
Maricopa County Community College Voter Engagement Plan: Mesa Community College

Fall 2018



Overview

ARS § 15-1895 requires each community college district, in consultation with the recognized student government at a community college under its jurisdiction, to adopt a plan to increase student voter registration and voting in elections that includes:

- Information about on-campus voter registration and voting opportunities made available in at least one of the following methods:
 - During new student orientation
 - During the issuance of student identification cards
 - In admissions packets
- Voter registration materials at central campus locations and high traffic areas
- Broad dissemination of information regarding:
 - Voter registration deadlines
 - Deadlines for delivering ballots by mail
- Links on institutional and administrative websites that detail the voter registration process
- Reasonable accommodations to county election officials for on-campus polling locations
- Encouragement to student government organizations to coordinate activities aimed at increasing voter registration and election turnout
- Policies to allow excused absence from classes for the purpose of voting
- Policies that prohibit the use of college resources and employees to influence elections
- An emphasis on efficiency and conservation of resources

The Maricopa County Community College District (“MCCCD”) and its associated colleges, aim to implement various methods for informing students of, disseminating information, and promoting voter registration.

Voter Engagement Team

The **Mesa Community College** Plan was created by the following voter engagement team members:

- Administration and Faculty
 - Primary Contact: Kris Bliss, Student Life and Leadership, Director Student Services
 - Duane Oakes, Center for Civic and Community Engagement
 - Brian Dille, Faculty Political Science
- Council of Student Leaders
 - Associated Students of Mesa Community College (ASMCC) President or designee

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- Club Collaboration
 - Phi Theta Kappa
 - Other club participation may vary each year
 - Community Partners
 - Maricopa County Recorder’s Office

Every election year prompts political activity in all sorts of venues, and MCCCCD both respects and encourages participation in the time-honored tradition of political activity on American college and university campuses. With that in mind, each of the District’s campuses has a plan consistent with the terms outlined in ARS § 15-1895 with the primary focus being to increase student voter registration and voting in elections.

Goals

In partnership with a variety of internal and external constituents Mesa Community College provides opportunities for students to:

1. Participate in voter registration through events and projects
2. Join scheduled community presentations
3. Attend trainings on democratic process and elections

Voter Engagement Plan

This section should detail exactly what your college’s plan will be and how you intend to accomplish the directives laid out in the overview. Example section headers and content could be:

Voter Registration

- Beginning of semester welcome email sent from either the VPSA or Dean of Students to all students with voter registration eligibility and deadlines.
- Welcome Week/Ongoing Tabling – by ASMCC, Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CC&CE), and various clubs
- Registration information provided to Enrollment Center staff as well as available within Student Life and Leadership and the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

Voter Education

- Links provided on the Student Life and Leadership, ASMCC sites to the Secretary of State, and the County Recorder
- The Democracy Commitment – MCC is a participating campus with this initiative
- Institutional Advancement helps to share information about various events, dates, etc. on all the campus social media sites

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- Information about various events relating to voter education will be shared online via the MCC Intranet as well as other advertising venues, e.g. posters, fliers, social media, etc.
 - Partnering with faculty to provide information to students about the importance of voting
 - MCC is an Andrew Goodman Foundation site. Students get trained by this organization to provide information to students regarding the importance of voting, voter education, etc.

Voter Education Events and Projects

- CC&CE hosts Constitution Day celebrations every year
- ASMCC/CC&CE/various clubs host candidate forums appropriate to the Mesa community as well as the state
- Political Science faculty provide presentations helping to understand various statewide propositions, how they are numbered, what a “yes”/”no” vote means, interpreting the language, etc.

Resources

The materials used for achieving these goals mainly come from time of students, staff, and faculty.

Materials

- Posters, handouts, buttons – the printing of these items comes from the budgets of Student Life and Leadership and Community and Civic Engagement along with other departments that may help – specifically academic departments.

Support

- Faculty and staff expertise and time. Donation of time from community partners

Assessment

This section should detail your assessment of the Plan. For example, what challenges do you anticipate with rollout and goal achievement? How do you plan on measuring success?

There are a few hurdles to achieving these goals – mainly it’s learning more about what all is done on campus to be able to count and track the various activities and ensuring all the departments/individuals work together to ensure we are looking at everything that is currently done.

The assessment of this plan will include tracking attendance at various events, counting how many forms are disbursed and asking students who participate to complete a short survey to determine if they were able to complete their voter registration and/or if the information they received was helpful for their civic engagement. The team will get

together in the spring semester to evaluate activities from the prior semester to review and plan for the upcoming term.