



Memorandum of Understanding

Overview

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) sets forth commitments made by Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) to increase voter engagement, democratic participation, and civic literacy among the student body.

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. However, we are not adequately providing access to the democratic process and we are failing to inspire and inform students about the importance of civic participation.

Today's college students are part of the largest generation in history, the Millennial Generation. This generation, which exceeds the Baby Boomer generation by 9 million, will have a major role to play in upcoming elections and in the vital decisions we make 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.

In that task, there is work to be done. A few sobering facts tell the story: the United States recently ranked the 139th in voter participation of 172 democracies around the world; only 52% of eligible California youth were registered to vote in California before the November 2014 election, more than 20% lower than any other age demographic; only 8% of eligible youth turned out to vote in that election. In the same year, only 0.3% of the total students served by California's public colleges and universities were registered to vote through an online voter registration opportunity provided by their campus administration.

In 2017, the Secretary of State's office noted in its Annual Report to the Legislature on Student Voter Registration, that partnerships and outreach efforts related to online pre-registering students had proven

4. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California will continue to meet their obligation under the voter registration provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998, to "make 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."
5. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is requested to send at least one all-campus email regarding voter registration and engagement. Campuses are also encouraged to post social media messages leading up to the election that highlight important deadlines regarding registration and engagement.
6. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is requested to send out at least one voter registration reminder using the online student portal. Campuses are encouraged to think strategically about when the reminders are sent out.
7. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is requested to submit a report to the Secretary of State after each statewide general election in which they document how they complied with the commitments of the Memorandum of Understanding.

For Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State

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

1. We will support independent California colleges and universities, either directly or through partnerships to nonpartisan civic organizations, in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to increase youth civic engagement.

successful. The 2016 elections also saw an increase in requests for paper registration cards from high schools as well as public colleges and universities. Though we have made great strides to encourage student voter registration and participation in elections, there is much work to be done.

It is our commitment to increase these dynamics and place greater efforts to facilitate voter registration and engagement.

The signatories to this MOU are dedicated to changing these dynamics in time for the 2018 elections and beyond. Accordingly, we commit to the following actions:

For President Kristen F. Soares, on behalf of AICCU:

I, the undersigned, am deeply 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. AICCU is the organizational voice for the *Independent Higher Education Sector of California*, which is comprised of nonprofit colleges and universities. Accordingly, we are committed to taking the following steps to institutionalize voter engagement at nonprofit colleges and universities, and throughout the state:

1. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is encouraged to develop, using student input, a comprehensive plan to support student civic engagement. This can include social media outreach and providing a link to register to vote online.
2. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is encouraged to provide voter registration opportunities to students. This may include during move-in day and upon graduation from the school. Whenever possible, the campus will work with student organizations to facilitate these voter registration opportunities.
3. Each campus in the Independent Higher Education Sector of California is encouraged to adopt policies that allow for, and encourage, nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts by student organizations. These policies may allow student organizations seeking to register students at key student events and locations, such as on-campus housing, move-in days, when students first arrive to their on-campus housing, orientation events, welcome week events, and high traffic locations to set up tables and/or clip boarding events.

2. We will work directly with AICCU and its member institutions, schedule permitting, to host voter engagement events on campus at which I, Alex Padilla, will personally be present.
3. We will work to promote and support independent California colleges and universities through our own media team and encourage other political, community and education leaders, when and where appropriate, with whom we have strong ties to do so as well.
4. We will provide and guide conversations on policies that can be adopted by nonprofit colleges and universities 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.
5. We will direct the appropriate members of our staff to work with independent California colleges and universities to help integrate online voter registration opportunities into high-traffic campus webpages.
6. We will provide and guide conversations on sample policies that can be adopted by independent California colleges and universities to allow access for student organizations seeking to lead nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts.

For Gavin Newsom, California Lieutenant Governor

I am committed to supporting this effort to ensure that the voices of students are represented in our democracy. My office and I make the following commitments:

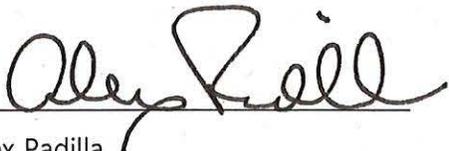
1. We will promote your activities and efforts through our office's communications and media team.
2. We will work to promote and support your activities through other political and community leaders, when and where appropriate, with whom we have strong connections.
3. We will actively court and encourage presidents and chancellors of independent California colleges and universities to join this effort and become signatories to similar commitments.

The signatories recognize the vital role we all play in supporting youth civic engagement. By supporting nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout efforts on campuses, we will better serve

the students of this state and help build a vibrant civil society in California, in the United States, and around the world.

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 youth civic engagement.

Signed,



Alex Padilla

Secretary of State of California

Date: 02/07/18



Kristen Soares

President of AICCU

Date: 4-26-18



Gavin Newsom

Lieutenant Governor of California

Date: 2/05/18

