

2016 Voter Friendly Campus Designation & ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge



MIAMI UNIVERSITY

OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809

Oxford Campus Plan



About Miami

Nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding undergraduate institutions, Miami University is a public university located in Oxford, Ohio. With a student body of 16,000, Miami effectively combines a wide range of strong academic programs with faculty who love to teach and the personal attention ordinarily found only at much smaller institutions.

Miami University prides itself on attracting and developing future leaders. Leadership often carries the expectation of strong civic engagement, and at the very least knowledge of and participation in the electoral process. We strive to have Miami students vote at rates that are higher than the national average. We believe that executing on this civic responsibility immediately following eligibility -- which is what occurs for most Miami students -- can be important in developing lifelong participation and commitment to the process.

Freedom Summer

The Mississippi Summer Project of 1964, commonly known as Freedom Summer, was a creative campaign to shine the national spotlight on Jim Crow Mississippi. Activists, with the help of college student volunteers, created grassroots networks to provide education, register voters and provide community support to marginalized Mississippi communities. The key to unlock the South was the vote, and activists provided literacy education, citizenship schools, and nonviolent direct action training in order to get African Americans to the polls and reveal the violent resistance that they faced. The struggle of African American citizens to vote led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and by the 1980s, African American political participation in Mississippi exploded with black elected officials at all level of government: local, state and federal.

In 1964, Western College for Women (now part of Miami University's campus) hosted the training session for the Freedom Summer volunteers. College students and national civil rights leaders came to the campus from all over the country to learn about legal rights, voter registration strategies, and nonviolent direct action. Many volunteers would teach Freedom Schools that educated young Mississippians about citizenship rights. Others would canvas door to door to encourage African Americans to go to the courthouse to register to vote.



Overview

Miami University identified three main goals we hoped to meet by becoming a part of the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

- Increase Voter Registration
- Increase Voter Turnout
- Offer more opportunities for students to engage in civic learning experiences, both curricular and co-curricular.

We will not be able to definitively say if Goals 1 and 2 were achieved until we receive our NSLVE report in Spring 2017. The National Survey of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), conducted by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University in collaboration with the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), provides Miami University with important baseline data regarding voter engagement (see attached). According to the NSLVE, during the 2012 Presidential Election, Miami had a total overall student voting rate of 51%, as compared to 46.9% at all institutions.

This is the first year that a campus-wide coalition was formed to develop and implement civic engagement programming pre-election. Thus, there is no accurate account of previous programming offered. Thanks to the coalition formed in summer of 2016, many new initiatives were developed. These include, but are not limited to, a voter registration training session, official voter registration locations in two campus locations, early voting bus trips, election day tabling, and the #MiamiOHvotes hashtag. Therefore, it is safe to say that the third goal was successfully achieved.



#MiamiOHvotes

Coalition

Point of Contact:

Jessica R. Weasner
Assistant Director, Office of Community Engagement and Service
Miami University
weasnejr@miamioh.edu
219 E. Spring St., Oxford, OH 45056-2816
(513) 529-2961 Phone / (513) 529-6527 Fax

Coalition Members:

Mike Curme
Associate VP & Dean of Students, Division of Student Affairs, Miami University
curmema@miamioh.edu

Jen O'Brien
Director of Off Campus Outreach and Communication, Miami University
obrienjc@miamioh.edu

Courtney Wallace
Leadership Programs Coordinator, Wilks Leadership Institute, Miami University
wallacc5@miamioh.edu

Jane Goettsch
Director, Women's Center, Miami University
goettsjm@miamioh.edu

Rhonda Jackson
Administrative Assistant, Women's Center, Miami University
jacksorj@miamioh.edu

J. Andrew Zeisler, M.Ed.
Director, Student Disability Services (SDS), Miami University
zeisleja@miamioh.edu

Kyleen Ammerman
Assistant Director, Residence Life, Miami University
ammermk@miamioh.edu

JS Bragg
Assistant Director of the Office of Student Activities and Fraternity & Sorority Life, Miami University
braggjs@miamioh.edu

Kathleen Knight Abowitz
Professor & Chair, Department of Educational Leadership, Miami University
knightk2@miamioh.edu

Patrick J. Haney
Professor & Chair, Department of Political Science, Miami University
haneypj@miamioh.edu

Glenn W. Muschert
Professor, Sociology and Social Justice Studies, Miami University
muschegw@MiamiOH.edu

Ann Elizabeth Armstrong
Associate Professor of Theatre, Miami University, Director of Freedom Summer App
armstra2@miamioh.edu

Rebekah Bolser
Vote Everywhere Ambassador. Student, Miami University
bolserrm@miamioh.edu

Kate Rousmaniere
Mayor, City of Oxford Ohio
Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Miami University
rousmak@miamioh.edu
krousmaniere@cityofoxford.org

Tammy Cuevas
Community Outreach Coordinator, Butler County Board of Elections
cuevast@butlercountyohio.org

Prue Dana
Co-President for Voter Service, Oxford League of Women Voters
Former Mayor, City of Oxford Ohio

Christie Zwahlen
Director, Office of Community Engagement and Service
zwahleca@miamioh.edu

Analysis

This is Miami's first time applying for the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. We found having a coalition extremely helpful in our voter engagement work. Specifically, it gave us more insight into the multitude of efforts taking place on Miami's campus, and was helpful in delegation and collaboration.

The coalition met three times. Twice before the beginning of the school year and once post-election. The dates were:

- Wednesday, June 29, 2016
- Tuesday, July 19, 2016
- Tuesday, November 29, 2016

One area for improvement would be meeting on a more regular basis; at least once per month. This would help to keep the team updated on any changes to initiatives or problems encountered. OCES is working on putting together a permanent political/civic engagement committee that will meet on a monthly basis. This committee will be comprised of students, faculty, professional staff, and community partners and will help to develop and coordinate initiatives and activities to encourage student civic engagement.

Additionally, we would have liked to include more students in the coalition. Because the Voter Friendly Plan was due in late July, the coalition met and did much of the planning over summer. The majority of Miami students are not on campus or in town during the summer, so this prevented them from being actively engaged in the formation of the campus plan.

YOUR VOICE.

YOUR VOTE.

Voter Registration

- **Office of Community Engagement and Service (OCES)**
 - All staff will be trained on voter registration.
 - Voter registration forms will be available at the front desk during regular business hours. Students who register are given “I registered to vote” stickers upon completion.
 - Voter registration forms could be dropped off at OCES during business hours. OCES will mail or deliver forms to Butler County Board of Elections.
 - “Register to Vote Here” signs were placed in front of the building.
- **Andrew Goodman Foundation - Vote Everywhere Program**
 - Voter Everywhere Ambassadors will train interested student volunteers on voter registration.
 - Ambassadors will organize voter registration tabling on campus throughout the month of September.
 - Ambassadors will work with politically focused student organizations to coordinate educational programming and debate watch parties on campus.
- **Miami University Women’s Center & the League of Women Voters of Oxford**
 - The Women's Center partners with the League of Women Voters of Oxford each August to celebrate Women's Equality Day. A voter registration table will be set up in the Armstrong Student Center. The League provides the necessary paperwork, registers new voters, and sends the completed forms to the Board of Elections.
 - Voter registration forms are available in the Women’s Center during regular business hours.

 **Miami Student Life** @MiamiOH_Student · Aug 31
 Register to vote today until 4 pm with @MiamiOHWomenCtr in Armstrong!
 #MiamiOH #MiamiOHvotes



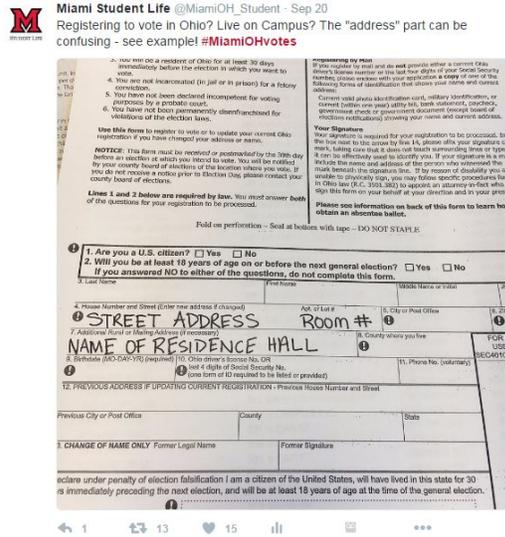
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- **Student Disability Services (SDS)**
 - Student Disability Services is a voter registration site as mandated by the National Voting Rights Act of 1993. SDS works with individuals, with and without disabilities, to provide voter registration materials and will also mail in voter registration applications and change of address information (as requested) the same day that they are completed. SDS also provides accommodations (i.e., scribe) in filling out forms if requested as well. Information about SDS's status as a voter registration site is listed on their website, in their office, and in printed resource materials that are given to all incoming first year students.
 - SDS will email a reminder to all students registered with SDS that they can come into the office and get registered to vote.
- **Dean of Students**
 - Distributes an email to all students about voter registration and rights. Emails all students a reminder on the morning of election day.
- **Armstrong Student Center**
 - Voter registration forms will be available in the kiosk at front of Armstrong.
- **Associated Student Government**
 - Voter registration forms are available in the ASG office in the Armstrong Student Center
 - Might be able to provide a banner to go outside of Shriver (polling location)
- **Oxford Center for Peace and Justice & League of Women Voters**
 - Will host voter registration tables at Miami's Latin American Festival and the Oxford pig roast
- **Global Initiatives**
 - Staff will contact students preparing to study abroad for the semester to inform them of the steps necessary to request an absentee ballot.
- **Sociology and Social Justice Studies Programs**
 - Throughout the month of September, Distribution of Voter Registration forms with instructions to students in SOC 153, Sociology in a Global Context (250 students with university-wide enrollment); and SJS/SOC 165, Introduction to Social Justice Studies (200 students with university-wide enrollment).
 - Email and social media blast from program advisors to all student advisees regarding how they can get access to voter registration materials. This blast would go to all students enrolled in Sociology, Social Justice Studies, Criminology, and Disability Studies curricula (inclusive of all major, minor, and thematic sequence student enrollees).
- **Off Campus Outreach**
 - Voter registration for commuter students, August 31st, in the Commuter Center.
 - Social media support from the central Student Affairs social media accounts

Analysis

Voter Registration forms were made available at three main locations on Miami’s campus throughout the fall semester. Additionally, a number of student organizations did voter registration tabling. Because Ohio does not require individuals hosting voter registration events to register with their local Board of Elections, we do not have a good sense of exactly how many voter registration drives took place. Beginning in 2017, Ohio voter registration will be available online. Miami staff will work with the local Board of Elections to determine how this will change our voter registration efforts in the future.

We discovered that many of our on-campus students did not know how to properly complete their voter registration forms, especially the address section. This led to the development of a sample voter registration form (see image). Individuals responsible for collecting voter registration forms were provided with explicit instructions and were asked to check all forms before accepting them. Even so, a number of incorrect forms were submitted. OCES staff worked with the Office of Residence Life to clarify any address problems before forms were submitted to the Board of Elections.



Site / Event	Voter Registration Forms Submitted
Women’s Equality Day Voter Registration Tabling Event	123
Armstrong Student Center Info Desk	270
Commuter Center Voter Registration Event	40
National Voter Registration Day Event	72
Residence Life and Residence Hall Association Voter Registration Event	152
Office of Community Engagement and Service	80
Total	737

M **MIAMI STUDENT LIFE** @MiamiOH_Student · Sep 27
2 WEEKS til the Ohio Registration deadline! Register on campus at Armstrong or Hanna House! #NationalVoterRegistrationDay #MiamiOHvotes



7 2



M **MIAMI STUDENT LIFE** @MiamiOH_Student · Oct 11
Today is the LAST DAY to register to vote in Ohio. Get registered at Hanna House and get a free cookie!! #MiamiOHvotes #MiamiOH



8 12

Voter Education

- **Citizenship & Democracy Week 2016**
 - The Office of Community Engagement and Service, Miami University Hamilton's Center for Civic Engagement, Miami University Middletown's Office of Community Engagement and Service, and the Department of Justice & Community Studies partner to plan events for the week of Sept. 12 - 17.
- **Dean of Students**
 - Miami University hosts a student voting rights website (www.MiamiOH.edu/vote) and the Dean of Students office sends out an annual email to all students informing them of their voting rights and where to access additional information, including a voter registration and information-update form.
- **Vote Everywhere Ambassadors**
 - The Office of Community Engagement and Service oversees the Andrew Goodman Foundation's Vote Everywhere program. Vote Everywhere is a nonpartisan, experiential program that recruits, trains and supports emerging leaders at America's colleges and universities. Our students strengthen democracy by leading long-term voter engagement, public policy and social justice initiatives. Vote Everywhere partners with college campuses that share The AGF's commitment to nonpartisan civic and political engagement. AGF advances and deepen each school's civic engagement work by identifying, training, and supporting emerging campus leaders. In addition, the Vote Everywhere program enables colleges and universities to seamlessly comply with the voter registration requirements set forth in the Higher Education Act. AGF's school partners appoint a professional staff member to serve as a Campus Champion. Champions create meaningful experiences for students by connecting them to related campus initiatives and providing access to events and relevant opportunities.
 - Ambassadors will coordinate events on campus throughout the fall, including voter registration tables, debate watch parties and speakers.
- **OCES and Off Campus Outreach & Communications**
 - A pamphlet titled "Your Voice, Your Vote" is distributed to off-campus students during Miami's Walkabout program.
 - "Your Voice, Your Vote" pamphlets will be available to students at events throughout Welcome Week, at Mega Fair, and at other campus events.
 - Utilize hashtag #MiamiOHvotes when posting campus and community events related to voting and the election on social media.
- **Department of Educational Leadership**
 - Throughout the month of September, Distribution of Voter Registration forms with instructions to students in EDL 204, Sociocultural Studies in Education (300 undergraduate education and humanities students); EDL 318, Teacher Leadership

(150 teacher education students) and two sections (40 students) of EDL 232, Introduction to Community Based Leadership.

- **Office of Residence Life**

- In partnership with OCES and Off Campus Outreach & Communications, RAs will put up bulletin boards with voter registration and rights information in residence halls. Across campus this will total 40 bulletin boards.
- The Office of Residence Life sponsored a RA training session on civil discourse.

They

report that over half of all RAs attended.

- **Humanities Center**

- Lecture by Robin B. Wright -
<http://www.units.miamioh.edu/humanitiescenter/node/608>

- **Freedom Summer App**

- Since 2001, Miami University has sponsored several programs to teach about this local history of Freedom Summer and its national connections (<http://miamioh.edu/news/top-stories/2014/06/freedom-summer-50th-feature.html>). In 2014, a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start Up project funded a unique project using mobile technology and interactive media that transports students to 1964 to train as Freedom Summer volunteers. The Freedom Summer App is a location-based game that uses a mobile device and GPS technology. Historic media from 1964 is embedded in a map, and, as participants follow in the footsteps of freedom fighters on the site where events took place, they unlock the story of a Freedom Summer volunteer. Through a branching narrative, participants make choices and discover what it takes to be an activist and stand up for democracy. Participants learn through role play activities and discover what it is like to register to vote or face violent resistance. The history of Freedom Summer makes it clear what is at stake today in political participation. By understanding the struggles of the past, students reflect on what is at stake in the future. Furthermore, Freedom Summer underscores the critical role of college students who have a voice in the political process and can take action to advocate for a democratic vision of the world they will inherit. The Freedom Summer App will be a chance for student volunteers from voter registration efforts to learn more about the history of voting and consider efforts to engage democratic participation today.

- **Political Science**

- Offering special course “Election 2016” during Fall 2016, in addition to the regular Campaigns and Elections course and American Political Parties Course.
- Constitution Day event and JANUS Conference, featuring Yale’s Akhil Amar and the National Constitution Center’s Jeffrey Rosen. September 22.
- Janus Forum featuring Ambassador Wendy Sherman and Admiral James Stavridis on the foreign and security policy challenges for the next administration. October 26.

- **Institutional Research**

- The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) takes place on Miami's campus. The NSLVE offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn their student registration and voting rates and, for interested campuses, a closer examination of their campus climate for political learning and engagement and correlations between specific student learning experiences and voting.

Analysis

Many new initiatives were developed, but there is still much room for improvement in the area of voter education. Staff observed confusion from students about where to register (home or campus), how to vote (it's okay to leave things blank), and who local candidates were.

The League of Women voters non-partisan guide was available at the OCES table during Party at the Polls. Additionally, non-partisan candidate guides were available for Presidential and Senate candidates. Also, the Office of Community Engagement and Service shared frequent reminders and links to useful information via their Facebook and Instagram.



Miami University - Office of Community Engagement and Service
Published by Jessie Weasner [?] · September 27 · 🌐

Check your voter registration status, state deadlines, and educate yourself about the candidates and issues. #MiamiOHvotes

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Vote411.org | Vote411.org
Enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online voters' guide and much more!
With our voters' guide you can see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences as a
VOTE411.ORG

Two post-election events were held during the fall semester.

- **Continuing to Pursue Change**
 - This post-election event was put together under the directive of President Crawford. A representative from Student Counseling Service spoke to the 50 students, faculty, and staff who attended about how to process unexpected change in our lives. The director of the Office of Community Engagement and Service also spoke on how to remain civically engaged after the presidential elections, offering resources and tips.
- **Student Engagement and Leadership Workshop: Free Speech and Demonstrations on Campus**
 - This program, developed in collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement and Service and Andrew Goodman Foundation, discussed the importance of free speech and reviewed Miami policies on public demonstration, right of expression, and political activity. Examples of successful free speech demonstrations were provided. Nine students participated.

Ballot Access

- **On Campus Polling Site**
 - The polling location for all on-campus students is on-campus in the Heritage Room in the Shriver Center on Spring Street.
- **Address Verification**
 - Because Ohio voting requirements are a Picture ID (other than a Miami ID) and proof of current address, Miami provides on-campus students the ability to generate a proof of address letter through our online portal, MyMiami.
- **Mock Election / Straw Poll**
 - The Office of Community Engagement and Service and the Butler County Board of Elections will be hosting a Mock Election on campus during Citizenship and Democracy Week. The November general election ballot for Butler County will be used. All students, regardless of voter registration or citizenship status, will be able to participate. Students will also be able to register to vote at the event. Mock Elections will also take place on the Miami Hamilton and Middletown campuses. The Board of Elections will make the results available to the public.
- **Increase Number of Poll Workers**
 - Poll worker training will be advertised to students via social media and in classes. The Board of Elections is willing to host an on-campus training session if enough students are interested.
- **Student Disability Services**
 - Will provide assistance for individuals with disabilities on election day if necessary.

Analysis

To ensure that students had the proper identification necessary to vote in Ohio, the Office of Community Engagement and Service held a “Party at the Polls” event outside the campus polling location in the Shriver Center. Students were reminded how to access the “Voter Proof of Address” letter provided by Miami University on their smart phones. For any students who did not have a smart phone, OCES had tablets available to borrow.

The Board of Elections was able to recruit a number of younger poll workers this year, which they believe helped to make the lines go a bit quicker. The BOE reports that across the county, lines on Election Day were no longer than 45 minutes.



Get Out the Vote

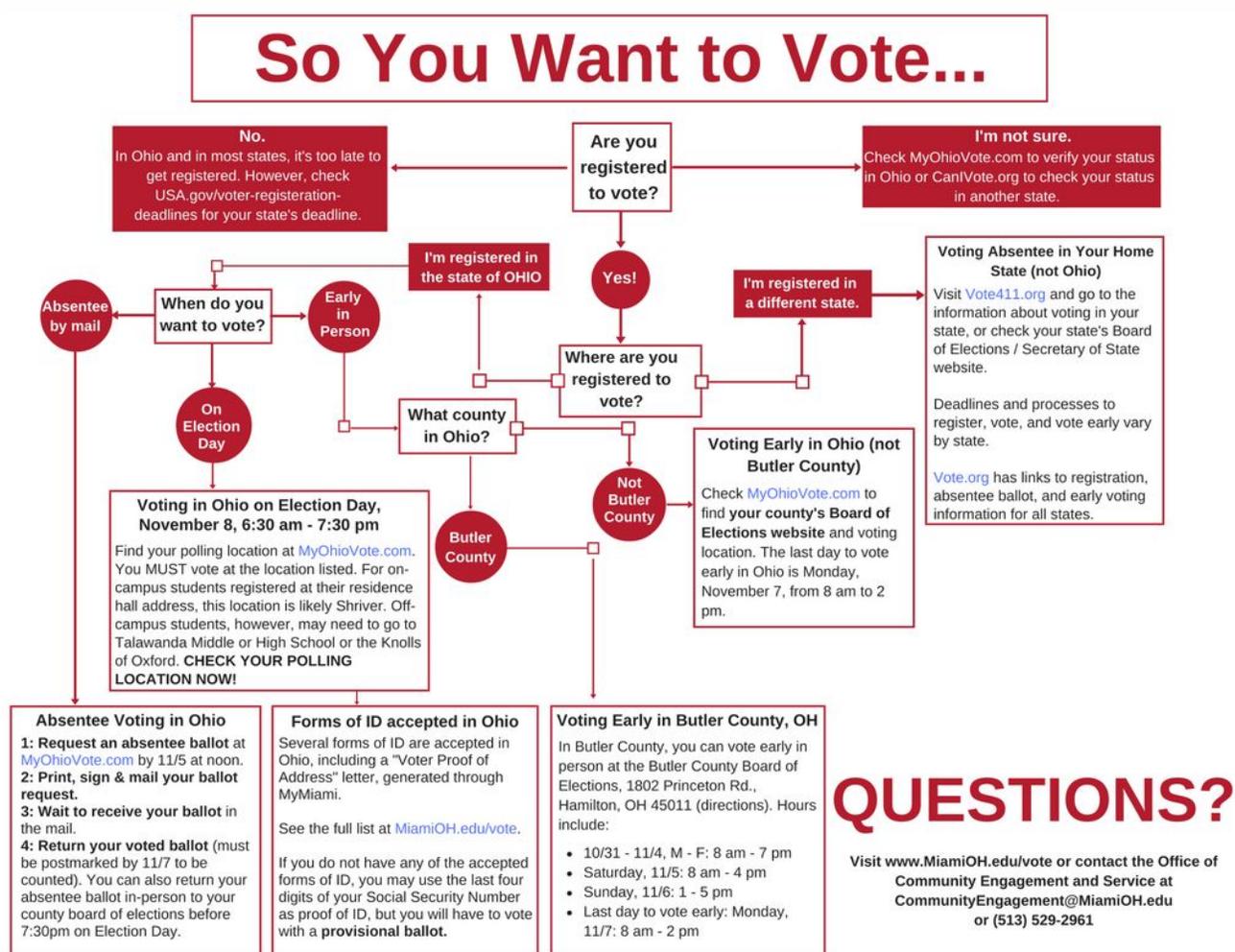
- **Transportation to polls**
 - Recruit community volunteers via organizations like Kiwanis, Rotary and League of Women Voters to transport students from campus to the two other polling places in Oxford.
 - Request that Associated Student Government and/or Residence Hall Association sponsor a bus to transport students to and from polling places.
- **Dean of Students**
 - An email will be sent to all students on the morning of election day. It will include a link for students to access and download their address verification form.
- **Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassadors**
 - Explore possibility of hosting a table outside of Shriver Center (polling place) to remind students of the required identification necessary to vote and to direct students to the appropriate polling place if necessary.
- **Off Campus Outreach and Communications**
 - Promote hashtag #MiamiOHvotes. Encourage students to post a photo with “I voted” sticker.



Analysis

Final voter participation numbers will not be available until Spring 2017, when Miami receives an updated NSLVE report.

The Dean of Students sends out a reminder email to all students on election day. This year, an additional email the week before the election was added. The November 2nd email, titled "Information for Registered Voters" reminded students that Election Day was on November 8th and asked students if they had a plan to vote. An infographic, "So You Want to Vote..." was included in the email.



The Office of Community Engagement and Service sponsored two bus trips to the Butler County Board of Elections on the Saturday before Election Day.

Miami University - Office of Community Engagement and Service with Ali Forster and 3 others at **Butler County Board of Elections**.
Published by Jessie Weasner [?] · November 5 · 🌐

The first trip of the day was a success. Our bus driver early voted too! If you want to vote early, meet us at Shriver at 1:30pm for a free trip to the Butler County Board of Elections. #MiamiOHvotes #MiamiOH #voteeverywhere



500 people reached Boost Post

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

👍❤️ 9



Frequent reminders about Election Day were sent out via social media by OCES, Student Life, Miami University, and President Crawford.

miamioh_oces
Shriver Center



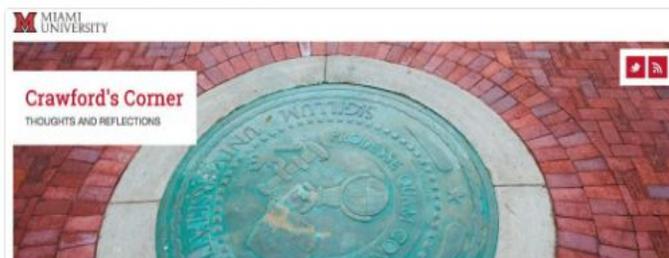
👍❤️ 15 likes

miamioh_oces Just two hours left to cast your ballot. Polls in Ohio close at 7:30 pm. Make sure your voice is heard on this historic election day!
#MiamiOHvotes #voterfriendlycampus

NOVEMBER 8

Greg Crawford @PresGreg · Nov 7

Exercise your right to vote this **#ElectionDay**. "The Privilege of Voting – A First for Many Students":
blogs.miamioh.edu/president/2016 ...
#MiamiOH #vote



👍❤️ 28 🔄 15



Miami University @miamiuniversity · Nov 8

Miami students exercising their right to vote at Shriver. Share your photos using #MiamiOHvotes 🇺🇸 #MiamiOH #vote #ElectionDay



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