



Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan

Fall 2026-Summer 2028

San José State University



This action plan was prepared to fulfill one requirement of California's Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA). This action plan identifies campus goals related to democratic engagement and civic learning. It also identifies campus leadership, strategies to increase student engagement, and plans to evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies. This report was created by the SJSU Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) Planning Committee. For more information, please contact the SJSU SCVEA Planning Committee Chair Dr. Mary Currin-Percival mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

San José State University, located in San José, California, has a strong record of civic engagement and civic education and is committed to increasing civic engagement and civic education opportunities for the SJSU community. SJSU seeks to inform and empower students to be engaged leaders and to serve the community. This Action Plan embraces the mission of the university.

Honoring our roots as the first public university in the West, SJSU is an empowering institution enrolling students from a range of backgrounds, fostering inclusion, and embracing talent from diverse cultures from our region and across the globe. SJSU's spirit of innovation, and creativity drives academic excellence, teaching, research, and service in a learning environment where all students belong. Together, we nurture leaders to thrive and transform our community, Silicon Valley, and the world (Mission, <https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php>).

This 2026-2028 Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan was developed by the SJSU Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Planning Committee, led by Dr. Mary Currin-Percival, SJSU Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator (CVEC) and Director of SJSU Votes. The committee developed this action plan and SJSU's ALL IN Campus Action Plan. Portions of these two plans will be identical.

The SJSU SCVEA Planning Committee represents multiple units and organizations to ensure the plan represents diverse voices and is equity-focused in its implementation consistent with our values statement. "San José State University will be a nationally and globally recognized, student-centered public urban research university cultivating equity-minded social impact, global innovation, and community engagement" (SJSU Values, <https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php>). Members represent the Office of the President, Community and Government Relations, Student Affairs, Associated Students, the Cal State Student Association, the Office of Undergraduate Education, Campus Housing, recognized student organizations, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SJSU Votes (the nonpartisan campus voter registration, mobilization, education, and civic engagement initiative), the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, the PRIDE Center, the Native American Indigenous Student Success Center, the Center for Asian Pacific Islander Student Empowerment, the Human Rights Institute, the College of Social Sciences and the Lurie College of Education. It also includes the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office.

In this action plan, we describe our nonpartisan democratic engagement and education plans for fall 2026-summer 2028. This action plan covers July 1, 2026-June 30, 2028 and will be updated in May 2028. The action plan will be implemented by the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act Planning Committee through online, hybrid and in-person campus and community engagement and education events. Dr. Currin-Percival, SCVEA Planning Committee Chair, will coordinate the plan implementation and updates. We aim to increase student voter registration, civic education, and turnout in the 2026 general election and 2028 primary election and foster even greater connection between SJSU and the San José community. SJSU has several long-term and short-term civic engagement goals for 2026-2028.

Short term goals (1-3 years) are 1) Develop and implement a campuswide survey to measure civic engagement among students, faculty, and staff, 2) Obtain participation data for demographic groups, colleges, and majors within SJSU and make a plan to identify and address equity gaps, 3) Maintain comprehensive civic engagement resources for the SJSU community on the SJSU Elections Resources page until a Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal is created, 4) Create an online campus Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal, and 5) Increase collaboration and communication between SJSU, the City of San José, Santa Clara County, and local community organizations.

Long term goals (4-10 years) are 1) Increase voter registration among SJSU students by 20%, 2) Increase turnout among registered SJSU students by 20%, 3) Reduce previously-identified participation gaps for STEM majors, 4) secure long-term funding for the SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE) to provide staff support, paid interns, and program support, and 5) implement a bi-annual campuswide survey of civic engagement.

The university and the administration are committed to democratic engagement and civic learning. This commitment is reflected in regular emails, public addresses, social media and blog posts from University President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Provost Vincent Del Casino, Vice President of Student Affairs Mari Fuentes-Martin and CVEC Dr. Currin-Percival. This commitment is embedded in the curriculum as well. The Instruction and Student Affairs Committee and the Academic Senate updated the syllabus information page to include civic engagement opportunities and organizations, including SJSU Votes. This page is linked on all SJSU syllabi. Social media posts from the university and the Office of the President promote voter registration and voting. SJSU Strategic Communications regularly features civic learning and democratic engagement in university publications and provides links to news items featuring university experts, civic engagement and elections.

SJSU's commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement is a pervasive part of its culture. It is ongoing and systematic. We do not focus only on election season, but instead, work year-round to engage students. Our commitment is sustainable across programs, departments, and the entire university because of the input and participation of multiple diverse units and organizations and because this engagement and learning is embedded in the curriculum and co-curriculum, through multiple colleges, departments, and organizations. Everyone has a vested outcome in our democratic engagement and civic learning plan.

SJSU's commitment is communicated outside of the institution through its submission and publication of ALL IN Action Plans (previously in 2024), Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plans (previously in 2024), through posts on LinkedIn and other social media, and announcements to city and county officials and community organizations.

II. LEADERSHIP

SCVEA Planning Committee Membership

SJSU's SCVEA Planning Committee members represent multiple units and organizations and ensure a diversity of campus voices are reflected in this Action Plan. Members are strong communicators and possess excellent organization skills. Committee members have expertise in areas such as election administration, voting rights, voting behavior, other political participation and activism, California government, government relations, academic advising, students affairs, and civil rights. The SCVEA Planning Committee includes members of multiple units at SJSU and CSU, including the Office of the President, Community and Government Relations, Student Affairs, Associated Students, the Cal State Student Association, the Office of Undergraduate Education, Campus Housing, recognized student organizations, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, SJSU Votes (the nonpartisan campus voter registration, mobilization, education, and civic engagement initiative), the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, the PRIDE Center, the Native American Indigenous Student Success Center, the Center for Asian Pacific Islander Student Empowerment, the Human Rights Institute, the College of Social Sciences and the Lurie College of Education. It also includes the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office.

The SCVEA Planning Committee Chair is the campus Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator (CVEC). Implementing the requirements of the Student Voting and Empowerment Act is included in the

CVEC’s position requirements. One requirement is to meet with campus and community stakeholders to create an action plan submitted to the California Secretary of State’s Office. Other requirements include campus communication about elections and planning civic engagement events. When she leaves this position, she would recommend to the university president a new CVEC from the current SCVEA Planning Committee membership.

Committee Members

Dr. Mary Currin-Percival	SCVEA Committee Chair, Professor of Political Science, Director of the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, and Founding Director of SJSU Votes.
Makayla Akin	Associated Students SJSU, President and CEO 2026-2027
Maxwell Fairleigh	Associated Students SJSU, External Affairs Director 2026-2027
Katelyn Gambarin	Associated Students SJSU, Past-President and CEO 2025-2026, SJSU alumna, class of 2026
Tara Al Rahani	Cal State Student Association, Past-President and co-Founder of the SJSU SWANA initiative, SJSU alumna, class of 2026
Paviter Randhawa	SJSU Votes Fellow, Fall 2026
Charlotte Erickson	SJSU Votes Athletics Fellow, Fall 2026
Diya Agrawal	SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE), Spring 2026 Intern and President, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), Epsilon Iota Chapter
Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin	SJSU Vice President for Student Affairs
Shawn Whalen	SJSU Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Dr. Chris Jensen	SJSU Director of Student Involvement
Bonnie Sugiyama	Director, SJSU PRIDE Center
Dr. craig John Alimo	Director for Social Justice Education, SJSU Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Kateri Azure	Program Coordinator, SJSU Native American Indigenous Student Success Center (NAISSC)
Jaclyn Gordienko	Residential Life Administrative Specialist, SJSU University Housing Services
Natalie Goolsby	Election Specialist Outreach Coordinator, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters’ Office
Ryan Ward	Senior Director of Community and Government Relations, SJSU

Nina Chuang	Assistant Director of Community and Government Relations, SJSU
Ingrid Mapanao-Racho	Program Coordinator, SJSU Center for Asian Pacific Islander Student Empowerment (CAPISE)
Dr. Melinda Jackson	Dean, SJSU Undergraduate Education
Dr. Michael Dao	Associate Professor & Associate Chair, Department of Kinesiology and Director, SJSU Human Rights Institute
Dr. Ellen Middaugh	Associate Dean, Lurie College of Education
Dr. Michael Oye	Executive Director, CommUniverCity

Other Potential Members

The SCVEA Committee will also reach out to other campus and community organizations (some previously invited) which will provide additional important perspective and leadership. These organizations include the SJSU Black Leadership and Opportunity Center (BLOC), the Chicana/Latina Student Success Center, SJSU Athletics, the Santa Clara County/San José League of Women Voters, Asian Law Alliance and the African American Community Service Agency. Other campus offices and organizations which should be involved in action plan implementation include the Center for Campus Excellence and Teaching Innovation (CFETI), the Office of the Registrar, the Academic Senate, eCampus (Canvas management), SJSU Marketing and Communications, and SJSU Cares. The committee will also reach out to Veterans' Resource Center to replace their representative who recently left the university for another position.

Other groups previously identified in SJSU NSLVE reports as underrepresented in mobilization and registration include students in science and engineering majors. The Office of the Dean of Science and the Office of the Dean of Engineering will also be contacted by the committee and encouraged to join the committee. Potential committee members are identified by the committee and encouraged to join by the chair.

Responsibilities

Listed members of the SJSU Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (SCVEA) Planning Committee drafted this Action Plan and will be responsible for its implementation. The committee met in May 2026 and worked virtually on the plan, adding comments and suggestions. It approved the final draft submitted October 1. This group will also construct the ALL IN Campus Action Plan. The committee will also meet in December 2026 to review the fall 2026 activities, reflecting upon the activities and the degree to which we are meeting our short-term goals.

Moving forward, the committee will meet twice a semester (via Zoom) and contribute to action plans and reports virtually. The SCVEA Planning Committee Chair will plan meetings and share action plans and report drafts via email. All members will be invited to a SCVEA Planning Committee Google team drive where action plans, reports, a Google Sheet with civic engagement and education event information, and back-up documentation will be stored. A SCVEA Google calendar will be maintained by the committee chair. If there is turnover in an office represented in the SCVEA Committee, the chair will reach out to the new individual serving in that position, as she did in fall 2026 to address turnover in several offices represented on the SCVEA Planning Committee. Committee members are encouraged to include service on the SCVEA committee in any transition and orientation materials. If a committee member remains in their position, but discontinues service on the committee, the chair will reach out to the member to 1)

encourage them to rejoin the committee or 2) ask the member if they can identify another person who could replace them (and represent the same unit/group/organization). Committee members are asked to remain engaged by attending meetings, contributing to all action plans and reports, compiling reporting data, and promoting SCVEA campus and community civic learning and engagement events. They are also asked to help plan co-sponsored events and plan their own organization events.

SCVEA Committee Resources and Support

The SCVEA Planning Committee also relies upon multiple organizations providing guidance and resources including the Office of the California Secretary of State, the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, Campus Vote Project, Ask Every Student, Students Learn Students Vote, National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, Election Hero Day, the American Democracy Project, and the Fair Elections Center.

The SCVEA Planning Committee has the support of the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The SCVEA Planning Committee Chair will regularly update these offices on committee plans and progress. The CVEC is accountable to the SJSU Office of the President, the SJSU Office of the Provost, the California State University Office of the Chancellor, and the California Secretary of State's Office. She applied for and received an Exceptional Service to Students Assigned Time Award (AY 2025-2026) of 3 WTUs in spring 2026 (for the June 2 Primary Election) and an Exceptional Service to Students Assigned Time Award (AY 2026-2027) of 3 WTUs in fall 2026 (for the November General Election) for her service as CVEC. Other members are not compensated for the service to the SCVEA Planning Committee. For this reason, the committee chair writes the initial drafts of action plans, manages communication for the committee, and will write a draft of reports related to action plans. Committee members will edit, comment on, add to, and vote upon action plans and reports. All members are encouraged to add civic engagement and education events aimed at their units and organizations. All members are encouraged to promote all events included in the action plans.

Commitment to Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement

The commitment to nonpartisan democratic engagement is woven into campus culture. Along with providing excellent academic opportunities to students, SJSU provides multiple opportunities for students to become civically engaged. SJSU considers civic engagement crucial to the mission of the university. SJSU values and supports opportunities for its diverse student body to become civically-engaged through student organizations, the curriculum and co-curricular activities. SJSU seeks to educate and empower students to be engaged leaders and to serve the community. This Action Plan embraces the mission of the university.

Honoring our roots as the first public university in the West, SJSU is an empowering institution enrolling students from a range of backgrounds, fostering inclusion, and embracing talent from diverse cultures from our region and across the globe. SJSU's spirit of innovation, and creativity drives academic excellence, teaching, research, and service in a learning environment where all students belong. Together, we nurture leaders to thrive and transform our community, Silicon Valley, and the world (Mission, <https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php>).

The SCVEA Planning Committee represents Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, civic engagement organizations, student government, administration, multiple student centers, and the local elections office in an effort to ensure the plan represents diverse voices on campus and is equity-focused in its implementation, consistent with our values statement. "San José State University will be a nationally and globally recognized, student-centered public urban research university cultivating equity-minded social

impact, global innovation, and community engagement” (SJSU Values, <https://www.sjsu.edu/about/mission-vision-values.php>).

University Administration Commitment

University administration is committed to democratic engagement and civic learning. This commitment is reflected in regular emails, public addresses, social media and blog posts from University President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Provost Vincent Del Casino, Vice President of Student Affairs Mari Fuentes-Martin, College of Social Sciences Dean Anne Marie Todd, and Dean of Undergraduate Education Melinda Jackson. This commitment is communicated multiple times each election year and in non-election years. University administrators author, or co-author, with the CVEC, campus emails regarding the voter registration deadline, National Voter Registration Day, Election Day, and other important election dates. SJSU Marketing and Communication works with the CVEC to ensure these emails are disseminated in a timely manner and that the SJSU Elections Center page is routinely updated. The Instruction and Student Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate updated the syllabus information page to include civic engagement opportunities and organizations. This page is now linked on all SJSU syllabi. Social media posts from the university and the Office of the President promote voter registration and voting. SJSU Strategic Communications regularly features civic learning and democratic engagement in university publications and provides links to news items featuring university experts, civic engagement and elections.

President Teniente-Matson has further demonstrated her commitment to civic engagement through an initiative called the Humanity and Society Working Group, led by Dean of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Melinda Jackson. This group regularly convenes to discuss and promote campus events that are focused on humanities, civic, and community engagement. President Teniente-Matson has also made an outward commitment to democratic engagement by signing the ALL IN Presidents’ Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

In addition, Provost Del Casino actively promotes and is engaged with the American Democracy Project initiative. University administrators are also actively engaged with city and county officials and community organizations, regularly speaking at civic and community events. The California State University Chancellor’s Office encourages campus (including SJSU) compliance with California’s Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act, even providing some funding for SCVEA events.

Embedded in the University Culture

SJSU’s commitment to civic learning and democratic engagement is a pervasive part of its culture. It is ongoing and systematic. We do not focus only on election season, but instead, work year-round to engage students. For instance, SJSU Votes was created in 2018 as a class active-learning project, but is now a year-round nonpartisan campus voter registration, mobilization, education, and civic engagement initiative. Our commitment is sustainable across programs, departments, and the entire university because of the input and participation of multiple diverse units and organizations and because this engagement and learning is embedded in the curriculum and co-curriculum. Everyone has a vested outcome in our democratic engagement and civic learning plan.

SJSU’s commitment is communicated outside of the institution through its submission and publication of its Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plans (previously in 2024), publication of its ALL IN Action Plans (previously in 2024), through posts on LinkedIn and other social media, and announcements to city and county officials and community organizations.

III. LANDSCAPE

Overview

San Jose State University, part of the 23-campus California State University system, is a public four-year institution with a wide-reaching impact on the City of San José (13th largest city in the nation), Silicon Valley, the greater Bay Area, and the state of California. SJSU delivers a comprehensive university education to 41,000 students, awards about 10 thousand bachelor's and master's degrees each year across 250 areas of study and nine colleges, and celebrates over 300 thousand alumni (<https://www.sjsu.edu/facts-and-accomplishments/facts.php#students>).

SJSU is an anchor institution that reflects the diversity of the surrounding community and is a federally designated minority-serving institution (MSI), an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), and a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). 28.2% of students identify as Hispanic or Latinx, 36.1% identify as Asian, 3.3% identify as Black or African American, 14.1% identify as White, less than 1% identify as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, less than 1% of students identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, 4.7% identify as two or more races, and 9.7% identify as non-resident alien. Over 44% of SJSU students identify as First-Generation Undergraduates (<https://www.sjsu.edu/facts-and-accomplishments/facts.php#students>).

SJSU is an R2 (Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education) nationally-ranked university. *U.S. News* (2027) ranked SJSU in the top 25% of public universities and #37 national for Social Mobility (<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges>). SJSU was given five out of five stars and recognized as one of America's Best Colleges by *Money Magazine* (<https://money.com/best-colleges-value-rankings/>). The *Wall St. Journal* ranked SJSU the #5 Public University in the Country, #14 among public universities for salaries, #24 for social mobility, and #41 for best value in the nation (<https://www.wsj.com/rankings/college-rankings/best-colleges-2025>). SJSU is the #2 university in the United States, according to *CodeSignal's University Ranking Report*, “[a] data-driven ranking of universities based on the demonstrated programming and software engineering skills of their graduates” <https://codesignal.com/university-ranking/2026>.

SJSU's Civic Engagement Data

According to the Ballot Bowl registration results, SJSU registered 1130 students in 2024 and 381 students in 2022 (<https://collegehub.sos.ca.gov>). Voting plan submissions were not collected in 2022 or 2024. SJSU earned a perfect score on its Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan submitted in 2024. As of 9/24, SJSU has registered 24 students using the online registration tool (.07% of the student population) and has 50 voting plans submitted (.14% of the population) (<https://collegehub.sos.ca.gov>). SJSU Votes has created a QR code for online voter registration and another QR code for the Voting Plan tool. SJSU Votes will use both at all SJSU Votes' events and will share both with campus and community partners.

Attendance at civic engagement events on campus is robust. Thousands of SJSU students, faculty and staff attended civic engagement and education events on campus fall 2024-to present. Please refer to the Reflection section for a description of these events and activities. At SJSU Votes and IPACE events, pledge cards (using the Students Learn Students Vote pledge card template) are collected. The pledge cards ask respondents to check all they plan to do: vote in the upcoming election, contact elected officials, volunteer in their community, participate in a march or rally, educate themselves on issues and candidates. It also asks them to indicate which of the following they pledged to do: check their voter registration, update their voter registration, register to vote for the first time, take civic action. It also asks if they would like to opt into a vote reminder and if they would like to join SJSU Votes' campus and community

efforts. In 2025-2026, over 250 pledge cards were collected. Since the start of the fall 2026 semester, over 200 pledge cards have already been collected.

In order to better assess engagement in and the impact of civic engagement activities, the SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE) is planning a fall 2026 survey of students, to be fielded mid-November to early December. The survey will also assess voter engagement, political efficacy, and political interest.

Evaluation will also occur through assessment of final 2026 Ballot Bowl data, including number of and percentage of students registered to vote and number of and percentage of students who made a voting plan.

Finally, the SCVEA Planning Committee will encourage check in at civic learning and democratic engagement events to more accurately account for attendance. This can be done through a Google Form or through the Sammy App. In addition, the SCVEA Planning Committee will encourage organizations to conduct assessments at the conclusion of major events to assess campus and community engagement with and reaction to the event.

Strengths and Areas of Improvement

SJSU civic engagement is collaborative. Organizations on campus communicate ideas and collaborate on civic engagement and education events. The SCVEA Planning Committee is dedicated to strong campus civic engagement. Advertisement of events is strong, though engagement with civic engagement social media could be stronger. Campus engagement efforts are included in the accessible syllabus template, required for all classes. SJSU Votes and A.S. SJSU are included among these resources. The campus Elections Center page is regularly updated and SCVEA emails are sent to the campus on time. The campus would benefit from consistent use of online voter registration and voting plan tools among all units.

IV. REFLECTION

In our 2024-2026 action plan, we planned for extensive civic engagement events. While we did not hold every event originally planned, we held many more events, including more events focused on equity than originally planned.

A voter workshop for STEM majors and the Mini Voter Registration and Mobilization Workshops in SJSU classes were not accomplished due to lack of time. These events are included in the 2026-2028 planned events. The Congress to Campus event was not planned due to lack of funding. This event was previously held online in fall 2023 and in-person in spring 2023. The spring 2023 event was fee-free due to a previously held-grant by the Congress to Campus program to host events at Minority-Serving Institutions. CTC no longer has this funding available, so it would have to charge fees to all campuses hoping to hold events. Instead of a conversation with Mayor Mahan, newly-elected San José City Councilmember Anthony Tordillos was invited to speak about the importance of engagement in local government. A student voter forum was not held, but will be a priority event in the 2026-2028 action plan.

SJSU had an extraordinarily active civic engagement agenda fall 2024-spring 2026. The following section summarizes the extensive voting, registration, civic engagement, and civic education activities at SJSU and in the communities near SJSU. SJSU also met the event requirements of the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act 1) at least three civic engagement events within an academic year and 2) “For every

even-numbered year, there must be an event within the final 30 days preceding a statewide primary election and a general election” (<https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/svp/svp-cveap-guidelines-2026.pdf>).

Internal Partners

SJSU worked with multiple campus partners on events 2024-2026. These partners provided speakers, advice, civic engagement resources, assistance at our events, and/or event co-sponsorship. Internal partners included: SJSU Votes, the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE), Community and Government Relations, Associated Students SJSU, the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost, the College of Social Sciences, the Cal State Student Association, the PRIDE Center, the Gender Equity Center, the Environmental Resource Center, the A.S. Community Action Center, CommUniverCity, SJSU Athletics, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), Epsilon Iota Chapter, Students Demand Action, Bridge SJSU, the Office of the Director of Student Affairs, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Native American Indigenous Student Success Center (NAISSC), University Housing Services, the Residence Hall Association, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the Center for Asian Pacific Islander Student Empowerment (CAPISE), the Veterans Resource Center, the Human Rights Institute, the Department of Political Science, Mineta Transportation Institute, the Black Student Union, SJSU Cares, the Center for Community Learning and Leadership, the Perspectives Peer Leaders, Student Homes Coalition SJSU, Democrats at SJSU, Students for a Democratic Society, the History Club, Akbayan, MEChA, Student Homelessness Alliance, Records Clearance Project, and the Department of Public Health.

External Partners

SJSU worked with multiple national, community and government partners on events 2024-2026. External partners provided speakers, advice, civic engagement resources, assistance at our events, and/or event co-sponsorship. External partners included: the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters’ Office, the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project, Students Learn Students Vote, Ask Every Student, ALL IN to Vote, the American Democracy Project, the League of Women Voters Santa Clara County/San José, the Office of Representative Zoe Lofgren (CA 18), the Office of Representative Jimmy Panetta (CA 19), the Office of State Senator Dave Cortese (SD-15) the Office of Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD 23), the Office of Assemblymember Alex Lee (AD 24), the Office of Assemblymember Ash Kalra (AD 25), the Office of Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens (AD 26),), the Office of Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (AD 28), the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Sylvia Arenas (D1), the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez (D2), the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Betty Duong (D2), the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga (D5), the Office of San José Mayor Matt Mahan, the Office of San José Councilmember Anthony Tordillos (D-3), the Office of San José Councilmember Bien Doan (D-7), the Office of San José Councilmember Domingo Candelas (D-8), the Asian Law Alliance, the African American Community Service Agency, Only in San José, Friends of Five Wounds Trails, South University Neighborhood Association, Downtown Neighborhood Association, the D-3 Leadership Council, Brookwood Terrace Neighborhood Association, SPUR, PACT, Working Partnerships, LEAD Filipino, Cal RCV, Home First, SV@Home, UC Davis King Hall Outreach Program, the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN), the Georgetown Free Speech Project, Unify America, National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, and Election Hero Day

AY 2024-2025 Civic Engagement Events and Activities Fall 2024

08/16-08/17	SJSU Votes at Campus Move-In. SJSU Votes shared information about voter registration and the upcoming election. They also gave out voter swag and shared opportunities to
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engage with the community with Spartans and their families during move-in at the Campus Villages.

- 08/24 Data & Democracy Workshop Series. various dates in August. Sponsored by the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) and the SJSU Spatial Analytics and Visualization Institute.
- 08/27 SJSU Votes tabled at the CCLL Community Connections Fair. SJSU Votes welcomed new Spartans, shared information about voter registration, the upcoming election, and how to get involved with SJSU Votes.
- 09/10 Presidential Debate Watch Party SJSU Votes, IPACE, Bridge SJSU, A.S. SJSU co-hosted a hybrid presidential debate watch party.
- 09/11 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Meal Packing hosted by SJSU.
- 09/17 SJSU Votes Festival celebrating National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day. This signature event included almost 40 campus, community, and government partners sharing civic engagement resources on the 7th St. Paseo.
- 09/19-09/20 Georgetown Free Speech Project Symposium at SJSU.
- 10/01 Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party. SJSU Votes hosted an in-person vice presidential debate watch party with A.S. SJSU, Bridge SJSU, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Pi Sigma Alpha.
- Sept-Oct Participation in the Unify Challenge College Bowl by Online participation in the Unify America "Unify Challenge College Bowl" by students in Pols 108, Pols 181, Pols 181C, and Pols 15.

Events within the final 30 days preceding a general election.

- 10/07 SJSU Votes hosted an online Voter Registration Workshop for the SJSU community during National Voter Education Week.
- 10/08 SJSU Votes held a Kahoot trivia event (via Zoom) for National Voter Education Week.
- 10/08 GOTV tabling by SJSU Votes at the Environmental Resource Center Fall Sustainability Fair.
- 10/09 IPACE and SJSU Votes' Contact Your Elected Representatives Tabling Event for National Voter Education Week. IPACE and SJSU Votes provide postcards for people to write messages to elected officials. IPACE paid for the postage.
- 10/10 SJSU Votes and IPACE Ballot Measure Forum. This National Voter Education Week event featured Political Science Professor and Chair, Dr. Garrick Percival who reviewed the November 2024 ballot positions for the SJSU community.
- October Canvassing in the neighborhoods near SJSU, at Student Housing, and in Greek Housing.

- 10/15 Voter Workshops for SJSU Athletes by SJSU Votes in the SAC Auditorium at SJSU.
- 10/17 Campus Housing Voter Registration Workshop by SJSU Votes, Campus Housing and the Residence Hall Association in Campus Village 2 Multipurpose Room.
- 10/19 Together We Vote, United We Win Block Party by People Acting in Community Together (PACT). SJSU Votes, and many other community organizations joined PACT for this free event open to the SJSU Community at Parque de los Pobladores in San José.
- 10/21 Voter Reg. Deadline Tabling by SJSU Votes. Vote-by-mail (VBM) Registration Deadline Event on the 7th St. Plaza. SJSU Votes encouraged the SJSU community to register to vote by the deadline to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. They also provided nonpartisan voter information and voter swag.
- 10/21 SJSU Votes' Social Media Campaign for Voter Registration Deadline.
- October Online participation in the Unify America "Deep Dive" by students in Pols 108.
- 10/24 GOTV tabling by SJSU Votes at Rooted 2024 Social Justice Music & Art Festival.
- 10/24 Election Security Panel Event "State of Election Security" at SJSU, with Assemblymember Gail Pellerin and SCC Registrar Matt Morales, moderated by San José State President Cynthia Teniente-Matson.
- 10/29 Vote Early Day social media campaign by SJSU Votes.
- 10/29 Vote Early Day event with SJSU Votes and Pi Sigma Alpha, Epsilon Iota Chapter. This voting party celebrated Vote Early Day! They encouraged the SJSU community to bring their vote-by-mail ballots, enjoy pizza, music, and a festive, environment to get #VoteReady.
- 10/30 SJSU Votes, the Spartan Disability Alliance, and the SCC Registrar of Voters' Office hosted an Accessibility Workshop via Zoom.
- 10/31 Voting is Spooktacular! Halloween-themed tabling event near the upcoming on-campus vote center to mobilize voters to turn in VBM ballots or register to vote at the vote center.
- 11/02-11/05 Tabling by SJSU and campus partners near the on-campus vote center to mobilize voters to turn in VBM ballots or register to vote at the vote center.
- 11/04 Election Hero Day. SJSU Votes brought treat bags and hand-written cards to the SCC ROV office and to the on-campus vote center.
- 11/05 Veterans Day Parade/Election Day with the VRC and SJSU Votes. Veterans' Day parade and tabling event celebrating Veterans Day and civic engagement.

Post-election events

- 11/05 Election Results Watch Party with SJSU Votes.
- 11/07 Election Debriefing by SJSU Votes. Debriefing on election results with expert analysis of national, state, and local races.

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- 02/24 Accessible Voting Workshop by SJSU Votes and SCC ROV via Zoom.
- 02/26 GOTV Tabling by SJSU Votes at the SPUR Meet New Leaders Event in the Student Union Theater.
- 02/27 SJSU Votes Trivia event. SJSU Votes hosted an election-themed Kahoot via Zoom.
- 03/12 D-3 City Council Candidate Meet and Greet and Candidate Forum sponsored by IPACE, SJSU Votes, CommUniverCity, and the D-3 Leadership Council. Over 200 campus and community members attended this event.
- 03/28 “Her Seat at the Table”, women in politics event hosted by SJSU Community and Government Relations, SJSU Votes, the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Department of Political Science. This event featuring women staffers in elected officials’ offices focused on the unique experiences and challenges faced by women in government.



AY 2025-2026 Civic Engagement Events and Activities Fall 2025

- 08/16-08/17 SJSU Campus Move-In GOTV tabling. SJSU Votes shared information about voter registration and the upcoming election. They also gave out voter swag and shared opportunities to engage with the community with Spartans and their families during move-in at the Campus Villages.

09/03	SJSU Votes tabled at the CCLL Community Connections Fair. SJSU Votes welcomed new Spartans, shared information about voter registration, the upcoming election, and how to get involved with SJSU Votes.
09/30	“Pathways to Law: From Classrooms to Courtrooms” a pre-law panel with SJSU Votes, Pi Sigma Alpha, Epsilon Iota, and Pi Sigma Alpha, Delta Upsilon was held via Zoom. The event featured legal professionals and advisors sharing insights on the application process, LSAT prep, and career trajectories.
09/16	SJSU Votes Festival. SJSU Votes and the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE) celebrated National Voter Registration Day with the 5th SJSU Votes Festival on the Smith Carlos Lawn at San José State University. The SJSU Votes Festival is the signature event for SJSU Votes. About 30 campus, community, and government partners provided nonpartisan information about voting, voting rights, and civic engagement opportunities.
09/17	Constitution Day by IPACE and SJSU Votes. Free pocket Constitutions were provided and people were asked to share what the Constitution means to them.
10/01-11/01	SJSU Votes provided nonpartisan GOTV resources on various dates in the 7th St. Paseo.
10/07, 10/20	Voter Workshops by SJSU Votes and the SJSU Black Student Union. SJSU Votes and the SJSU Black Student Union provided nonpartisan information about registering to vote, Prop 50, and the upcoming Special Election at workshops in October, including one for National Voter Education Week.
10/08	“Why Participation in Local Government is Important”, was National Voter Education Week event with newly-elected San José City Councilmember Anthony Tordillos (D-3) and sponsored by IPACE, SJSU Votes, A.S. SJSU, the Black Student Union, the African American Community Service Agency, and Pi Sigma Alpha, Epsilon Iota Chapter.
10/13	Smith Carlos Day Resource Fair, sponsored by the Office of the President and SJSU Community and Government Relations. SJSU Votes provided nonpartisan voter registration and education information at this event in the Student Union Theater Courtyard.
10/18	IPACE tabled and participated in the Resource Fair at the Women’s Leadership and Policy Summit, hosted by SCC Supervisor Betty Duong’s Office.
10/20	Deadline to register to vote and receive a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot tabling event by SJSU Votes. SJSU Votes mobilized Spartans to register to vote by the deadline to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Their social media campaign and tabling on the 7th St. Paseo was designed to help Spartans avoid the lines in November.
10/23	SJSU Votes provided nonpartisan voter registration and education information at A.S. Community Action Center’s Rooted Festival.
10/28	SJSU Votes sponsored a Vote Early Day event, a national civic holiday, with IPACE, Pi Sigma Alpha, and A.S. Lobby Corps to celebrate voting early.

- 11/03 SJSU Votes celebrated Election Hero Day, a national civic holiday where election workers are celebrated and thanked for upholding our democratic principle of free and fair elections. Throughout the year, SJSU Votes collected handwritten cards from Spartans at multiple events. They assembled these cards and treat bags to give to election workers on Election Hero Day.
- 11/04 Spartans to the Polls! Election Day. SJSU Votes organized two “marches” to the closest vote center at Olinder Community Center (about a mile from campus) to encourage students to register using conditional registration and to get assistance at the vote center for the 2025 special election.
- 11/12 Let’s Talk about Prop 50: A Constructive Dialogue Event”, co-hosted by IPACE, CCLL, and the Perspectives Peer Leaders). IPACE interns prepared and presented a slideshow on redistricting, gerrymandering, and California’s Prop 50. Perspectives Peer Leaders then led a constructive dialogue.
- 11/13 Ranked-Choice Voting Informational Session, hosted by IPACE and CalRCV (California Ranked Choice Voting), and was organized in collaboration with California State Senator Dave Cortese’s office (also a speaker at the event).

Spring 2026

- 01/26 The SJSU Mineta Transportation Institute, IPACE, and Boundary 0 co-sponsored “Mega Event Safety: Student Voices on Human Trafficking” a moderated research panel focused on combating human trafficking at major events through transportation systems and supply chains.
- 02/05 SJSU Votes Election Trivia Event for Weeks of Welcome in the MLK Library Incubator Space.
- 02/09 SJSU Votes hosted “I Heart Voting”, a Valentine’s Day-themed celebration of voting, on the 7th St Plaza.
- 03/11 Housing Insecurity Panel co-sponsored by IPACE, SJSU Cares, SV@Home, SJSU Student Homes Coalition, and HomeFirst featured panelists from each co-sponsor. The event focused on investigating the systemic challenges, policy issues, and lived experiences surrounding housing instability and homelessness. Panelists also discussed resources for SJSU students and others experiencing homelessness
- March GOTV Tabling by SJSU Votes. SJSU Votes registered voters and shared nonpartisan voter information and swag with Spartans on the 7th St. Paseo.
- 04/16 White House Fellows Program Forum with Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil (SJSU and White House Fellows’ alum), provided information about participating in and the benefits of the White House Fellows program to the SJSU community. This event was sponsored by IPACE and SJSU Votes.
- 04/16 SJSU Votes and IPACE provided nonpartisan voter education and registration materials in the Student Union Theater Courtyard at the Annual Political Science Department Don Edwards Lecture on April 16, 2026.

04/18 SJSU Votes' canvassed on Admitted Spartans Day. SJSU Votes' members, volunteers from De Anza and Mission Community Colleges, and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Voter Education Outreach Committee (VEOC), registered nearly 50 voters that day!

04/19 Democracy Day for local Girl Scouts, hosted by IPACE and SJSU Votes helped local Girl Scouts earn their Democracy Badge.

Events within the final 30 days preceding a primary election.

May Multiple days of GOTV Tabling by SJSU Votes on 5/4, 5/5, 5/7, and 5/3.



Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement in the Curriculum

Civic learning and democratic engagement are also present in the SJSU curriculum. They are present in courses that emphasize civic skills such as Political Science 108 (Political Participation), Political Science 111 (Political Movements), Sociology 164 (Social Action), Communication Studies 130F (Activism, Action, and Resistance), Child and Adolescent Development 156 (Social Media and Youth Civic Engagement), and Justice Studies 140 (Record Clearance Project). They are also present in courses which emphasize institutions, social movements, and/or political history. Examples include African American Studies 134 (The Black Civil Rights Movements), Political Science 105 (U.S. Congress), Political Science 106 (The U.S. Presidency), Justice Studies 104 (Penal Politics and Institutions), History 171 (U.S. Constitutional and Legal History), Environmental Studies 144 (California Wetland Controversies). They are also present in courses on inequality, justice, and activism, including African American Studies 105 (Race and Health Inequities in the US), Asian American Studies 186 (The Vietnamese Experience in America), Sociology 118 (Sociology of Human Rights and Social Justice), Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 135 (Trans Studies: Identities, Embodiment, & Politics), History 185 (LGBTQ+ History in the

United States), Communication Studies 132F (Dis/Ability Communication), Urban and Regional Planning 145 (Urban Policy and Its Impact on Inner City Residents), Public Health 135 (Health Issues in a Multicultural Society). Public service internship courses also include civic learning and democratic engagement curriculum. These courses include African American Studies 190 (Internship), Political Science 181 (Political Science Internship), Sociology 181 (Service Internship), and History 199 (Public History Internship).

Connected with the General Education curriculum are American Institutions requirements (US1, US2, and US3). These courses are focused on civic learning and several include civic engagement and active learning as part of the curriculum. US1 is the U.S. History requirement and can be satisfied with a course that covers U.S. history in African American Studies, American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicanx Studies, or Native American Studies. US2 is U.S. Constitution can be satisfied with a course in History, African American Studies, American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicanx Studies, Native American Studies, or Political Science. US3 is California Politics and Government and can be satisfied with a course in History, African American Studies, American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicanx Studies, Native American Studies, or Political Science.

External and Internal Barriers

Some internal and external barriers may create impediments to participation. Internal barriers include insufficient funding, lack of staff, student on-campus and off-campus workload, and that SJSU is a commuter campus. A couple of external barriers also create some impediments to participation. First, during some elections, such as special elections, there is no on-campus vote center. There may be a vote center within a couple of blocks or it may be as far as a mile from campus. This distance may discourage students from seeking services, such as registering to vote using “same-day” or conditional voter registration or accessible voting. When the distance is greater, it creates challenges for organizations such as SJSU Votes and A.S. SJSU when planning a March to the Polls (an effort to encourage students to seek assistance from the vote center). In addition, California regulations about student voter registration using a campus address should be included in campus housing information and websites. Finally, the effects of registering at a local address on scholarship eligibility, including athletic scholarships, for students who entered as “out of state residents” is not clear.

Previous SJSU NSLVE data did not include demographic data; however, a fall campus engagement and civic learning survey is planned. These data will identify any demographic groups that have lower rates of engagement. Previous NSLVE data indicated that students in Business, Marketing, and Management, Computer and Information Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, and Engineering and Engineering Technology had the lowest voting rates. Plans to target these undergraduate students are incorporated into the goals and strategies sections of this action plan.

Internal and External Factors Facilitating Success

Several internal and external factors lead to successes in democratic engagement and civic learning. Strong administration support, a strong and committed voting coalition (SCVEA Planning Committee, led by a led by political scientist with expertise in this elections and participation), strong communication and coordination with student leadership, campus leadership, and the campus nonpartisan voting initiative (SJSU Votes), are internal factors that facilitate success.

External factors aiding success include the implementation of California’s Voter’s Choice Act, which changed how, when, and where Californians vote by providing all registered voters in Voter’s Choice Act counties with a vote-by-mail (VBM ballot) starting 29 days before Election Day, allowing voters to vote in any county vote center (open 4 or 11 days), by providing more space, services, and “enhanced voting equipment” at county vote centers, and by providing secure ballot drop off locations across a county (<https://vote.santaclaracounty.gov/voters-choice-act>).

Moreover, an amendment to the Voter's Choice Act, authored by San José State University-area State Assemblymember Ash Kalra, and signed by Governor Newsom in 2019, requires county elections officials to consider placing a vote center on a university or college campus and allows public college and university buildings to be used as vote centers. The vote center(s) at SJSU offers expanded service for voters, in-person voting, conditional voter registration for those who missed the voter registration deadline, and a secure location for people to drop off their vote-by-mail ballot. SJSU has had one or more voting centers on campus for most elections.

Internal resources available to help the SCVEA Planning Committee efforts include occasional support through the Exceptional Service to Students Assigned Time Award, where faculty members can apply for up to 3 WTUS of assigned time for exceptional service. The SCVEA Planning Committee chair (the current campus Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator) has applied for and received an award for the fall 2026 semester to work on democratic engagement and civic learning for SJSU. The committee and university also utilize internal resources from SJSU Votes (e.g., website, volunteers). SJSU Votes and the SCVEA Planning Committee also benefit from University Marketing and Communications which assists in updating the Elections Center webpage and facilitating campuswide emails related to registration and voting. The CSU system has also provided \$3000 per year, for the last two years, for civic engagement efforts on campus. These funds have been used to partially fund the SJSU Votes Festival.

Best Practices

Best practices at SJSU include communication and collaboration by campus partners, use of external partners' resources (such as the California Students Vote Project, ALL IN, Students Learn Students Vote, the American Democracy Project, and the Civic Holidays), fundraising efforts, and applying for civic engagement grants. The year-round efforts aimed at voter registration and education by SJSU Votes is important to remind the campus that this component of civic education should not only be emphasized right before an election. Regular planning with campus communications and marketing allows prompt publication of election information and communication required by the SCVEA.

Additional Support Needed

Additional staff support is needed for this effort. The campus utilizes external resources from national organizations, such as the Ask Every Student Toolkit and the National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early day toolkits, state resources from the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project, local resources from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office and the League of Women Voters. A full-time staff member assisting the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE) would be able to assist with scheduling events on campus, facilitating parking permits and reservations, constructing email communication with partners, fundraising, and budgeting.

Some additional resources are needed to help SJSU be more successful at promoting civic learning and democratic engagement. These include 1) the creation of a SJSU Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal (website) with links to courses, co-curricular opportunities, recognized student organizations, elections information, action plans and reports and 2) a Democratic Engagement and Civic Learning Center with a director and full-time staff member to assist the center's efforts.

V. GOALS

Long-Term Goals

SJSU has several long-term goals for 2026-2028. Long term goals (4-10 years) are 1) Increase voter registration among SJSU students by 20%, 2) Increase turnout among registered SJSU students by 20%,

3) Reduce previously-identified participation gaps for STEM majors, 4) secure long-term funding for the SJSU Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE) to provide staff support, paid interns, and program support, and 5) implement a bi-annual campuswide survey of civic engagement.

To achieve long-term goal 1) Increase voter registration among SJSU students, the committee will continue to plan, organize and promote committee and other campus organizations' efforts at voter registration events. In addition, SJSU Votes will hold multiple voter registration workshops (with several co-sponsors) and plans to visit classes to hold mini-registration workshops (or offer a mini workshop recording for faculty to post on Canvas). Efforts will be made to post voter registration information and links on the Canvas platform, using resources from Students Vote Project and ALL IN. We also plan to post notices on the video displays located in various locations on campus.

To achieve long-term goal 2) Increase turnout among registered SJSU students, SJSU will use social media, emails, and Canvas announcements to inform students about upcoming election dates and the location and hours of operation for the on-campus vote center. SJSU Votes and several other campus and community organizations will table near the on-campus vote center November 2-3 in an effort to encourage students to submit their vote-by-mail ballot or to register to vote using conditional voter registration if they are not already registered. SJSU Votes collects opt-in vote reminder information from students at all of its events. Students from SJSU Votes will email or text students who opted in to get a reminder to vote. Students will be asked to pledge to vote (using the SJSU voter pledge card) and by completing the California Secretary of State Voting Plan tool.

To achieve long-term goal 3) Reduce previously-identified participation gaps for STEM majors, the SCVEA Committee and other campus organizations will hold events that are aimed at these majors such as an event election technology and SJSU Votes' planned voter workshop for STEM majors. Classroom visits to classes in STEM programs will also help to reduce participation gaps. We are not able to access current NSLVE reports due to a recent presidential directive; however, we will utilize previous campus reports to focus on underrepresented students, such as science and engineering students. We will supplement these data with a campuswide survey of democratic engagement in fall 2026.

To achieve long-term goal 4) raise funds for the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (to provide staff support, paid interns, and program support, the CVEC (also the Director of IPACE) will apply for civic engagement grants and work with the Office of Development to raise funds from donors.

To achieve long-term goal 5) implement a bi-annual campuswide survey of civic engagement, the SCVEA Planning committee will work closely with the Office of Institutional Resources and Strategic Analytics to develop a timeline and survey action plan.

Short-Term Goals

In order to stay on track to reach our long-term vision, the SCVEA Committee has identified several goals to reach during the next three years. Short term goals (1-3 years) are 1) Develop and implement a campuswide survey in fall 2026 to measure civic engagement among students, faculty, and staff, 2) Obtain participation data for demographic groups at SJSU and make a plan to identify and address equity gaps, 3) Maintain comprehensive civic engagement resources for the SJSU community on the SJSU Elections Resources page until a Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal is created, 4) Create an online campus Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal, and 5) Increase collaboration and communication by campus and San José and Santa Clara County community groups and government organizations.

To achieve short-term goal 1) Develop and implement a campuswide survey to measure civic engagement among students, faculty, and staff, the SCVEA Committee chair, with the assistance of the SCVEA

Committee and SJSU Institutional Research and Strategic Analytics, will develop an online survey using Qualtrics survey software in October. The chair and committee will develop an SJSU IRB Human Subjects proposal for the survey in October, 2026. The survey will be fielded in November 2026.

To achieve short-term goal 2) Obtain participation data for demographic groups at SJSU and make a plan to identify and address equity gaps we use data from the fall 2026 campuswide survey. The committee will strategize about plans to address equity gaps, including using targeted events and communication.

To achieve short-term goal 3) Maintain comprehensive civic engagement resources for the SJSU community on the SJSU Elections Resources page until a Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal is created, the SCVEA Committee Chair will continue to provide updates to the SJSU Office of Marketing and Communications.

To achieve short-term goal 4) Create an online campus Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal, the SCVEA Committee Chair will draft a proposal, with input and approval from the SCVEA Committee and present it to the Provost and SJSU Marketing and Communications in December 2026. This proposal would outline a hub for programs, courses, co-curricular activities, recognized student organizations, and other opportunities related to democratic engagement and civic learning. It would also be a hub for all action plans, data, and reports. This portal would be modeled on Stanford University's Democracy Hub.

To achieve short-term goal 5) Increase collaboration and communication by campus and San José and Santa Clara County community groups and government organizations, the SCVEA Planning Committee will identify and invite additional campus and community members. The SCVEA Planning Committee will plan meetings for twice every semester and create subcommittees (to address specific issues such as planning campus events, documenting participation in events) that could meet more often.

We have already begun increased collaboration and communication by campus groups engaged in civic engagement through our SCVEA Planning Committee and the Election Response Subcommittee. Finally, we have a packed civic engagement event calendar for 2026-2027. We expect that these events will help us accomplish our registration and voting turnout goals.

Specific strategies and tools we will use to reach our long-term and short term goals are described below.

California Secretary of State Online Voter Registration Tool

We will continue to encourage the SJSU community to register to vote using the California Secretary of State online registration tool. It is easy and quick to register using this tool. SJSU Votes created a QR code for the online registration tool and includes it in their flyers and at events. The online registration tool is also linked on the SJSU Votes page, on campuswide GOTV emails, and on social media.

California Secretary of State College Student Voting Plan Tool

We will also continue to encourage the SJSU community to make a voting plan using the California Secretary of State College Student Voting Plan Tool. SJSU Votes created a QR code for this tool and includes it in their flyers and at their events. The voting plan tool is also linked on the SJSU Votes page, on campuswide GOTV emails, and on social media.

Voter Registration and Mobilization at Admitted Spartans Day

SJSU Votes will continue to register, mobilize, and provide information to Admitted Spartans at Admitted Spartans Day. Every year, this is one of the most successful voter registration events. It is also a great way to encourage new students to update their voter registration and to vote locally.

Voter Registration and Mobilization at Campus Move-In

SJSU Votes will continue to register, mobilize, and provide information to Spartans and their families at campus move-in every fall. It is another great way to encourage new students to update their voter registration and to vote locally.

National Voter Registration Day

SJSU will continue to celebrate National Voter Registration Day with the SJSU Votes Festival. This signature event brings 30-40 campus, community, and government organizations to a central location on campus to share civic engagement resources.

National Voter Education Week

SJSU will continue to have robust NVEW programming such as voter workshops, election security panels, contact your representatives events, ballot measure forums, and GOTV tabling and canvassing.

Faculty Involvement

We plan to increase faculty involvement across the campus by sharing mini workshops that can be posted on course Canvas pages. We will also reach out to the Academic Senate to collaborate on efforts to engage faculty across the campus in civic learning and democratic engagement activities.

SJSU Votes

SJSU Votes is the campus nonpartisan voter registration, mobilization, education, and civic engagement initiative. SJSU Votes has organized multiple nonpartisan activities and will continue to work with internal and external partners to engage the campus and the community.

SJSU Elections Center

The SJSU Elections Center serves as the current online hub for civic engagement on campus. This site will continue to be updated until a more comprehensive Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement hub is created.

University Emails

The campus Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator will continue to work with University Communications to send important voter information and reminders, such as the voter registration deadline, National Voter Registration Day, and Election Day, to the campus community via email.

Coordination with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters

SJSU will continue to coordinate and collaborate with the SCC ROV on events, programming, and outreach to encourage the campus community to register to vote and to vote early.

Pledge Cards and Vote Reminders

SJSU Votes will continue to use pledge cards to encourage the campus community to pledge to register to vote, to vote, and to take civic action. They will also continue to encourage people to opt into vote reminders and then follow up by text, email, or phone.

Use of Other External Resources

We will continue to use social media kits, swag, funding opportunities posters, emails, action plan resources and other tools provided by ALL IN, Students Learn Students Vote, the American Democracy Project, the CA SOS Students Vote Project, National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, Election Hero Day, and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office.

Social Media

We will promote online registration and voting plan tools, events, and resources on social media. We will make a greater effort to collaborate with internal and external partners on social media posts to broaden our reach.

Early Voting

SJSU Votes and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters encourage the SJSU campus community to vote early. SJSU Votes and partners celebrate Vote Early Day with a workshop, trivia event, and a walk to the secure ballot drop drop!

On-Campus Vote Centers

SJSU now hosts two on-campus vote centers for most elections. SJSU Votes and other members of the SCVEA Planning Coalition will continue to advertise these vote centers to the campus community and the surrounding neighborhoods through email and social media.

Election Day

SJSU Votes and other campus organizations will continue to table and canvas near the on-campus vote centers to remind voters to stay in line, to provide pens, snacks, and water, and to inform people about “same-day” voter registration. The Veterans’ Resource Center (VRC) has recently celebrated Election Day with a Veterans’ Day/Election Day parade and fair, with SJSU Votes and other partners. The VRC plans to continue this effort.

This action plan will be shared internally by sharing with university administration, all college deans, and all organizations with members on the SCVEA Planning Committee so they are able to strategize and plan events. This plan will be shared externally, along with our previous NSLVE reports, campus ALL IN Action Plans and Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Plans on the Election SJSU Elections Center webpage and on the planned campus Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal. Our ALL IN campus action plan (almost identical to this action plan) will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN’s website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/san-jose-state-university/>. Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our past NSLVE reports, which can also be found on our campus page above.

The data from the fall 2026 campuswide survey, which will be used to update and evaluate this action plan will also be posted on the SJSU Elections Center webpage and a future campus Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Portal.

VI. 2026-2028 PLANNED EVENTS

In this section, we summarize our planned campus events for fall 2026-summer 2028. The Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act requires a campus to have a minimum of three nonpartisan civic engagement events within an academic year and, in even-numbered years, a campus must hold an event within the final 30 days preceding a statewide primary election and a general election. Our campus will exceed the required events.

Fall 2026 Completed and Planned Civic and Voter Empowerment Events/Activities

08/15-08/16	SJSU Votes at Campus Move-In. SJSU Campus Villages 9am-5pm. SJSU Votes shared nonpartisan registration and education resources with incoming Spartans and their families at campus move-in weekend. (completed)
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- 09/02 GOTV tabling by SJSU Votes at the Center for Community Learning & Leadership Community Connections Fair. SJSU Votes shared nonpartisan registration and education resources on the 7th St. Paseo to the SJSU community at the CCLL Fair. (completed)
- 09/15 SJSU Votes Festival for National Voter Registration Day. This is the signature SJSU Votes event and celebrates NVRD. It is also a campus Weeks of Welcome event. Over 30 campus, community, and government partners shared civic engagement resources on the 7th St. Paseo. Multiple elected officials, campus administrators, and student leaders spoke at the event, including State Senator Cortese, Mayor Mahan, Assemblymember Berman, Councilmember Candeles, A.S. President Akin, SJSU President Teniente-Matson, Provost Del Casino, Vice President Fuentes-Martin, Dean Todd (College of Social Sciences), CVEC Dr. Currin-Percival, and SJSU alumni and elected official staff Kadence Walker (Asm. Kalra's office) and Alexander Gvatua (Councilmember Tordillos' Office). The event also featured a band, snacks, games, and voter swag. (completed)
- 09/17 Constitution Day. SJSU Votes and IPACE provided free pocket Constitutions and nonpartisan voter resources. They also provide postcards and encourage students to write to elected representatives (they paid for the postage). (completed)

Events planned in the final 30 days preceding the General Election

- 10/05 SJSU Votes is canvassing campus, registering voters and encouraging people to make a voting plan using the CA SOS voting plan for National Voter Education Week.
- 10/06 SJSU Votes is co-sponsoring a pre-election talk with the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) for National Voter Education Week.
- 10/07 The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (IPACE), Ready for Tuesday, and the SJSU King Library are hosting an AI and Election Security Day for National Voter Education Week. The day will include an AI and Election Security workshop in the MLK Library AI Center for Civic and Social Good 9:30am-11:00am, a tour of the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office (2:30pm-4:00pm) and a panel talk on AI and Election Security 6:30-7:30pm.
- 10/08 Power Within the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Vote, sponsored by the Center for Asian Pacific Islander Student Association (CAPISE). Voting shouldn't be intimidating! Let's break down common voting stigmas within our Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities. Learn about ways we can combat those mindsets, available resources, and ways we can get involved with our local voter community. Free snacks provided.
- 10/08 SJSU Votes plans to provide nonpartisan GOTV resources and an interactive event related to the November ballot measures at Fire on the Fountain, a campus Homecoming event, sponsored by Associated Students.
- 10/10 SJSU Votes is tabling and participating in the Resource Fair at the Women's Leadership and Policy Summit, held at SJSU and sponsored by the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Betty Duong (D-2).
- 10/12 Create and distribute short nonpartisan voter education videos for SJSU instructors to be posted on Canvas.

- 10/19 Voter Reg Deadline GOTV Tabling by SJSU Votes. The SJSU Votes' team will be tabling and canvassing on campus to remind the SJSU community of the deadline to register to vote and receive a vote-by-mail ballot.
- 10/19 SJSU Votes Social Media Campaign for VBM Voter Registration Deadline. SJSU Votes will post reels on social media to encourage the SJSU community to register to vote by the VBM deadline.
- 10/20 Election Hero Day. SJSU Votes will share hand-written notes and treat bags with local election officials.
- 10/24-25 Vote Early Day Canvassing. Students from SJSU Votes and members of the SCC ROV Voter Education and Outreach Committee will be canvassing door-to-door in the neighborhoods near SJSU. Their effort will include bilingual canvassers and flyers.
- 10/26 SJSU Votes and Pi Sigma Alpha, Epsilon Iota Chapter is sponsoring a Vote Early Day workshop and trivia.
- 10/27 Voting is Spooktacular, GOTV tabling sponsored by SJSU Votes with nonpartisan voter resources, swag, Halloween-themed buttons, and candy with SJSU students on the 7th St. Paseo.
- 10/27 Pizza Party at the Polls. SJSU Votes invites the campus and the community to celebrate voting early at this event in the King Library. We'll have art, music, voter swag, and an elections-themed Kahoot. We'll also advertise the on-campus vote centers for those who need to register using conditional registration and ask those already registered to bring their completed vote-by-mail ballots to drop off at the secure ballot drop box outside of King Library. We will provide pizza, snacks, and beverages, funded by ALL IN.
- 11/02 SJSU Votes and campus partners will table near on-campus vote centers.
- 11/03 The Veterans' Resource Center is Planning a Veterans' Day/Election Day parade and fair.
- 11/03 SJSU Votes and campus partners will table near on-campus vote centers.
- 11/3 Election Watch Party sponsored by SJSU Votes, IPACE, and A.S. SJSU. We'll host an on-campus watch party and provide refreshments.

Post-Election Events

- 11/03 Election Response Campus Event(s) by Election Response subcommittee of SCVEA Committee. On campus and virtual events and spaces for the campus community to share reactions to the election.
- 11/04 Election Debriefing by SJSU Votes.

Spring 2027 Planned Civic and Voter Empowerment Events/Activities

- February SJSU Votes' voter registration & mobilization tabling at the Center for Community Learning & Leadership Community Connections Fair.

February	SJSU Votes Voter Registration Tabling at the Annual Don Edwards talk (Department of Political Science)
February	“I Heart Voting” nonpartisan “get out the vote” (GOTV) tabling, sponsored by SJSU Votes (Weeks of Welcome Event).
February	IPACE Food Insecurity Panel event with speakers from Second Harvest Food Bank, SJSU Cares, and Santa Clara County.
February	Longest Table project with IPACE, SJSU Votes, and Braven.
February	Disagree Better event with Community and Government Relations, the Office of the President, SJSU Humanity and Society Working Group, and SJSU Votes.
March	“A Conversation with Gail Pellerin”. In-person moderated Q & A with State Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
March	Mini Voter Registration and Mobilization Workshops in SJSU classes. In-class visits or short narrated PowerPoint presentations provided to faculty for posting on Canvas for their students.
March	SJSU Votes will specifically target STEM majors by reaching out to faculty in STEM departments.
March	“A Conversation with Senator Dave Cortese”. In-person moderated Q & A with State Senator Dave Cortese.
March	IPACE and SJSU Votes event “Shamrock the Vote” with music, games, and art on the 7 th St. Paseo or the Tower Lawn.

Fall 2027 Planned Civic and Voter Empowerment Events/Activities

August	SJSU Votes at Campus Move-In. SJSU Campus Villages 9am-5pm. SJSU Votes will share nonpartisan registration and education resources with incoming Spartans and their families at campus move-in weekend.
September	GOTV tabling by SJSU Votes at the Center for Community Learning & Leadership Community Connections Fair. SJSU Votes will share nonpartisan registration and education resources on the 7 th St. Paseo to the SJSU community at the CCLL Fair.
September	SJSU Votes Festival for National Voter Registration Day. This is the signature SJSU Votes event and celebrates NVRD. It is also a campus Weeks of Welcome event.
09/17	Constitution Day. SJSU Votes and IPACE will provide free pocket Constitutions and nonpartisan voter resources. They will also provide postcards and encourage students to write to elected representatives (they’ll pay for the postage).
October	SJSU Votes will table, host a voter workshop and host several additional events for National Voter Education Week.

October	SJSU Votes plans to provide nonpartisan GOTV resources and an interactive event related to the November ballot measures at Fire on the Fountain.
October	SJSU Votes will host a resource booth at the Women’s Leadership and Policy Summit, held at SJSU and sponsored by the Office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Betty Duong (D-2).
October	Create and distribute short nonpartisan voter education videos for SJSU instructors to be posted on Canvas.
October	Election Hero Day. SJSU Votes will share hand-written notes and treat bags with local election officials.
October	Voting is Spooktacular, GOTV tabling sponsored by SJSU Votes with nonpartisan voter resources, swag, Halloween-themed buttons, and candy with SJSU students on the 7 th St. Paseo.
October	Social media campaign to encourage voter registration by SJSU Votes.

Spring 2028 Planned Civic and Voter Empowerment Events/Activities

February	SJSU Votes’ voter registration & mobilization tabling at the Center for Community Learning & Leadership Community Connections Fair.
February	SJSU Votes Voter Registration Tabling at the Annual Don Edwards talk (Department of Political Science)

Events Planned for the Final 30 Day Preceding the Primary Election

February	“I Heart Voting” nonpartisan “get out the vote” (GOTV) tabling, sponsored by SJSU Votes (Weeks of Welcome Event).
February	Voter Reg Deadline GOTV Tabling by SJSU Votes. The SJSU Votes’ team will be tabling and canvassing on campus to remind the SJSU community of the deadline to register to vote and receive a vote-by-mail ballot.
February	SJSU Votes Social Media Campaign for VBM Voter Registration Deadline. SJSU Votes will post reels on social media to encourage the SJSU community to register to vote by the VBM deadline.
February	Campus Housing Voter Workshop by SJSU Votes, University Housing Services, and the Residential Hall Association.
March	Mini Voter Registration and Mobilization Workshops in SJSU classes. In-class visits or short narrated PowerPoint presentations provided to faculty for posting on Canvas for their students.
March	SJSU Votes will specifically target unrepresented majors (identified in campuswide survey) by reaching out to faculty in these departments.

March	IPACE and SJSU Votes event “Shamrock the Vote” with music, games, and art on the 7 th St. Paseo or the Tower Lawn.
March	On and off-campus voter canvassing by SJSU Votes. Canvassing will occur in Greek Housing and in the neighborhoods near SJSU on various dates.

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