

Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan

A Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan should include the following components: voter registration, voter education, ballot access, and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts. To aid your campus in creating a successful plan to engage your student body, the California Students Vote Project has designed a template of the Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan (shown below) for your campus to use as reference to create your own plan. Please note that submitted action plans and reports will be made available on the Secretary of State's website. Contact us at CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov for questions.

Leadership:

Include the contact information for the Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator to serve as a point of contact for the Secretary of State's Office. If working with a group of student leaders, faculty, or staff members, please include their contact information as well.

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Antelope Valley College Civic & Voter Engagement webpage: <https://www.avc.edu/node/3869>

Introduction:

- Discuss the importance of civically engaging your students, and what your campus has previously done. Any learned lessons from the previous election or findings from the NSLVE may be included in this section.

In April 2022, the chair of the committee transferred from the Dean of Student Life to the Associate Dean of Student Life because of an institutional reorganization. The mission for our team has remained: to directly engage students in their knowledge, information, and actionable participation in civic and voting responsibilities.

For the June 7, 2022, State primary election, AVC published the "Every Vote Counts" campaign encouraging the campus to register and to vote via email, the LED corner sign, the college webpage and social media outlets.

November 8, 2022, the general interim elections were held. District 27 garnered a competitive race for the congressional seat with incumbent Mike Garcia (R) and opponent Christy Smith (D). AVC held two candidate forums on campus for students and the community. Both were well attended and available both in-person and online, 120 in-person RSVPs for Mike Garcia's event and 93 for Christy Smith's. Mr. Garcia was the successful candidate with 52.3% of the votes.

Notable propositions include:



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- Proposition 1 [Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 26 [Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 27 [Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 28 [Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools. Initiative Statute. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 29 [Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements. Initiative Statute. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 30 [Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution and Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \\$2 Million. Initiative Statute. \(PDF\)](#)
- Proposition 31 [Referendum On 2020 Law That Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products. \(PDF\)](#)

As a team we accomplished the follow activities:

- Updated Voter and Civic Engagement page under AVC website.
- Formed a 2022 action plan to host events and helped make voting more accessible.
- Faculty members Tina Leisner McDermott's Honors class assignment focused on different aspects of voting and the speeches were shared publicly via a ZOOM link.
- Hosted voter registration opportunities during campus events:
 - June 18, 2022, Juneteenth Celebration
 - August 17, 2022, Opening Day event
 - October 15, 2022, Para la Gente Celebration
 - October 22, 2022, Home Football Game
- AVC's "Umoja" Program under the Student Equity department utilized the Umoja Village and "Porch Talk" sessions in 2022 to help create a casual space where students could come chat with each other, families, faculty, staff, and community members about various topics. The Umoja Community supported Voter Registration by promoting a voter registration opportunity at our annual Juneteenth Celebration and promoting other Civic and Voter Registration events on our community wall and bulletins.
- SOAR High School's "GirlsBuild" chapter, continues to challenge young women from public middle and high schools across the country to make an impact in their community and ensure that their voices are heard. We believe young women will define the vision for what our schools, communities, and country



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can be, and that work starts now. Their focus is on voter registration and pre-registration of students 16 and 17 years of age. The goal of all the local Girl Build chapters was to have 10,000 new registrants. The SOAR GirlsBuild team focused on properly preparing the student body for the future by providing various resources to college graduates, career info, etc. They held multiple workshops regarding the importance of voting with Professor John Vento and even met with Lancaster's City Clerk. You can find details on their website <https://girlssoarhigh.weebly.com/year-three.html> or on Instagram @girls_soar_high.

- The Civic and Voter Engagement Committee consisted of a team that organized and hosted AVC's Congressional Candidate Forums. Fritz Hemker, Tina McDermott, and John Vento facilitated the forums asking questions submitted by the students and community. The committee was also active in making flyers and posting while also posting and passing them out on campus. They also tabled at various events including the football game to drive voter registration and promote the forums. During AVC's Juneteenth event they brought voter awareness to nearly 250 attendees. They effectively worked alongside student volunteers and their Student Trustee to get the job done. Furthermore, the committee secured support from ASO for the upcoming school year and semester.

One of the main ways our campus targeted voter engagement was a mass information on the issues on the November 8th election ballot and the importance of registering to vote and exercising your right to vote.

Flyers containing all pertinent California voter information and deadlines per the California Secretary of State website were dispersed both virtually and in person to meet the needs of all our students.

Antelope Valley College served as a polling location for the November 8th election.

To continue to engage the campus community through a distanced learning environment our team repeated successful strategies from the year before. Faculty and staff were able to choose to change their email signature to include important voter registration information. We also modified our website to include voting resources for students and the results of the election. This page continues to reference the California Secretary of State's voter information page to properly inform our community. We provided access to accurate election information about less well-known aspects of voting like state-wide propositions or county level judges who may be up for election.

Important dates related to civic engagement crossed our calendar during 2022:

- June 7, 2022 - State Primary Election
- August 15 - November 8, 2022 - Ballot Bowl Competition
- October 24, 2022 - Last Day to register to vote online



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- October 25 - November 8 - Same Day Voter Registration is available (voters can “conditionally” register and vote at a county elections office or polling location after the voter registration deadline, up to and including Election Day)
- September 11, 2022 - “Patriot Day”
- September 17, 2022 - “Constitution Day”
- September 20, 2022 - National Voter Registration Day
- November 8, 2022 - General Election

The Associated Student Organization (ASO) used funding for our annual Constitution Day essay competition. This competition is facilitated by John Vento. This year there were 166 essay submissions and five awardees with prizes ranging from \$25-\$500 with the following prompt: “Which constitutional amendment do you think is most important, and why? Use specific evidence and references to the Constitution to support your answer.” Students were required to write no more 1880 words, 12 font, double spaced, in MLA format and include at least three citations.

Tina Leisner McDermott continued to advocate for civic engagement through her Public Speaking courses. Her students research topics related to voting, and any issue impacted by voting, for their informative speech assignment. Some examples of topics students choose to speak about are LGBTQIA+ rights, California ballot propositions, issues in the prison system, the Electoral College, Supreme Court cases, amendments to the Constitution, DACA, immigration issues, mail in ballots, women's fight for suffrage, age requirements for voting, etc. Students who take this course learn the importance of voting and the impact of it on their lives from local, state, to federal policies. Throughout the semester, Professor McDermott continuously encouraged students to register to vote and shares any relevant links or voting information with her classes. Students in her classes consistently stated that they gained a greater awareness and appreciation for the importance of voting through this course.

Our special population, Umoja, Student Equity, Dreamer Center, First Year Experience and Second Year Experience all supported the campaign to register students to vote. Special activities were incorporated into events sponsored by these programs. One of which was the history of special elections and past recalls in California. Students learned the importance of participating in the elections as they do not frequently occur.

The AVC Campus Team successfully informed the community about voter registration and the November general election information. Using online voting rights seminars, lists of important voting dates and deadlines, and candidate coverage, the team spread awareness throughout the campus. There were more than 10 outreach events for students, informing them how to access voting information and assisting them with registering to vote. In the Ballot Bowl Competition, AVC recorded 72 registrations.



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The success of the team supports the mission and brings awareness to voter registration, issues and candidates and need to get out the vote.

Civic Engagement Plan Goals and Action Steps:

- Identify the specific goals your plan is trying to address, and what are the concrete steps your institution is taking to get there.
 - Encourage voter registration through education on the logistics of voting and knowledge of the candidates and the issues.
 - Communication and reminders using the webpage, emails, and social media outlets
 - Utilize physical presence to establish increased visibility for voter registration and campaigns round civic and voter involvement.
 - Provide opportunities for the campus community to discuss social, political, and economic issues through candid and critical conversations, guest speakers and panel discussions
- What strategies are you using to educate and engage your students? Examples include social media outreach, PSA videos, campus flyers, concerts, etc.
 - A-Frames
 - Candid Conversations
 - Canvas Announcements
 - Syllabus Announcements
 - Emails
 - Flyers
 - Social Media
 - Webpage
- What events are planned to educate and engage your students? What are the specific dates you would like to highlight?*
- January
 - January 6, 2023 - Opening Day Register to Vote opportunity
 - Week of January 9, 2023 – Welcome Week Register to Vote opportunity
 - Week of January 16, 2023 - Club Rush Register to Vote opportunity
 - January 26, 2023 (Tentative) – Guest Speaker Anthony Scaramucci on January 6th
- February: Black History Month
 - Information Session: Reparations Task Force Update (TBD)
 - Guest Speaker: Freedom Riders
- March: Women’s History Month
 - Movie - Aftershock: Black Maternal Health (TBD)
 - Reproductive Health Impact Discussion (Roe v Wade Overturned) (TBD)
 - March 7, 8, 9, 2023 Register to Vote Opportunity
- April: Earth Day
 - Climate Change and Legislation (TBD)
- May
 - Memorial Day BBQ Register to Vote Opportunity (TBD)
- June



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- Juneteenth Register to Vote Opportunity (TBD)
- July
 - Independence Day Register to Vote Opportunity (TBD)
- August
 - August 18, 2023 - Opening Day Register to Vote opportunity
- September 11, 2023 - Patriot Day Memorial Event
- September 17, 2023 - Constitution Day Essay Contest (Prompt-TBD)
- September 26, 2023 - National Voter Registration Day
- October
 - TBD
- November
 - Prepare the discussions for 2024 election year

Event collaboration across campus to continue to register students to vote and to raise awareness of 2024 candidates and upcoming legislative issues

*No relevant scheduled elections for District 27 https://www.lavote.gov/docs/rccc/Election-Info/scheduled_elections_2023.pdf?v=11

Community Partnerships:

- To successfully activate your student body, it would be beneficial to create partnerships with on-campus and off-campus organizations that serve your students, or organizations your students are already involved in. This can include the following types of organizations:

AVC is currently collaborates amongst our campus groups and committees, such as:

- AVC Academic Departments
- AVC ASO and Inter-Club Council
- AVC Basic Needs
- AVC DREAMERs Center-Immigration Advocacy & Student Support
- AVC Student Equity

Off campus partnerships are also established ranging from health and well-being agencies, food and home insecurity focused agencies, and immigration advocacy groups.

Evaluation and Reporting:

- What is your institution's plan for a follow-up evaluation and report, and who will oversee this?
- After the creation of your engagement plan and the completion of the election, someone from your institution should be ready to provide a written update to the Secretary of State's Office about the election that includes lessons learned by your institution, and any other helpful information learned. Usually, the Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator oversees submission of the action plan and report.

Follow-up evaluation and reports will be overseen by the committee chair and monitored by the committee.

Evaluation strategies include:

- Event evaluations
- Campus and Committee debriefings
- Participation rates for student engagement in planned activities

