

Wheaton College (MA) ALL IN Campus Civic Action Plan

Wheaton College (MA) is committed to developing global citizens prepared to lead in a complex world (Wheaton College Mission Statement). Multiple constituents on campus, including the Office of Service, Spirituality, and Social Responsibility, work to engage students in activities that will prepare them “to live purposeful lives, be engaged in their communities...and act effectively to promote change” (Wheaton College Vision 2014). In an effort to assist us in carrying out our vision, Wheaton created the #WheatonMAVotes campaign. This campaign encourages students to vote as engaged and informed democratic citizens through a series of programs designed to educate students from multiple perspectives in a non-partisan manner around some of the major issues during this important election season.

Constituents:

- Cassie Peltola (Assistant Director of Community Service and Engagement in the Office of Service, Spirituality, and Social Responsibility)
- Andrea Holden (Director of Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership)
- Kate Kenny (VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students)
- Joshua Steele Kelly (political club student leader and SSSR Civic Engagement Intern)
- Alex Gim-Fain (Student Government VP)
- Katie Elliot (Student Government President)
- Michael Lethin (Wheaton Conservatives Group Founder & President)
- Samuel Mahler (House of REPS member – political theme house president)
- Maya Benson (Dems representative)

Voter Drives/Registrations

- Friday September 2nd – Voter Registration Drive at Wheaton Clubs and Activities Fair (organized by SSSR, SAIL, and student leaders from on-campus political groups)
- Wheaton Cares Weekend of Service: 9/11 Days of Service and Remembrance – Students are given messages to remember to vote during pre-service orientation or post-service reflection (Organized by SSSR)
- Thursday September 22nd and Friday September 23rd – Roosevelt Institute tabled in Balfour Hood to support students in voter registration and requesting absentee ballots
- Monday October 3rd – October 7th – Voter Registration table in Balfour Hood Campus Center organized by House of Reps for 3 hours each day during meal times
- October 13th – “No Voter Left Behind” voter registration event (organized by Residential Life) in Balfour Hood Campus Center
- Wednesday October 12th - Friday October 14th – Political themed clubs/organizations and SSSR organized voter registration and information table in Balfour Hood Campus Center
- November 8th – Students were shuttled to the polls at Norton High School by interns and staff from the Office of Service, Spirituality, and Social Responsibility periodically throughout the day using the Wheaton van.

Debate & Election Results Night Viewing Parties

- September 26th – 1st Presidential Debate Viewing Party with snacks in Hindle Auditorium (organized by student political leaders, SAIL, and SSSR)
- October 4th – Vice Presidential Debate Viewing Party with snacks in Hindle Auditorium (organized by student political leaders, SAIL, and SSSR)
- October 9th – 2nd Presidential Debate Viewing Party with snacks in Hindle Auditorium (organized by student political leaders, SAIL, and SSSR)
- October 19th – 3rd Presidential Debate Viewing Party with snacks in Hindle Auditorium (organized by student political leaders, SAIL, and SSSR)
- November 8th Election Results Night Viewing Party – Leaders of political-themed clubs on campus were to host a large viewing party in Balfour Hood Campus Center. Each club was responsible for decorating and hosting by facilitating/encouraging discussion in assigned rooms in the campus center as well as choosing one news station to display on the television in that room so that attendees could watch different stations simply by changing rooms. Snacks and pizza provided for all in an effort to attract wide range of students.

Voter Education & Campus Conversations

- Sunday September 18th - Jill Stein visited campus in an effort to educate students about third party candidates and encourage them to research candidates and their issues in order to make informed voting decisions (organized by House of Reps)
- Wednesday September 28th – Professor Brad Bishop hosted a discussion on the state of our current political system in “What’s at Stake”
- During the months of October and November, Roosevelt Institute hosted weekly talks on Wednesdays in partnership with May Fellows, a group of student leaders, on different major political issues of our time
- Friday October 14th – Michael Dukakis spoke at Wheaton about the importance of public service and to field Wheaton student questions.
- October 20th – Chaplain Bernard Hinckley and Religious Studies faculty member Barbara Darling hosted a conversation on “Religion and Politics”
- November 2nd – Political Science faculty member, Tommy Ratliff hosted a discussion on “Voting Theory”
- November 2nd – 7th - Mock Presidential Election – In the week leading up the election, students were asked to cast a mock vote on our campus activities student organization portal, “The Link” (Collegiate Link) in an effort to remind them the election was coming and show them that they should let their voice be heard by getting out and voting.
- November 7th – Presidential Mock Debate - Four Wheaton student leaders from political themed groups impersonated the presidential candidates in a mock debate in an effort to refocus student’s attention on the candidate’s stances on major issues. The debate was moderated by Political Science Faculty Brad Bishop and John Miller as well as VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Kate Kenny. Announcements were made after the mock debate regarding the Wheaton College mock election results and the shuttles that would be available to transport students to the Norton polls.
- November 9th – Community Conversation around Election Results – all members of the Wheaton community were invited to the Chapel, Wheaton’s largest gathering space, in

order to have a conversation about the impact of the election results and to provide students with a space to process their feelings around the results.

- November 21st – SSSR Civic Engagement Intern presented a workshop on how to run for office for students who are motivated by their feelings about the election results to take action.