

Regis College

All In Campus Democracy Challenge

Overview:

Regis College and their founding organization the Sister of St. Joseph of Boston have committed themselves to a firm commitment in Civic Engagement amongst students, staff, faculty and fellow citizens. Regis College has a strong history of political participation, from meaningful dialogue to active protests by the Sister of St. Joseph. Founded in 1927, Regis has dedicated itself to the mission of lending a hand to the dear neighbor, without distinction. With Regis College being located only 12 miles from Boston, an area that was the spark for the Revolution itself to kick off; from Lexington and Concord to the Battle of Bunker Hill. Such proximity is a constant reminder of what our duty as American citizens truly is. As a result, to be participatory in civic dialogue is not only important for the election of our next President, but to the dedication as citizens to the republic itself.

Not only is the Sisters of St. Joseph committing themselves to civic engagement, but fellow Catholic organizations such as the Leadership Conference for Women Religious, who represent almost 50,000 women across the country, collected over 5,600 signatures on a letter to both Presidential candidates to engage in civic dialogue reflecting the nature of the founding of our nation. We as a community have a duty to each other, our forebears and our country to participate in this years presidential election.

Committee members:

- Kelly Golden, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Chief Conduct Officer
- Gabrielle Telemaque, Political Science, Intern of Marketing and Communications
- Taylor Garner, Political Science, Intern of Voter Registration and Engagement
- Kelley Tuthill, Vice President of Marketing and Communications
- Erin Wisniewski, Director of Student Programming and Leadership
- Courtney Mulligan, Director of Disability and Accessibility Services
- Elena DeFelice, Creative Manager
- Lindsey Honig, Digital Communications Associate
- Nancy Rosata, Associate Director, Fine Arts Center
- Katya Rego, Executive Assistant to the President
- Priscilla Boerger, Associate Professor & Department Chair, Education
- Members of the Political and Global Events club

Voter Engagement:

Currently alongside Student Affairs, two interns have been hired to aid in the organization of voter engagement efforts on campus. Including those are the Political and Global Events club who will be aiding in organizing debate viewing parties, helping disseminate voter information, paperwork and working with Student Affairs to build campus engagement in civic discourse and dialogue. There are also efforts amongst state issues with Ballot Questions 2 and 4, on state charter schools and the use of cannabis respectively. In the days before the general election, we will have a broadcast done from the Fine Arts Center with area newscaster Dan Rea on the political atmosphere on college campuses. The famous public traveling group the Capitol Steps will also be coming to the Fine Arts Center to perform the night before election day. This last push to inspire people with laughter will hopefully increase the numbers of those who head to the polls the following day. We have also developed a campus wide Snapchat filter designed specifically for the Regis College voter engagement efforts.

-Intern of Marketing and Communications

- Managing viewing parties
- Purchase of merchandise
- Poster and Video campaign

-Intern of Voter Registration and Engagement

- Oversee voter registration forms/voter ballots
- Review participation numbers and see how they may be improved
- Organizing registration events
- Collection/Distribution of paperwork to voters

Timeline:

September:

Tuesday, September 13th	Voter registration table during Convocation
Monday, September 26th	Pie a Professor, where if a student registers to vote they can pie a professor. 1-3pm on the Quad
Monday, September 26th	Presidential Debate Watch in the Maria Hall Multipurpose Room. 8:30-10:30pm

October:

Tuesday, October 4	Vice-Presidential Debate Viewing, hosted by Political Action and Global Events group During the day: Voter registration table
Thursday, October 13th	Forum on MA Ballot Question #4 with Metrowest Daily News. Upper Student Center <i>Voter registration table present</i>
Saturday, October 15th	Photobooth fun by the Tailgate
Thursday, October 20th	#ThursdayThoughts meeting in the Upper Student Center, 12:30pm
Tuesday, October 25th	Forum on MA Ballot Question #2 in the Upper Student Center

November:

Tuesday, November 1st	Live broadcast of Nightside with Dan Rea from 8-10pm in the Fine Arts Center
Wednesday, November 2	Adulting 101: Why Your Vote Matters <i>Session for senior students on why voting matters and their opinions on this year's election</i>
Thursday, November 3	"Why the Electoral College Matters" lunch session hosted by academics
Monday, November 7th	Day: Lunch Jam in the Quad; single along about the reflection Evening: Performance of Capitol Steps at 7:30pm in the Casey Theater
Tuesday, November 8th	Presidential Election Viewing Night at 7pm in the Lower Student Center
Wednesday, November 9th	Post-election conversations in the dining hall; student affairs and ministry staff present
Thursday, November 10th	Thoughtful Thursdays: election healing and reconciliation time in Peace Room
Monday, November 20	Election Reflection, hosted by Political Action and Global Events group

Summary:

In essence, Regis College, its student body, those associated with the community and the rest of our fellow citizens have been presented once again with an opportunity to participate in a 240 year old tradition of choosing this country's next leader. The founding fathers constructed a republic from the ground up, both at the fields of Yorktown to the halls of the U.S. Capitol. Regardless of who may win, or who we vote for, participation in this year's election could not be more crucial. We must participate and not take for granted our right to vote, given to us by the Constitution itself. Regis College will take part whole heartedly in civic dialogue about the issues we face today.