



2022 Campus Vote Plan

UC Votes

University of Cincinnati

Executive Summary:

The 2022 Campus Vote Plan was created by Keith Lanser, assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement, along with our campus democracy fellows and civic influencers, who are part-time student workers that facilitate democratic engagement. The purpose of this plan is to continue the institutionalization process of the UC Votes program at the University of Cincinnati. This plan will begin in the summer of 2022 and will conclude in January of 2023. The primary goals of the 2022 Campus Vote Plan include: 1) Uniting organizations and growing partnerships via the UC Votes Coalition in order to secure an 85% student voter registration rate and a 50% student voting rate in the fall of 2022; 2) Facilitating voter registration during new student orientations and at regional campuses; and 3) Facilitating high-quality voter education experiences that prepare students to make informed voting decisions. The 2022 Campus Vote Plan centers on four primary action areas: voter registration, voter education, ensuring ballot access, and getting out the vote.

Point of Contact:

Name:	Keith Lanser
Institution:	University of Cincinnati
City/ State:	Cincinnati, OH
Title:	Assistant Director, Center for Community Engagement
Email:	keith.lanser@uc.edu
Phone:	513-558-5133

UC Votes Coalition:

The UC Votes Coalition is an ad-hoc coalition of faculty, staff, students, and community partners that are interested in institutionalizing democratic engagement at the University of Cincinnati. UC Votes/ chairing the UC Votes Coalition is one of the primary responsibilities of the Assistant Director of the Center for Community Engagement.

Chair: Keith Lanser, Assistant Director, Center for Community Engagement

Faculty/ Academic Programs:

- Dr. Michael Solimine, Law & Society
- Dr. Sarah Stilzein, Professor, CECH Curriculum & Instruction
- Dr. Janet Mannheimer Zydney, Professor, CECH Instructional Design & Technology
- Maurice Stewart, Adjunct Instructor, Organizational Leadership

Staff/ Staff Departments:

- Cerelia Bizzell, Assistant Director, SA African American Cultural & Resource Center
- Lisa Griffith, Assistant Director, Academic Student Advising, A&S Advising'
- Abby Hobbs, Graduate Assistant, Women's Center
- Gabi Nichols, Graduate Assistant, LGBTQ Center
- Kyle Key, Assistant Director, Honors Program
- Stephanie Kollman Baker, Experienced Based Learning and Career Education
- Bethany Stollar, Program Coordinator, A&S Political Science
- Jennifer Radt, Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, University of Cincinnati Clermont
- Molly Scruta, Program Manager, Multicultural Affairs, University of Cincinnati Blue Ash

Students/ Student Groups:

- Emma Spriggs, Democracy Fellow
- Adora Stephenson, Democracy Fellow
- Callie Buchanan, Democracy Fellow
- Ameen Tabiei, Democracy Fellow
- Cooper Smith, Civic Influencer
- Katie Michael, Civic Influencer
- Chloe Freeman, CCE Co-op
- Thomas Strefelt, Student Government Association
- Jagur Beaschler, College Democrats
- Ella Wahlquist, College Democrats
- Madison Belletti, College Republicans
- Madhuilka Singh, UC Young Democratic Socialists of America
- Sean Bridge, UC Young Democratic Socialists of America
- Nicole Newton, American Constitution Society at UC Law
- Mycah Faison, National Pan-Hellenic Council
- Michael Panton, National Pan-Hellenic Council

Community Partners:

- Alexis Crosby, Ohio State Coordinator, Campus Vote Project
- Jaycee Brown, Civic Influencers
- David Whitehead, NAACP
- Brenda Hogan, League of Women Voters of Greater Cincinnati

Frequency of Meetings:

The Coalition meets before and after each election cycle. The UC Votes Coalition met in February of 2022 to review the draft campus vote plan and review programming leading up to the Ohio Primary Election in May of 2022. They will meet in late August or early September of 2022 to make last minute changes to UC Votes programming and to have coalition members sign up to help facilitate programs and events. The Coalition will then meet in December of 2022 or January of 2023 to review accomplishments.

Commitment:

The University of Cincinnati serves the people of Ohio, the nation, and the world as a premier, public, urban research university dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, experience-based learning, and research. We are committed to excellence and diversity in our students, faculty, staff, and all of our activities. We provide an inclusive environment where innovation and freedom of intellectual inquiry flourish. Through scholarship, service, partnerships, and leadership, we create opportunity, develop educated and engaged citizens, enhance the economy and enrich our University, city, state, and global community.

Part of being an engaged citizen is exercising one's responsibility to vote. For this reason, the Center for Community Engagement has created UC Votes-- a democratic engagement program that aims to register students to vote, educate students on the issues, ensure ballot access, and get out the student vote. UC Votes is committed to providing students with the necessary information and materials needed to vote in every local, state, and federal election. The UC Votes Coalition is an ad-hoc committee that aims to institutionalize democratic engagement at the University of Cincinnati. Students, faculty, staff, and community partners are all part of the UC Votes Coalition.

Landscape

The University of Cincinnati is located in an urban setting in Cincinnati, OH. As of 2021, the total enrollment at the University of Cincinnati was 46,710. The University of Cincinnati is classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a "RU/VH: Research Universities, Very High Research Activity," - formerly known as an "R1." Our mode student is white, female, between 20-21 years of age, studies in-state, is not a first generation student, and lives off-campus. We do not have access to historical student voter registration and student voting data according to race, age, gender, or major because we only recently joined the NSLVE study.

The University of Cincinnati welcomes student democratic engagement. Our Student Government Association is particularly active as it relates to voter registration efforts, and we have a variety of political and issue-based student clubs that engage in political discourse and advocacy. The University of Cincinnati is currently designated as a Voter Friendly Campus by NASPA. That said, our UC Votes program is relatively new, and we are currently facilitating much of our democratic engagement efforts as co-curricular experiences.

It is our understanding based on communications from the Ohio Secretary of State's office that Ohio's online voter registration system validates address information with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' database. As a result, University of Cincinnati students who wish to register to vote using their campus addresses are encouraged to register to vote using a paper voter registration form. Additionally, we allow students who live on campus to self-print voter identification information via an internal system called Catalyst.

There has been a great deal of confusion around political redistricting in Ohio. Since January of 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court has concluded multiple times that the political maps drawn by the Ohio Election Commission and approved by the Ohio Legislature are unconstitutional.

According to their rulings, the maps unduly favor the Republican Party and disfavor the Democratic Party. As a result, elections for State Senators and State Representatives were not included in Ohio's Primary Election in May of 2022. The State will likely hold another Primary Election in August to determine candidates for State Senators and State Representatives.

Enrollment by race/ ethnicity:

American Indian/ Alaska Native	47 (0.1%)
Asian	2,330 (5.0%)
Black or African American	3,851 (8.2%)
Hispanic/ Latino	2,019 (4.3%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	28 (0.1%)
Nonresident Alien (international students)	3,633 (7.8%)
Race/ Ethnicity Unknown	1,513 (3.2%)
Two or More Races	1,832 (3.9%)
White	31,457 (67.3%)
Total enrollment	46,710 (100.0%)

Enrollment by gender:

Male	20,947 (44.8%)
Female	25,700 (55.0%)
Unknown	63 (0.1%)
Total	46,710 (100.0%)

The University of Cincinnati does not collect nonbinary enrollment information.

Enrollment by age:

Under 18	1,359 (2.9%)
18-19	12,187 (26.1%)
20-21	12,363 (26.5%)
22-24	8,385 (18.0%)
25-29	5,486 (11.7%)

30-34	2,796 (6.0%)
35-39	1,634 (3.5%)
Over 39	2,500 (5.4%)
Total	46,710 (100.0%)

Enrollment by residency:

In-state	33,601 (71.9%)
Out-of-state	13,109 (28.1%)
Total	46,710 (100.0%)

Enrollment by first generation status (undergraduate only):

Not first generation	22,532 (63.8%)
First generation	7,992 (22.6%)
Unknown	4,815 (13.6%)
Total	35,339 (100.0%)

High school information and parental education are not collected from graduate students at the University of Cincinnati.

Enrollment by housing status:

On-campus	6,442 (13.8%)
Not on-campus	40,268 (86.2%)
Total	46,710 (100%)

Goals for 2022-2023:

We have three primary goals for the 2022-2023 academic year:

1. Uniting organizations and growing partnerships via the UC Votes Coalition in order to secure an 85% student voter registration rate and a 50% student voting rate in the fall of 2022.
2. Embedding voter registration in new student orientations and first year experiences during the fall of 2022.
3. Facilitating high-quality voter education experiences that prepare students to make informed voting decisions during the fall of 2022.

Student Voting Data (from NSLVE):

The University of Cincinnati recently joined the NSLVE study in December of 2021, so we currently do not have voting data for previous elections. By participating in NSLVE, we will be able to track our student voting rates over time and make data-informed decisions regarding new democratic engagement programming. We are particularly interested in reviewing our student voter registration rates and our student voting rates by age, major, gender, and race so that we can be more intentional about facilitating UC Votes activities for underrepresented groups of students.

Strategy:

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the programs and events below will help to: register students to vote, educate students on relevant voting issues, ensure ballot access, and get out the student vote. The assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement will ensure strategy completion, and our campus democracy fellows will execute the strategies.

1. Voter registration:
 - a. Hire at least 4 democracy fellows to assist with voter registration and other democratic engagement initiatives.
 - b. Facilitate voter registration during new student orientations
 - c. Facilitate voter registration at unexpected events like the Women's Welcome, the API Welcome, the Latinx Welcome, Akwaaba, the Big Queer Welcome
 - d. Complete in-class voter registration drives during August and September
 - e. Facilitate voter registration tabling events like National Voter Registration Day and Last Minute Voter Registration Days
 - f. Promote voter registration materials at campus dorms to help students who live on campus get registered to vote
 - g. Pilot usage of TurboVote for online voter registration and add online voter registration information to UC Votes' website
 - h. Disseminate reminders about voter registration through: a student-wide email via Cerkl, TurboVote, CampusLink, and the Center for Community Engagement's listserv and social media
2. Voter education:
 - a. Distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area and other nonpartisan groups
 - b. Encourage students to attend and watch political debates
 - c. Create pre-recorded voter education webinars to post to UC Votes website on the following topics: creating your voting plan, understanding voter ID requirements, requesting absentee ballots, minority voting, why local elections matter, how to become a poll worker, and what's on the ballot.
 - d. Create abbreviated voter education videos based off of content from pre-recorded webinars and promote abbreviated voter education videos via the CCE's social media accounts
 - e. Facilitate nonpartisan issue dialogues on timely voting issues (hybrid)
 - f. Celebrate Constitution Day with the Constitution Day Citizenship Challenge
 - g. Add voter education information to UC Votes' website.

- h. Disseminate email reminders about voter education events through the Center for Community Engagement's listserv
3. Ballot access:
 - a. Facilitate Absentee Ballot Request Days during October
 - b. Promote Vote Early Day on October 28 via the CCE's listserv and social media
 - c. Promote transportation options for students who wish to vote on Election Day via the CCE's listserv and social media
 - d. Disseminate absentee ballot request reminders to students via TurboVote and the CCE's listserv and social media
 - e. Encourage students who live on campus to register to vote using their campus addresses via voter registration flyers, voter registration check flyers, and TurboVote flyers
 - f. Continue to provide voter IDs for students who are registered to vote using their campus address via Catalyst
 - g. Continue to have Election Day be a Reading Day (no classes) so that students are able to vote on Election Day
 - h. Add ballot access information to UC Votes' website
4. Student voter turnout:
 - a. Facilitate "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election.
 - b. Facilitate a "My Reasons Why" social media campaign using the Center for Community Engagement's social media accounts.
 - c. Facilitate an Election Night Watch Party at the University Cinema
 - d. Sending out email reminders about the election via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

Reporting:

Our 2022 NSLVE report will be posted to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge's website as soon as it is prepared. The 2022 Campus Vote Plan, the 2022 Campus Vote Report, and our NSLVE reports will be uploaded to our UC Votes website at <https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/cce/UCVotes.html>. The Campus Vote Report and NSLVE results will also be shared to the campus community via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv.

Timeline and Evaluation:

The UC Votes Coalition will use the timeline below to ensure a robust offering of democratic engagement programs and services during the 2022-2023 academic year. Each activity includes evaluation metrics, which will be measured by the assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement. The UC Votes Coalition will reconvene in late January/ early February of 2023 to review outcomes from our Campus Vote Report and to begin ideating for the next election cycle.

- Key milestones:
 - By halfway through the summer semester, we will have:

- Completed voter registration drives during student orientations.
(evaluation metrics: number of drives facilitated)
- Prepared content for email communications to be sent out during the fall semester. (evaluation metric: completion)
- By the end of the summer semester, we will have:
 - Hired at least 4 democracy fellows, in partnership with the Campus Vote Project. (evaluation metric: number hire)
 - Completed voter registration drives during student orientations.
(evaluation metric: number of drives facilitated)
 - Printed voter registration cards, absentee ballot forms, and purchased stamps for the fall semester. (evaluation metric: completion)
 - Updated voter registration/ voter education/ ballot access information on UC Votes' external website. (evaluation metric: completion)
- By halfway through the fall semester, we will have:
 - Facilitated voter registration at unexpected events like the Women's Welcome, the API Welcome, the Latinx Welcome, Akwaaba, the Big Queer Welcome. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of student voter registrations)
 - Completed in-class voter registration drives during the first two weeks of the semester in first year experience courses. (evaluation metrics: number of drives, number of student voter registrations)
 - Facilitated voter registration tabling during National Voter Registration Day on September 20. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of student voter registrations)
 - Facilitated voter registration tabling during Last Minute Voter Registration Days during the week of October 3. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of student voter registrations)
 - Created voter registration resources and facilitated voter registration events for students who live on campus. (evaluation metrics: completion, number of events)
 - Created pre-recorded voter education webinars to post to UC Votes website on the following topics: creating your voting plan, understanding voter ID requirements, requesting absentee ballots, minority voting, why local elections matter, how to become a poll worker, and what's on the ballot. (evaluation metrics: number of webinars recorded, number of students who watched the webinars)
 - Created abbreviated voter education videos based off of content from webinars that can be posted to Center for Community Engagement's social media accounts. (evaluation metrics: number of videos created, number of video impressions)
 - Celebrated Constitution Day. (evaluation metric: completion)
 - Posted voter education events to TUC TVs and display boards.
(evaluation metric: completion)

- Promoted voter education events via the UC News Record. (evaluation metric: completion)
- By the end of the fall semester, we will have:
 - Facilitated tabling events to distribute nonpartisan voter guides from the League of Women Voters and other nonpartisan groups. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of guides distributed)
 - Encouraged students to attend debate watch parties and local debates. (evaluation metrics: number of parties facilitated, number of attendees)
 - Facilitated nonpartisan issue forums on timely voting issues (online or in-person). (evaluation metrics: number of issue forums, number of attendees)
 - Facilitated absentee ballot request tabling during Absentee Ballot Request Days during the week of October 17. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of absentee ballots requested)
 - Celebrated Vote Early Day on October 28. (evaluation metric: completion)
 - Promoted transportation assistance for students who wish to vote on Election Day. (evaluation metric: number of students assisted)
 - Provided proof of residency information to students who are registered to vote using their campus addresses. (evaluation metric: completion)
 - Assisted students with printing out their proof of residency via UC's Catalyst system. (evaluation metric: completion)
 - Assisted students with voter registration/ polling location checks, and absentee ballot requests. (evaluation metrics: number of voter registration/ polling location checks, number of absentee ballot requests)
 - Sent out email reminders about voter registration, voter education, and ensuring ballot access via the Center for Community Engagement's listserv. (evaluation metric: number of emails disseminated)
 - Sent out voting reminders via UC's TurboVote page. (evaluation metric: completion, number of students who signed up for TurboVote remind)
 - Facilitated "Why Do You Vote?" tabling events to get students excited about the election. (evaluation metrics: number of events, number of post-it notes used)
 - Facilitated a "My Reasons Why" social media campaign using the Center for Community Engagement's social media accounts.(evaluation metrics: number of posts, number of impressions)
 - Facilitated the Election Night Watch Party. (evaluation metrics: completion, number of attendees)
 - Prepared our Campus Vote Report for the Voter Friendly Campus Designation and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. (evaluation metric: completion)

