



Report on Voter Engagement Activities 2024 Election Cycle

Have Accomplished:

- Kent State University President Todd Diacon has signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.
- Within the last two years, Kent State Athletics connected the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge with the Mid-American Athletic Conference in an effort to launch a conference voting challenge; the MAC Votes challenge was then launched in Fall 2022.
- As of August 2024, Kent State has collected the largest number of coach pledges (34) among all schools listed on ALL IN's 2024 Coaches Pledge Signatories page.
- Undergraduate Student Government Director of Governmental Affairs Zach Graves was named to ALL IN's 2024 Student Voting Honor Roll for his work leading voter engagement initiatives at Kent State.
- Coordinated with Housing and Culinary Services to ensure stamps were once more able to be purchased on campus.
- The May 4 Visitor Center regularly educates students, faculty, staff, and the community about the tragic events of May 4, 1970 at Kent State and explains Kent State's role in the passage of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age to 18.
- The Women's Center has partnered with Running Start to bring Elect Her to campus for the last several years, which empowers and equips women-identifying students to run for student government (with the long-range goal that they also run for public office).
- The League of Women Voters of Kent (LWV-Kent) regularly lends its expertise as a member of the Kent State Votes coalition, supporting efforts to register on-campus voters alongside student groups and ensuring correct information is available while providing adequate staffing at many tabling events.
- Instituted a "Post-Election Summit" that follows each election cycle and convenes members of the campus community to debrief the past election and begin preparing for future election cycles.



Plans in Place:

- Received \$1,000 in grant funding from Campus Vote Project to strengthen messaging to students during the Fall 2024 election around voter registration and voting methods
- Received \$5,000 in grant funding from Ask Every Student to support the purchase of t-shirts advertising our online university voting portal, the awarding of subgrants to colleges/departments to support election-related programming on campus, and payment of stipends issued to student leaders working on civic engagement initiatives.
- Have employed five paid student Fellows (two paid through Campus Vote Project's Democracy Fellows program, two will receive stipends from our \$5,000 Ask Every Student Implementation grant, and one paid by Community Engaged Learning) to serve as members of our Kent State Votes Coalition and implement voter engagement initiatives among peers
- Recruiting and training fifteen volunteer Ambassadors to facilitate presentations for the campus community, participate in voter registration activities, plan a unique event/program around a Civic Holiday of their choice, and assist with myriad activities on Election Day.
- Partnering with senior administrators to ensure that any communications from the University to the student body regarding the voting process links to Kent State Votes.
- Have designed and will disseminate a "Kent State Votes" t-shirt, in partnership with the President's Office and University Communications & Marketing, to students across campus; the t-shirt will contain a QR code linked to Kent State's ALL IN Campus Dashboard, which will ensure that students wearing these t-shirts contribute to our outreach strategy, amplifying our messaging throughout the fall semester.
- Partnered with Destination Kent State (orientation) and KSU Kickoff (move-in week) for the first time ever to establish the Coalition's presence on campus and disseminate information about voter registration and voting methods with new students.
- Created and delivering "Everything You Wanted to Know about Voting but Were Afraid to Ask" presentations available to Flashes 101 courses, general courses across the university, student organizations, athletic teams, and other groups.
- Curating a "Kent State Votes" calendar that includes civic holidays, critical deadlines in the Ohio voting process, and events/programs taking place in the campus and surrounding communities; the calendar will be populated by



community members submitting events/programs using a publicly available form to collect this information.

- Introduced a subgrant program funded by our \$5,000 Ask Every Student Implementation grant that awards five \$200 (\$1,000) subgrants to university colleges, departments, and offices for use on food and drinks or promotional materials for events/programs that incorporate voter engagement information and messaging.
- Facilitated a one-hour pre-semester training experience in August to prepare all Resident Assistant staff to assist with sharing accurate, helpful voting information with on-campus students.
- Designing and installing visual displays in residence hall lobbies containing information on how to register to vote and how students living in those buildings can vote, including information about the absentee voting process and where to go to vote in person on Election Day or beforehand.
- Staffing voter registration/information tables during all civic holidays and throughout the fall semester; the main table will exist in the lobby of the University Library.
- Convening a “vote by mail walkthrough” with relevant Campus Mail and Housing/Culinary staff to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding the importance of voting by mail for students and how we can best streamline the process.
- Working with Athletics to create PSA to be read at fall athletic events that provides information about voter registration/information and encourages students to Pledge to Vote (displaying the QR code on scoreboards at stadium-hosted athletic events).
- Promote the League of Women Voters’ (Kent Chapter) Face-2-Face event among students—which connects voters with local candidates—and arrange a meet-up time for students to gather and attend the event together.
- Coordinate a Voting Taxi Service on Election Day that will not only transport students from campus to their voting location and between voting locations, but also provide drivers trained to assist students identify where they need to go to vote.
- Invite Coalition members to co-author article that shares the story of Kent State Votes successes from the 2024 cycle and have it published in a national forum.



Long-Term Goals:

- Continue to expand our Kent State Votes Coalition—thereby strengthening our democratic and political engagement work—by inviting more students, faculty, staff, and community partners to contribute.
- Build stronger relationships with advocacy, identity-based groups and organizations at Kent State and increase Coalition diversity, including but not limited to race/ethnicity, university/community role, gender identity, sexual orientation, and academic program.
- Position Kent State as a national leader for engaging students in the voting process.
- Continue to align and coordinate the messaging of the Coalition with the communications of senior institutional leadership and vice-versa.
- Launch a dialogue-based program that encourages inter-partisan conversations among Kent State students.
- Undertake an effort to inventory existing courses containing outcomes connected to civic learning and democratic engagement
- Create a working group focused on defining democracy as a core institutional value and establishing a vision for how it ought to be further engrained in university operations and culture.