



Xavier University of Louisiana 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Curtis Wright and Sarah Singh

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Xavier University of Louisiana in Louisiana for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Xavier University of Louisiana for the 2024 election are:

- Continue to partner with key student leaders (i.e. Student Government Association – SGA, Mobilization at Xavier – MAX) and leverage these partnerships to involve wider campus community (i.e. athletics)
- Grow a campus culture of civic participation and voter education by continuing to partner with local organizations such as Voices Organized to Educate (VOTE) and the Power Coalition of Louisiana (PCEJ)
- Empower a broader base of students to engage with their civic identities through canvassing in “squads” in the surrounding Gert Town area (connect XULA’s community garden to canvassing)
- Partner with the political science department again on campus to host programs that contextualize the intersections of US History, modern politics and our identity as an HBCU campus. (Debate style?)
- Increase student voter participation!

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following, campus groups, and organizations:

Curtis Wright-VP of Student Affairs
Sarah Singh-Social Justice and Arts Curator (as of Fall 2023)
Incoming Social Justice and Arts Curator-Spring 2024

Suggestions

Kathleen Bellows-Professor with XULA’s Institute for Black Catholic Studies
Campus Vote Project
League of Women Voters
Power Coalition for Equity and Justice
Voices Organized to Educate (“VOTE”)

Commitment:

- € The Office of Inclusion and Social Justice (OISJ) at Xavier University of Louisiana is committed to catalyzing social change through advocacy, ethical leadership, community engagement, and public discourse both within and beyond the walls of our institution. As a Historically Black and Catholic university, we are unapologetically dedicated to fostering meaningful relationships with our surrounding community while curating and supporting initiatives that address systemic inequality. Upholding the values of St. Katharine Drexel, the Office of Inclusion and Social Justice serves as a conduit for thoughtful introspection, courageous conversation, and intentional action as we move towards our common goal of promoting a more just and humane society.
- € In Spring 2022, OISJ launched its Civic Center initiative – a space which encapsulates the entire first floor of the University’s Library. The Civ. Ctr includes a presentation space that can seat 70 people and plays host to programming that upholds OISJ’s mission and the entire University’s aim to ever strive towards “a more just and humane society”, this includes:
 - OISJ’s monthly Service Saturday initiatives
 - Voter registration and education drives (wherein student orgs partner with nonpartisan orgs such as the League of Women Voters, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, and VOTE)
 - Programs that interrogate Federal holidays and/or monthly DEIB designations (e.g. “Constitution Day”, Domestic Violence Awareness month, Black History month, etc.)
 - Arts education talks (e.g. “Holding on, Reaching Forward with XULA Alum Ayo Scott, ECOArt Fair with XULA Geaux Green)
 - Civic Engagement panels (e.g. Ubuntu Village in conversation with XULA poli sci department, SheLeads CEO Nia Weeks in conversation with her film “Detangling the South”, etc.)
- € Streamlining concise and clear communication of our civic engagement work and goals across campus and departments is a goal for the 2024 election year. At present OISJ uses our XCONNECT page (XULA’s version of EventBrite) and our Instagram (@/xulaoisj)
- € If your current president or chancellor has not yet signed the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#) but does intend to sign, include that information here.

Xavier University of Louisiana does not have a current signatory to the ALL IN Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Landscape:

Xavier University of Louisiana is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2017. Our institution is designated as the following: Minority-Serving Institution, Historically Black College or University.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Xavier University of Louisiana has 3,383 students.

Louisiana requires non-LA ID holding residents to register in person. All information regarding deadlines, absentee ballots, voter ID laws, etc. are broken down on the Power Coalition for Equity & Justice's social media and website and can also be found (albeit, listed more tediously) at the LA Secretary of State website.

2020 NSLVE voting data: 3,216 eligible voters enrolled as students at XULA; 2,790 students registered to vote, 2,019 students voted, voting rate of registered students: 72%, general voting rate: 63%

*Most recent information about in-state vs. Out-of-state, residential vs commuter and demographic breakdowns by age, race, etc. Await the release of the NSLVE report from 2023

Xavier University of Louisiana has authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and will receive campus voting data for the 2022 election in fall 2023. Our NSLVE authorization runs through 2033.

Xavier University of Louisiana participates in the following initiatives to support the development and implementation of our nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts on campus: ALL IN's Community of Practice for HBCUs.

Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals are:

- Increase registered student voter turnout rate to 85% in 2024 and 95% in 2026
- Add voter registration to new and transfer student orientation for fall 2024.
- Have our president/chancellor sign the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#) by December 2023 in order to institutionalize not only the action of voting but the entire apparatus of voter education that is crucial to embedding the importance of civic engagement within a primarily STEM campus culture

Strategy:

Xavier University of Louisiana will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Invigorate and empower voters on campus through inter-departmental programs and work with community partners throughout New Orleans. Engage students consistently
- Approach civic identity holistically through social justice programs that integrate student leaders in civic engagement on and off campus (i.e. students lead forums, arts and education field trips to the New Orleans African American Museum, etc.)
- Establish "Speakers Bureau" with VOTE/PCEJ as "residents" on XULA's campus as experts on voter education in the lead up to the 2024 presidential elections to ensure that students understand that all politics is local.

- Merge the civic engagement events with social events to get the same numbers and passion in student attendees.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

In addition to using incoming NSLVE voting data, OISJ will evaluate campus democratic engagement programming by tracking attendance and involvement through the unique platform XCONNECT and encouraging students to complete surveys on event RSVPs.

Surveys could ask students to list any on- or off-campus affiliations (e.g. student organizations, athletics, greek, etc.)

Xavier University of Louisiana will use the National, Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement to evaluate the increase of student voting by comparing our campus voter turnout and voter registration rates to past elections to measure progress on increasing both.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/xavier-university-of-louisiana/>.