



HARVARD Kennedy School INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics (IOP) was established in 1966 as a memorial to President John F. Kennedy. The IOP's mission is to unite and engage students, particularly undergraduates, with academics, politicians, activists, and policymakers on a non-partisan basis to inspire them to consider careers in politics and public service. The Institute strives to promote greater understanding and cooperation between the academic world and the world of politics and public affairs.

In 2017, the IOP established *Harvard Votes*, a political action campaign that aims to inspire a culture of active citizenry at Harvard University through large-scale, fun events, strategic organizing, and by changing cultural perceptions of voting.

Through this event, Harvard University held its first recognized National Voter Registration Day. The day's events combined voter education, engagement and civic action. Over one thousand students were registered and pledged to vote during the course of recognizing the holiday. In 2018, the initiative aims for an increase in voter participation on campus to 60%, and ultimately to achieve full participation in 2020.

In addition to the implementation of Harvard Votes, the Institute of Politics has collaborated with Harvard University staff, faculty, and administrators to promote civic engagement through standing partnerships with TurboVote and the Harvard University Registrar's Office, and by working with the National Campaign, a consortium of over 35 schools, which gather annually to promote civic action and civil discourse.

Integrated Voter Registration

The Institute of Politics has collaborated with TurboVote since 2011 to help students register to vote during their class registration process, request absentee ballots, and remind them about upcoming elections and voter deadlines. This process alerts students to vote and helps them mail materials needed to complete the registration process.

National Campaign Conference

Every year students gather for the IOP's annual National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement. During the National Campaign Conference, IOP Polling Director John Della Volpe led a town hall with 70 student ambassadors to identify some of the biggest issues facing America today. The process, which has been used to crowdsource solutions to other problems facing federal, state and local governments, resulted in the selection of three main topics for further development by student leaders. Harvard students implemented their reports shared at the conference on campus, and remain energized to implement these solutions on a local and national scale.