Secretary of State
Alex Padilla

Memorandum of Understanding

Overview

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) sets forth the mutual commitments by Secretary of State Alex Padilla and The University of California ("Parties") system to increase voter engagement by students being served by colleges and universities throughout California. Both Parties recognize their shared goal of increasing the democratic engagement and civic literacy of the student body. By working together, both Parties can amplify the reach and strength of their efforts that will result in students having an even greater voice in the democratic process.

Introduction: The State of Student Civic Engagement

The success of our state and nation depends on the active participation of educated and informed citizens and residents.

Today's college students are part of the largest generation in history, the Millennial Generation. This generation—born between 1978 and 1996—exceeds the Baby Boomer generation by 9 million. The sheer size of the Millennial Generation points to the major role it will play in upcoming elections and the political discourse. The Millennial Generation is uniquely positioned to make vital decisions in an increasingly globalized world. It is essential to ensure that this generation – charged with such colossal responsibility – is engaged in our democracy and that as educators and leaders we provide students the tools they need to take action and participate.

Consistent with existing federal and state laws addressing student voter registration, the University of California is committed to increasing student voter registration and student participation in the political process. While the University has partnered with the Secretary of State on student voter registration in the past, and worked collaboratively with campus student leaders on student voter registration and get out the vote activities, the University recognizes that more can be done to increase student engagement in the voting process.

By taking an active role, both parties to this MOU recognize the meaningful impact they can make on student voter registration and turnout outcomes during the 2016 elections and future elections. Accordingly, both signatories to this MOU are committed to the following actions:

For President Napolitano on behalf of the University of California System

I, the undersigned, am committed to the civic engagement of students on our campuses. Our institutions recognize that voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and the means of a representative government. We will play a role in advancing student civic participation on our campuses. Accordingly, we are committed to the following actions to institutionalize voter engagement at our colleges and universities across the state:

<u>OUTREACH</u>

1. We will initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to support student engagement in

federal, state and local elections.

2. We will work effectively to implement the plan within two months of signing this document and will strive to register and prepare as many students as possible leading up to the November 2016 election.
3. We will continue to collaborate with the Secretary of State's office and additional partners as appropriate to provide opportunities for students to complete an online voter registration form by prioritizing and highlighting the form via class registration sites and on other high-traffic campus webpages.
4. We will send all-campus emails and social media messages reminding students and employees to register to vote prior to the Presidential Primary and General Elections and will provide a link to register to vote online with other relevant information about voting.
5. We will actively promote and participate in National Voter Registration Day [to be held on September 27 in 2016].
6. We will send all-campus emails and social media messages before and on Election Day to remind students to vote, inform them of the appropriate voting location, hours of voting, nonpartisan educational materials about the candidates on the ballot, and any other information that facilitates or maximizes their willingness to vote.

TECHNOLOGY

7. We will pilot a plan with the Secretary of State's office to implement software that pre-populates online voter registration forms with as much campus-held student information as practical.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

8. We will create and maintain policies that allow for and encourage nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts by students. These policies will direct campuses to establish memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with student government associations and/or student organizations seeking access to on-campus housing to conduct voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities. Such agreements may include access during housing welcome programs, and access to high traffic locations to set up tabling and/or outreach activities to the student body.
9. We will ensure all changes to polling places currently located on campus are done with the appropriate prior approval of the county registrar.
10. If a polling place is not currently on campus we will work with local elections officials to secure one or more centralized polling sites on or directly adjacent to campus and we will inform students about the location.
11. We will continue to meet our obligation under the voter registration provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998, to "make a good faith effort to distribute a mail voter registration form, requested and received from the State, to each student enrolled in a degree or certificate program and physically in attendance at the institution, and to make such forms widely available at the institution."
12. We will continue to meet the intent of the Student Voter Registration Act by providing every college student a meaningful opportunity to register to vote.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

13. We will encourage the use of offline content, such as a promotional campaign with posters and banners.

14. We will identify at least one office at each campus responsible for student voter engagement efforts.
15. We will encourage campuses to identify staff and/or financial resources to support voter engagement efforts by student government associations and/or student organizations.

We will encourage other college and university presidents to join this effort and become signatories to this commitment or to adopt similar commitments.

For Secretary of State Alex Padilla
As the chief elections official for the State of California, I recognize the important role leaders can play in facilitating student voter engagement. Accordingly, my office and I are committed to the following actions to help students become knowledgeable, responsible and engaged voters:

OUTREACH

1. We will support your University, either directly or through partnerships with nonpartisan civic organizations, in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to increase student civic engagement.
2. We will work directly with your University's office, schedule permitting, to host voter engagement events on campus at which I, Alex Padilla, will personally be present.
3. We will promote your activities and efforts through our office's communications and media team.
4. We will work to promote and support your activities through other political and community leaders, when and where appropriate, with whom we have strong ties.
5. We will actively court and encourage other college and university presidents to join this effort and become signatories to this commitment.

TECHNOLOGY

6. We will provide support and direct the appropriate staff to provide a more meaningful opportunity for students to complete an online voter registration form upon class registration.
7. We will direct the appropriate staff to work with the University's office to work on assessing the feasibility of integrating online voter registration opportunities into the online class registration and enrollment process at the most opportune times.
8. We will direct the appropriate staff to work with the University's office to develop a plan and assess the feasibility of developing a pre-populated online voter registration form that provides as much information as practical.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

9. We will provide and guide conversations on sample policies that can be adopted by your University to allow access for student organizations seeking to offer direct, nonpartisan, peer-to-peer voter registration opportunities, civic engagement opportunities, and get out the vote efforts across campus.
10. We will assist your University, either directly or through partnerships with nonpartisan civic organizations, in the dissemination of voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote communications by providing guidance, information, and/or other print or digital materials.

The Parties recognize the vital role we must play in supporting student civic engagement. We believe

that, acting together, we can equip students for a lifetime of civic participation. By supporting voter education, voter registration and voter turnout efforts on campus we will both better serve the students of this state, and play an active role in creating a vibrant civil society and functioning democracy.

We, the undersigned, are deeply committed to expanding access and opportunity for democratic engagement to students attending institutions of higher education. In recognition of this mutual commitment, we do hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding and commit our organizations to taking these essential steps to increase student civic engagement.

Signed:

Alex Padilla
Secretary of State
Date: 9/15/16

Janet Napolitano
President, University of California
Date: 9/13/2016

Witness:

Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor
Date: 9/14/16