

South Central College

Nonpartisan Civic Engagement Action Plan

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

2026–2027

I. Executive Summary

South Central College's (SCC) Nonpartisan Civic Engagement Action Plan outlines the institution's coordinated approach to promoting student voter registration, voter education, participation in elections, and long-term civic engagement. Originally developed by SCC Student Senates in 2019–2020, this plan is reviewed and updated each election cycle by Student Life in collaboration with Academic Affairs, Student Senates, faculty, community partners, and local election officials.

This submission represents an updated action plan informed by feedback from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and aligned with the *Strengthening American Democracy Guide (4th Edition)*. The plan applies to both the North Mankato and Faribault campuses and is designed to meet the needs of a rural, commuter, and adult-learner student population.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Institutionalize nonpartisan democratic engagement across SCC
- Ask every student to participate in civic life, particularly voting
- Reduce barriers to participation for commuter and working students
- Connect voting to local, regional, and workforce-related issues relevant to SCC students

This plan will be implemented during the 2026–2027 academic years and evaluated through National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data and campus-level engagement metrics.

II. Leadership

SCC's nonpartisan civic engagement efforts are guided by a cross-campus Civic Engagement Coalition.

Students - Student Senate Presidents or Senate Representatives (North Mankato and Faribault)
- Student Civic Engagement

Faculty - Faculty Civic Engagement Liaison (appointed by Academic Affairs)

Student Affairs – Judy Endres, Vice President of Student Affairs, Brian Yingst, Director of Student Success - Nicole Emerson, Assistant Director for Student Life

Community & National Partners - Blue Earth County and Rice County Election Officials - League of Women Voters (regional) – Faribault Chamber of Commerce - LeadMN – Get Out the Vote Initiative – ALL IN – National Voter Registration Day

Note: South Central College is aware of the positive impact that engaging an Athletics department is for civic engagement initiatives therefore we wanted to note that we do not have athletics at our institution.

A leadership succession plan is embedded in this structure. Student Senate leaders mentor incoming officers, Civic Engagement Ambassador Volunteers (based on interest) are recruited annually, and staff leadership housed in Student Life ensures continuity across election cycles.

III. Commitment

South Central College demonstrates a visible and sustained commitment to civic engagement and democratic participation. Civic engagement is embedded within SCC's institutional core competency of *Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility* and reinforced through both curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Institutional commitments include: - Dedicated student volunteers on each campus focused on civic engagement and voter outreach - Integration of voter registration and voting information into D2L course shells - Ongoing participation in national initiatives such as the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge - Campus-wide communication promoting nonpartisan civic engagement

This commitment reflects SCC's belief that democratic engagement is an essential component of student success and community responsibility.

IV. Landscape

South Central College serves a diverse and predominantly commuter student population with the following characteristics: - Average student age: 28.4 - 21.7% Students of Color - 46.7% of students identify as underrepresented (Students of Color, Pell-eligible, and/or First-Generation)

NSLVE data indicates increased student voter participation during presidential elections, with lower engagement during local and midterm elections. Age-based participation gaps persist, with students aged 18–29 voting at lower rates than older students.

This landscape informs SCC's strategies, which emphasize: - Early voting and same-day registration education - Local and state issue framing - Flexible, short-duration engagement opportunities - Outreach tailored to commuter and working students

V. Goals

Short-Term Goals (2026–2027)

1. Increase student voter registration checks by 10% compared to 2024 levels.
2. Increase voter turnout among students aged 18–29 by at least 5 percentage points in the 2026 midterm election compared to 2022.
3. Engage at least 25% of enrolled students in at least one nonpartisan civic engagement activity or touchpoint.

Long-Term Goals (Through 2030)

- Reduce age-based voter participation gaps.
 - Sustain a student-led, nonpartisan civic engagement infrastructure.
 - Maintain recognition as an Established or Highly Established campus through the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
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VI. NSLVE Data Use

SCC participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to measure student voter registration and turnout.

SCC will: - Use comparable election cycles to establish benchmarks - Analyze data by age, race/ethnicity, and field of study - Include data summaries and visualizations in future action plan submissions - Share NSLVE summaries publicly through campus communication channels

NSLVE data directly informs SCC's goal-setting, strategy development, and evaluation processes.

Note: This data is currently under investigation, therefore cannot be used. Once released, we will add it to this report.

VII. Strategies & Tactics

Strategy 1: Ask Every Student to Participate

Tactics include: - Voter information embedded in D2L course shells. Liberteas & Juicetice for All tabling, Tie-Dye & Turnout tabling, - Classroom visits and faculty announcements - Democracy Dash tabling in high-traffic campus areas - Orientation and first-term student outreach

Strategy 2: Normalize Voting in Campus Culture

Tactics include: - Democracy Passport program - Election Week programming and visibility - Civic messaging in common spaces

Strategy 3: Connect Voting to Rural & Workforce Issues

Tactics include: - Civic Conversations and Lunch & Learns - Program-specific issue framing - Community partner collaborations

Strategy 4: Reduce Structural Barriers for Commuter Students

Tactics include: - Early voting and absentee ballot education - Same-day registration support - Flexible scheduling of engagement opportunities

VIII. Reporting

SCC will share its Civic Engagement Action Plan, NSLVE summaries, and engagement outcomes through: - A dedicated civic engagement webpage - Student Affairs annual assessment reports - Campus newsletters and communications - Submission to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

The action plan itself will be shared internally with faculty, staff, and student leaders through campus newsletters to support transparency and collective ownership.

IX. Evaluation

SCC's evaluation strategy includes both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Data sources include: - NSLVE voter registration and turnout data - Event attendance counts - Registration checks completed - Student participation in engagement initiatives - engagement surveys measuring civic confidence and knowledge

Responsibility: - Data Collection: Student Life and Student Civic Engagement Volunteers - Data Analysis: Vice President of Student Affairs - Reporting: Civic Engagement Coalition

Evaluation results are used to refine strategies, strengthen effective practices, and guide future action planning.

South Central College affirms its commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement and to empowering students as informed, active participants in their communities.