



Mid-Term Election Resources

Engaging Faculty, Staff and Students with Collegiality and Civility

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Introduction

Dear Colleagues:

In light of the growing political polarization in our country, it's important for all of us to be aware of some of the campus resources that are available to encourage civic engagement across all types of identities and also to provide post-election support for processing campaign results.

This document provides a summary of some of the resources that are being used to engage participation and also to provide support for processing election outcomes. We see the mid-term elections as a "dry run" of sorts for the 2024 presidential election, and we are working now to build an infrastructure of campus support in ways that bridge the multiple resources and expertise available on our campus.

Thanks, Yvette.

Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence

The Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (CMAE) is a place where students are empowered, engaged and nurtured for success.

CMAE election support:

- Student support through advisors and peer mentoring as well as a student leadership team that provides collaborative support for undergraduate and graduate students who utilize the center.

Division of Student Life

We are the Division of Student Life. That means we are all about, well, you. Your life as a student; the things you need and the things you want to do—we're here to help. We deliver health care—physical, mental, dental. We deliver sports and activities and career advice. We deliver leadership training and late-night activities. We deliver community, involvement, and support. We deliver a place to rest your (sometimes weary) head and enjoy a meal. We want you to have an excellent student experience—in fact, we expect it. We demand it. And, we'll deliver it. If you need help, just ask and we'll help you figure it out.

Student life election support:

- Voter registration drive;
- Note to students encouraging them to vote;
- Holden Center with Karen Hyatt working on UO democratic engagement action committee-all in challenge; because of the Trump election and anxiety that all students felt—scared and isolated amping up student support for election outcomes;
- Wrap around care;
- Demonstration and protest team will be engaged—working with Luda to better inform students about our protest team;
- Make our environment as safe as possible.
- Encouraging students to engage;
- Support during the process,
- Safety issues for—Hannah White and Karen Hyatt—
- Student Voting Honor Wall ==knowledge, expertise and passion

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge 2022-2023 Action Plan

The University of Oregon has a longstanding tradition of leadership in registering students to vote and participate in elections. It is regularly a point of pride for student leadership. Given the national political dynamic and challenges associated with remote instruction due to the pandemic, there was a heightened focus on non-partisan voter registration efforts in 2020, and even more partners than normal participated in engagement efforts across campus. That increase in partnerships has continued. Our participation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and the Pac-12 Voter Challenge is a catalyst for improving communication and coordination of these efforts.

Key dates and considerations

- October 18, 2022 – Last day to register to vote
- October 19, 2022 – First day ballots can be mailed
- October 25, 2022 – Last day to mail ballots
- November 8, 2022 – Election Day

Those registered in other states are directed to [ALLINtoVote.org](https://www.allintovote.org) and other voter engagement online resources for key dates. The Holden Center also works to provide ballot information for the most common out-of-state students (California, Washington, etc.)

The state of Oregon allows on-line voter registration for individuals with certain forms of identification or people may register in person at county elections offices. Voting occurs by mail (no stamp required), or at county ballot drop sites. A ballot drop box is located on the University of Oregon campus at the student union. All ballots must be deposited in an official box or postmarked by 8 p.m. election day. Ballots postmarked by Election Day are considered on time as long as they arrive at the elections office up to 7 days after the election.

The University of Oregon allows student groups to deliver non-partisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote announcements during the first ten minutes in certain classes, a key tool for civic engagement. In addition, a register to vote link to is displayed in multiple online locations, including:

- [ASUO Student Government Website](#)
- Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships [Consumer Information page](#)
- UO Government and Community Relations [register to vote page](#)
- [Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement](#) civic engagement page
- Distribution to residential hall students in Housing newsletter

Information is disseminated directly to students through Quick Quack, a student-facing portal for university information, and through multiple social media channels.

People involved/outreach strategies:

Liaisons to Pac-12 Voter Challenge:

- Karen Hyatt - director of intergovernmental relations, Office of Government & Community Relations, is serving as administrative co-lead and liaison to the President's Office.

- Hannah white – Coordinator for Leadership and Community Engagement, Dean of Students, is serving as administrative co-lead and oversees Civic Engagement Committee (of which student serve in the PAC-12 Students group as noted below)
- Anna Mills, 4th year student
- Alexis Han, 4th year student

Campus democratic engagement coalition: Student groups and campus organizations across campus are involved in voter and civic engagement. We re-launched the Civic and Voter Engagement Working Group this spring, which pulls together many of these partners into one space. These are just some of the partners who are communicating frequently, promoting voter engagement via a variety of communications methods, organizing events, and sponsoring activities:

- Assessment and Research (In the Vice President for Student Life’s office): we are partnering with our assessment colleagues to understand NSLVE data and institutional information clearly and work together strategically on next steps in terms of targeted outreach efforts
- ASUO (Associated Students of the University of Oregon student government) is connecting student groups and communicating through social media and their website the importance of voter registration and participation.
- Athletics/BEOREGON: Through BEOREGON, student-athletes and coaches are prioritizing voter engagement. In 2020 and with support from OSPIRG they created the Keep It 100 initiative, a call to action for all eligible Ducks (student-athletes, coaches, staff and the larger Duck community) to utilize their right to vote and be committed to 100% participation in voter registration and make a lifetime pledge to “Keep It 100” in their individual stand against racism and hatred. We expect similar efforts in 2022, and we understand the PAC-12 Conference is working with all athletic departments on similar efforts.
- Division of Equity and Inclusion (DEI): DEI is committed to ensuring the voter participation experience is complemented with a culture of civility and education regarding democracy. Tactics include aligning this initiative with multiple lecture series, programming, workshops, and faculty collaborations; highlighting voter engagement through the Multicultural Center and Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence; collaborating with the local NAACP chapter on voter engagement for Black and underrepresented members of the Eugene/Springfield community; and commitment to establishing a long-term, sustainable model to support voter registration and non-partisan programming campus-wide.
- Government and Community Relations: In addition to serving in a role of understanding, supporting and explaining voter engagement across campus, Government and Community Relations is promoting voter engagement on UO Advocates social media channels and maintains a Register to Vote webpage.
- The Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement: The Holden Center has established a commitment to deeply embedding civic and voter engagement as a pillar of the programming and initiatives offered and is working to collaborate closely with other entities. In 2021, student staff employees and one pro-staff (hannah) established the Civic Engagement Committee. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the Holden Center secured funding to dedicate an entire student staff position to Civic Engagement. That person will continue many of the efforts started this year, which include:

- Pizza and Politics – casual dialogue/discussion spaces where students can engage in conversation, learn about social issue areas or topics, get informed on upcoming ballots, and gain skills in how to have conversations across difference – 1-2x per term
- PAC-12 Votes Student Group leadership – Anna and Alexis (noted above) provided leadership in convening group meetings and identifying content
- Education and Outreach – developed social media series around 4 types of civic engagement, consistently getting out more digestible and relatable information for ballots and elections
- Civic Engagement as Activism workshop – offered upon request – demonstrates different types of civic engagement and engages students specifically on how they or their student group can be more intentional
- Tabling – students staff a table to share information about how to register, important dates, and where to find ballot information
- Oregon Student Association: with a new contract just signed, we are determining what partnerships will look like, however OSA in the past has been a part of canvassing efforts, class presentations and tabling for voter registration
- OSPIRG (Oregon State Public Interest Research Group): OSPIRG in 2020 took on voter engagement on campus by working with BEOREGON/UO Athletics (see above), doing virtual canvassing and reminders to turn in ballots, and attempting to do class raps in virtual classes. In 2022 they have again expressed enthusiasm and interest in voter engagement; details about OSPIRG’s role will be refined over the summer.
- Student Orientation Programs: we are hoping to partner with the Student Orientation Leaders to provide them with resources to provide and talking points about why voting and civic engagement is part of being a Duck
- University Housing: Traditionally before the pandemic, student groups were present at Move In Day to encourage students to register to vote. We are exploring partnership with University Housing to have voter registration and address updating tabling stations at move in, as well as facilitating discussions in the residence halls at the start of the year to encourage civic and voter engagement in general. We are also analyzing 2020 voter precinct data that will give us a better understanding of voter registration rates by students living in residence halls and use this to inform our voter engagement strategies with students, mostly freshmen, living in residence halls.

Measuring success

Historically, the University of Oregon has exceeded peer institutions in registration and participation rates, however the most recent NSLVE data shows the UO’s voting rate remained the same at 56.2%, as compared to an increase among almost 90% of peer institutions at 66%.

- Voter registration and participation analytics: UO will compare participation and turnout in 2020 to previous cycles.
- NSLVE reports: The UO is a participating campus in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement and uses and shares data reports. Noting that voter turnout is especially low for students studying business (one of our largest majors) and in some STEM majors, we will do some targeted outreach to these groups of students and note an impact of this outreach.

- ALL IN tools: Partners across campus are promoting the ALL IN take the pledge and ALLINtovote.org registration resources and will use all related analytics.
- Studentvote.org: OSPIRG is encouraging students to register through the studentvote.org system. We will work to share counts between studentvote.org and ALLINtovote.org systems.
- Keep It 100: UO's approximately 500 student-athletes, coaches and staff have already met their commitment to register 100% of all willing and able voting population. They have teamed up with OSPIRG and are also registering students through studentvote.org.
- Vote Early Day: The Holden Center for Leadership and Community Engagement utilizes the Voting Early Day social media campaign and encourages students to get registered and vote early.

Additional resources and partners:

- Lane County Elections Office
- League of Women Voters of Lane County
- History of Vote by Mail in Oregon (Multnomah County)
- CAUSA (Oregon immigrant rights organization): Civic Engagement
- Oregon Secretary of State Voter Registration Ballot Tracker

Teaching Engagement Program

TEP and UO Online are committed to enriching UO's vibrant teaching culture by supporting inclusive, engaged, and research-informed practice. Together our units offer a wide range of resources, learning opportunities, and services to support faculty and graduate student instructors.

Regardless of political ideology and identity, many students, faculty, and staff in the UO community experience stress related to political polarization. Feelings of stress can become heightened during election seasons. The [Teaching and Elections](#) page offers a variety of strategies to consider when teaching during an election.

Free Speech and Demonstration Guidelines

Rights, rules, responsibilities, and resources

At the University of Oregon, established guidelines protect the right to free speech, while ensuring that opposing views may also be expressed. The university strives to balance the right to dissent with the right to be heard, the right to speak one's mind with the right to listen. The university applies its rules and expectations in a manner neutral to the viewpoints expressed.

Printed Material

- Most building walls and campus fixtures, as well as most bulletin boards, are regulated. Building or department operators may determine what content may be approved (i.e., requiring content related to a particular program, or published by university groups for a university audience). Unapproved or unrelated material may be removed
- Material may not contain "true" threats of violence

Demonstrations

- May not interfere with scheduled university activities or speakers (such as classes or events)
- May not block doors, hallways, stairways, fire exits, fire lanes, or public rights of way including streets, sidewalks, etc.
- May not pose a threat to health and safety
- May not result in damage, theft, or vandalism of property
- May not exceed safe occupancy capacity in a room (Oregon Fire Code, Sections 104.1, 107.5, 107.6)
- May not have open flames larger than a standard candle outdoors, or any open flames indoors

Sound

- Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., outdoor amplified sound on campus (including microphones, amps, and bullhorns) is only permitted in the EMU Amphitheater, only with an approved request submitted to Scheduling and Event Services, and the amplified sound must be provided and/or monitored by Scheduling and Event Services; outdoor amplified sound may not exceed 83db measured 40 feet from the sound source in any direction
- At other days/times, the Eugene Municipal Code on noise (Sections 4.080, 4.081, 4.083, 4.084) regulates outdoor sound on campus; the code (with some exemptions) forbids amplified outdoor sound between 10:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. daily
- No amplified sound indoors (megaphones and other sound-amplifying devices are not allowed inside); no amplified sound at outdoor information tables
- Sound amplified by event schedulers is allowed in athletics and entertainment venues

- Please be considerate of classes and other events when demonstrating outdoors

Signs

- May not have attached sticks inside buildings (safety hazard)
- May not make direct, "true" threats of violence
- May be removed if not attended to at all times
- May not involve weapons or dangerous objects, including sticks or sign poles larger than 1"x2"

Graffiti

- No markings, including chalking, may be left on campus buildings or other structures or surfaces; chalking may be allowed on certain sidewalks and streets, but is subject to removal, consistent with campus maintenance standards and practices

Spaces

- To enable the free sharing of ideas on campus, the UO has rules and procedures for reserving space or other facilities
- When campus activities conflict with one another, university officials have the authority to request those involved in one activity to stop, move, or change their behavior, so that the other activity can continue

Violations of the standards above may result in university action to stop the behavior, as well as disciplinary consequences for students or employees, and possible legal action.

Online references and resources

- <https://policies.uoregon.edu/policy/by/1/01-administration-and-governance/freedom-inquiry-and-free-speech>
- <https://policies.uoregon.edu/policy/by/1/04-facilities/facilities-scheduling>
- <https://scheduling.uoregon.edu/resources>
- <https://scheduling.uoregon.edu/sites/scheduling1.uoregon.edu/files/UO-Amphitheater-Sound-Policy.pdf>
- <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2693>
- <https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code>
- <https://policies.uoregon.edu/proscribed-conduct>

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Visitors to the University of Oregon campus have the responsibility to obey federal and state laws, the municipal code, and University of Oregon rules and policies, and may be cited for trespass or subject to prosecution for any illegal behavior committed on campus. Additionally, students are subject to the requirements of the Student Conduct Code, and members of the faculty and staff are subjects to UO policies governing Proscribed Conduct, as well as the university's policies on progressive discipline.



Know Your Rights as an Oregon Voter

Important Message from the Oregon Secretary of State and your county elections official.

You have the right to:

- Access official ballot boxes and election offices without interference.
- Keep your vote private.
- Vote without intimidation or threats.

Voter Intimidation may include:

- Aggressive or harassing questions about whether you are qualified to vote intended to interfere with your right to vote, scare you into voting a certain way or to intimidate you for voting, such as questions about your citizenship status, criminal record, residency, other personal information, or questions about how you intend to vote.
- False or misleading statements or accusations about voter fraud or related criminal penalties, designed to frighten you away from voting.
- Verbal or physical threats – express or implied – meant to stop you from voting or to force you to vote for a particular candidate or measure.
- Purposefully obstructing or interfering with your ability to vote.
- Targeted surveillance of particular voters or groups of voters, such as following or tracking voters, copying license plates, taking videos or photos, etc., with the intent to dissuade or obstruct them from voting.

If you believe your rights as a voter have been violated, contact the Secretary of State at 503-986-1518 or elections.sos@sos.oregon.gov.

**It is illegal to threaten or harass an election worker.
It is illegal to interfere with any person's right to vote.**

ORS 166.065; ORS 260.665; 18 USC §§ 245(b)(1)(A) & 594; 42 USC § 1985(3); 52 USC §§ 10307(b) & 20511(1).

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FAQ re regulation of activity near election offices and dropboxes May 9, 2022

This document provides general answers to frequently asked questions about activity near elections offices and dropboxes. In using this document, county elections officials should remember that questions concerning constitutional rights can turn on individual facts; additional consultation with county counsel may be required in individual cases.

Can people have political signs, buttons, or shirts near an election office?

YES. ORS 260.695(2) prohibits electioneering near an election office at certain times. However, the Oregon Supreme Court has held that the right to free speech in Article I, Section 8, of the Oregon Constitution, protects the wearing of badges, buttons, or other political insignia at polling places. Therefore, Oregon Attorney General Opinion 8292 concluded that “electioneering” should not be construed to prohibit wearing such items.

Can people campaign near an election office?

UNCLEAR. ORS 260.695(2) prohibits “electioneering” during business hours, near an election office, and in the period between ballot mailing and the end of ballot deposit on Election Day. “Electioneering” is not defined, but it may include circulating cards or handbills, soliciting signatures on petitions, and using a public address system.

Oregon Attorney General Opinion 8292 concludes that ORS 260.695(2)’s ban on electioneering likely violates Article I, section 8, of the Oregon Constitution, which protects the right to free speech. However, this statute formally remains in effect. In 2019 the legislature was presented with this opinion but declined to remove ORS 260.695(2) from the statutes.

While the AG opinion suggests that county elections officials should not regulate electioneering in the manner described in ORS 260.695(2), county elections officials always retain the ability to address disorderly, threatening, or obstructive conduct in or around elections offices, whether it involves electioneering activity or not.

Can people campaign or have political signs or buttons or shirts near an official dropbox?

YES. ORS 260.695(2) does not address activities near dropboxes unless they are within 100 feet of an election office. Dropboxes within 100 feet of an election office should be considered under the rules for election offices described above.

Can people block access to election offices or dropboxes?

NO. ORS 260.695(3) provides that a person may not obstruct an entrance of a place where ballots are issued or where a voting booth is located, or a place that is designated for depositing ballots.

Can people ask to see your ballot or ask how you intend to vote at a dropbox or election office?

NO. No one, (except an election official) may ask any person at an official dropbox or voting booth how they intend to vote, or examine or attempt to examine their ballot. ORS 260.695(6).