Denison Voter Engagement Initiative

The team consist of the following:
- CEEP Fellow: Tabby Reyes
- CLIC Voting Fellow: Ramsey Bristol
- Associate Director Alford CLIC: Susie Kalinoski
- Community member/retired Denison Faculty: Lyn Robinson
- League of Women Voters: Rita Kipp
- Denison Librarian: Roger Kosson
- Alford CLIC Program Coordinator: Katie McKenney
- Community Coordinator for Civic Engagement: Rose Troyer
- Director Alford CLIC: Matthew Vetter
- Various student leaders

Our Mission - Through passionate and consistent efforts, we will spread information on campus that showcases how voting can lead to a more connected and well-informed society.

Our Vision - As a small campus, we want to ensure a highly visible and active “voter committee” that connects campus resources and empowers students to access their right to vote. Through our efforts, we hope to increase our voting total by 10%.

Why? - Millennials are now one of the largest groups in the electorate. However, the voter-turnout rate for ages 18-29 is still the lowest percentage. There are a variety of reasons students don’t cast their vote. Factors could range from being misinformed to simply not having enough time. Whichever the case may be, we want to ensure students recognize the importance of voting.

Registering to vote is a huge step towards becoming a more engaged citizen. Ballots are the easiest way to achieve systemic changes. Voting also gives the ability to focus on the topics that matter most to individuals, such as environmental policy.

Especially as a small campus in a swing-state, our vote really does have the ability to make a change. In just this year alone, approximately 59 elections in Ohio were determined by one vote or they ended in ties. When races end in the ties, candidates are chosen either through a coin toss or drawing a name from a hat. Students should know that when they aren’t voting, they may be letting a hat run the country for them.

Event Planning

Voter Registration:

1. Place voter registration forms in all student mailboxes with information about how to register and how to vote.
2. Dorm Competition for housing quads: Each quad will compete to see who can register the most students/ get the most students out to vote. At the end of the election season, the quad with the most accumulated points will receive a cookout.
3. DU Nonpartisan Voter Registration: Our team will join our schools health center, Whisler, and register students to vote alongside therapy dogs biweekly on Mondays.
4. Provide a voter engagement table in our student union (Slayter) 24/7. A volunteer will be present at the table weekly to help students register, leading up to the voter-registration deadline of October 9. After the registration deadline ends, there will be candidate and ballot information available for students at all times.

5. Information on how to register will be posted throughout different buildings on campus and on our social media pages. (Instagram: @DUVOTES)

Voter Education:

1. The student voting fellows will attend meetings with all political campus groups. They will work on building relationships amongst the campus community and discovering how they can be supportive to other organizations’ events and projects.

2. There will be two Faculty Panel Talks in October.

3. Student-led discussions will be held and will include a Sustained Dialogue Trained Moderator. These events may be considered “Talk Ins,” which are short conversations with small 4 person groups in the Student Union and student dining halls.

4. A Jeopardy night in the student late night snack bar, Bandersnatch, will be held in Mid October.

5. Halloween Trick or Vote in the Residence Halls (Dorm Storm): Student fellows will go door to door encouraging early voting and hand out voter information on October 29.

6. The previous registration table in the Student Union will now provide information on candidates and issues that will be on the November ballot.

“Get Out and Vote”:

1. Early Voter Gets the Gummy Worm: Student shuttles will be provided for early voting up to Election Day. When students vote early, they will receive a small bag gummy worms in the shuttle.

2. A rally will be held on November 6 with all campus student organizations willing to volunteer. The rally will promote voting through a friendly ambiance and tables with voter information.