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# Maricopa County Community College Voter Engagement Plan: **Rio Salado College**

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Fall 2018



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## 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**

**NOTE:** Rio Salado College already engages in the three activities/items noted above in red.

**NOTE:** Through the Office of Student Life and one of its student leaders, Rio Salado College has begun to engage in the above item in purple in a limited way.

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 **Rio Salado Plan** was created by the following voter engagement team members:

- Administration and Faculty
  - Primary Contact:
    - John Bastian

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Coordinator  
Student Life and Leadership

– Team Member:

- Rachelle Clarke  
Dean  
Student Affairs

• Club Collaboration

Student President  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
Natl. Society of Leadership & Success

• Community Partners – potential partners will be explored further

Every election year prompts political activity in all sorts of venues, and MCCCDC 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

This section should outline the goals set forth for your college and could be revised at any time to address unique circumstances and changes.

1. Increase collaboration among Rio Salado departments to expand voter registration opportunities for students and employees.
2. Involve students in the voter registration and “get out the vote” planning process.
3. Work with faculty to explore inserting voter registration information into online classes.
4. Promote online voter registration, especially since it fits with Rio Salado’s emphasis on online engagement.
5. Distribute voter registration and election information to the Rio Salado locations to make available to students who attend those sites.

## 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.

### Voter Registration

- By February 2019, the Rio Salado Voter Engagement Team will meet with the Rio Salado departments of Institutional Research and Institutional Advancement to discuss

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the possibility of sending emails each semester to all students regarding voter registration (eligibility, deadlines, the process, etc.).

- Advertisements for voter registration will appear on Rio Salado's homepage during years when there is an election. These advertisements will run at least two months before the primaries and remain on the Rio website until the general elections are completed. These advertisements will be created in collaboration with the Rio Salado Institutional Advancement (IA/Marketing) Department. They will provide a link and instructions on how to register to vote. The Voter Engagement Team and IA will develop a plan for these advertisements by June 2019.
- By February 2019, students who come to the Rio Salado campus for educational services (registration, testing, financial aid, etc.) will be given the opportunity to register to vote online through the use of computers on the first floor of the Tower Building (2323 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Tempe 85281). The Rio Salado "Welcome Desk" will help facilitate this process.
- By June 2019, the Voter Engagement Team will meet with faculty members and employees of Course Production to explore the possibility of promoting voter registration in students' classes. This possibility will include providing an announcement regarding voter registration and a weblink for students to register if so desired.
- By June 2019, the Voter Engagement Team will meet with the Rio Salado Community Development Department to create a plan to distribute voter registration and election information to the Rio Salado locations.

#### **Voter Education**

- Links and resources to non-partisan information on candidates and proposals for upcoming ballots, to the Secretary of State's office, and to the County Recorder's office.
- Advertisements around campus

#### **Events related to Voter Registration**

- Constitution Day

## **Resources**

This section should describe the ways in which your Plan was accomplished.

Budget – costs will be contained within efforts of each department

Materials – fliers and posters will be created to post at campus locations

Support – Rio Salado faculty, students, and various departments will be engaged in the voter registration process.

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## Assessment

This section should detail your assessment of the Plan.

We will measure success by whether we accomplish each listed goal and the items under the “Voter Engagement Plan.” More specifically, we will consider and answer the following question by July 2019:

1. Have we expanded voter opportunities for students and employees through increased collaboration among Rio departments? If yes, who is involved with the voter registration process in addition to the three members currently on the Voter Engagement Team? If not, why not?
2. Have we involved more students in the voter registration process at Rio Salado? If so, how many and whom? If not, why not?
3. Have we worked with faculty to explore the possibility of inserting voter registration information into online classes? If yes, with what faculty members did we consult? What was the outcome? If no, why not?
4. Where is Rio Salado at in promoting online voter registration? What steps have we taken during the 2018-19 school year to promote registration?
5. Have we interacted with Institutional Research and Institutional Advancement to explore the possibility of sending voter registration emails out to all students one time per semester? If yes, what was the outcome? If no, why not?
6. Do we provide announcements and links on the Rio homepage as planned? If yes, are there any changes we need to make to this process? If no, why not?
7. Are we providing the opportunity for students coming to campus to register to vote online? Is the Welcome Desk helping with this process? If yes, how is this process going? If no, why not?
8. Have we met with the Rio Salado Community Development Department to create a plan related to the distribution of voter registration and election information to the Rio Salado locations? If yes, what is that plan? If no, why not?
9. Are we educating Rio employees and students by providing 1) links and resources to non-partisan information on candidates and proposals for upcoming ballots, 2) links to the Secretary of State’s office, and 3) links to the County Recorder’s office? If yes, where are these links and resources located? If no, why not?
10. Are we promoting voter registration and upcoming voting opportunities through advertisements on campus? If yes, in what form? If no, why not?