Overview

At Indiana State University, our focus is on engaging students in elections via voter registration, voter education, and voter participation. To do this, university efforts include the following:

1.) Expand our campus vote center
   a. Vote center available to anyone registered to vote in Vigo County
   b. Vote center available in primary and general elections
   c. More voting booths to decrease waiting in lines

2.) Maintain TurboVote as the central mode of campus voter registration
   a. TurboVote is a permanent badge on the ISU student and staff portal available to anyone in the campus community; TurboVote provides accessible voter registration and voter information
   b. TurboVote now widely promoted throughout campus

3.) Collaboration across campus units to promote voter engagement
   a. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators are collaborating to promote voting and civic engagement on the campus via the Campus Vote Plan Steering Committee and additional mechanisms
   b. American Democracy Project has staff to assist in voter engagement efforts and programming for student groups, classes, etc.

Commitment

Indiana State University has incorporated voter registration, voter turnout, and political engagement into its University overall voter plan.

Voter Registration and Voter Turnout: Past and Present

The goal of the Campus Vote Plan Steering Committee is to increase campus voter registration and turnout. Data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), report that in the 2014 midterm election, 60.7% of ISU students were registered to vote and 12.2% voted. In the 2016 presidential election, 79% of ISU students were registered while 44% voted. The goals for 2018 were to increase voter registration and voter turnout rates to 66.3% voter registration and 15.8% voter turnout, an increase of 5.6% and 3.6% from the 2014 election respectively. Data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), reported that in the 2018 midterm election, 76% of ISU students were registered to vote and 37.7% voted. The goals for 2020 are to increase voter registration to 85% voter registration and voter turn out to 55%, an increase of 6% and 11% from the 2016 election respectively.
Coalition

The Indiana State University Campus Vote Plan Steering Committee represents a cross-section of the campus. With members from academic affairs, student affairs, and university engagement, including faculty, staff, and students, the steering committee is focused on reaching all segments of the campus. The committee’s work centralizes on opportunities for student voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout. Committee members meet at least twice per year to draft plans for voter engagement efforts. From this, the chair works with members of the committee and their departments, as well as other campus departments, to carry out the engagement. The President of Student Government Association, a member of the Steering Committee, oversees a committee of students to create, plan, and implement campus voter engagement. In addition, the American Democracy Project, coordinated by the chair of this committee, provides financial and logistical assistance to student groups interested in hosting voter engagement programming and events.

Leadership

Jennifer Christian (Chair)
Assistant Director, Center for Community Engagement
Campus Coordinator, American Democracy Project

Lucille Utterback
Graduate Assistant, Center for Community Engagement
Student Coordinator, American Democracy Project

Dr. Matt Bergbower
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Sumalayo Jackson
Interim Director, African American Cultural Center

Jared Ell
Assistant Director, Residential Life and Housing

Antonio Tamayo
President, Student Government Association

Kevon Christian
Associate Director, Campus Life

Allison Ramsey
Academic Advisor, University College

Katie Lugar
Assistant Director, Honors College

Dr. Heather Miklozek
Director, Center for Community Engagement
Voter Engagement Strategy

Our strategy is to promote voter registration, voter education, and voter participation throughout the fall semester. As we work to promote TurboVote, we will be incorporating information on the vote center that will be housed on the campus and also voter information and education. For the latter, we will educate the campus on whom can vote and where (i.e., students can vote on campus or back at home), how they go about doing so (registering to vote or checking/changing voter registration), and provide engagement opportunities for students to both meet with state legislative candidates and discuss political issues with their peers in advance of the November election. Below is a full listing of the coordinated events planned for Fall 2020.

August

8/15: Students register to vote via TurboVote during HMSU Takeover in the Hulman Memorial Student Union. Students sign Pledge to Vote Cards.

8/17: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at the Involvement Fair in the ISU Quad (1:00 PM- 3:00 PM)

8/19: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming in the Dede Plaza Space (9:00 AM- 11:00 AM)

8/25: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming in the Dede Plaza Space (2:00 PM- 4:00 PM)

8/27: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming Dede Plaza Space (11:00 AM- 1:00 PM)

September

TurboVote signage up around campus (banners, yard signs, etc.—why your vote matters/power of the vote with #ivotebecause branding)

9/9: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (9:00 AM- 11:00 AM)

9/17: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Constitution Day programs (9:00 AM- 3:00 PM)

9/18: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (1:00 PM- 3:00 PM)

9/22: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming for National Voter Registration Day at Dede Plaza (12pm-4:00pm)

9/24: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (12:30 PM- 2:30 PM)
9/28: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Women’s Suffrage Event

9/29: Debate Night in Dede III (8:30 PM- 10:30 PM)

- A live watching of the Presidential Debate

October

10/1: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (1:00 PM- 3:00 PM)

10/1: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Banned Books Event (All day at the Fountain)

10/5: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (12:30 PM- 2:30 PM)

10/7: Debate Night in the Magna Carta Room (8:30 PM- 10:30 PM)

- A live watching of the Vice Presidential Debate

10/13: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (12:30 PM- 2:30 PM)

10/15: Debate Night in Dede III (8:30 PM- 10:30 PM)

- A live watching of the Presidential Debate

10/22: Debate Night in Dede III (8:30 PM- 10:30 PM)

- A live watching of the Vice Presidential Debate

10/30: Promote TurboVote, Vote Center, and ADP election programming at Dede Plaza Space (11:00 AM- 1:00 PM)

November

11/3: Election Day

a.) Election Night Live Watch Party (4:00 PM- 11:00 PM)