

Overview

The coalition's aim is to register % of students to vote.
We hope to have 100% follow through for registered voters?
Ask people that we help -- have you voted in the past?

The coalition hopes to become a voter friendly campus.

Coalition

Emma Drever*, ASNMU President; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Chair (hopeful CEEP fellow)
Bethany Beavers*, ASNMU Vice President; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Marissa Bekkering*, ASNMU Representative; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Thomas Kettler*, ASNMU Representative; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Emily Martens*, ASNMU Representative; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Chloe Richie*, ASNMU Representative; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Joseph Sturm*, ASNMU Representative; Voter Friendly Campus Committee Member
Zoe Folsom*, Michigan Student Power Network Fellow
Dwight Brady*, NMU Faculty Liaison; AAUP President
Bob Anderson*, Community Member

**Denotes student*

Description of Work

The coalition is committed to finding simple and fun ways to engage the student population in voting and civic engagement.

The coalition will likely continue its grassroots approach to voter efforts. In the Winter semester, the committee registered voters and filled out absentee applications directly from Secretary of State and City Clerk Offices. No external resources (such as vote.org or TurboVote) are currently used. The committee prefers this approach for the primaries, because out-of-state students can specialize their knowledge in their state's procedures.

The coalition finds that student-to-student engagement is beneficial because it is non-intimidating and non-judgmental. Students have an easier time explaining to each other how to fill out different forms, or address an envelope.

Voter Registration

The coalition will host Voter Registration Tables pending university guidelines on tabling. The coalition hopes to collaborate with the campus RA staff, as well as the League of Women Voters.

The Mobile Secretary of State office will visit campus on September 16.

ASNMU will host workshops during summer orientation and address voter registration. The goal is to collect an email list to follow through, as well as create an expectation for new students to see these efforts in the fall.

The coalition hopes to pair with faculty to make in-class presentations about registering to vote. The coalition hopes there will be in-class motivation to register and vote.

A member or members of the coalition will visit student organizations to help them register to vote and request absentee ballots. This visit will be determined by safe meeting guidelines. Some organizations include: athletics, Greek Council, housing, and entertainment providers.

The coalition will create graphics encouraging students to register to vote to be displayed on the TVs throughout campus.

Voter Education

In coordination with Homecoming, the coalition will host a Civic-Engagement themed scavenger hunt. The coalition chair will host 5 skill builder programs to promote the importance of lifelong civic engagement.

The coalition will coordinate with on-campus news sources to promote voter participation. The goal is to garner inspiration for participation based on how various politicians have handled the pandemic.

The coalition will host (virtual) debate watching parties

Voter Turnout

Students will be encouraged to vote early if they travel home.

The coalition plans to follow up with all students it engages, to ensure they do vote.

For students choosing to vote in Marquette, the city clerk worked with the university to create an on-campus proof of residency form.

Students are encouraged to contact the student government (the coalition) with any questions about absentee ballots, and if they are in need of postage.

The coalition will run a bus to the polls on election day, to and from campus.

The student government (the coalition) will host a #shareyourstickerNMU campaign for prizes. Students that share a picture of themselves with their "I voted" sticker will be entered to win.

Students as Voter Advocates

The coalition is primarily by students and for students. We hope to continue to institutionalize civic engagement at NMU.

Timeline

The coalition met weekly during the Winter semester and hosted six table events to register students to vote in the primaries. These booths served as good tests to determine effective times and locations for the fall semester.

The coalition met weekly during the month of May to create this plan. The coalition will continue to correspond and meet as needed.

During the summer, the coalition will reach new students through optional workshops at our virtual orientation, on June 10, 17, 24, and July 1 and 7. These workshops are still being formulated.

During the Fall semester, the committee will host (bi)weekly table events to increase awareness of voter registration efforts, and help students register to vote. These tables will be determined by (1) safety guidelines from the university and (2) the availability of committee members.

The coalition will collaborate with the Special Events Committee, to host a Civic-Engagement themed scavenger hunt during Homecoming week. This event will coincide with National Voter Registration Day (September 22).

The coalition's chair will host skillbuilders in August, September, and October, to promote lifelong civic engagement. The specific dates will be determined by the chair's schedule, and the Center for Student Enrichment, which coordinates skillbuilders.

Success