



Lake Tahoe Community College All-In Campus Democracy Challenge 2020 Action Plan

I. Executive Summary

This Action Plan was developed in the Fall of 2020, through consultation and collaboration with Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) students, staff, faculty and administrators. While LTCC has a long history of efforts to increase student civic learning and democratic engagement, the LTCC 2020 Action Plan (Action Plan), for the first time, documents a college-wide strategy for increasing student voter registration, knowledge of candidates and issues on the ballot, and student voter participation in the November 2020 General Election. The activities outlined in the Action Plan focus specifically on empowering students to participate in the upcoming election. The Action Plan also memorializes LTCC's commitment as a leader in the community to support positive change through encouraging social activism and civic engagement.

II. Leadership

This Action Plan represents a collaborative effort and incorporates the work of departments, offices and individuals across the college, including:

Equity Office. The LTCC Equity Office focuses on improving access and closing performance gaps for underrepresented students, many of whom are first-generation college students struggling with multiple jobs, language barriers, affordable childcare, and other obstacles that can hamper academic success. The Equity Office supports the Action Plan by ensuring Equity students have information regarding voter registration, ballot information, poll worker employment opportunities, and voting.

Government Relations and Grant Development. The Senior Director of Government Relations and Grant Development operates as a member of the LTCC Senior Leadership Team and is responsible for local, state and federal level advocacy and advancement. The Senior Director supports the Action Plan by identifying campus leaders and providing resources and support to Action Plan projects. The Senior Director is responsible for compiling the Action Plan, and is the primary point of contact for the California Secretary of State Ballot Bowl and the All in Campus Democracy Challenge.

Institutional Effectiveness. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness aims to build and support a culture of inquiry and evidence-based decision making. The office provides support and leadership in the areas of accreditation, planning, research, assessment, and evaluation. In supporting the Action Plan, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness will ensure continued participation in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), and monitor and review the reports to ensure accuracy of data and findings.

Public Information Office. The Director of Marketing and Communications and the Digital Communications Specialist handle press opportunities, media relations, advertising and marketing, website content, and postings on the social media channels for LTCC. In supporting the Action Plan, the Office of Public Information will prepare and disseminate materials related to voter registration, educational opportunities, poll worker employment opportunities, and student voting.

Society, Culture and Education Academic Meta Major. The Society, Culture and Education Meta Major includes, among other areas of study, history and political science, anthropology, and sociology. This meta major explores human relationships, communities, and global connections, with a focus on the inner workings of society and culture to help create positive change. The Meta Major collaborates to support the college in improving student understanding of agency, and students' ability and responsibility to actively engage in democracy.

Student Life. The Student Life Coordinator is responsible for organizing and supporting the campus activities that give LTCC students the full college experience, including clubs and student government and other activities and events. The Student Life Coordinator supports the Action Plan by organizing student-focused events aimed at voter registration, education, and voting.

Student Senate. The Student Senate is the student voice for the school and represents the students in the community as well as at the state level. The Student Senate aims to promote student life on campus and advocate for projects that will help improve the higher education system. The Student Senate contributes to the Action Plan by educating student voters through events and forums. The Student Senate will also engage in peer-to-peer voter registration and voting efforts.

III. Commitment

Ensuring an educated citizenry is fundamental to LTCC's core commitment to college-wide learning outcomes. LTCC believes that students come first and that learning enhances the quality of life. LTCC supports innovation, integrity and high standards in the pursuit of excellence. Diversity enriches the institution and larger community.

IV. Landscape

LTCC fosters an environment supportive of student civic activism and democratic engagement, and regularly hosts events and activities, supports student leadership through the Student Senate and full participation of the Student Trustee, holds voter registration drives before each midterm and presidential election cycle, hosts local election candidate and issue forums on campus, and organizes community events, such as the recent Remembrance for George Floyd. LTCC also supports numerous special interest clubs and cultural organizations to provide learning and exploration for students and community members.

Since 2012, LTCC has participated in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University, which allows for national research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy. Through participating in NSLVE, LTCC receives information related to students who were eligible to vote and who actually voted. This information is based on enrollment

records submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files collected by Catalist.

As shown in Figure 1 below, between 2012 and 2016, LTCC improved both the registration rate and the voting rate for registered students. However, LTCC still falls below the average for all institutions in terms of the voting rate for all students. As shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3, older students and part-time students have higher voter propensity.

Figure 1. Voting and Registration Rates

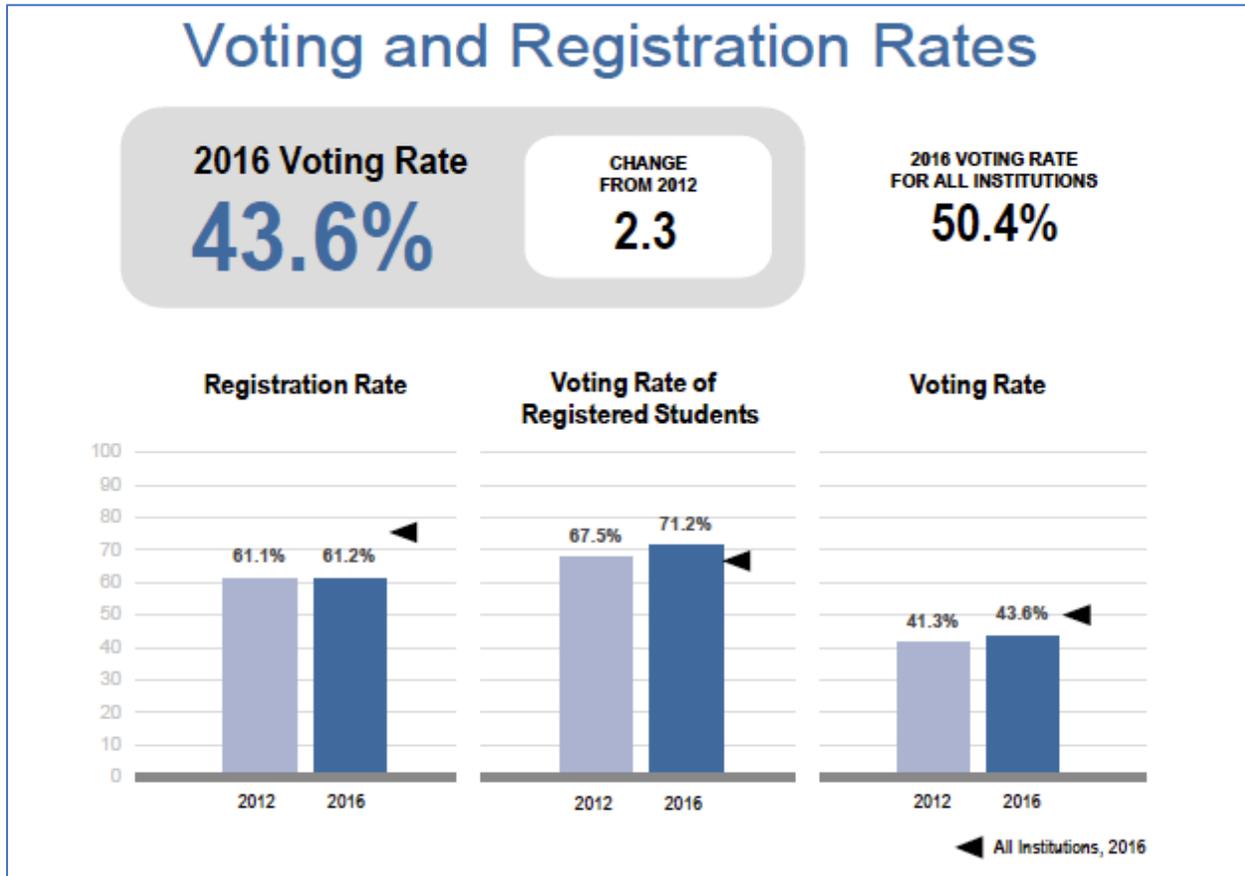


Figure 2. By Age Group

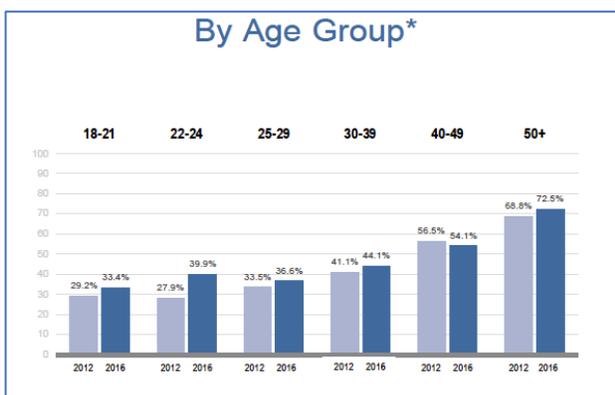
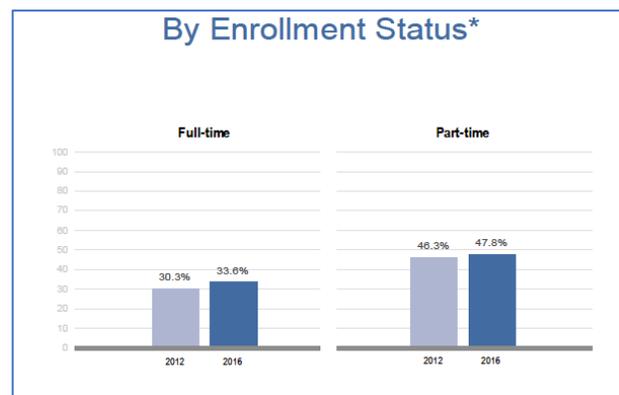


Figure 3. By Enrollment Status



V. Goals

LTCC has established the following goals for the November 2020 General Election:

- Increase the number and percentage of LTCC students who are registered to vote.
- Increase student and community awareness of candidates and initiatives, with a focus on initiatives with a direct effect on California Community Colleges and students.
- Increase the number and percentage of registered students who vote in the November 2020 General Election.
- Encourage LTCC students to engage in the electoral process through paid positions as poll workers with the El Dorado County Elections Office.

LTCC has established a long-term goal of supporting the Society, Culture and Education Meta Major in working across the campus to support faculty in teaching civic engagement.

VI. Strategy

Voter Registration and Voting

- Outreach at Campus Events. LTCC will encourage students to register to vote and provide information regarding how to register online, during campus events, including Fast Pass Drive-in Registration (August 18) and Coyote Kickoff (September 11).
- Online Voter Registration. LTCC Student Life Coordinator will host a webinar to kickoff National Voter Registration Day (September 22) and the Office of Equity will encourage voter registration on the final day of online registration (October 19); both events will provide students with information related to registration, ballot information, and voting.
- Social Media Campaign. The Public Information Office will conduct a social media campaign encouraging LTCC students and broader community to utilize the Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl online tool to register to vote and confirm voter registration (September 14 – October 19), as well as to lift student voices regarding the importance of student voter engagement and inform students of ballot drop-off locations and in person voting options (September 14 – November 3).

Voter Education

- Board of Trustees Presentation. LTCC will provide a public informational presentation on Proposition 15: Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative and Proposition 16: Repeal Proposition 209 Prohibition on Affirmative Action (August 25).
- Town Hall Webinars. LTCC will publicize the Community College League of California townhall webinars on Proposition 15 (September 23) and Proposition 16 (September 16) to the college and broader community.

- Student Senate Candidate and Issue Forum. LTCC will support the Student Senate in organizing a student-led local candidate and issues forum, providing students the opportunity to ask questions and gain information from candidates and ballot initiative organizers.

Elections Engagement Opportunities

- The Public Information Office and the Student Life Coordinator will work with students to recruit participants for paid poll worker opportunities for the El Dorado County Elections Office.

Civic Engagement Across the College

- The First Year Promise course will coordinate with Dr. John Duerk, Chair of History and Political Science, to incorporate a component focused on civic engagement and voting (Fall 2020).
- Dr. Duerk will disseminate information to all LTCC faculty and staff regarding Constitution Day and encouraging the importance of incorporating civic engagement across the curriculum (September 17).
- The Society, Culture and Education Meta Major will contribute to the Action Plan by supporting faculty across all departments and majors in ensuring students understand their agency, ability, and responsibility to engage in democracy by exposing them to the history of and theoretical foundations related to direct action in civil society.

VII. Reporting

The Action Plan will be shared across the campus. The plan will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees. It is a living document and will be reviewed and updated biannually, in advance of each general election.

VIII. Evaluation.

The Action Plan will be evaluated by reviewing participation rates in events and forums, and through student registration and voter rate data provided through NSLVE.