awardee of All In Campus Democracy Challenge’s Student Voting Honor Roll, Taylor Easter ’25 was recognized for her nonpartisan democratic engagement work.
- Received “Gold-Badge” status recognition from the All in Campus Democracy Challenge for the 2020 presidential election voter registration efforts and again in 2022.
- Washington Monthly magazine ranked Widener 34th nationally in the category of promoting public service (2019)
- Pillars of Academia ranked Widener as #1 in PA (#16 in the country) for producing the most altruistic and civically minded students (2017)
- Widener was one of only 14 institutions named as finalist for the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll award (2015)
- National Assessment for Service and Civic Engagement (NASCE) data indicates that 79% of Widener undergraduate students participate in service or civic engagement; 27% higher than the national average (2017)

Current Campus Landscape

The current campus landscape for civic and democratic engagement on the Widener University main campus is strong. The campus culture features a strong commitment to civic and democratic engagement among the students and ample programming and curricular/co-curricular partnerships to further the agenda. We have a campus-wide institutional learning objective focusing on responsible citizenship and have received numerous national honors for excellence in related areas. The campus has expended substantial attention to achieving notable improvements across numerous

measures of democratic engagement over the last decade and is proud to maintain a prominent position among peer institutions.

More recent attention has been directed toward building engagement and representative participation rates across the increasingly complex and diverse student body on the main campus in Chester, Pennsylvania. The table below provides profile detail on the undergraduate student population as of Fall 2023. The broad span of student academic pursuits, states of residency, and commuter status highlights the complex challenges faced when attempting to provide students with compelling and accurate information about political issues and engagement opportunities. Notable increases in the racial and ethnic diversity of the student body in recent years has necessitated reorientation of efforts to maximize engagement, as the percentage of student of color has increased from 24% to 38% of undergraduate enrollees since 2015.

Widener University – Chester Campus Undergraduate Student Profile – Fall 2023							
School / Program		Race / Ethnicity		Sex		State of Residency	
A&S	30%	Asian	4%	Female	59%	Pennsylvania	62%
Business	18%	Black / Af. Am.	23%	Male	41%	New Jersey	26%
Engineering	15%	Hispanic	8%			Delaware	5%
Nursing	30%	White	59%	Campus Status		Other	7%
Other	8%	Other	3%	Commuter	48%	Enrollment: 2771	
		Unknown	3%	Residential	52%		

Widener’s clear and reaffirmed commitment to equity and inclusion extends into the realm of democratic engagement. Our “We’re All Widener” initiative features a commitment to diversity in which a plurality of viewpoints are valued, explored, and seen as opportunities for learning and personal growth. We value and encourage the exercise of political voice from all our students and are distinctly aware of and attentive to potential disparities in participation rates among historically under-represented classifications of citizens.

In 2022, Widener received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from “INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to diversity and Inclusion. “Top College for Diversity”. Widener also received the 2023-2024 Colleges of Distinction Award for Equity and Inclusion.

Another significant development impacting the campus landscape includes the growth of graduate programs, with graduate students now constituting 38% of main campus students in Fall 2023. This growth includes full-time residential programs, part-time commuter programs and substantial growth in online students. While a solid majority of graduate students are pursuing various programs within the College of Health & Human Services, the rich racial and ethnic diversity of the graduate student population reflects current levels among undergraduate students. The growth of distance programs, rising rates of commuter students from the tri-state area, and remote access options for many programs poses specific challenges for targeted outreach in voter education-related programming. Delivery of timely and accurate information about voter registration deadlines, processes, and campaign-related content is increasingly challenging since more than 40% of main campus students now reside outside of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and registration deadlines and eligibility requirements for remote and/or absentee voting are inconsistent across area states.

Widener University – Chester Campus Graduate Student Profile – Fall 2023					
School / Program		Race / Ethnicity		Sex	
HHS	74%	Asian	3%	Female	81%
Business	6%	Black / Af. Am.	19%	Male	18%
Nursing	9%	Hispanic	8%		
Other	11%	White	56%		
		Other	5%	Enrollment: 1693	
		Unknown	9%		

The current voter engagement and access landscape in Delaware County is fairly conducive to student participation. Statewide elections have been very competitive in recent years which enhances levels of attentiveness and encourages campaign outreach to student populations. While not formally measured, the partisan distribution and ideological orientation of the student body as a whole is not one-sided. Pennsylvania has a voter identification law, yet it is minimally restrictive in that it only applies to first time voters. Access to vote by mail options has become more accessible in recent years and the Delaware County Voter Services Office has been eager to share information and provides outreach programming. Although there is

not an exclusive precinct location on campus, the dedicated polling place for on-campus registrants and students residing near to campus is an elementary school just across the street from the heart of campus.

NSLVE Results

Since we previously noted Widener’s achievements and recognition in the area of student engagement, we will now move to an analysis of recent NSLVE results and items focused more narrowly on voter participation. Widener University has participated in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) project since the 2012 election. Since the NSLVE reports for the 2022 midterm election cycle were not available at the deadline for submitting this plan, we are addressing information pertaining to elections from 2012-2020.

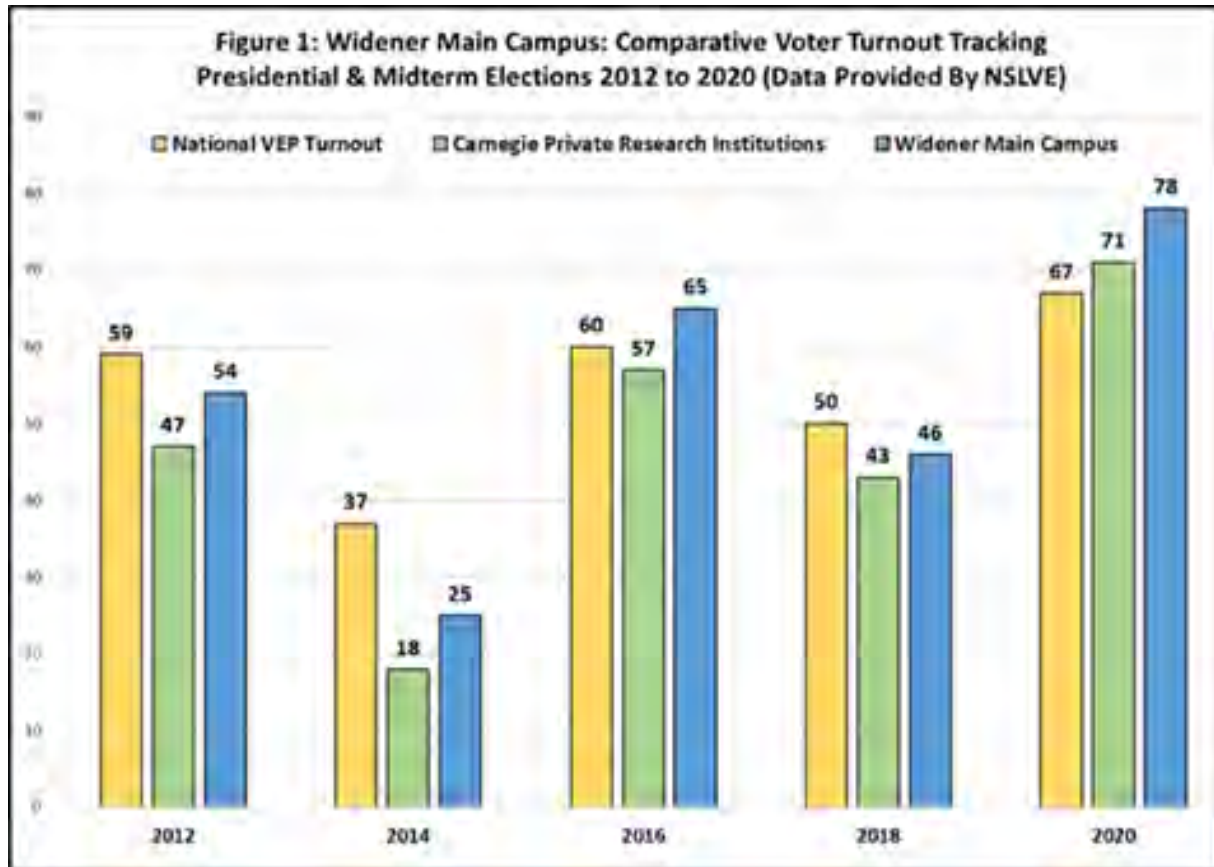
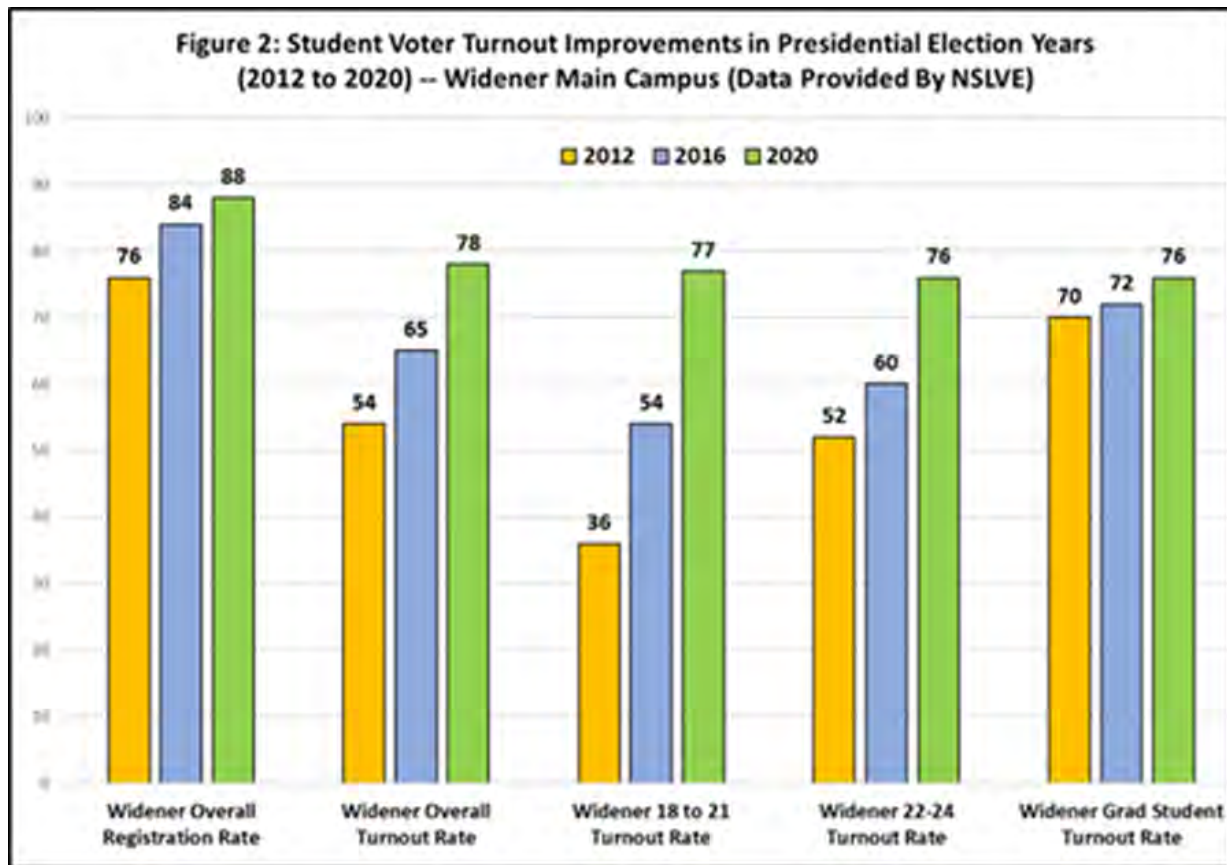


Figure 1 displays historical trends and key comparative results for aggregate voter turnout rates on the Widener main campus as gleaned from the NSLVE reports and national data. The campus-wide Political Engagement Committee and the Center for Civic Engagement have consistently relied upon this evidence to inform plans and

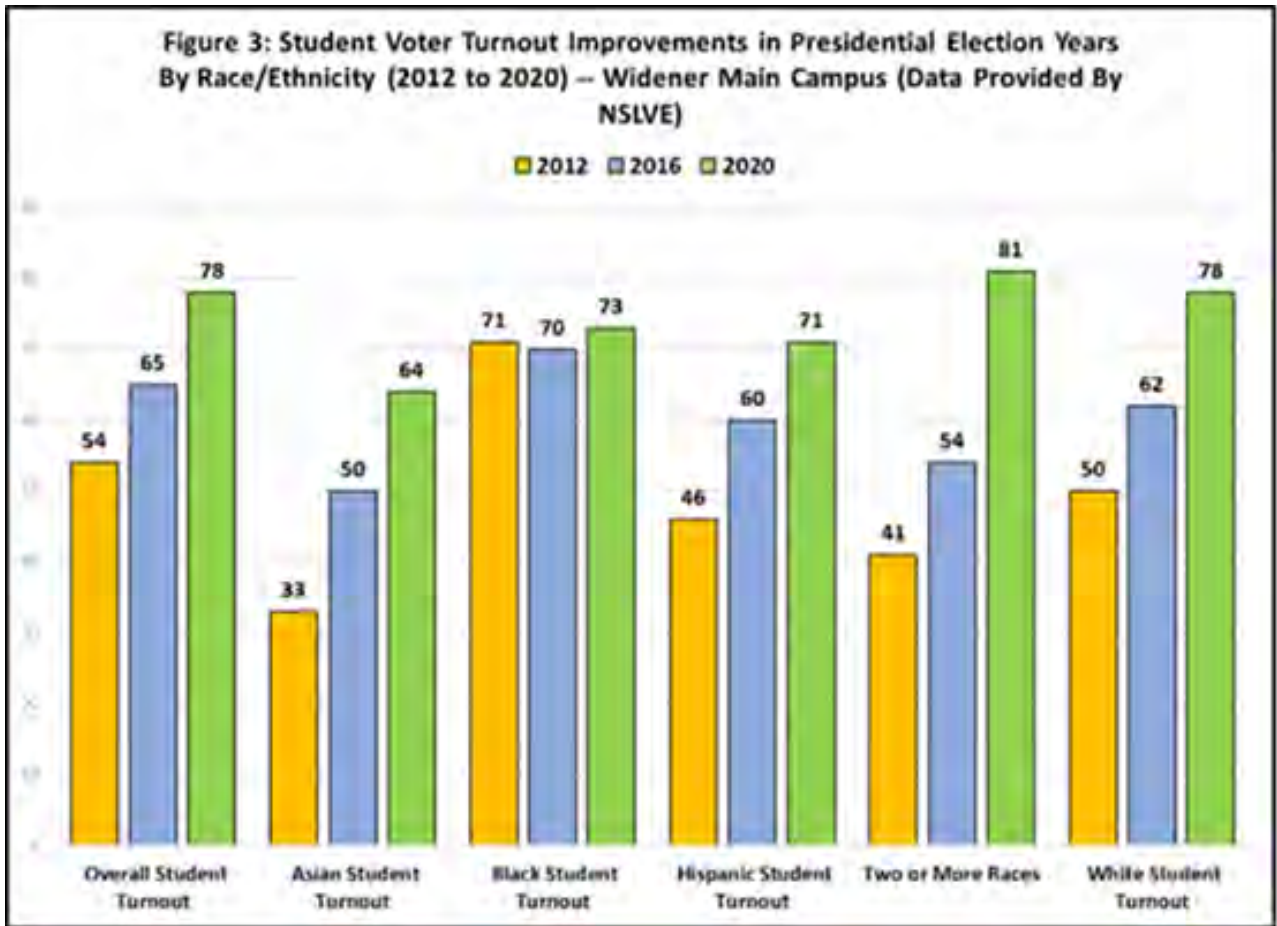
efforts to improve engagement and voter participation rates on the main campus in Chester, Pennsylvania. Of particular note in Figure 1 are the significant step-level increases in campus-wide participation rates for each of the last three election cycles.

Widener voter turnout has exceeded comparable rates among our Carnegie classification peers in each cycle of record. Widener turnout exceeded the turnout rate nationally, as well as the turnout rate in our home state (Pennsylvania) and home county (Delaware) in the last two presidential election cycles. Widener’s main campus voter turnout rates in 2016 earned “Silver-Badge” status recognition, and turnout rates in the 2018 midterm election and the 2020 presidential election earned “Gold-Badge” status recognition from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.



Figures 2 and 3 display a more detailed breakdown of recorded participation rates across presidential election cycles. These figures are helpful in tracking overall trends and specifically assessing the effectiveness of our plans and efforts in the 2020 election cycle. Notable data from Figure 2 highlights consistent improvement in registration and overall turnout rates as well as improvements across age bands and

student status. Of particular note are the substantial step level improvements in younger student participation rates for both the 2016 and 2020 elections. Rates for the 18-21 and 22-24-year-old student cohorts in the 2020 presidential election achieved par with the stable, yet consistently high, rate among graduate students on the main campus.



The dramatic improvements among younger voters in the 2020 election reflects well on our targeted plans and efforts to engage younger students more effectively in the last election cycle while also nurturing and enhancing graduate student participation.

Figure 3 displays voter turnout trends in presidential elections broken down by the race/ ethnicity of main campus students. Given Widener’s clear and reaffirmed commitment to equity and inclusion, we are particularly attentive to concerns about potential disparities in participation rates among historically under-represented classifications of citizens. We are pleased to report from the evidence in Figure 3 that our aggregate upward trend in participation is largely representative across racial /

ethnic groupings. Notable step level improvements for the 2020 election are evident for Asian students, Hispanic students, white students, and students indicating two or more races. Turnout among black students increased only modestly in 2020, relinquishing standing as the group with the highest turnout rate among all groupings in prior elections.

We are committed to continuing our efforts to assure an equitable and representative level of participation among our student body and will continue to extend outreach to student groups and organizations representing minority student populations in order to reinforce this positive trend and reignite higher participation rates among black students in the future.

Figures 4 and 5 display more detailed breakdowns of main campus turnout rates from the midterm election cycles in 2014 and 2018. Analysis of this data was particularly informative for development of our action plan for the 2022 midterm cycle given historical participatory declines in non-presidential year elections.

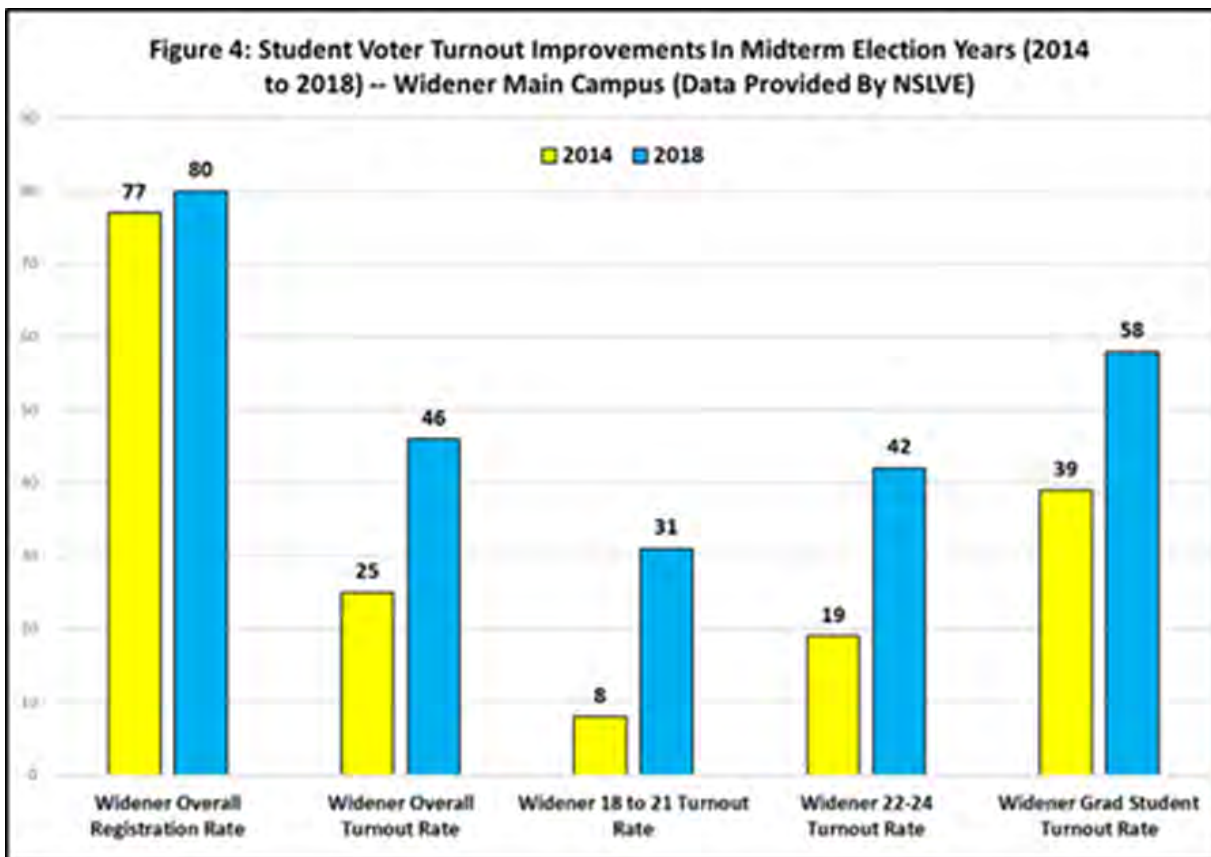


Figure 4 shows dramatic step level improvements across each age band and among graduate students during the 2018 election. Registration rates remained comparatively high for each midterm election cycle, especially when considered in context of expected reductions in registration rates from presidential election years. This sustained high registration rate serves as an indicator of our continued commitment and successful efforts to mobilizing young voters as they matriculate into school. Although dramatic improvements in 2018 turnout rates among the 18-21 year-old cohort appear somewhat skewed due to particularly low participation rates in 2014, it is important to note that our turnout rate among the youngest voters exceeded nationwide rates and peer comparisons reported by NSLVE.

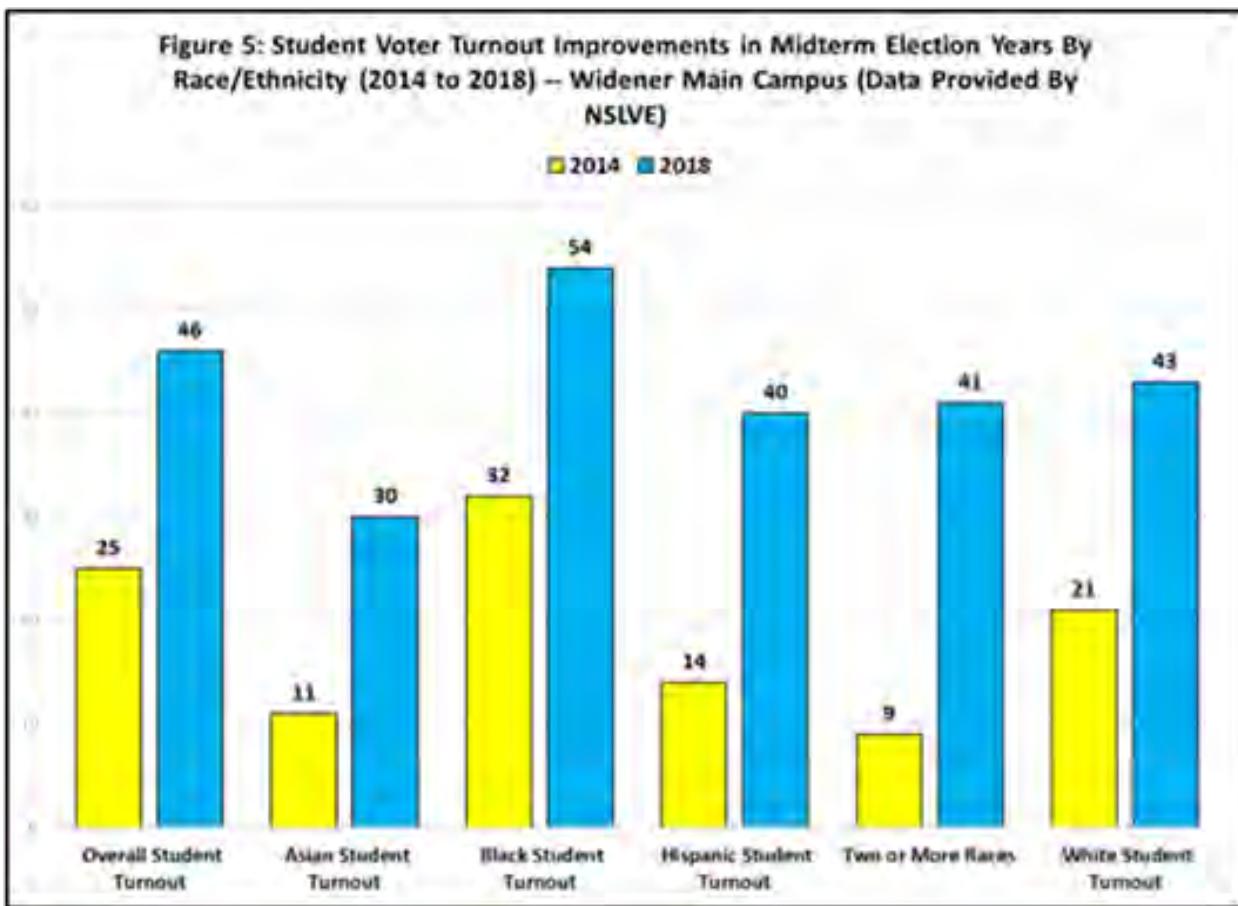


Figure 5 displays voter turnout differences in midterm elections broken down by the race / ethnicity of main campus students. The across-the-board improvements for the 2018 cycle indicate a balanced level of improved mobilization, with each subgroup experiencing turnout improvement at greater than or equal to 19%. As mentioned earlier, turnout among black students at Widener has traditionally

exceeded the campus average. The ongoing challenge for sustaining and enhancing balanced, equitable and inclusive participation in upcoming elections will necessitate a blended communications and mobilization approach that features campus-wide elements as well as targeted efforts to build engagement and a sustain a participatory culture among historically underrepresented student groups.

Ongoing analysis of our two most recent NSLVE reports (from the 2018 and 2020 elections), reports from the 2023 National Survey of Student Engagement, and discussions of our observations and experiences from the 2022 midterm election cycle has informed our plans for the 2024 action plan. We are committed to pursuing a comprehensive array of efforts to sustain and potentially improve voter education and participation across the board for the 2024 election in comparison to 2020 rates. We will once again focus particular attention on younger cohort students, graduate students, and students in programs and disciplines that have had lower participation rates in prior cycles. Academic programs that have had underwhelming participation rates identified in prior reports include students in Engineering, Business and some of the sciences.

Goals, Targets, & Measures

The overarching objectives at the core of our political engagement action plans have remained relatively stable through the years. The following short-term and long-term goals for the 2024 action plan represent both a continuation of prior commitments and aspirational desires to further the scope and depth of impact from our team's collaborative efforts.

Short-Term Goals (2024)

1. **Promote high levels of political engagement:** Focus on voter turnout-related engagement through intensive voter registration outreach, programming focused on voting efficacy, and Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) mobilization efforts. Target first-year students, returning undergraduates, graduate students, Chester Campus employees, and residents of the Chester community. For the 2024 election cycle we will strive to meet and exceed our record high 88% voter registration rate and 78% campus-wide voter turnout rate among eligible students from the 2020 presidential election cycle, while maintaining strong turnout levels across all demographic categories.

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- 2. Reinforce partnerships with community partners and area elected representatives:** Collaborate with area elected officials and community organizations to facilitate voter education, registration, and voter turnout support. Ongoing outreach and interaction with area elected officials who represent the Widener and Chester constituency (Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, US House of Representatives (5th District), Senator John Kane, PA Senate (9th District); Representative Carol Kazeem, PA House of Representatives (159th District); Dr. Monica Taylor, Chair, Delaware County Council; Mayor Stefan Roots, City of Chester). Short-term goals include hosting at least one on-campus forum featuring an elected official each semester.

We strive to continue to expand and strengthen partnerships with community organizations who facilitate voter education and registration support. Feature partnerships include collaborations with the Delaware County Voter Services Office and the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County. Short-term goals include co-sponsoring at least one voter education and registration outreach event with each organization during the Fall 2024 semester.

- 3. Broaden political engagement opportunities:** We strive to engage students, employees and community members beyond just voter participation, through consistent staging of campus debate watch activities, table talks and deliberative dialogue exercises, and at least one policy forum activity each semester focusing on contemporary political issues. Our short-term goal includes sponsoring at least one of each of the aforementioned campus-wide activities during the Fall 2024 semester.
- 4. Increase civic-related course content:** We strive to incorporate educational content emphasizing voting efficacy and deliberative dialogue into course content by adding the Project Pericles "Why Voting Matters" module in all ASC 101 and SW 440/540 Welfare Policy Courses. The ASC 101 course is a new general education course required for all first-year students. We strive to increase the number of seniors participating in activities to inform themselves about state, national, or global issues by 5%. Increase the number of seniors involved in activities to inform themselves about campus or local issues by 5%.

Increase the number of "S"-designated courses that include the "Why Voting Matters" module by 50%.

5. **Nourish and strengthen a vibrant culture of civic & political engagement:** We intend to support and celebrate high-impact experiential learning activities relating to political engagement by sponsoring a Spring 2024 trip to New Hampshire for the primary election and by increasing opportunities for legislative education and advocacy trips to Harrisburg and Washington DC. Our short-term goal includes increasing funding by 5% for faculty-led trips for legislative education and advocacy. Sponsor at least two opportunities for students to participate in a LEAD activity (Legislative Education and Advocacy Day).

Long-Term Goals (Beyond 2024)

1. **Sustain and continue improvements in voter education and participation rates for future elections:** Focus on younger cohort students, graduate students, and students in programs and disciplines that have had lower participation rates in prior cycles. Continue to address and adapt to the changing campus landscape, including efforts to assure representative levels of participation in keeping with the growth of graduate programs and the increasing diversity of the student body.
2. **Continue promoting a culture of civic and political engagement:** Build on the foundation laid in the short-term goals to create a lasting impact on the campus and community. This includes ongoing efforts to increase civic learning, democratic engagement, and participation in the political process. Attainment of longer-term goals can be measured through progressive increases in political engagement-related indicators among Widener seniors. We strive to attain a 5% increase in the number of Widener seniors who indicate on the NSSE that they participate “quite a bit” or “very much” in activities to inform themselves about state, national, or global issues. (The current rate as reported on the National Survey of Student Engagement is 70%). We strive to attain a 5% increase in the number of seniors who indicate that they are involved “quite a bit in activities to inform themselves about campus or local issues”. (The current NSSE rate is 61%)

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3. **Promote development and successful rollout of new engagement leadership initiative:** The recently authorized engagement leadership initiative centers on building a more formal relationship between curricular programs and co/curricular or extracurricular activities. The long-term goal for this initiative involves approval of a related academic minor and transcribed general education certificate through the faculty governance framework within the next two years and uptake in these academic offerings by interested students in the early years of the program.

Strategy & Ongoing Sustainability Plan

1. **Regular Assessment and Adaptation:** We will continue to work with the Director of Institutional Research to implement regular assessments of our political engagement initiatives using tools such as the NSLVE study, pre- and post-tests in partner courses, and institutional research. Based on the insights gained from these evaluations, we will refine and adjust our strategies to ensure their ongoing effectiveness in achieving our goals.
2. **Strengthen Partnerships:** We aim to continue to fortify our connections with the local community, creating opportunities for mutual benefit in civic engagement and political participation. This includes developing lasting relationships with elected and organizing events such as debates and political gatherings, including the Mayor's State of the City address.
3. **Institutional Integration:** We are dedicated to embedding civic and political engagement into both the core curriculum and co-curricular activities, making it an essential component of the student experience. This integration is evident in courses such as ASC101, First Year Seminar, and ASC401. We are also identifying service-learning courses across the curriculum to establish a Civic Engagement minor, with currently 80 courses contributing to this effort. Additionally, we collaborate with the Academic Service-Learning Faculty Development Program to engage new faculty in developing and teaching courses designated with an (S) for service-learning.
4. **Student Leadership and Involvement:** Encouraging student leadership and involvement in political engagement activities is a crucial aspect of fostering a

sense of ownership and commitment to civic responsibility. By providing opportunities for students to take on leadership roles in organizing and participating in political events, discussions, and campaigns, we can cultivate a campus culture that values active citizenship and community involvement. This can include supporting student-led initiatives, offering leadership development workshops, and creating platforms for students to voice their opinions and advocate for change. Through these efforts, students can develop the skills, confidence, and passion needed to become influential leaders and engaged citizens in their communities and beyond. We will continue to take our students to Harrisburg and Washington, DC, to participate in student advocacy events such as the National Association of Social Workers Legislative Education and Advocacy Day and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania Day on the Hill.

5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** We are committed to ensuring that our initiatives are inclusive and reflective of our diverse student body, actively addressing disparities in participation rates among historically underrepresented groups. To achieve this, we co-sponsor events with various organizations, including the Muslim Student Association, Black Student Union, and Latinos Unidos. Additionally, we collaborate with the Student Government Association, fraternities, sororities, and student organizations aligned with professional school academic units to ensure our programs align with student interests while also exposing them to new ideas. Furthermore, we are dedicated to revitalizing our Young Democrats and Young Republicans organizations to foster a more politically engaged and diverse campus community.
6. **Long-Term Funding:** To ensure the sustainability of our political engagement initiatives, we are actively seeking funding sources, including grants, university funding, and partnerships with foundations. Currently, the university boasts an endowed fund designated for leadership development, as well as a fully funded Center for Civic Engagement and Academic Service-Learning Faculty Development Program. In 2022, we established the new position of Assistant Provost for Civic Engagement, reinforcing our commitment to making civic and political engagement a core aspect of the Widener University student learning experience. Additionally, faculty members can become Periclean Leaders or

Bonner Faculty Fellows, and students can apply for summer internships with the Center for Civic Engagement or for a \$1,500 grant to conduct research, develop social action projects, or address community needs in the city of Chester. Faculty can also apply for a \$275 course engagement grant, \$500 Urban Excursion Grant, and a \$500 DEIB grant. These resources allow faculty to engage their students in the local community and support transportation, supplies, and other expenses for student engagement.

7. Design & Rollout of new Engagement Leadership Initiative

Three faculty representatives of the Political Engagement Committee recently shared an overview of recent high-impact political engagement efforts on campus and presented a proposal for a new engagement leadership initiative to the Widener Board of Trustees. The President, Provost and Board members enthusiastically endorsed the proposal, which involves consolidating existing political-engagement activities across campus, building stronger curricular/co-curricular connections, and establishing faculty fellow and student fellow programs to build and sustain a continuous stream of students and faculty willing to contribute to building a thriving initiative centered on preparing students for success as public-minded participants in civic life.

Reporting

The plan will be shared via email with our key partners (including departments, student organizations, community partners, and senior leaders) for feedback and to reinforce ongoing commitments the spring and fall semesters of 2024. The plan will be implemented and assessed annually by the Political Engagement Committee. Annual assessment results will be shared across campus with a broad range of stakeholders, including senior leadership, the Board of Trustees, affiliated student groups, participating academic units and community partners. Widener will continue to participate in the NSLVE study and obtain results to gauge our institution's voting participation rates. The NSLVE data will be shared with the All in Democracy Challenge and through campus-wide communications as a way to inform the public. Other proxy variables such as attendance at on-campus, class canvassing, and tracking voter registration data from registration drives will be utilized.

Widener will also participate in the annual National Survey of Student Engagement. The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is administered annually by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research. The NSSE is designed to assess the extent to which students engage in a variety of activities that have been empirically shown to be effective educational practices, and to measure what students gain from their collegiate experience.

Students, faculty and staff members affiliated with the Political Engagement Action Plan will also share details on campus-wide initiatives and outcomes at regional and national conferences as a mechanism of reporting out results and sharing effective practices with other campuses.

Evaluation

Confirming that we are successful in attaining our political educational goals, areas of strength, and future areas of focus makes evaluation an integral part of our work. The political action plan will be evaluated by a series of evaluation tools. The NSLVE study will remain a center piece for learning more about our institutional voter participation rates. However, Widener will utilize additional tools such as pre-and post-tests in our partner courses, institutional research related to citizenship and ongoing evaluation efforts of the Center for Civic Engagement through partners like the National Assessment of Service and Civic Engagement (NASCE) and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The Center for Civic Engagement will continue to implement event and program level evaluations. Widener will continue to provide evaluation efforts and reporting related to pursuing renewal of the Carnegie Foundation's Classification in 2025 for Community Engagement and national partnerships with the Bonner Foundation, Maguire Foundation, Project Pericles, and ENGAGE at Wesleyan University.