

## **Civic Engagement Action Plan**

The Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School (IOP) was established in 1966 as a memorial to President John F. Kennedy. The IOP's mission is to unite and engage students, particularly undergraduates, with academics, politicians, activists, and policymakers on a non-partisan basis to inspire them to consider careers in politics and public service. The Institute strives to promote greater understanding and cooperation between the academic world and the world of politics and public affairs.

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In 2017, the IOP established *Harvard Votes*, a political action campaign that aims to inspire students across campus toward civic responsibility. Through this initiative, Harvard held its first recognized National Voter Registration Day in conjunction with the Harvard Institute of Politics. This event combined voter education, engagement and civic action. Over one thousand students were registered and pledged to vote during the course of recognizing National Registration Day.

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### **Endorsing Voter Turnout**

#### *Integrated Voter Registration*

The Institute of Politics has partnered with TurboVote since 2011 to help students register to vote, request absentee ballots, and remind them about upcoming elections and voter deadlines. This process alerts students to vote and helps them mail materials needed to complete the registration process.

#### *Pledge to Vote Cards*

During the Fall 2017 state and local election cycle Harvard Vote administered pledge-to- vote cards, collecting student information and tying their names into a voter database.

### **Bi-partisan Participation**

#### *Midterm Madness*

The presidential election may be over, but we have every reason to stay involved. The 2018 midterm elections offer a unique opportunity to re-energize student interest in national politics. The 2018 midterm results will have a huge impact on pressing policy issues such as redistricting, healthcare, and immigration reform. Students are reminded of the upcoming elections through Harvard Votes and encouraged to engage with the process of civic engagement.

#### *National Campaign Conference*

Every year students gather for the IOP's annual National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement. During the National Campaign Conference, IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe led a town hall with 70 student ambassadors to identify some of the biggest issues facing America today. The process, which has been used to crowdsource solutions to other problems facing federal, state and local governments, resulted in the selection of three main topics for further development by student leaders. Harvard students implemented their reports shared at the conference on campus, and remain energized to implement these solutions on a local and national scale.