

Montgomery College  
December 11, 2024

The Maryland Higher Education Commission is required to report on the student voter campus activities at Maryland public institutions. The Student Voter Empowerment Act of 2020 (Maryland General Assembly) established the requirement that public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education submit a yearly "Student Voter Action Plan." The Student Voter Action Plan describes the dissemination of information about voter registration and voting, sharing of voter registration materials on campus, accommodation of early voting centers and precinct polling places on campus, and encouragement of student organizations engaged in voter registration and voting activities. Additionally, the Student Voter Action Plan highlights a policy excusing students from class to vote; requiring a public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education to make the student voting plan available to the public and provide the plan to the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Also public and private nonprofit institutions of high education are required to provide a link to the State of Maryland Board of Elections <https://elections.maryland.gov/> and the United States Election Assistance Commission [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov) voter registration systems on the online student portal

1. Email

Karla.silvestre@montgomerycollege.edu

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Information About the Person Completing this Form

2. Enter Your First and Last Name

Karla Silvestre

3. Enter Your Title

Director of Community Engagement

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4. Enter Your Institution Name

Montgomery College

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5. Enter Your Department

Office of Advancement and Community Engagement

6. Select Your Institution Type

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*Mark only one oval.*

Public 4-year

Public 2-year

Institutional Voter Website Activity

Please use your website analytics to determine the number of students who clicked the Voter Registration Link on your institution's website. (If zero, enter "0")

Due to a switch on the current version of Google Analytics, this data was lost for academic year 2023/2024. However, we are now set up to track analytics on our voter registration link for the current academic year.

## 7. Executive Summary

**Please summarize your institution's approach to Student Voter Action and Engagement.**

Montgomery College coordinates its student voter action and engagement efforts through the MC Votes committee. The Office of Community Engagement convenes monthly meetings of the MC Votes committee. This committee is led by a representative from Student Affairs (Lisa Hackley, student life director for the Rockville Campus), Academic Affairs (professor Joe Stumpf, chair of the History and Political Science Department), and the Office of Community Engagement (Karla Silvestre, director). Our student voting coordinator has been Gloria Bonilla, associate director for community engagement though she retired in August of 2024. An acting coordinator, Katie Nguyen, has been named until a new staff is hired to assume this role in January of 2025. Ms. Bonilla also coordinated our MC Student Ambassador Program for peer-to-peer engagement with students. The monthly meetings are used to plan activities for the year, advocate for voter empowerment improvements at the College, learn about and promote different departments' efforts in voter engagement, and coordinate efforts. We used our data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement to guide our work. Our data from 2018 and 2022 told us that many of our students were registered to vote and voter registration rates remained consistent (70.2% and 73.6% respectively). However, the percent of registered students actually voting on election day (voting rate) had declined by 16.2%. Since then, we targeted some of our activities to get out the vote during early voting and on election day.

We partner each year with the League of Women Voters for Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Board of Elections, and local sororities and fraternities. These groups regularly conduct outreach activities on campus to encourage students to register to vote, check their registration, and sign up to become election workers. A few years ago, the League of Women Voters conducted a study on student voting and best practices which we have used to guide our work. They recommended in-person outreach, peer-to-peer contact, use of social media to have students challenge their networks to use social media to get out the vote, and to help students know what to expect when they get to the voting booth. We tried to direct our activities to meet some of these best practices by conducting tabling on all three campuses, recruiting six MC Votes student ambassadors, passing out voter guides so students could study the candidates, hosting faculty-led events, and implementing a robust communications plan including social media.

One of our unique strategies is the MC Votes Student Ambassador program. These are students (some paid as student workers and some volunteer) who work to promote voter engagement on campus. They conduct outreach on each campus passing out information on voter registration, poll worker opportunities, and other information such as polling locations. They work with faculty so they can speak to their classes and engage with their peers directly. They also produce videos encouraging students to register, vote on election day, and encourage others to vote. We have found the MC Votes Student Ambassador program to be an effective strategy to encourage student voter participation.

Faculty at Montgomery College are emailed a document with important election dates to bring up with their students and are referred to the MC Votes website to find other resources such as Montgomery College library's voter resource guide so they can integrate voter education in their classes. Other faculty invite local elected officials to their classes to discuss several topics of importance to students, civic education, elections, and current events. The faculty representative of our MC Votes committee presented to all faculty chairs on several occasions about the resources available to them on voting so they could plan to integrate lessons into the courses for the spring and fall semesters.

The Office of Student Life holds numerous events throughout the year to engage students in voting and civic education (see list of events below). For example, on National Voter Registration Day and National Vote Early Day, they hosted the League of Women Voters to conduct in-person outreach on each of our campuses and organized fun trivia activities to connect with students around voting.

The Office of Compliance, Risk, and Ethics sends out a reminder to all students on how they can register to vote several times a year. The communication is visually appealing and contains both College, county, and state resources.

In addition, the Office of Communications and the Office of Community Engagement promote voting information through newsletters, social media, and videos in multiple languages.

This past academic year we had increased capacity to do outreach to students through a Maryland Service Corps member, Shannon Roundtree. He helped with outreach to students on voter education from September 2023-August 2024. He was on campus each week giving out information about voting to students and he held several events on campus related to voting. This greatly increased our capacity to outreach to students this year.

For the first time this year, we had ballot boxes on each campus provided by the Maryland State Board of Elections. Much of our promotions this year were focused on raising awareness to students, faculty, staff, and the community on the availability of the ballot boxes so they could use them thereby increasing voting access on campus.

Montgomery College was recognized on the 2024 Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting. ALL IN's Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting recognizes colleges and universities making intentional efforts to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and college student voting. We continued to celebrate National Voter Registration Day. We maintained our participation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge by submitting a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan. We also submitted the Higher Education President's Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation through which Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, president of Montgomery College, commits to striving towards full student voter participation and making a statement to show commitment to student voter engagement.

Montgomery College earned a Bronze Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge based on our 2022 campus voting rate from your National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) report from Tufts University.

This year we applied for the Community College Concert Competition but we were not selected for this national prize. Regardless, the organizers shared print and electronic resources with all the colleges that applied.

## **8. Student Voter Engagement Timeline and Event**

**Please enter monthly events for the prior academic year August 2023-May 2024**

**RV=Rockville Campus, TPSS = Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus, GT= Germantown Campus**  
**Reporting period: August 2023- May 2024**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Organization and/or Department</b>	<b>Number of people reached/ contacted</b>
8/15/23	New Student Orientation Programming— Raptor Day	To provide new/returning students with information on campus resources and the benefits of getting involved. We provided a voter information table for students and their families. We also put information in student folders.	Office of Student Life (GT)	239
8/17/23	Raptor Day	To provide RV campus community the opportunity to get to know the campus happenings, and learn about what resources are available to them on and off campus, including the opportunity to register to vote and check voter registration status	Office of Student Life, League of Women Voters	304
8/28/23	Raptor Week— Snacks and Maps	To provide students with breakfast, snacks and information during the first week of school. We provided voter registration information.	Office of Student Life (GT)	350
8/29/23	Raptor Week— Snacks and Maps	To provide students with breakfast, snacks and information during the first week of school. We provided voter registration information.	Office of Student Life (GT)	275
9/13/23	Club Rush	To provide RV campus community an opportunity to sign up for clubs and learn about resources available to them on and off campus, including voter registration	Office of Student Life, League of Women Voters	350
9/19/23	National voter registration day	voter registration	Office of Student Life – TPSS, League of Women Voters, Montgomery	50

			County Board of Elections	
9/19/23	National Voter Registration Day	Trivia to inform students of National Voter Registration Day & how to register to vote. LWV on campus to register eligible students to vote or check registration. Pizza and prizes for participants	Office of Student Life, League of Women Voters	185
9/19/23	Get Involved Week—National Voter Registration Day	Provided Trivia to inform students of National Voter Registration Day & how to register to vote. The League of Women Voters were on campus to register interested/eligible students to vote.	Office of Student Life (GT)	166
9/19/23	Voter registration email to “all students” email (current and past still on list)	To promote voting	Office of Compliance	71,660
9/27/23	Fall Volunteer Fair	To connect students with volunteer opportunities in the community, to register students to vote, check their voter registration status and provide information about signing up to be an election judge	Office of Student Life, MC Votes, League of Women Voters, Montgomery County Board of Elections	157
10/11/23	MC Votes Watch Party	Students gathered to watch the Rockville City Council Candidates Forum to learn more about the candidates so they can make an informed decision in the local elections	Office of Student Life, MC Votes, MC Political Science Department, League of Women Voters	26
10/11/23	City of Rockville Candidate Forum	Students assisted with the Candidate Forum by being timekeepers, greeters, runners and helping with questions from the audience	Office of Student Life, City of Rockville, League of Women Voters	5
10/31/23	Voter information and education event	inform and educate	Office of Student Life – TPSS, League of Women Voters, Montgomery	50

			County Board of Elections	
12/8/23	Impact MC Weekly Meeting	Students heard from council member Natali Fani -Gonzalez on being a changemaker in the community	Office of Student Life	18
1/22/24	Raptor Week-Voter registration and education	inform and educate	Office of Student Life – TPSS, League of Women Voters	60
1/23/24	Raptor Week-Voter registration and education	inform and educate	Office of Student Life – TPSS, League of Women Voters	60
1/23/24	League of Women Voters Tabling @Raptor Week	Students had the opportunity to register to vote/check their voter registration status during Raptor week	Office of Student Life, League of Women Voters	200
1/31/24	Class Presentation	To inform about voting	Academic Affairs	N/A
2/24	Faculty Council Meeting	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	9
2/24	League of Women Voters-Ralph Watkins	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	1
2/24	Associated builders and contractors	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	3
2/24	Student Council Meeting	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	17
2/24	Fireside Chat with Dr. Linda Singh	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	6
2/24	MC Serves	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	16
2/24	Club Rush	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	10
2/24	Class Presentation	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	10
2/24	Nursing Department Engagement Meeting	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	5
2/24	MC Serves	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	25
2/24	Class Presentation	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	13

2/24	College Council Meeting	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	7
2/24	Class Presentation	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	15
2/24	MC Serves	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	30
2/24	Class Presentation	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	7
2/24	Germantown Athenaeum Symposia	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	5
2/7/24	Club Rush	To provide RV campus community an opportunity to sign up for clubs and learn about resources available to them on and off campus, including voter registration	Office of Student Life	250
2/7/24	Volunteer Fair	To connect students and employees with volunteer opportunities in the community. The League of Women Voters and the Board of Elections attended to provide information on how to register to vote.	Office of Student Life (GT)	80
Feb.-April 2024	Voting in Global Context Assignment	Part of a Project Pericles mini-grant, students in a Renaissance Scholars Honors Dyad produced poster presentations about voting, analyzed poetry about voting, and created a video reading voting poetry with a student worker at MCTV	Renaissance Scholars Honors Program; Humanities Area	22
2/21/24	Spring Volunteer Fair	To connect students with volunteer opportunities in the community, to register students to vote, check their voter registration status and provide information about signing up to be an election judge	Office of Student Life, League of Women Voters, Board of Elections	75
3/24	Class Presentation	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	14
3/24	Ballot Box Welcome event	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	4
3/24	Tabling at Staff Enrichment Day	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	28
3/20/24	Posting flyer on campus	Promote Voting & MC Votes	MC Votes Student Ambassadors	N/A

3/26/24	Calculus II Class Presentation	Register to Vote. Early Voting. Mail- In Ballot	MC Votes Student Ambassador	20
3/26/24	Welcome Ballot Boxes to MC	Inform College community about access to vote by mail on campus	MC Votes Ambassadors	N/A
3/28/24	Student Business Association Post carding event for Center for Common Ground	Post carding for Center for Common Ground to BIPOC lapsed voters in Prince William VA reminding them to vote in the upcoming Primary	Office of Student Life, Service Learning, Student Business Association, Center for Common Ground	5
3/28/24	Post flyers on campus	Promote Voting & MC Votes	MC Votes Student Amb	N/A
3/28/24	Statistics Class Presentation	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot. Vote on campus	MC Votes Student Amb.	15
4/24	Delta Sigma Sorority Voter Registration	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	N/A
4/24	Staff Council	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	20
4/24	Alpha Kappa Alpha Voter Registration	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	N/A
4/24	Remembering January 6: Democracy and the Peaceful Transition of Power with Congressman Jamie Raskin and Sgt. Aquilino	To promote voting	Academic Affairs	N/A
4/4/24	Voter registration email to "all students" email (current and past still on list)	To promote voting	Office of Compliance	74,902
4/8/24	Tabling on campus	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot. Vote on campus	MC Votes	23
4/9/24	Voting Drive	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot. Early Voting	Delta Sigma Kappa	10



4/15/24	Presentation to Professor Michael Huggins class	Inform/voting process, primaries, etc.	MC Votes Student Ambassador	15
4/15/24	Tabling on campus	Inform/assist College community	MC Votes Student Ambassador	48
4/16/24	Tabling on campus	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot. Early Voting	MC Votes Student Amb.	4
4/16/24	Voting Drive	Inform & assist student to vote	Delta Sigma K Sorority	50
4/16/24	Post flyers on campus	Voting information	MC Votes Student Amb.	N/A
4/17/24	Equity and Tech in the Voting Booth	To inform about voting	Academic Affairs	N/A
4/17/24	Tabling on campus	Inform/voting process, primaries, etc.	MC Votes Student Amb.	2
4/18/24	Assisted friends	Explained registration process	MC Votes Ambassador	3
4/22/24	Tabling on Campus	Inform/voting process, primaries, etc.	MC Votes Student Ambassadors	64
4/23/24	Tabling BE Center	Voting information	MC Votes Ambassador	8
4/24/24	Tabling on campus	Voting, mail-in ballot; early voting dates, etc.	MC Votes	11
4/24/24	Presentation to Professor Newtoff class	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot, etc.	MC Votes Ambassador	16
4/25/24	Tabling on Campus	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot, etc.	MC Votes Student Amb.	2
4/29/24	Presentation to Student Activities Board (SAB)	Seek participation to get the word out to students	MC Votes Ambassador	15
4/29/24	Tabling	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot, etc.	MC Votes	18
4/29/24	Tabling	Sharing where to vote on campus and how to request a mail in ballot.	MC Votes Ambassador	35
4/30/24	Your Vote/Your Voice Event	Primaries & General Election dates.	MC Votes & Professor Newtoff	49
4/30/24	One on One chat with peers	Discuss importance voting	MC Votes Ambassador	5
5/24	Voter Registration tabling	To provide information and promote voting	MC Votes	13

5/1/24	Asian American & Pacific Island Kick Off event	Inform about voting. Mail-in ballot, etc.	MC Votes	35
5/1/24	Posting & passing out flyers to students	Early Voting	MC Votes Student Ambassador	N/A
5/2/24	Voter Registration Event	Early Voting	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	13
5/3/24	Tabling on campus	Early Voting &Vote by mail. Primaries date	MC Votes	7
5/6/24	Tabling on campus	Early Voting &Vote by mail. Primaries date	MC Votes	8
5/7/24	Tabling on campus	Early Voting &Vote by mail. Primaries date	MC Votes	12
5/9/24	Tabling on campus	Early Voting &Vote by mail.	MC Votes	12
5/9/24	Post flyers on campus	General Election 5/14	MC Votes Ambassador	N/A
5/11/24	Tabling	To provide information and guide about the process of voting	MC Vote Student Ambassador	23
5/13/24	Tabling on campus	General Election 5/14	MC Votes	14
5/14/24	Tabling on Campus	General Election 5/14	MC Votes	9
5/14/24	Tabling	Voting/General Election	MC Votes Ambassador	5

### **Student Voter Engagement Partners**

**The traditional way of organizing student voter engagement through partnerships was challenged during the pandemic and colleges and universities had to creatively re-think how to engage with their student population.**

**19. Who are your campus community student voter engagement partners? The partners can include both internal and external groups working to promote voter outreach and education on campus.**

We partner with the League of Women Voters for Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Board of Elections, and local sororities and fraternities every year. These groups regularly conduct outreach activities on our three campuses to encourage students to register to vote, check their registration, and sign up to become election workers. We also work with the Civic Circle, a non-profit organization that works to promote civic education in elementary schools, by recruiting MC students to volunteer and conduct

presentations in elementary schools. New this year, we partnered with the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County to host a banner competition called Promote the Vote for our students and alumni. A recent graduate was selected, and her design was displayed on each of our campuses in multiple locations. Our internal partners include Student Life, Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, Montgomery College Television, Office of Communications, Montgomery College Libraries, and the Alumni Relations office.

### **Student Voter and Civic Engagement Goals**

**Civic engagement involves working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. Because students are so diverse, as are the contexts in which they participate and the issues they face, civic engagement will mean different things to different groups of young people.**

**20. What are your campus student voter and civic engagement goals? If applicable, please include tables and graphs highlighting voting, registration rates and age groups.**

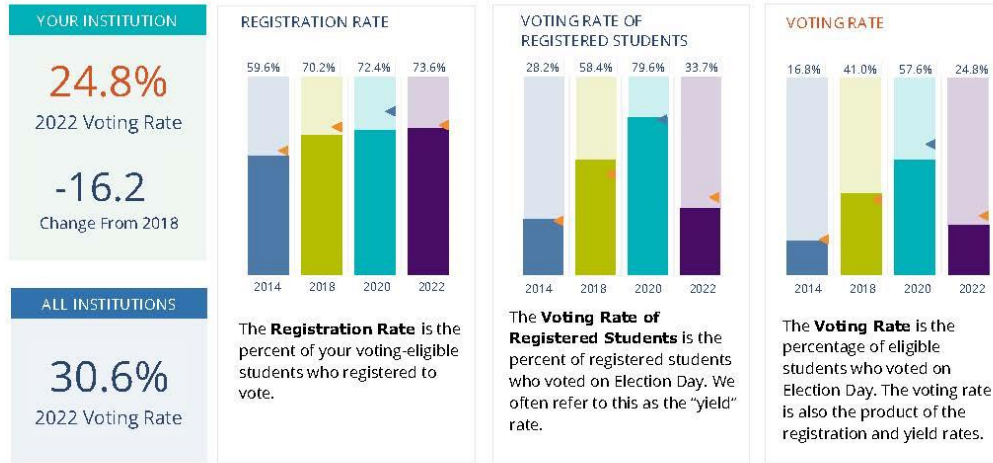
#### **Goals**

Per our strategic plan, we strive to enhance connections between Montgomery College and our community. One of our intended outcomes is the integration of civic engagement in the College's practices. Ultimately, we strive to see increases in our student voter participation rates. Currently, the strategic plan outcomes group is assessing the following.

1. Which general education classes are integrating civic engagement and what are they doing to accomplish this?
2. Which classes integrate service learning through extra credit or as a part of the syllabus?
3. How much student volunteering is tracked through our service-learning database?
4. How many events on campus are held each year to directly related to deliberate dialogue and civic engagement skills?

The MC Votes committee's goals are to raise awareness about upcoming elections, promote the ballot drop boxes on campus, promote voter registration or updating their registration, and pledging to vote on election day.

## Voting, Registration and Yield Rates



In 2022, our student voter registration rate was 73.6% and 24.8% of registered credit students voted. Therefore, our overall voting rate was 24.8% (eligible students who voted). This is a decline from the last mid-term election in 2018.

### First Year Student Voter Participation

**21. Please describe voter engagement in the first-year student population (include freshman seminar, student organizations, etc.).**

Our efforts are geared to all community college students (credit and noncredit) without regard to their length of time at Montgomery College. Our students represent a mix of students, some of whom transfer in with credits and workforce development students. Focusing on just first year students would miss these populations.

### Additional Voter Registration Files

**Please include voter registration files, screenshots and other images illustrating student voter outreach. Image files can be uploaded.**

**22.**

**Files submitted:**

2022 NSLVE report

Promote the Vote Banner Competition

Flyer for Party to the Polls

Flyer for National Voter Registration Day

Flyer for Vote Early Day

MC Votes Webpage

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/mc-votes/index.html>