



# CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, June 12, 2020**

**Contact: Ashlynn Profit,**  
[Ashlynn@civication.org](mailto:Ashlynn@civication.org)  
**Crystal Carlson,**  
[Crystal@civication.org](mailto:Crystal@civication.org)

## **More than 160 Colleges and University Presidents Commit to 100% Student Voter Registration and Turnout**

*Higher education leaders from across the country signed the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Presidents' Commitment*

**(Washington, DC)** More than 160 college and university presidents and chancellors have committed to full student voter registration and voter participation of eligible students in all elections through the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's [Presidents' Commitment](#). The higher education leaders pledging to increase civic engagement on their campuses represent 33 states and the District of Columbia, historically black colleges and universities, community colleges and other two- and four-year institutions. The full list of signatories can be found [here](#).

"Today, young people are truly seeing how the decisions their elected officials make impact their everyday lives, and in this critical time, ensuring that they are able to make their voices heard safely is critical," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. "We are excited to partner with higher education leaders across the nation to change the culture at colleges and universities around engagement in our country's political process. We are calling on all college presidents and chancellors to make this commitment to their students, campuses and communities."

Higher education leaders have a responsibility to prepare students to become responsible and engaged participants in the country's democracy, and that includes exercising their right to register and to vote. Leaders who make the Presidents' Commitment pledge to:

- **Strive toward full student voter participation** by designating staff to lead this effort among the campus community;
- **Acknowledge the importance of student voice in all elections**, preparing students to be informed and active citizens, and creating experiences to help students become lifelong voters;
- **Empower** faculty, staff, students and community stakeholders to come together and determine solutions to the problems communities face;

- **Educate** voters to make informed decisions about issues and candidates in presidential, national, state and local elections; and
- **Actively participate** in a democratic engagement action plan to bolster an institutional culture that supports curricular and cocurricular involvement in the electoral process.

College students in particular have voted at one of the lowest rates of any group in the United States. While college student voter participation in elections increased from the 2014 midterm election to the recent 2018 midterm election, less than half of college students made their voices heard by casting their ballots. According to the [National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement](#), voter turnout at the more than 1,000 institutions participating in the study increased by 21 points from 19% to 40%.

Many students, for the first time in their lives, are moving away from home and have to adjust to a multitude of major events, which attributes to voter disengagement. The Presidents' Commitment empowers higher education leaders to support their student bodies in making their voices heard through voting and bolster civic engagement across their campuses.

The Presidents' Commitment is a part of the ALL IN Higher Education Presidents Council's mission to challenge institutions to make voter registration on college campuses a priority across the country. It is also informed by past legislation surrounding voter participation, including the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, both of which fronted avenues for college campuses to directly involve their students in the civic process.

**ABOUT ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge:**

The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) (ALL IN) is a national nonpartisan initiative of Civic Nation, a 501(c)(3) organization. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge strives to change civic culture and institutionalize democratic engagement activities and programs on college campuses, making voter participation a defining feature of campus life.

The Challenge, in collaboration with over 650 higher education institutions, seeks to; make participation in local, state, and federal elections a social norm; substantially increase the number of college students who are democratically engaged on an ongoing basis, during and between elections, and not just at the polls, and; make educating for democratic engagement on college campuses an accepted and expected part of the culture and curriculum so that students graduate with the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and values needed to be an informed and active citizen.

In the wake of COVID-19, ALL IN has assisted colleges and universities with resources to help support the virtual nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts of campuses by providing information on general voting and election updates along with Online Voter Registration and Vote-by-Mail/ Absentee Ballot requests.

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