

CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FELLOW

Feeling Stuck? Fellows Project Ideas



Created for students.

Hi Fellows! It's Ella! I'm a former Fellow from Mississippi. Sometimes the hardest part is getting started. To help you out with brainstorming and planning, I've compiled a list of project and event ideas that worked for me and some other past Fellows. Read through these to boost your creativity, and feel free to adapt these ideas to your campus. Please note that this list is not exhaustive nor is it required that you complete all of these items.



Voter Registration

- Work with residence halls to register students as they arrive on campus and move into their dorms. Residence halls can be useful ways to reach out to lots of students over the course of the semester. RAs are usually required to host educational activities, so you can offer to talk about elections and voter engagement. Additionally, you can use on-campus residence halls to create voter competitions. Remember to also reach out to campus staff like custodians, housekeepers, landscapers and food service workers. See CEEP's [Dorm Storm resource](#) for more information.
- **Create a texting or email chain** to spread the word on registration and voting deadlines.
- **Hold registration competitions** within your campus or between colleges to see who can register the most voters. At the end, host a voter education party celebrating your efforts.
- **Encourage faculty to host voter registration and education seminars.** Introductory classes are great ways to engage new or first-year students. Work with faculty to use a PowerPoint slide walking students through the registration

CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FELLOW

process. Provide professors with registration or early voting opportunities on a slide they can incorporate into their course.

- **Utilize school spirit** by having your school mascot or famous campus idols encourage voter interest. Highlighting known individuals on campus draws attention and is the perfect chance to slide in some voter registration.
- **Set up registration tables** in high-traffic areas during a set time that will occur each week. This draws recognition to your presence on campus and invites students to ask questions. Check out the [CEEP Tabling Guide](#) for more.
- **Make the most of existing events** by adding a voter registration component. Sporting events, homecoming, parents' weekend, concerts, etc., are all high-profile events that generate large crowds. Consider having student volunteers canvass the stands or walk through the people passing out voter registration information and asking them to consider registering.
- Center events around **National Voter Registration Day**, held on the fourth Tuesday of every September. Check out the [NVRD website](#) for more information.

Voter Education

- How do we get students to pay attention to important elections, especially in a non-presidential election year? Create the coverage yourself by **building a social media campaign**. Build on your brand and distribute election-related videos, resources, and voting dates and rules. Create a hashtag that is specific to your school, even incorporating your mascot (e.g., #UCFVotes, #BadgersVote). Of course, always use the #CEEPFellow hashtag too! Learn more about [social media, memes and videos](#).
- **Hold debate watch parties**. You can bring together lots of students in spaces like your school's football stadium, basketball court or large lecture hall. You may even be able to incentivize students by making it an extra credit opportunity. Learn more in our [Debate Watch Guide](#).
- Work with your campus and local radio and TV stations to **create a series of short advertisements about why youth voting matters**. You can even host a competition for student-submitted scripts and videos.
- **Get your campus newspaper involved** in voter education. Help them adapt nonpartisan candidate guides for their own coverage. Encourage them to publish op-eds on voting-related topics. Check out our [Campus Newspapers](#) guide.
- **Host debates on campus** to encourage students to discuss pertinent topics. Debate teams, mock trial teams and even politically active groups like College Democrats and College Republicans could debate topics related to voting or current events.
- **Print copies of CEEP nonpartisan guides** and other resources to put in every student mailbox on campus.
- **Create a brief survey** (5-10 questions) to get valuable feedback from students. This can be an oral, written or online survey. You should also consider using social

CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FELLOW

media. Use the results to create an education event or resource answering any issues that might arise.

- **Look up who your local, state and federal officials are for your campus** and areas of town with significant student populations. Bridge the gap between students and local representatives. Provide opportunities where students can call or write their elected officials to voice their concerns. You can invite officials to debates, voter summits and other voter engagement events. Make sure you provide unbiased information on any current issues that may be going on in your area.
- **Organize a voter engagement fair.** Find a prominent area of campus and figure out how to reserve it. Set a date and time and invite student clubs, political campaigns, professors and subject experts, and others of all political stripes to participate.
- **Use your skills and creativity to showcase your love of civic engagement** through artistic expression and competitions. Create a music video or write an original song or poem about how important civic engagement is to you. Host a talent show or a political poetry slam where others can share their voice. Be sure to share your talent online and use the #CEEPFellow hashtag.
- **Encourage faculty participation** to help you find opportunities to get in front of students wherever they are such as presentations or projects.
- **Make a Kahoot!, Jeopardy! or other fun game centered around election trivia.** Give out buttons or stickers for students who win.

Absentee/Early Voting

- **Host discussions** on what absentee and early voting mean. You can hand out packets to help students know how to submit an absentee ballot request.
- **Promote early voting through social media,** email blasts and class reminders to avoid schedule conflicts or long Election Day lines. Show CEEP's series of short videos on mail-in voting.
- Local elections represent valuable teachable moments on the impact local elected officials have on students' day-to-day lives. **Offer voter registration and early voting opportunities.** Contact campaigns to organize an on-campus debate or candidate forum. Want to know more about what local elections do? Check out our [Local Office Descriptions](#) guide.
- **Encourage early voting through educational events.** Inform students on early voting hours and locations, then lead parades to the polls or field trips to vote early.

Getting Out the Vote

- **Have students pledge to vote** and create an Election Day plan to fit going to the polls into their daily schedule. This will increase the probability that they will turn out at the polls. Ask specifically when and how students plan to vote. Will they

CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FELLOW

request an absentee ballot or vote early? How will they get to the polls on Election Day? What time will they go? Designate a day during the final week to create excitement and have an impact on the election. Have students write out their plans, snap a picture and share it on social media to encourage others to make a plan.

- **Try to theme your events.** Past Fellows have hosted events like “Donut Forget to Vote” where they passed out donuts while encouraging students to vote. Others have created events like “Pups to the Polls” where students and dogs walked to nearby polling places together. Be creative and make your events fun and engaging!
- **Send out a campus-wide email** with the voting hours and locations for students living on campus and near campus. Include a link letting students know where they can find their polling place.
- **Use current events** like Halloween, sporting events or other large gatherings to promote voting.
- **Create a phone bank** and call student contacts you have collected through other efforts.
- **Make it personal by working on peer to peer dialogue.** Voters respond best to people they know. If you persuade one person to vote, they will likely influence at least one additional friend or family member to do the same. Ask students who they are going to go to the polls with. Ask students to use social media to encourage friends to vote.
- **Use volunteers to canvass the dorms and local community** to remind potential voters of the election and their polling location. Incorporate a vote plan into these conversations.
- **Provide transportation.** Publicize polling locations with directions, hours and transportation options. Encourage carpooling, and if possible, provide shuttles. See if local transit authorities can help run additional routes.
- **Plan election night parties.** Ask dorms, Greek houses and local businesses to hold election night parties.
- **Organize parades or marches to the polls.** Encourage students to walk together to the polls if they are on campus or close to campus.

Institutional Projects

- **If your campus does not already have a year-round electoral engagement coalition,** think about who should be at the table. Ideally, this team should be made up of administrators, faculty, staff, student leaders and community partners. If there is already a team, ask to speak at the next meeting about your campus action plan.
- **Set up locked mailboxes around campus for students to drop-off voter registration forms** for the city clerk to drop off.
- **Encourage faculty to integrate voter engagement language in their syllabus.** Share voting information with faculty members and administrators formatted to fit

CAMPUS ELECTION ENGAGEMENT PROJECT FELLOW

into their syllabuses. This way, every student who receives that syllabus also gets information on how to vote. [Standardized voter registration language](#) can be found on our website.

- **Think about how to create civil dialogue on campus.** Host discussions with [Living Room Conversations resources](#) and encourage interested faculty to use them too.
- **Work with your campus IT department to develop new campus-wide communications approaches.** Strategize with administration to distribute information regarding changing voter registration to secure eligibility. These could be campus-wide emails with voting information for students, a voting webpage on your campus' website and/or app for students. Or use a campus-wide learning management system (e.g., Blackboard, Canvas or Moodle) to share voting information and reminders.
- **Statewide voter summits** are a great opportunity to connect and share resources with other campuses. This is an ideal institutional project to build a statewide network and learn from others. Summits bring together administrators, faculty and student leaders to explore a specific theme like empowering the youth vote, best practices for nonpartisan voter registration or engaging your local community.
- **Work with your first-year office to record short videos or presentations for orientation**, encouraging students to register or update their voter registration. Have this video shown during other trainings on campus. Learn more about [registering students to vote at orientation](#).
- **Work with administrators to get Election Day observed as a campus holiday** so that students have ample time to vote.
- **Create a nonpartisan civic engagement club** that becomes a recognized hub for election engagement.
- **Plan a virtual town hall event.** Work with local candidates to discuss issues or the importance of the youth vote during virtual town halls.
- **Create a full-time civic engagement position(s)** on your campus. Have your campus hire a staff member or a Federal Work Study student(s). Alternatively, try to convince your student government to sponsor a position.
- **Develop a voter engagement course.** Get voter registration to be included during first-year experience courses or reminders to update your voter registration following graduation. Read more about working with faculty to [incorporate election engagement into their courses](#).