



# Election Engagement Campus Report

## Mount St. Joseph University

### Coalition Members:

Faculty: Dr. Judy Singleton (social work), Beth Bayfield (education), Beverly Massey (social work), Dr. Jennifer Morris (history), Dr. Linda Jackson (communication & new media studies), Dr. Peter Robinson (history), Dr. Brooke Gialopsos (criminology), Loyola Walters (art & design), and Dr. Angela Kinney (education)

Staff: Keith Lanser (career & experiential education), Janet Cox (student affairs), Stephen Craig (student affairs), Warren Grove (student affairs), Dr. Terri Hurdle (diversity & inclusion), S. Nancy Bramlage (mission & ministry), Mary Beth Lampe (advising), Hannah Thompson (career & experiential education), Charissa Qui (mission & ministry), Jill Eichhorn (marketing & communications), Susan Falgner (Archbishop Alter Library), and Linda Pohlgeers (career & experiential education)

Student Organizations: Impact Cincinnati, Social Justice Club, Black Student Union, and Student Government Association

### Overview:

Our top three goals for the fall semester of 2016 were:

1. Increase our general voting rate from 62% in 2012 to 65% in 2016 (an increase of 3%).
  - a. We will find out if we reached this goal when we receive our results from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement in 2017.
2. Increase our voter registration numbers from 108 in the fall of 2015 to 115 in the fall of 2016 (an increase of 2.8%).
  - a. We registered a total of 116 students to vote during the fall of 2016, exceeding our goal of 115 registrations.
3. Increase our absentee ballot request numbers from 3 in the fall of 2015 to 15 in the fall of 2016 (an increase of 500%).
  - a. We assisted 13 students with absentee ballot requests, coming under our goal by just two students. This still represents a 433% increase over the previous fall. We missed our goal of 15 requests in part due to a lack of demand from students who live in the residence halls.

### Coalition:

Our election engagement coalition consisted of the following parties:

1. Faculty from the following disciplines/ academic programs: social work and sociology, education, and service learning.
2. Staff from the following areas on campus: Career & Experiential Education Center, Student Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, and Mission & Ministry.
3. Students from the following clubs/ organizations: Impact Cincinnati, Black Student Union, Social Justice Club, and Student Government Association.

The Service Learning Office in the Career & Experiential Education Center served as the backbone office for this project, providing leadership for strategic planning, coordination, and program evaluation. Student Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, and Mission & Ministry recruited a diverse array of students and student groups on campus to participate in the programming. Many of the programs and services that were made available to students were provided primarily by student leaders and student clubs, who were supported by the Service Learning Office as needed.

Our coalition was effective at recruiting student volunteers and providing access to a menu of related programs and services to the campus community. Our coalition was not as successful in drumming up as much excitement about the election as initially anticipated; while we were able to register a record number of students to vote, we only shuttled two students to vote on Election Day, for example. Our coalition was also unsuccessful in creating a mutually beneficial relationship with administrators/ elected officials from Delhi Township, where the University is located. We had originally planned for Delhi to participate in voter registration drives and issue forums on campus, but the township did not end up participating.

Moving forward, we are hopeful that we will be able to strengthen student participation and external partnerships in the long-term, as this was the first Presidential Election that the University has offered comprehensive election engagement programming. We hope to continue embedding election engagement into our campus culture by providing similar programs and services during midterm elections, which we hope will both create greater demand from students over time and strengthen ownership over related programs and services from various constituent groups, both on and off campus.

#### **Analysis of Work:**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Lessons Learned</b>
Voter registration	1. Digital communication (email, website, twitter/ Instagram) 2. Orientation registration drives 3. In-class registration drives 4. National Voter Registration Day	1. 116 in the fall of 2016 (144 total registrations during 2016)	1. Students enjoy volunteering to register other students to vote. 2. Registration on NVRD and freshman orientations was very effective.

Voter education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Debate watch parties/ election viewing party</li> <li>2. Issue forums</li> <li>3. Course-based engagement (social work, service learning, education)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hosted two debate watch parties (50 participants)/ hosted election day viewing party (15 participants)</li> <li>2. Hosted one issue forum on immigration (20 participants)</li> <li>3. Approximately 100 students participated in course-based election engagement</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issue forums were difficult to plan for students because they didn't give themselves enough time to plan/ they lacked networks for recruiting speakers.</li> <li>2. Election engagement is a natural fit for a variety of disciplines, especially community-based disciplines like social work and education.</li> </ol>
Ballot access	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assisting students in declaring Ohio residency for voting purposes</li> <li>2. Absentee ballot request assistance</li> <li>3. Email reminders about voter ID laws, early voting requirements, and how to submit absentee ballot requests</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5 students in the residence halls declared Ohio residency for voting purposes</li> <li>2. 13 students submitted absentee ballot requests</li> <li>3. 6 campus-wide email reminders re: ballot access were sent</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is important to review residency verification letters with the county board of elections in advance to make sure that it can be counted as a proof of residency.</li> <li>2. It is important to have one person on campus to "own" registering students to vote in Ohio for voting purposes, as it can be confusing to have multiple service providers.</li> </ol>
Voter turnout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email reminders about absentee voting/ early voting/ and voting on election day</li> <li>2. Hanging posters around campus with key election dates</li> <li>3. Drive students to polls</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 3 campus-wide email reminders re: voting options</li> <li>2. 30 flyers with key election dates hung</li> <li>3. 2 students utilized poll shuttle</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Posters are less effective than campus-wide email reminders.</li> <li>2. There is not enough demand for a poll shuttle because of our low number of students who live in the residence halls.</li> </ol>

### Top Successes:

1. Voter registration was our biggest success. Not only did we exceed our goal for this fall, but we increased fall voter registration numbers from 2015 by 184%.
2. Voter education was strong this fall, both curricular and co-curricular. Student Government Association received positive feedback regarding the debate watch parties, the election viewing party, and the issue seminar that was facilitated. All of these events were adequately attended. Students in an education course facilitated a very successful civics "badge in a day" event with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio the Sunday before the election with over 50 girl scouts in attendance. All students who completed credit-bearing service learning experiences in the fall were required to research community issues that they

care about, consider how these issues impact real people through their service learning experiences, and then reflect on whether they could make an informed voting decision based off of their research and their service learning experience. All students in a social work course were required to complete at least one election engagement experience, which for most students included voter registration, neighborhood canvassing, and/or installing yard signs.

3. This was the first Presidential election in which we offered comprehensive election engagement programming.

### **Top Barriers:**

1. While a core group of a dozen student volunteers did a fantastic job at leading much of the election engagement programming, there was a perception from some students that we had a student leadership deficit; some students felt overwhelmed and overburdened.
2. Because of our institution's size, we do not offer some courses that would be natural fits with election engagement (courses from disciplines like political science, anthropology, languages, etc.). As a result, we missed some opportunities for meaningful discussions on relevant issues that were brought up during the election cycle.
3. Outside forces also shaped election engagement at the Mount. Across the country, there seemed to be less interest from students in this year's presidential election, at least when compared to 2012 and 2008. Also, some students may have been intimidated to engage in dialogue/ participate in election engagement because of their assumptions about the Catholic Church's stance on some social issues.

### **Beyond 2016:**

We will continue to offer election engagement during each election cycle in the future because we believe election engagement strengthens our mission of educating "students through interdisciplinary liberal arts and professional curricula emphasizing values, integrity and social responsibility." While we already have strong service learning and community service programs, by adding additional civically engaged programs like election engagement and student philanthropy, we believe our students will be increasingly able to lead successful professional and civic lives. Additionally, at our recent election engagement wrap-up meeting, the following activities were identified as potential next steps for election engagement at the Mount: collaborating with other local universities on election engagement programming, hosting a debate for local candidates, and hosting a local trustee meeting.

### **NSLVE Data:**

When we receive our NSLVE data, we will be looking for the following:

- The 2016 voter registration rate. Our voter registration rate in 2012 was 79.5% and 74.5% in 2014. During these years, we did not facilitate National Voter Registration Day programming/ voter registration in orientation. We are hoping to learn if our voter registration efforts resulted in an increased voter registration rate during this election cycle.
- The 2016 voting rate. Our voting rate in 2012 was 62% and 25.6% in 2014. We would like to know how our voting rate compares with the voting rates of our peer institutions. Additionally, in 2012 and 2014 we did not facilitate a comprehensive

election engagement program, so we would like to also know if our election engagement programming had a meaningful impact on our students' decision to vote during this election cycle.

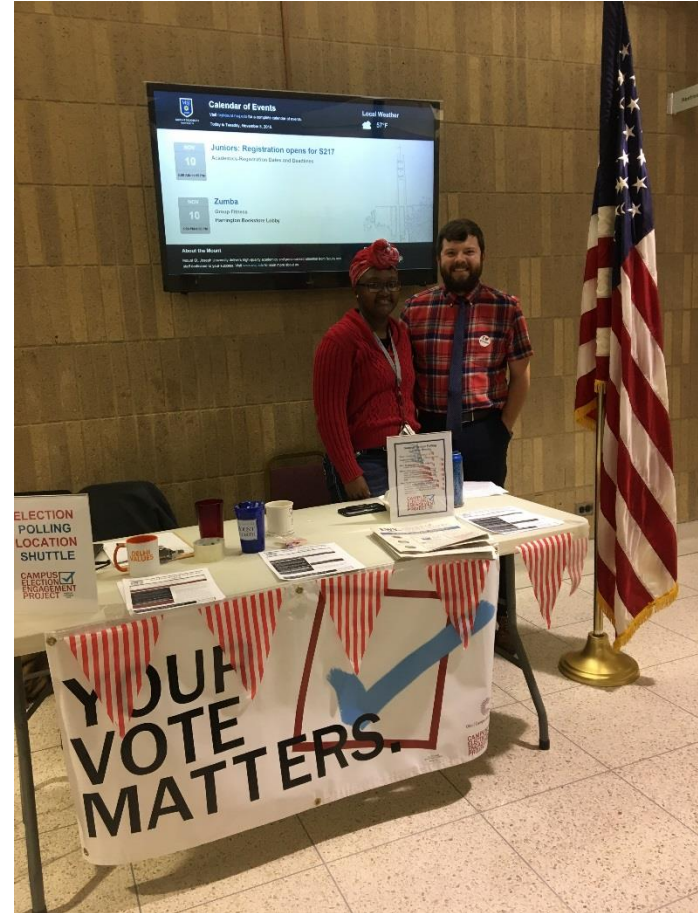
- Voting rate by field of study. Since we do not have this data from the 2012 election, we hope data from the 2016 NSLVE report will provide us a baseline for future elections. This information will help us to identify gaps in election engagement offerings according to discipline, which will provide us justification for the incorporation of election engagement in courses that would not otherwise have it.



**Girl Scouts Civics  
“Badge in a Day”  
Program**



**SGA Issue Seminar:  
“Immigration”**



**Polling Location  
Shuttle**

# The Mount is “All In” for Democracy

## MISSION & MINISTRY, SERVICE LEARNING, STUDENT LIFE

Posted: 07.28.2016

BY: [Keith Lanser](#)



Mount St. Joseph University is competing in the [All In Campus Democracy Challenge](#), a competition that recognizes colleges and universities for their “commitment to improving democratic engagement, increasing student voter participation rates, and graduating students with a lifelong commitment to being informed and active citizens.” The Challenge is organized by [Civic Nation](#), a nonpartisan nonprofit organization committed to educating voters and encouraging citizens to become involved in civic life.

The competition will include a variety of awards for colleges and universities, recognizing those with high voter participation rates during the upcoming November general election. “We know that during the 2012 general election, our students had a voter participation rate of 62%, which was 15% higher than average voter participation rate for all higher education institutions” said Keith Lanser, coordinator for service learning. “The Mount is committed to educating students through liberal



arts and professional curricula that emphasizes social responsibility, and all of our students have the responsibility to participate in the world's greatest democracy. We have a real opportunity to lead the nation in voter participation, and by doing so, we strengthen our commitment to our University's mission."

This fall, the Mount will offer a variety of civic celebrations and events for students, faculty, and staff to participate in the democratic process. The election engagement events planned for this fall are supported by the [Service Learning Office](#), [Residence Life](#), the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#), the [Office of Mission & Ministry](#), the [Center for Ethical Leadership](#), the [Student Government Association](#), [Impact Cincinnati](#), and the Social Justice Club. Civic events this fall will include:

- Constitution Day, September 16th
- International Day of Peace, September 21st
- National Voter Registration Day on September 27th
- Presidential debate watch parties, issue seminars, and debates throughout the fall

Mount St. Joseph University currently partners with the [Ohio Campus Compact](#) on the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#) on election engagement efforts, with the ultimate goal of registering students, educating students, and getting out the vote. The Mount provides a variety of election-related services at no cost to students, including: voter registration assistance, absentee ballot request assistance, providing official issue and candidate lists, explaining voter eligibility and registration requirements, and providing polling location information during election season.

For more information, please contact Keith Lanser, coordinator for service learning, at 513-244-4634 or [keith.lanser@msj.edu](mailto:keith.lanser@msj.edu).

<http://www.msj.edu/news/details/the-mount-is-all-in-for-democracy>

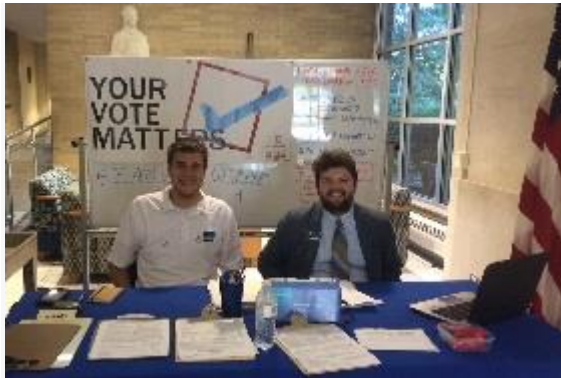
# General Election Polling Location Shuttle

## SERVICE LEARNING, STUDENT LIFE

Posted: 10.01.2016

BY: [Keith Lanser](#)

**File Under:** CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, SERVICE LEARNING



Mount St. Joseph University's Service Learning Office will be transporting students to polling locations on Election Day.

**When:** Election Day, November 8th, 2016

**Departure Times:** 6:30AM, 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 4:30PM, 6:30PM

**Who:** All students may utilize the polling location shuttle at no cost.

**Where:** The shuttle will leave from the Seton Center Lobby. Please arrive to the Seton Center Lobby at least 15 minutes before your departure. We will drive to any polling location located within in I-275 loop.

**How:** Please bring your form of voter identification and your polling location address to ensure an efficient departure. Note: If you take the shuttle to your polling location, you must return to the Mount on the shuttle after you vote.

### **Election Day FAQs:**

#### **What kind of voter identification will I need on Election Day?**

- Ohio: All voters must bring ID to vote in person. Bring one of the following with you to vote: an unexpired Ohio driver's license or ID, and unexpired photo ID issued by Ohio or the US government that includes your name and current address, a military ID, a current utility bill/ bank statement/ paycheck/ government check that includes your name and current address, or any government document that shows your name and address.
- Kentucky: All voters must bring ID to vote in person. Bring one of the following with you to vote: driver's license, social security card, ID issued by the US government, ID issued by the Kentucky government with your picture and signature, or any ID with your picture and signature.
- Indiana: All voters must bring ID to vote in person. Be sure to bring an ID that meets these 4 requirements: displays your photo, displays your name, has an expiration date that shows the ID hasn't expired or expired after November 4, 2014 (Military ID is not required to have an expiration date), is issued by Indiana or the US government. Examples of ID that meet this criteria are: Indiana driver's license, Indiana photo ID card, Military ID, or a US passport.

#### **How do I find my polling location?**

- Ohio: You can check your voter registration and/or find your voting precinct and polling location [here](#).
- Kentucky: You can check your voter registration and/or find your voting precinct and polling location [here](#).
- Indiana: You can check your voter registration and/or find your voting precinct and polling location [here](#).

#### **What issues/ candidates will be on my ballot?**

- Ohio: You can view your sample ballot [here](#).
- Kentucky: You can view your sample ballot [here](#).
- Indiana: You can view your sample ballot [here](#).

If you have questions about the shuttle, voter identification, polling locations, or what is on your ballot, please contact Keith Lanser at [keith.lanser@msj.edu](mailto:keith.lanser@msj.edu) or 513-244-4634

<https://www.msj.edu/news/details/general-election-polling-location-shuttle>