Democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife.

John Dewey

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Overview

Creating Lifetime Citizens through Civic Education

Colleges and universities are vital agents and architects of preparing students for democratic citizenship. Oklahoma Campus Compact’s goal is to support this vision of campuses leading in civic engagement through partnership on voter registration and election engagement in the 2016 election cycle.

Program Objective

Campuses will make use the information in this document by sharing it with interested students and student organizations, and using it to promote voter interest and participation in the 2016 general election. Presidential elections traditionally draw the highest level of interest and voter turnout. When young people learn the voting process and vote they are more likely to do so when they are older.

Strategies and Resources

Get Organized

Create

A nonpartisan action task force to unite diverse groups and stakeholders: various student organizations, campus life personnel, social sciences faculty, library staff, etc., and give it a name, such as Real (your institution’s mascots) Vote, or (your institution) Votes.

Motivate

Tell students about the 2000 presidential election, when 537 votes in Florida decided the presidency; and about the 2008 Senate race in Minnesota, when 312 votes decided a U.S. Senate seat.

Consider

Seeking appropriate support from the President's office.

Creating an election-related section of your campus website.

Consult

Engaging Your Campus in Elections: Seven Key Ways to Act by The Campus Election Engagement Project at www.campuselect.org
Strategies and Resources

Register Students to Vote

- Create a prominent link on your campus’s home page to the information and resources of the Oklahoma State Election Board at https://www.ok.gov/elections/.

- Participate in the Oklahoma Campus Compact Voter Registration Contest – Pages 7-14, including the Submission Form.

- Encourage students who are already registered on campus to re-register if they have changed residences.

- Urge students who are not registered on campus to request an absentee ballot (https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Absentee_Voting/).

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WHAT AFFECTS YOUTH VOTING?

- Young people who are contacted by an organization or a campaign are more likely to vote.

- Telling a new voter where to vote, when to vote, and how to use the voting machines increases turnout.
Teach About Non-partisan Resources for Fact-Checking, and Candidate and Issue Research

**FactCheck.org**

A nonpartisan, nonprofit "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. Monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews and news releases. Goal is to apply the best practices of both journalism and scholarship, and to increase public knowledge and understanding. FactCheck.org is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. The APPC was established by publisher and philanthropist Walter Annenberg to create a community of scholars within the University of Pennsylvania that would address public policy issues at the local, state and federal levels. [http://www.factcheck.org/](http://www.factcheck.org/)

**FlackCheck.org**

Headquartered at the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, FlackCheck.org is the political literacy companion site to the award-winning FactCheck.org. The site provides resources designed to help viewers recognize flaws in arguments in general and political ads in particular. Video resources point out deception and incivility in political rhetoric. [http://www.flackcheck.org/about/](http://www.flackcheck.org/about/)

**Votesmart.org**

The American Political Science Association (APSA) created seven regional committees to select the most useful Political web site. Each group, independently selected Vote Smart's site and at their national convention APSA announced that "in all respects the Project Vote Smart website was exceptional" and presented it a plaque proclaiming VoteSmart.org to be the "Best Political Website." [http://votesmart.org/](http://votesmart.org/)

**PolitiFact.com**

PolitiFact is a fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others who speak up in American politics. PolitiFact is run by editors and reporters from the Tampa Bay Times, an independent newspaper in Florida, as is PunditFact, a site devoted to fact-checking pundits. The PolitiFact state sites are run by news organizations that have partnered with the Times. The state sites and PunditFact follow the same principles as the national site.

PolitiFact staffers research statements and rate their accuracy on the Truth-O-Meter, from True to False. The most ridiculous falsehoods get the lowest rating, Pants on Fire. PolitiFact checks claims by elected officials, candidates, leaders of political parties and political activists. Examines officials at all levels of government, from county commissioners to U.S. senators, from city council members to the president. Checks claims by groups involved in the discourse -- political parties, advocacy groups and political action committees -- and examines claims in widely circulated chain emails. PunditFact checks claims from pundits, columnists, bloggers, political analysts, the hosts and guests of talk shows, and other members of the media. [http://www.politifact.com/](http://www.politifact.com/)
Help with the Mechanics of Voting

Post Sources and Information for

- Registration: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Register_to_Vote/
- Local poll sites, or links to State Election Board list: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Online_Voter_Tool/
- Early voting – place, dates, times: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Early_Voting.html
- Proof of identification for voting: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Proof_of_Identity/

Post and Distribute

- Sample ballots or links to them: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Online_Voter_Tool/

Support

- Absentee voting – application for ballot and submission of ballot: https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Absentee_Voting/

Offer information on where to find notaries, stamps and envelopes on campus or nearby for absentee voting.

Use social media and work with your campus IT to post and send reminder information to every student on registration and voting deadlines.

Research shows that nothing is more effective than direct peer-to-peer contact. Mobilize student support for outreach.
Access Data on Youth Voting, Educational Levels, and Civic Involvement

CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) conducts research on the civic and political engagement of young Americans. Located at Tufts University at http://civicyouth.org/.

Preserve Continuity
Write up your notes to share with others and continue the work of engagement.

Additional Resources

ALL IN Campus Democracy Project
http://www.allinchallenge.org/

The ALL IN Challenge was established to change long-term democratic engagement of citizens in the belief that higher education should play a role in educating its students on the importance of being active and informed citizens. Now a partner of Campus Compact and led by Civic Nation, this non-partisan initiative recognizes campuses for increasing student participation in voting and improving overall levels of democratic and civic engagement. The ALL IN Challenge is associated with the AASC&U’s American Democracy Project and NASPA.

The data will benefit the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), a project launched in 2013 by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. This project is a service to colleges and universities interested in learning about their students’ voting habits, as well as a national database for research on college student voting and, more broadly, political learning and engagement in democracy.

In order to be considered for recognition and awards granted in 2017, campuses must commit by September 27, 2016 (National Voter Registration Day).

ideas42

A behavioral science approach on psychological barriers to student voting and strategies for overcoming them, ideas42 has published Graduating Students Into Voters, information on why students may fail to register and vote, and provides evidence-based solutions college leaders can use to improve the effectiveness of their registration and turnout efforts.
Contest Rules

The Contest will run from June 1st through October 14th, to allow for maximum utilization of campus efforts to get students registered over back-to-campus and orientation events. This period encompasses Constitution Day on Sept. 17th, during which institutions may wish to enhance efforts in keeping with the federal observance requirement of citizenship and civic focus for the students.

Contest Cutoff Date

The Contest cutoff date of October 14, 2016 is the state deadline for registration to vote in the November general election.

Competition Structure

In-State Registrations

Six awards will be presented for in-state registrations for first place and runner up in each of 3 categories of institutions:

- Red (small institutions)
- White (mid-sized institutions)
- Blue (large institutions)

Out-of-State Registrations

Two awards will be presented for out-of-state registration of out-of-state students:

- Liberty (institution with the greatest overall number of out-of-state students registering)
- Equality (institution with the highest proportion of its out-of-state students registering)

Which is Which?

For purposes of this contest, registrations to vote in Oklahoma elections are counted as In-State Registrations, and registrations to vote in other states’ elections are counted as Out-of-State Registrations. Whether out-of-state students register in Oklahoma or out-of-state is a personal choice.
Contest Procedure

- Only voter registrations taking place on college/university campuses within the June 1–October 14, 2016 timeframe may be counted.

- Voter registration drives may be organized by individual students or campus student organizations.

- Registration conducted by outside groups will **not count toward the contest**.

- Institutions are responsible for delivery of registrations to county election boards and self-reporting the total.

Experience has shown that county election boards appreciate a **periodic submission of registrations**, as opposed to a massive quantity hitting their desk on deadline day. Weekly submissions over the course of the fall are advised.

Results are determined by proportion of registered students to institution full time enrollment. Institutions are organized into categories based on the criteria used to structure Oklahoma Campus Compact membership dues using full-time enrollment. Institutions are listed in their categories on page 13.

In overseeing the voter registration of students, please be aware that the **law prohibits** giving away anything of value to people for registering to vote. Any campus practice of offering pizza or t-shirts, etc. must be provided to **everyone**, regardless of whether a person registers or not, in order to avoid violation of this provision.
Voter Registration Procedures

Oklahoma Registrations
Voter registration applications are available at (but not limited to):
- County Election Boards
- Post offices
- Tag agencies
- Libraries
- may be downloaded from the Oklahoma State Election Board website: http://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Registration/index.html.

"Oklahoma registered voters" will be counted as:
- College/university students
- Who have fully completed a voter registration application and
- Submitted it to the campus voter registration volunteers
- Who then submit the completed forms to the County Election Board.

Out-of-State Students/Out-of-State Registrations
Cost-free state voter registration sites are available at various online sites:
- United States Election Assistance Commission
- Rock the Vote
  http://www.rockthevote.com/register-to-vote/?source=rtv.com-topnavigation

“Out-of-State registered voters” will be counted as
- college/university students
- who have registered to vote in another state as observed by the institutional representative.

For purposes of this contest, registrations to vote in Oklahoma elections are counted as In-State Registrations, and registrations to vote in other states’ elections are counted as Out-of-State Registrations.

To create and maintain an accurate record of registrations, designate an office site with available computers at which out-of-state students may come and register to vote.
All Registrations

ANY registration should be counted, whether first-time, change of voting precinct, party affiliation, etc.

SENSITIVITY should be exercised toward those not eligible to vote, e.g., former felons, underage, non-resident, etc.

BY LAW, Oklahoma regularly purges unresponsive voters from the registration rolls who are inactive, or whose name and birthdate match another voter in the state, or who have an address to which mail is undeliverable, or who meet several other criteria.

Given the residential mobility of college students during the course of their education, consideration of approaching all students to register or reregister is recommended.

See http://www.ok.gov/elections/faqs.html at the Oklahoma State Election Board website on Voter Address Confirmation for further information.

STUDENTS voting in person will need to be cognizant of the Oklahoma voter ID law and carry their voter registration card with them to the voting booth as proof of identity. If something like a driver license is offered for ID in lieu of the voter registration card, the address on the license must match the address on the voter registration records. However, students without acceptable proof of identity at the voting booth should be able to vote by provisional ballot.
Registration Submission and Reporting Process

- Reporting for the purposes of this contest is on an honor system.
- Each campus is responsible for counting its students registrations.
- Institutions may physically collect and submit completed in-state registration applications to its County Election Board.
- To locate your County Election Board go to the Oklahoma State Election Board website at http://www.ok.gov/elections/ and scroll down on the left hand menu to County Election Boards.
- Only registrations made and reported during the Contest period will count toward the Contest results.
- All reports of registration are self-reported, meaning the institutional representatives are responsible for monitoring the total for both in-state and out-of-state registrations.
- The registered total must be reported to Oklahoma Campus Compact on the attached Voter Registration Contest Submission Form.
- Each institution must use the official submission form signed by the Student Affairs Vice President or Dean of Student Affairs (attached).
- Voter registration totals are due to OkCC by scan or fax by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2016.

Remember!
The good people working at your County Election Board appreciate periodic submissions, as opposed to a large quantity of submissions coming in on the last date to register.

Awards

In-state registrations results are determined by the proportion of the number of the students registered to the number of students enrolled.

Out-of-state registrations results are determined for the greatest number of overall out-of-state registrations, and for the highest proportion of out-of-state registrations for the institution’s out-of-state student enrollment.

All winners will receive a plaque from Oklahoma Campus Compact presented to the institution’s contest coordinator and student representatives during an Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education regular meeting.
Oklahoma State Election Board Deadlines

- Voter registration application forms may be submitted at any time; however,
- Voter identification cards cannot be issued during the 24 days prior to an election (after October 14).
- If registration applications are received by the county election board during the 24 days before an election, voter identification cards will not be received until after the election.

Any students who will become 18 during the 60 days before an election may apply for voter registration between 25 and 60 days before the election (beginning September 10 through October 14).

November 8 General Election

- **Last day to register to vote:** October 14
- **Deadline to request absentee ballot:** 5:00 p.m., November 2
- **Early voting (at county election boards):**
  - Thursday, November 3, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
  - Friday, November 4, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
  - Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Resources
See the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University (CIRCLE) for state-by-state longitudinal youth data on voter turnout and registration rates, analysis on why young people don’t vote, state civic education policies, and much more on youth voting. [http://www.civicyouth.org/](http://www.civicyouth.org/)

Contact for Questions or more information:
Debbie Terlip, Executive Director, Oklahoma Campus Compact
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
dterlip@osrhe.edu  405-225-9128
### Institutional Categories

Institutional categories are determined using student enrollment data reported to OSRHE. The category cut-off points are those used by Campus Compact in calculating annual dues.

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Voter Registration Contest Submission Form

Institution: ____________________________________________________________

Contest Period: June 1—October 14th, 2016

Please describe voter registration activities that took place on your campus during the contest duration:

______________________________________________________________________

Total number registered to vote in Oklahoma: __________________________________

Total number registered to Vote Out-of-State: _________________________________

Print: ___________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Contest Coordinator(s)

Print: ___________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Vice President for Student Affairs