The Andrew Goodman Foundation

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Creating Justice in Real Time: Vision, Strategies, and Campaigns

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10 May 2022

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Overview: Issue & Project Scope:

Andrew Goodman, along with his friend James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, were just college undergraduates in May of 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was under contention in Congress. But their youth did not stop them. Enraged by Northern apathy, they chose to travel to Mississippi and join Freedom Summer, an effort to register Black Mississippians to vote. Upon arrival, they were murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. Other college students — The A&T Four among them — were central in the fight for civil rights, and now, the tide has turned to suppress their vote. Without student civic engagement, American democracy is left in shambles. To restore youth voter rights is to bolster America's practice in realizing its ideals. Our work is just one step in that direction.

Over the course of this semester, our team has worked with The Andrew Goodman Foundation (AGF) to fulfill one, large objective: "to promote public education and advocacy to secure polling locations at the most centrally-accessible venue available to students: where they learn, study, eat, and sleep." To that end, we divided our work across three work streams to comprehensively address the issue.

In the first workstream, we created an implementation toolkit that includes draft legislation, templates for letters of advocacy, and key practices to equip students on the ground in increasing civic engagement and establishing on-campus polling locations. In the second workstream, we gathered interviews to update short case studies from a selection of AGF Vote Everywhere Campus Teams across the nation. In the third workstream, we planned a strategic summit including key stakeholders from the Andrew Goodman Foundation, the Harvard Kennedy School, and advocates nationwide to foster an organized space for cross-collaboration

and conversation on the idea of a larger campaign on the topic of on-campus policy interventions such as on-campus polling locations.

Overview: Project Deliverables:

In consultation with the Andrew Goodman Foundation, we divided three work streams into concrete deliverables. Our primary goal was to help meet the foundation's expressed need to equip their campus teams with first-hand narratives, policy toolkits, and opportunities for convening on the need to fight for youth voting rights sustainably.

Workstream	Purpose	Deliverables
Implementation Plans	Compile plug-and-go resources for young organizers on any campus to more effectively and efficiently advocate from day one. This kit will include a list of local contacts, email templates, draft policy wording and student government legislation.	Implementation plans for institutionalizing: ● GOTV efforts on campus ● Polling place/Early voting location on campus ● Election Day absence policy ● Registration / Re-registration of students at key influx points (move-in, classes)
Campus Stories	Tell twelve first-hand stories of advocacy challenges and accomplishments from AGF campus teams across the country to educate and inspire other campuses committed to voting rights. Provide analysis based on interviews.	● 2-4 short videos featuring youth voter advocates in North Carolina ● 1-2 page campus story for each youth voter team we interviewed ● Analysis highlighting key findings from campus interviews ● Communications recommendations for how these stories can provide motivation and insights for other campuses
Strategic Summit	The goal of this summit is to support AGF's creation of a national campaign to normalize, study, and advocate for on-campus polling locations. To create an organized space among key partners to build further momentum	● Coordinate and execute a strategic summit that engages AGF, Trotter, Harvard, and other critical stakeholders. The summit is composed of a keynote, panel, and working group. ● Analysis highlighting key-findings from the strategic summit.

		● Recommendations on how AGF could capitalize on the momentum of this initial strategic summit to continue campaign development and stakeholder engagement.

Workstream #1: Implementation Plans

Overview:

Over the duration of the Andrew Goodman Foundation's history, their commitment, tireless advocacy and numerous student employees have passed policy and changed culture on college campuses across the country in order to turn out the vote. However, a fundamental problem exists within the student advocacy world that does not exist within other campaigns: significant turnover. When a student is employed, they may work as an ambassador for three years on the top end, but more often less. The time they spend creating meaningful connections, as well as gaining an understanding of the playing field they are a part of, is sometimes lost as another moves into their position. It then takes a similar amount of time for the next advocate to "reinvent the wheel" before hitting the ground. Through the creation of implementation, plug and play campaigns for different avenues of voter access, a student may have the tools from the onset to create campaigns around numerous issues.

Logic of Change:

In our interviews, we found a gap between what students were tasked to do versus their ability to do it. One of the aspects of this was the knowledge they had on how to implement policy directly. Through these surface level implementation plans, we hope to solve this gap in information. However, in the long term, further consideration should be given to the Andrew

Goodman foundation putting a priority on hiring national staff that can facilitate longer term relationships with university and city administrations in order to better keep partners in the mix.

In the next portions and workstreams, we will dive into more underlying issues that may prevent advocacy campaigns on campuses from being successful. Empowering youth to understand how to implement policy is important, but perhaps the Andrew Goodman Foundation establishing better relationships with adult leaders on campuses is a more prudent priority. In many of the campuses we surveyed, some of the largest successes occurred not only because of the youth activity on the ground, but the adult allies that were in positions of power to assist them in the implementation of policy.

Our logic of change is centered in an expansive view of student voter turnout. Understanding the uniqueness of every college campus cannot be captured within five implementation plans, so we decided to focus on some key areas that have been proven to increase turnout across the board. Below, we describe in detail the rationale behind the individual focus areas, but briefly we would like to expand on the sections within the implementation plans. Our sections focus on using best practice reform, and coalition building to create change. Often, policy change is a result of the work done before the policy hits the proverbial floor. We attempt to create a roadmap for an individual organizer to follow, giving information on who is important to reach out to, what order one should create a coalition and occasionally giving the resources to in the form of plug-and-play draft emails for cold reach outs. Our hope is that through a coalition building strategy, policies not examined within these plans may also be implemented based on the needs of individual campuses, and established support within institutions remains through the work of these organizers.

In our effort not to "reinvent the wheel", many of the coalition mapping models are taken directly from campaigns that have worked previously. There are many campuses that facilitate GOTV efforts, for instance, and the players, while potentially different in persuasion, may not be different institutionally. Our goal is to have our plans be informed by them, while still distilling the information into brief, easy to read, plans that an organizer may follow.

Focus Areas:

We decided to focus on four main areas of implementation. We arrived at these policy interventions by conducting stakeholder interviews with voter rights, and college voting rights experts within the Harvard community, and asking a simple question: "If you were to design a college that did not need student voting rights advocacy, which policies would they have?". We got a mix of responses, but we synthesized the recommendations down to the four below.

1. *Establishing a Polling Place/Early Voting Location on Campus*

As both the primary focus area of our partnership with the AGF and a centerpoint of recent successes within AGF chapters, we first wrote a fudie. Polling locations and early voting locations on campus is correlated with a 7.4% increase in student voter turnout. Having an accessible, identifiable and recognizable location on campus to vote gives students the same consistency that a voter would expect in any other precinct. Since election locations are decided at the local level with the city clerk and county board of elections, making connections with them is crucial. There also need to be overtures to university administration so that they can identify key locations that meet state and federal guidelines around polling places as well as abiding by requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2. *Election Day Holiday/Excused Absence Policy*

According to a study done by Tufts, 47% of students that did not vote were unable to do so because they were "too busy".[1] In addition to internships and jobs, classes are a notable contributor to students being "too busy" to vote, as they encompass sizable portions of the time period while polling is open. One key policy shift is to advocate for an election day holiday, in which classes and university activities are canceled and students can instead use that time to vote. This, however, is likely to run into barriers that may prevent implementation in the short-term. In addition to academic calendars being established by university administration many years in advance, there are considerations for amount of instructional time and school year length, as well as labor hour considerations with university staff. Our plan for this area thus discusses an alternative policy solution, advocating for students to have excused absences for classes on election day. This takes more dedicated advocacy and may be more subject to jurisdiction of individual colleges and professors, but can yield incremental gains in case of opposition to university-wide policy.

3. *Institutionalizing Student Voter Registration*

Registering large numbers of students, first-time voters, while they are transitioning into a new setting on their own can be incredibly difficult. And while giving your personal information to a stranger working with a political campaign may seem daunting, what is not daunting is having voter registration simply become another form they have to fill out in their college/university orientation. When students are moving into dormitories or to off campus apartments, institutionalizing registration leads to enormous numbers of students registering the second they get their new address, rather than attempting to track down thousands of students after the fact. In this case, advocates can track registration data, turnout metrics, and work with established partners such as residential life departments that a student organizer may not have

[1] https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/why-youth-dont-vote-differences-race-and-education

access to in the same way. TurboVote is one incredibly useful tool in this area, designed as an all-in-one platform for registering and educating voters prior to elections. It is remarkably effective and used by over 150 campuses across the country to coordinate voter registration efforts, providing data on registration rates for advocates to use through individually made sites tailored to each state[2]. The implementation of a campus-specific TurboVote site requires partnership for funding and technical integration within the university's systems. The former can be addressed by either a student government or department of student life/civic engagement, while the latter must be done in conjunction with university IT faculty.

4. *Getting your college/university to conduct GOTV efforts*

Finally, shifting the burden of increasing voter turnout as the day approaches from student advocates to the university itself has substantial effects. In general, there will be on-campus organizations, or political campaigns dedicated to turning out the student vote in one way or another. But these campaigns suffer from the same turnover that any campus organization suffers from, needing to "reinvent the wheel" and reconnect with students each election cycle. Especially in the case of presidential elections, which have the highest turnout, most students will only be in college for one (maybe two) cycles. In line with the goals above, institutionalizing the "GOTV machine" means that that data can be tracked over time on what works and does not, and it means that the institution with the most connection to the students during their time in study will also serve as a trusted messenger to vote. Beyond the partnerships that we list with landlords, professors, and university officials there is the potential to leverage relationships with high-profile members of the community such as athletes and coaches.[3]

Best Practice Reform:

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[2] https://www.turbovote.tools/our-campus-partners
[3] MSU Athletics Partners With Michigan Department of State To Encourage Civic Engagement

While many of the successful ambassadors we spoke to had prior experience or institutional support in their advocacy (either from civic engagement departments or local officials), a number of young voting rights advocates seeking to address challenges on their campuses will not have those connections when they begin their work. A goal of these guides is to provide a template for AGF Vote Everywhere chapters to keep track of best practices that they use and match the connections from the plan to names, faces, and organizations within their own university contexts that they can build long-term relationships with. This can also serve to provide evidence for convincing potentially obstinate officials in university administration or in local/state government that student voting rights is a key priority. As many of these policy interventions take numerous school years to implement, this will also help to mitigate the destructive effects of turnover, maintaining relationships as the baton is passed between students and faculty members that move on from their campus.

Recommendations:

Through this work and our conversations with student voting advocates, we developed two key recommendations for the Andrew Goodman Foundation in scaling up national advocacy.

1. Assist Ambassadors with Policy Implementation
2. Sharpen Organizational Focus on Policy Change

Assist Ambassadors with Policy Implementation

The impetus for this workstream was to bridge the gap between invested student advocates and transformative policy shifts. We believe that the Andrew Goodman Foundation can play a larger role in this on the national front, providing both examples of best practices and advising to chapters on how they can more broadly change the election landscape on their campus. This has already been implemented in some cases, like with the campaigns for Bard,

Simpson, and LSU being cited on the website as well as Evan Malbrough's Youth Poll Worker Project from Georgia.[4] Providing support for a broader set of policy interventions and sharing best practices in those cases could better prepare students for long-term policy change. One of the key strengths of the Andrew Goodman Foundation is the breadth of its network and how it can connect work done between university partners to lay the groundwork for a nationwide campaign for student voting rights.

Sharpen Organizational Focus on Policy Change

While there is no shortage of nationwide organizations that center around campus voter registration and increasing turnout, the Andrew Goodman Foundation is unique in this space by providing advocacy and litigation support on a wide variety of campuses for increasing access to elections. While this has proven incredibly successful in cases like Florida and New York, there is the opportunity for this to act as a catalyst for a broader movement across campuses. This is especially relevant given that many AGF college partners are in the South or other areas known for voter suppression at the state and local levels. These threaten to pose some obstacles that increased voter engagement efforts alone will not surmount. Bringing this focus to voting rights work on campus can both mitigate the effect of student turnover by institutionalizing the engagement process, and naturally increase voter participation by removing historical policy barriers that depress the student vote. This has potential as a messaging campaign as well, leveraging the history of the organization and how the voter engagement work in the 1964 Freedom Summer built momentum for the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

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[4] https://andrewgoodman.org/the-hitchhikers-guide-to-building-a-youth-poll-worker-project/

Workstream #2: Campus Stories

Overview:

Over the semester, our team interviewed twelve student voter advocacy teams on college and university campuses across the country. We spoke with Andrew Goodman Foundation Ambassadors (college students), Campus Champions (administrators and staff), and external youth voter organizations to gather on-the-ground perspectives and insights on the broader ecosystem of college campus voters' accessibility and empowerment. We interviewed advocates at Arizona State University, East Carolina University, Georgia State University, Louisiana State University, University of Mississippi, University of Chicago, University of Central Arkansas, Western Carolina University, University of South Carolina-Upstate, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University**.**

We compiled notes and reflections from these interviews into twelve 2-4 page campus stories, highlighting the achievements and challenges faced by student voter teams. The goal of these campus stories is to uplift student advocacy to inform and motivate other groups hoping to expand youth voting and civic engagement on their campuses.

Key Findings:

The campus stories project allowed us to intentionally incorporate an architecture of listening into our client work, and to create a platform for storytelling and sharing lessons learned between campuses. We observed several key findings throughout the project:

- **Coalitions Matter:** The most impactful programs – in terms of longevity, student voter turnout, and creating a culture of civic participation on campus – were motivated by students' policy priorities, institutionalized by administrators' commitments to voter

access, and maintained through reliable funding year-to-year. This impact requires an environment where student leadership and ideas are taken seriously. Andrew Goodman Foundation teams often operate within a broader ecosystem of youth empowerment and civic engagement groups on campus. Colleges and universities with dedicated civics staff have a crucial base to coordinate operations and collaboration between student groups.

- **Advocates seek institutional change:** The students we interviewed valued institutional knowledge and partnerships as a means to avoid "reinventing the wheel" each year. They asked for administrator solidarity explicitly, without compromising on the fact that they often sought campus reform. Instead of attempting to remove themselves from financial or political concerns to "advocate from the outside," many students chose instead to harness the power residing in structures around them to achieve their advocacy goals.

- **The Andrew Goodman Foundation provides an important network:** Many of our interviewees shared that it can feel isolating to advocate for student voter empowerment, especially in regions experiencing heightened voter suppression, without a network of peers. The Andrew Goodman Foundation's efforts to connect young people working on voting rights across the country has been crucial to student advocates' continued motivation in the face of significant challenges.

<u>Recommendations</u>:

Over the course of our interview sessions, we took note of key findings such that we might provide recommendations using the framework from the Arc of Advocacy. To that end, we have three recommendations: 1) implement a student ambassador Instagram takeover campaign, 2) tie a clear call to action to this campaign, and 3) develop 12 HBCU campus stories.

Implement a Student Ambassador Instagram Takeover Campaign

The first recommendation, to implement a student ambassador Instagram takeover campaign, comes from a simple finding of our interviews: *students lead very busy lives.* A large part of the reason on-campus polling locations are so important is because they enable voting to occur where students eat, sleep, and study. To restrict student access to voting on their campus, where the essence of their young adult life unfolds, is to stifle their ability to vote. That said, a similar philosophy of urgency must lead our pursuit in the dissemination of these campus stories. A key principle of the Arc of Advocacy is *developing media campaigns and narrative campaigns*. Student advocates are unlikely to read massive briefs surrounding student civic engagement. These students are piled with assignments, readings, and midterms throughout each semester, so to incentivize their reading the campus stories might prove useful. To engage students fully, AGF can reach them through social media. Instagram takeovers will empower the voices of AGF Student Ambassadors on the ground, while increasing the reach of the campus stories. The Instagram takeovers should be connected to each story: for example, perhaps Student Ambassadors from LSU take over the Instagram for a day, showing "a day in the life of a student advocate," and intentionally promoting their (electronically-available) campus story. AGF could even link the campus story of a particular day to their Instagram bio.

Tie a Clear Call to Action

The second recommendation, to tie a clear call to action to this media campaign, comes from another key finding of our interviews: *civic engagement campaigns thrive when student leaders inspire their peers to vote and administrators make voting accessible on campus.* This aligns with two key principles of the Arc of Advocacy: *building out a coalition* and *youth as generationally disruptive technology.* On campuses where students lead the charge in publicizing, convening, and executing movements for change, while administrators contact key

stakeholders and equip students with the resources they need, change implemented is truly student-driven. It is young people who have the power to catalyze radical change and begin movements. To that end, while the campus stories serve as inspiration, AGF needs both campus administrators and student advocates to commit to concrete civic engagement initiatives. This might look like creating campus-specific pledges, in which administrators agree to include voter registration on all course syllabi and course webpages, for example, or to announce civic engagement initiatives in school-wide newsletters. On the student advocacy side of things, it may look like student government officials pledging to partner in the efforts of AGF Campus Teams, or for individual students pledging to fill out a personal voting execution plan for an upcoming election.

Develop 12 HBCU Campus Stories

Finally, and most importantly, our third recommendation is to develop 12 HBCU campus stories. This recommendation aligns with the Arc of Advocacy Principle *situating a campaign within a broader movement or history.* The Andrew Goodman Foundation is unique among national peer organizations, in particular, because of the story of Andrew Goodman, which connects youth-based activism with the historic fight for civil rights. To tell a holistic story of college voter suppression, AGF must emphasize the unique challenges presently faced by Black students attending HBCUs. We need a deeper and broader picture of the fight for voting rights across HBCUs that capture the complexity and diversity within the HBCU community. AGF has 25 HBCU campuses, of which we interviewed two (North Carolina A&T and Prairie View A&M), so to conduct 10 more interviews provides a more representative narrative. Our interviews on North Carolina A&T and Prairie View A&M were both distinct, in that student advocates saw fighting for voting rights as a necessity, not necessarily an extracurricular choice,

and diverse, in the differing challenges each school faces. This project will help AGF direct its

support and problem-solving capacity towards the campuses that need it most.

Workstream #3: Strategic Summit

Overview:

On April 22nd, 2022, The Andrew Goodman Foundation in Collaboration with the William Monroe Trotter Collaborative for Social Justice hosted a strategic summit entitled *Towards Freedom: Collective Organizing in the Legacy of Andrew Goodman.* This strategic summit was focused on gathering advocates, students, academics, and researchers to engage in conversation on youth voter empowerment & engagement, and specifically lift up the ways in which campuses can implement specific policy interventions to support youth voter empowerment. After many conversations with the AGF Team, it became clear that a space to network and cross-collaborate on the idea of a national campaign on the topic of on-campus policy interventions was necessary to lay the foundation for future campaign development.

Program Structure & Strategic Partners:

The event consisted of two parts: a public portion and a private-working group. The public portion of the event was focused on uplifting the work of the Andrew Goodman Foundation, raising the issue of on-campus youth voter empowerment, and providing a platform for key advocates to share their stories and perspectives. Part one of the event included welcoming remarks from David Goodman, a keynote address by Evan Malbrough, and a panel moderated by Archon Fung with amazing panelists such as Yael Bromberg, Jonathan Becker, Cyrus Commissariat, Christina Williams, and June Park. It was important that the public portion of the event centered the perspective of young people while also demonstrating the multi-generational effort needed for sustaining the work of youth voter empowerment and engagement. Following the public portion, the private-working group strategically engaged current and future partners for campaign development. Some of these partners included

representation from Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University, Hillel International, Harvard Votes Challenge, and the Harvard Public Opinion Challenge, to name a few. The working-group had three main goals: *uplift* the research and stories about on-campus polling locations, *discuss* the opportunities for growth and fresh ideas, and *commit* to taking action. From beginning to end, the summit was purposefully planned to elevate the urgency to organize for youth voter empowerment and strategically set-up connection points and commitments to be leveraged in campaign development and implementation in the future.

Leveraging History, Precipitating Events, and Litigation:

Before diving into the findings and outcomes of the strategic summit, it is important to highlight how this event intentionally leveraged history to elevate the importance of youth voting rights and build momentum for further engagement. The event was strategically situated within broader history, particularly the legacy of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. As voter disenfranchisement continues in 2022, it was important to situate the convening of student activists, academics, and researchers in the enduring legacy of those who have paved the way for the current activism we all participate in today. The event opened with opening remarks from David Goodman, the brother of Andrew Goodman, who recounted the murder of his brother and fellow Freedom Summer volunteers. His remarks grounded participants in the history of racial-justice activism stating. Additionally, this summit also leveraged precipitating events and litigation to build urgency for further engagement among participants. In the working-group, we uplifted the stories of Bard College and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University (NCAT). Only a few weeks after the legislative win in New York, a direct result of the advocacy of The Andrew Goodman Foundation and Bard College, the summit took place and created space for Bard College and AGF to share their reflections on a long, and trying journey. Conversely, the convening shed light on the story of

NCAT whose on-campus polling location has been advocated for, successfully implemented, and then taken away. It was important for participants, and future strategic partners to AGF, to recognize the very tangible *and* recent efforts taking place on university campuses across the country to ensure youth voting rights.

Findings: Key Themes

There were three key themes that were articulated throughout the entirety of the strategic summit. The following themes are important for AGF to hold on to as they further develop their campaigns:

1. Young people are **the source of creativity**

2. Administration buy-in and leadership **is critical**

3. **Multiple interventions** are necessary

The first theme, "young people are the source of creativity", was articulated countless times by student leaders throughout the summit. However, it was best articulated by AGF Student Ambassador Christina Williams who shared "I had the plan, I just needed the platform." She shared that Clark Atlanta University developed the idea of "VoteComing," an initiative to drive student voter empowerment and engagement on campus by intertwining the initiative with the historic enthusiasm and pride of the tradition of Homecoming on her campus. The second theme, "administration buy-in and leadership is critical," was also a serious theme articulated by participants. June Park, the co-chair of the Harvard Votes Challenge, shared "student organizers can't do it all." Especially because of students graduating every four years, the sentiment was clear that it is the responsibility of campus administrations to institutionalize efforts to increase youth voter empowerment and engagement. The final theme, "multiple interventions are necessary," was suggested on numerous occasions throughout both the public portion of the event and the working group. Participants suggested the need for on-campus polling locations,

mandatory voter registration for every student, and even using student identification cards as voter IDs.

Key-Commitments:

As a part of the final activity of the working-group, participants were tasked with taking time to reflect on their experience at the summit and identify commitments for the next five days, five weeks, and five months. These commitments were important as another leverage point for AGF to further engage these strategic partners in further campaign development. Below, you will find key-commitments that were gathered:

1. Jeremy Cronig, Hillel International

   a. *Five months:* "Have as many Hillel Buildings serve as polling places for students"

2. Bob Frigo, Elon University

   a. *Five weeks:* "Build a framework for midterm elections on campus"

3. Prahbat De Guzman, Institute of Democracy and Higher Education

   a. *Five months:* "A publication that can outline the solid ground of polling places and what it can do to make a difference in the lives of students."

4. Erin Cannan, Bard College

   a. *Five weeks:* "Have some programs on the calendar. Keep bringing people together but with more students"

   b. *Five months:* "Launch our voter engagement plan and inspire new leadership to connect to this national conversation"

5. Alan Zhang, Harvard Public Opinion Project

   a. Five days: "Share the findings I learned today with my research team leaders and brainstorm tie-ins into our polling efforts and focus groups."

   b. Five weeks: "Begin plans to incorporate the insights learned today into our analysis of the youth vote"

     c. Five months: "Launch an edition of the Harvard Youth Poll, or conduct focus groups that include inquiry into the accessibility of the vote for college students."

Recommendations:

Building off the momentum and insights of the strategic summit, the Andrew Goodman Foundation should consider the following recommendations:

1. Establish a formalized advocacy team

2. Coordinate three additional strategic summits at partner campuses

     a. Bard College

     b. North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University

     c. Student Ambassador Driven Summit (Campus Location TBD)

3. Host and coordinate a convening of university leaders

Establishing a formalized advocacy team

Given the success of the strategic summit, the Andrew Goodman Foundation should formalize an advocacy team to drive the coordination and implementation of future advocacy efforts. This team would support the project-management, coordination, and execution of efforts such as future convenings, social media and narrative campaigns, direct action, and more. Given the current staff capacity, it is critical that the Andrew Goodman Foundation invest in the building of a formalized advocacy team to drive forward the visioning and implementation of a larger campaign. This team could be organized, staffed, and named in a multitude of ways, however the following workstreams are crucial for an effective team:

● *Project Management:* Driving the strategic vision and logistical coordination of multiple advocacy efforts

● *Stakeholder Engagement:* Monitoring and tracking stakeholders engagement and commitments

- *Advocacy Communications:* Conveying impactful storytelling across multiple advocacy efforts

Once formalized, this advocacy team's immediate action items should be crafting a strategic advocacy project plan for the upcoming year based on the recommendations outlined in this report. They should follow-up specifically on the key-commitments outlined in the previous section. Additionally, this advocacy team could also ultimately be built out, further down the line, to include a team of lawyers to support Yael Bromberg, Chief Legal Counsel & Strategic Advisor of the Andrew Goodman Foundation, with litigation efforts. A litigation arm of a formalized advocacy team would strengthen the Andrew Goodman Foundation's ability to support a larger case-load of campuses that may need litigation support in their advocacy efforts to secure specific policy interventions in their state (ex: Bard College's litigation victory). A formalized advocacy team would further position the Andrew Goodman Foundation as a leading voice in youth voting rights advocacy, grounded in the legacy and never-forgotten history of Freedom Summer activists like Andrew Goodman.

Coordinate additional strategic summits:

Given the engagement with NCAT and Bard this semester, the Andrew Goodman Foundation should consider two additional strategic summits on partner college campuses. Across all participants, we heard how beneficial and impactful it was to hear the perspectives of others and brainstorm together on ways to move forward. Some participants, including Erin Cannan, from Bard College expressed commitments to organize similar convenings on Bard's campus. Leveraging this commitment and the momentum of the summit, AGF should partner with Bard College to plan a future convening. Participants like Bob Frigo and Tiffany Seawright outlined their plan to finalize their campus civic engagement plans as well, AGF should consider

at what points in their plans can AGF partner with Elon and NCAT's campus to gather relevant stakeholders to uplift stories, discuss interventions needed, and make commitments for future work. These ongoing summits can serve as touchpoints for the stakeholder and partner network that AGF is building. Ideally, these summits will allow individuals from past summits to share the progress made on past commitments and allow participants to support with thinking through roadblocks.

AGF should also consider the development of a student ambassador-driven summit.This summit would be uniquely different from the summit at the Harvard Kennedy School because AGF would ultimately be having current ambassadors dreaming-up, planning, and facilitating a summit of their choice. The formalized AGF advocacy team would serve merely as consultants and executors of the student-ambassadors' vision. This summit would empower current AGF student ambassadors to drive the path forward - highlighting the conversations and stories *they* want to uplift, inviting the leaders *they* want/need to invite, and brainstorming ways forward in the ways *they* see best for fellow organizers.This summit could be organized on a specific college campus during an academic year, but it could also take place in the summer serving as a organized space for student ambassadors to collectively convene before the start of a new school year to plan their campus advocacy efforts. This kind of summit would take significantly longer to plan, however it would be an incredible opportunity for AGF to empower young people across campuses to align their advocacy efforts-- building a larger movement. This summit would also be an opportunity for the formalized advocacy team to learn from the creativity of student organizers, and compare the findings from a student-driven summits with those from convenings with different stakeholders (ex: convening with university leaders only).

Host and coordinate a convening among university leaders:

Throughout the summit, we heard a repetition of the need for university administration and leadership to be brought into the idea of student voter engagement and empowerment on campuses. It is clear that university leadership is a critical driver in the maintenance of sustainable civic engagement policies and programs on campus. The Andrew Goodman Foundation should coordinate a specific convening for university leadership. The value of a convenings is that it allows key stakeholders to get into the same space, and as we learned from the strategic summit, influence commitment making. The goal of a convening among university leaders should be to uplift the stories of AGF campuses and the perspectives of student organizers and faculty champions, while also clearly outlining key areas of commitment for leadership. AGF should ensure that there is diversity among the types of university leadership that are represented at this strategic summit. There should be diversity among all leaders and include community college, MSIs, Ivy Leagues, and state universities alike. Through the strategic summit, AGF has already started relationship building with Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions through Dr. Marybeth Gasman. The Center and Dr. Gasman should serve as a starting point for gathering convening participants.

On-Campus Polling Place /
Early Voting Location Implementation Plan

Background:

A key factor depressing student turnout is the placement of polling locations off-campus, so that students need to walk, drive, or use public transit to travel sometimes miles away from their communities. For example, at North Carolina A&T State University, when the Board of Elections moved the polling place from a historical university landmark, the alternative was another building a 24 minute walk off-campus. For students with limited time between classes, meals, and work to vote, adding an additional barrier of significant transit time to already long wait times and long lines may make voting inaccessible to students.

This can be averted by setting polling locations and early voting locations on-campus for precincts with significant student populations. Early voting serves to further remove barriers by adding additional days that students can go in-person to vote. Depending on absentee ballot laws in your state, that may be an option as well.

Where to Begin:

Find your Polling Locations

Polling locations are largely designated at the local level, being administered and staffed by the city clerk's office. Students can find the polling place corresponding to their university address by searching online on your state Secretary of State's website.

Building a Student Coalition

If your college/university does not have polling locations or early voting that is accessible to students, leverage relationships with other voting rights organizations to spread awareness. If your campus has an active student government, work with members to pass legislation and publicize the issue with the student body[5]. A growing public movement can not only strengthen advocacy with elected officials, but also drive student election engagement, increasing turnout.

Reaching out to Campus Administration

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[5] The University of Chicago Student Government passed the uchiVOTE Act in February 2022, which serves as an excellent example of student advocacy here.

Utilizing faculty relationships, and momentum from student advocacy, meet with administrators . If there is a department within the university specifically purposed towards student election participation (i.e., a Center for Civic Engagement), reach out to them **first** before any other advocacy, as they will have critical connections and understanding of your campus context.

Connecting with Election Officials

Meet with the local city clerk and/or attend board of elections meetings to request a change in the polling place, using existing data on students registered in the city and arguments for how on-campus polling places would directly increase turnout. If met with opposition, elevate the campaign using local media and regional voting rights organizations, and prepare to build pressure over the long-term until this policy is changed.

Key Stakeholders:

Stakeholder:	Location:	Explanation:
City Clerk	Can be found in your city hall or on the front page of your city's website	*Elections are administered at the city clerk level, they have the most direct control over where polling locations are and their staffing.*
County Board of Elections	Compositions vary from state to state, some are elected, some consist of a county clerk and other elected officials, but can be found on county government websites.	*Similar to above, they have oversight over local election administration.*
University Center for Civic Engagement (or equivalent)	Within university student life or a Department for Student Affairs. Not every university has a dedicated department, but many will have faculty committed to voting rights. Your AGF Campus Champion is a great resource here.	*If your campus has a department dedicated to student voting, this is an indispensable resource for you.*

Pitfalls/Risks:

- Political Pushback
  - This shift is entirely reliant on the approval of the election boardAbsent support from local election officials, this may require a sustained campaign over a number of school years, building support with successive student cohorts to

apply pressure on election officials. Institutional support from the university is crucial here, as student turnover threatens to derail momentum in advocacy.

- Timeline
    - Polling places are often designated many months before even the primary elections (For the Fall 2022 election at Bard College, the Board of Elections was set to designate locations in March). The earlier that you recognize the issue on your campus, the earlier you can begin to build pressure, and the more likely you are to have a resolution before the next election.

- Logistics
    - Work with administrators before approaching election officials to prepare specific proposals for on-campus polling places, including *where* they will be and *who* will staff them. AGF Board Member Evan Malbrough has written extensively about this from his work building the *Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project*[6] This project resulted in the first polling location in the United States on a college campus that was entirely staffed by students. Building a campaign around not only on-campus voting locations, but also staffing them with students is an excellent way to further engage your campus with the election process.

Bonus: Statewide Legislation

Another way to surmount local opposition is to address on-campus polling places at the state level. In April 2022, the New York State Legislature passed a law requiring polling places at all colleges with 300 or more students on or near the campus[7]. This was a resounding victory, following years of advocacy and litigation with the Andrew Goodman Foundation chapter at Bard College and Bard administrators against repeated voter suppression tactics by local election commissioners.[8] While securing this route brings a complete end to fights for polling locations on a campus-by-campus basis, this requires a breadth of coalition building with student groups and statewide advocacy organizations. Political realities may make this unattainable in the short term, but it is a tool, and the momentum of this legislative win could lighten the load for other states in the future.

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[6] The Hitchhiker's Guide To Building a Youth Poll Worker Project - Evan Malbrough
[7] The bill was passed as a part of the New York budget, but is based on New York Senate Bill S4658, which can be found here.
[8] "New Legislation Will Bring Polling Places To New York College Campuses" - Andrew Goodman Foundation

Election Day Holiday /
Excused Absence Policy Implementation Plan

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Background:

On election day, many students are forced into a difficult decision: "Do I risk missing class to wait in line to vote?", "Do I take the time to drive home to vote where I am registered?"

To account for the time and effort involved in voting, many schools have adopted a policy to allow for students to give an excused absence to miss class for students who are voting. Some schools have even gone so far as to make election day a holiday on campus, canceling classes entirely.

Every student's schedule is different. While one student may have a long break on Tuesdays between classes to vote, another may be in class until late in the evening. On top of this many students work in addition to attending school, which can lead to further barriers in finding time to vote. According to an analysis from Tufts University, 47% of youth with college experience state they did not vote based on being "too busy or having a conflict on election day". With this policy, you address this issue by creating an absence policy which will account for a large portion of the population whose conflicts arise from in class obligations.

Where to Begin:

Check your Campus Policy:

To see if your college/university has a holiday on Election Day, check either the academic calendar or your course syllabi for classes that would occur on the first Tuesday of November. If there is no policy in this case, ask your professor(s) for said class about their individual policies and discuss solutions.

Build a Coalition

If your university lacks any policies for allowing students to vote during scheduled classes, meet with other student leaders in adjacent organizations to strategize for a unified elections access campaign. Student government is an exceptionally useful tool in this case, as they tend to have proximity to both key administrators as well as college/university governance bodies that vote on these academic affairs related policies.

Key Stakeholders:

Stakeholder:	Location:	Explanation:
Voter Engagement Student Organizations:	Social Media Networks (Students Learn Students Vote has a directory of organizations that may have a local chapter on campus) Your AGF Campus Champion may also have connections elsewhere on campus	These organizations make excellent partners for this work, as they have the annual election engagement infrastructure, and making it easier for students to vote coincides with their aims. They will also be recognizable on your campus in relation to voting and elections, so it makes it easier to spread your message and garner support.
Political Party Chapters i.e. College Democrats, College Republicans	These chapters will be registered student organizations under the Department of Student Life/Activities at your college, and can be found in listings there. If these prove difficult to find, College Democrats of America have a directory of all registered chapters, and the College Republican National Committee has a form that can connect you with your campus chapter.	The political party college chapters are especially engaged and vocal around election time, and this advocacy point furthers political discourse on campus, to their collective benefit. It is especially important to partner with chapters on **both** sides of the political aisle to further the nonpartisan message of increased opportunities to vote.
Student Interest/Advocacy Groups	Black, Latinx, Asian American Student Associations, Sierra Club, Students for Choice/Life, etc. Many of these groups can be found in your college/university's Department of Student Life/Affairs.	Many of these groups that have advocacy focus will also be civically engaged and either run parallel GOTV efforts or have membership crossover.
Student Government	Easy to find online or on campus, search for "<insert	Student governments tend to be populated with the more

	college name> student government" to find their website/social media. Find a representative through your college/house/department, or reach out to a general contact.	civically engaged members of the student population, and possess more direct connections to leadership in faculty and the administration.
Local Media (School Newspaper)	In building momentum with student organizations and/or student government, search for your college/university's student newspaper and contact a reporter on political affairs, student government, or academic affairs.	This can be helpful in building momentum and public awareness for the work.

Pitfalls/Risks:

1. Implementation and awareness
   a. For the policy to work, folks must know about it. Build into your policy a directive that the student government, and faculty have to send notice every election year about it to instructors and students.
2. Holiday vs. Absence policy
   a. If the university designated a holiday, they would have to give time off for bargained units as well. This is better because then those folks are able to vote, but you may have to concede to just an absence policy for students if it is too much of an ask.
3. "Bottle-necking"
   a. Don't get stuck in a bottleneck, if you cannot get one or more organizations to join your coalition, that's okay! Create a strong coalition with interested partners and continue pushing.

Template Emails:

Dear **[Student Activist Group Leader]**,

As campus vote organizers, we are working to break down barriers to voting for students. It should be easy and painless for **[name of students who attend your college/university, ex: Spartans at Michigan State]** to vote!

We've brought Student Democrats, Republicans, and Independents together to support a new rule that would make voting an excused absence for all classes on Election Day at

[college/university name]. Our next step is to get Student Government on board, and we need your powerful voice on campus to make it happen!

You can find our draft of this rule attached.

On [Date/Time], would you be willing to share 1-2 minutes of testimony at the next Student Government meeting about why voting matters to you? If you are unavailable, please let us know who you would recommend we contact next.

Thank you so much,
[Student Vote Organizers]

Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Dear Student **[Republicans/Democrats]**,

My name is **[Your name]** with the Andrew Goodman Foundation at **[university/college name]**. Our non-partisan organization makes voting for every student easier. You can learn more at AndrewGoodman.org.

We are building a coalition that crosses political divides to make sure all our voices get heard. To do this, we need your help to support a new rule that would make voting on Election Day an excused absence for all classes at **[college/university name]**. Are you able to meet with us on **[provide a few dates / times]** to talk about our plan?

So many schools have done this already, it's time for us to get on board! Being an active member of the **[university/college name]** community should never conflict with being an active member of our democracy.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Best,

[Your name]

Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Campus Examples:

1. Harvard University:
   a. University-wide advocacy surrounding "Democracy Day Holiday", including student government resolutions[9] and a community letter signed by hundreds of students, faculty, and staff.[10]
2. Michigan State University
   a. Student government advocacy during the 2018 election took a two-fold approach, both calling for an Election Day holiday and for excused absences for students.[11] Representatives took this to both administration and to faculty, such that if it was impossible for classes to be canceled, faculty could have the discretion to allow students to use their periods to vote without reprisal.
3. University of Georgia
   a. Absence policy states: "Classes are not canceled on election day(s). Students who are registered to vote in close proximity to campus should vote before, between, or after classes. Students who are registered elsewhere should obtain absentee ballots. If unavoidable circumstances intervene, students shall not be penalized for missing a class in order to exercise their right to vote."[12]

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[9] Harvard Law School Student Government Assembly - Res-203-003
[10] Letter of Support for Democracy Day from the Harvard Community
[11] ASMSU Bill 55-10: To Increase Student Opportunities to Vote in the 2018 Elections
[12] University of Georgia Class Attendance Policy

Sample Materials:

Steps to **Getting an excused absence on Election Day**

Create your initial coalition and analyze stakeholders
Reach out to other voting rights organizations first for support.
Reach out to College Democrats/Republicans and create a bipartisan coalition.
Figure out who on BoT, Student gov, and faculty may be a "recruit-able" ally.

Reach out to other key supporters
With your newly formed coalition, get interest and identity groups on campus to sign a letter of support
Reach out to well known campus athletes if you have contacts as well!

Draft resolution for Student Government
Keeping in mind the pitfalls listed above, tailor the draft legislation provided here to your school before reaching out to student government.

Pass policy or resolution through Faculty Board
At some schools, passing this will mean you're done and all professors will institute the policy. At others, getting faculty on board is vital before moving to Trustees.

Identify Champion and reach out to Faculty
To contact your faculty governance board, you should identify a champion from Student gov and have them join the coalition. Set up a meeting with an ally in the faculty board.

Passing a Student Gov Resolution
Have initial meeting with student gov ally and have them help with process. Have your key supporters give testimony. Prioritize getting attendance from your school's newspaper when passed.

Begin Discussion with Trustees
At this point, the trustees may have heard about your initiative. Use your faculty and student gov contact to set up an initial meeting with a recruit-able member of the board to speak on the issue.

Marketing
Before going to the last stage, it is good to reaffirm your policy. Have folks post on social media, push a petition throughout students, etc. Maybe try writing an op-ed in a local paper! Build up support before final board vote.

Pass policy through BoT
Get your ally on the board to introduce the policy! Make sure, if its a public meeting, to set up testimony from all of your key supporters. When it passes, follow through on implementation, keeping our pitfalls in mind.

Get folks out to vote!
Congratulations! Students get an excused absence on election day! Now go make sure they use it!

Institutionalizing Voter Registration Implementation Plan

Background:

A significant barrier to student election engagement is the initial registration. It is a very resource-heavy project to consistently re-train students to knock on dorm room doors, stand in class buildings, and draw their classmates' attention to elections in the face of difficult, obscure requirements.

This can be mitigated by shifting some of this responsibility to the college/university side. Under the Higher Education Act, universities are required to educate students about registering to vote in elections. [13] Many follow the bare minimum requirements of this, but have the resources and ability to contribute much more to student election engagement by integrating voter registration into the everyday functioning of the university and the student experience.

TurboVote:

One incredibly valuable tool to institutionalize voter registration in your college/university is a software called TurboVote. This is a general tool for all people to register to vote, request mail-in ballots, find their polling location, and receive text and email reminders as the election approaches, but TurboVote also offers college-specific partnerships. TurboVote partnerships cost between $1,000-$5,000 per year, and can provide a centralized platform for all voter registration efforts on campus, as well as easily integrating within university IT, increasing accessibility for students.[14]

Where to Begin:

Find Existing Registration Programs:
Your university may already have some institution-wide election programming, identify what those are in conjunction with your campus champion and other organizations, and point out gaps that can be filled.

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[13] (HEA, Title IV, Section 487(a)(23)), on Voter Registration
[14] TurboVote for Higher Education Page

Student Government:

Student government is a strong setting to push student advocacy efforts because of the direct line they often have to administration. Many of the largest policy reforms will require assistance from departments in the university that most students and student activists lack easy access to. Student government can make those connections.

Identify Key Administrators and their Roles:

After there is a solid base of student support, work through those channels to make specific asks of administrators for how they should contribute to making access to elections a key part of the university experience. Strategies for this may include but are not limited to the following:

Student Affairs Department:
- Maintaining communications with students on registration deadlines, and hosting/funding university-sponsored election events.

Vice President for Information Technology:
- Incorporating voter registration into sites where students already access their university registration (see Harvard example below).

Residential Life:
- Providing information on designated precincts, polling locations, and districts corresponding to the addresses of on-campus dormitories or apartments.

Orientation Director:
- Including sessions for election information and voter registration within New Student Orientation.

Key Stakeholders:

Stakeholder:	Location:	Explanation:
Student Government	Easy to find online or on campus, search for "<insert college name> student government" to find their website/social media. Find a representative through your college/house/department, or reach out to a general contact.	Incredibly useful as a connection between the student body and administration for policy advocacy.
University Center for Civic Engagement	Within university student life or a Department for Student Affairs. Not every university has a dedicated department, but	Can be a useful force for lobbying administration from within administration. Additionally can provide a

	many will have faculty committed to voting rights. Your AGF Campus Champion is a great resource here.	source of funding for necessary external technology like Turbovote.
Key Administrators	University Chief IT Officer, Student Affairs, Residential Life, New Student Orientation, etc.	Administrators have the ability to incorporate student voting rights into their work in the everyday processes of the University.

Pitfalls/Risks:

- Timing
  - Many of the plans for (orientation, for example, is planned alongside the admissions timeline, well in advance of the summer). Maintaining communications with administrators is crucial early in the school year and well before the elections is crucial.

- Funding
  - Securing funding for initiatives from University departments can be a difficult ask, depending on external circumstances. A mitigation strategy for this is to find alternatives wherever available. At Michigan State University, TurboVote was first implemented in 2012, funded by an allocation from the student government general assembly's budget and run by its governmental affairs department.[15]

Campus Examples:

Orientation Tabling:
  - *Many AGF Vote Everywhere chapters annually table at New Student Orientation on their campus, registering thousands of incoming freshmen before they get to campus.[16]*
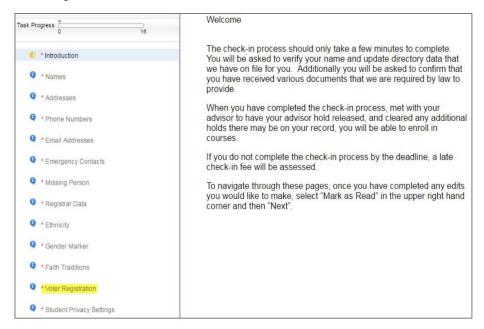
Harvard University
  - Voter Registration is one of the required activities on the student portal when students from any college at the university prepare to begin each new school

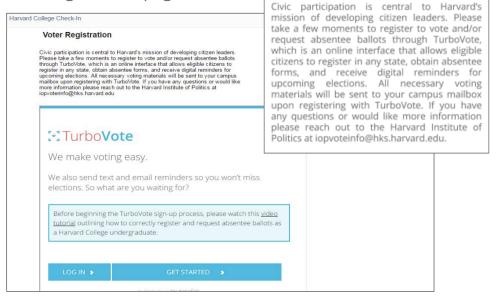---

[15] ASMSU Bill 52-67: To Renew TurboVote Licensing
[16] "New Student Orientations: A Creative Way to Institutionalize Voter Registration" - August 2017

year, in the same breath as updating their local address, directory information, and emergency contact (examples below). [17]

2. Activity Guide

3. Voter registration page

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[17] Images from Harvard Institute Of Politics 2017 Report: "Integrating TurboVote into an Online Pre-Semester Process"

University-Run Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign Implementation Plan

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Background:

It is not simply enough to have the student body registered to vote, it has to turn out to vote! On college campuses, many organizations, such as AGF as well as campaigns, student government and administrations put significant efforts into registering voters as they accriculate to campus, that does not always translate to significant turnout. At Oberlin College, turnout in some precincts was as low as 1.56%.[18] At colleges across the country however, the average rate was 66% in 2020.[19]

So after we register the students, how can we push institutions to implement to make sure they actually go vote to further increase turnout? There are also low cost, low effort ways universities can make sure students have correct information, and are aware of the deadlines as elections approach.

We focus on a university Get Out the Vote campaign (commonly known as GOTV) including, but not limited to:
- Text/email blasts using listservs from university
    - Specifically reminding about deadlines with Mail-in, early and absentee voting
- Partnering with local landlords to communicate information to off campus tenants
- Asking professors to remind their classes about elections
- Specifically targeting turnout in off-year elections such as local or state races.
- Encourage campaigns to canvass and host events on campus with candidates
- Creating online non-partisan information pages for students

Why these Areas?:

Text and email blasts from existing listservs:

While this may be something your university already does, ensuring the right information is available for students through multiple mediums is necessary in facilitating turnout on campus. As your student government and faculty will already have this contact information available, it is important not to attempt to "reinvent the wheel" and use the resources available to you to reach wide audiences.

Asking Professors to remind classes:

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[18] https://chroniclet.com/news/280806/where-was-voter-turnout-lowest-oberlin-college/
[19] https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2021/10/29/college-students-voted-record-high-rate-2020

In a digital age, it is said that someone needs to see an advertisement 7 times before it affects them enough for them to take action.[20] This logic can be applied to turnout as well. What decreases the need for this many instances of confrontation is seeing an advertisement in different means, or communicated by a trusted messenger. As the faculty board will have relationships, or at least contacts with a majority of instructors on campus, even a small amount of them reminding the class when, how, and where to vote can be a powerful tool in pushing turnout.

Using landlord networks:

Again, much of our focus in this category is finding numerous means to push turnout for young people. Off-campus turnout tends to be less focused on than on-campus turnout as there are geographic issues to overcome where on-campus most are located in central locations. Some living off campus may have a different polling location than their neighbor, in some cases they might even live in a different district. Utilizing landlord networks, which have an existing database of where the students under their leases live, can be a quick tool to provide information to a wide range of folks.

Encouraging campaigns and candidates to host events on campus:

While we will not get into the step by step process for hosting large events on campus, after creating a relationship with a trusted ally in student government, you should push them to start having candidate forums on campus and hosted online for students. The more engagement in the political process people feel as a campus community, the greater social pressure there will be to be involved in it!

Where to Begin:

Find ongoing efforts:

Your school most likely already has some effort around GOTV, it may just not be a written policy, or as in depth as a program like the above. To find out, you should:

1. **Reach out to a student government ally.**
   a. If you have a previous relationship to leverage, use it to find the right person(s) to talk to within the student government that works on this issue. If not, reaching out to "community representatives", "government affairs", or "student life" representatives via email may be an easy option. See template in Appendix below.
2. **See if your school has a "Voter Turnout Committee"**
   a. An example of this is MSUVote at Michigan State University: https://www.msuvote.msu.edu/what-we-do

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[20]https://www.krusecontrolinc.com/rule-of-7-how-social-media-crushes-old-school-marketing-2021/#:~:text=The%20Marketing%20Rule%20of%207,movie%20industry%20in%20the%201930s.

b. Usually a campus committee, it is a formation of faculty, students and administrators committed to increasing turnout on campus.
c. If you cannot find a website or committee, ask a trusted administrator or student government contact.

3. Ask your contact at either Student government, or at the Voter Turnout Committee what practices they implement to help turnout the vote.
a. You should look out for policies that are informal
i. Because the student population is always cycling, it is important to have institutional policies to make sure future groups are conducting turnout activities as well.

Key Stakeholders:

Stakeholder:	Location:	Explanation:
Voter Engagement Student Organizations: i.e. Campus Vote Project, "Voter Turnout Committee"	Social Media Networks (Students Learn Students Vote has a directory of organizations that may have a local chapter on campus) Also could be within the administration of the university.	These organizations make excellent partners for this work, as they have the annual election engagement infrastructure, and making it easier for students to vote, as well as increasing turnout coincides with their aims.
Political Campaigns	Through college democrats, republicans and off campus campaign offices.	When dealing with turnout, one of the most interested stakeholders will be the political campaigns themselves that are pushing turnout in the campus community. Typically reaching out to the college republicans or democrats will net you a contact in this area.
Student Interest Groups Black, Latinx, Asian American Student Associations Issue Advocacy Groups:	Many of these groups can be found in your college/university's Department of Student Life/Affairs.	Many of these groups that have advocacy focus will also be civically engaged and either run parallel GOTV efforts or have membership crossover. You may be able to

Sierra Club, Students for Choice/Life, etc.		have these organizations push out GOTV materials to their list-serv as well.
Student Government	Easy to find online or on campus, search for "<insert college name> student government" to find their website/social media. Find a representative through your college/house/department, or reach out to a general contact.	Student governments tend to be populated with the more civically engaged members of the student population, and possess more direct connections to leadership in faculty and the administration.

Pitfalls/Risk:

1. Duplication
   a. In GOTV efforts, there may be other organizations that are pushing for similar programs, make sure to pool resources, and make sure you are working together, without duplicating work. You can mitigate this risk by preemptively reaching out to other campus voting organizations and campaigns that may be conducting voter turnout efforts.
2. "Bottle-necking"
   a. Don't get stuck in a bottleneck, if you cannot get one or more GOTV efforts through, that's okay! Create a strong coalition with interested partners and continue pushing. Use the ones you do get accomplished as justification for expansion.
3. "Re-inventing the wheel"
   a. Every election cycle, there is some effort on most campuses to turn out the student vote. Whatever you are doing, make sure that it is properly documented, and ideally push for institutions like your university or city to commit to conducting the efforts that were effective in future election cycles.

How can you set up the next organizers?

1. TRACK. YOUR. DATA.
   a. How many people did your tabling events register?
   b. How many folks registered because of email pushes and TurboVote?
   c. You should be constantly measuring programs' impact not only to make sure you are being as effective as possible, but also so the next organizers can use this data if folks try to roll back or want to expand on the work you have already done.
2. Create your own toolkit

a. Every campus is different, while these implementation plans give general policies that are effective, only you will know which dorm hall is the easiest to register, and which organizations have the most reach. As you go through GOTV, write down the steps you take, the relationships you built, and pass that information along to the ambassador that takes your place.

Sample Materials:

Getting landlord assistance in turnout

1 Create a calendar of key dates
Look at dates like the VR deadline, absentee ballot application opening and early voting. Center communication to students around these dates. (You can find these dates on the city clerk's website)

2 Reach out to Local Realtors Association
You may also reach out to city government officials if you have connections here. The goal is to find someone with connections to a large amount of local landlords.

3 Research and background on key areas
Get a sense of where students live, and what polling locations/districts they live in.

4 Organize a meeting of large landlords
Using the connections between realtors association or city officials, email a few of the larger landlords with large student populations and pitch them on working with you for GOTV efforts.

5 Create emails/letter drafts
They should include an individuals:
- Polling location
- VR Deadline
- Absentee Ballot Information
- Website for more information

6 Ask Landlords to send out letters to tenants, post on their message boards, or email their tenants with the information

Text/Email Blast from University officials

1 Create a calendar of key dates
Look at dates like the VR deadline, absentee ballot application opening and early voting. Center communication to students around these dates. (You can find these dates on the city clerk's website)

2 Draft campus specific emails and texts
Use the examples provided to create specific ones to your university with deadlines that match to the calendar above.

3 Reach out to Student government
Student government will have listservs of all the university emails. Develop a relationship with one key ally.

4 Reach out to faculty board
Find the faculty advisory committee, or faculty board. You should develop a strong relationship with at least one key ally that can help you navigate the scene here.

5 Ask student government to send draft emails and texts during key dates

6 Ask faculty board to send information to professors to tell their classes about key registration and turnout dates

Case Studies:

Arizona State University

By Cyrus Commissariat, former Andrew Goodman Ambassador, Arizona State University

Updates to the story by Sterling Bland, from interviews with Vote Everywhere team members Anusha Natarajan, Jacqueline Sandoval, Jennifer O'Brien, and Andrew Dolan in March 2022

Arizona State University (ASU) is the largest university in the country with 135,729 students enrolled. Of that, 54,866 Sun Devils are enrolled at the Tempe campus. ASU is proud to represent the diversity of the state: 30 percent of the overall student body includes first-generation college students; with 46 percent of the incoming class coming from minority backgrounds,[21] ASU will soon be designated a "Hispanic Serving Institution," a marker of its intentionality in serving diverse communities.[22]

Students at ASU are fortunate to have many protections in place that make voting on campus as accessible as possible in light of statewide election laws and barriers. This is due in large part to the positive relationship that students and administrators have been able to foster with local and state elections officials. Arizonans in general have several options to choose from when voting. Arizona has established no-excuse early voting which allows residents to vote early, either in person, at the polls which may open up to 27 days before Election Day, or by mail by being placed on a list to receive ballots in the mail. Over 80 percent of Arizonans choose to vote by mail with the other 20 percent voting early in person or on Election Day in person. ASU has worked with local election agencies to ensure that voting in person both early and on Election Day is accessible by providing free parking and coordinating an appropriate on-campus polling location.

This positive relationship with the local elected official responsible for administering elections at ASU began in 2016 with the election of Adrian Fontes to the County Recorder position. Recorder Fontes has recognized the importance of student voting and has made a

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[21] See Arizona State University, Facts & Figures: https://www.asu.edu/about/facts-and-figures
[22] See ASU News, "Hispanic Students Continue to Thrive at ASU:"
https://news.asu.edu/20210325-arizona-impact-asu-remains-committed-hispanic-student-success

point of remaining in contact with university students and administrators when choosing polling locations. Furthermore, under his administration, the county pivoted towards county-wide voting such that if one is a resident of Maricopa County, they are able to vote at any polling location, thus eliminating voter confusion and the need to know one's precinct. This decision has had a positive effect on students' abilities to vote on campus as students from all over the county come into the university daily. Maricopa County is currently the second largest voting jurisdiction in the country.[23]

That is not to say that elections were error free during this tenure. For example, in 2018 the polling place selected was unable to adequately accommodate the increased voting rate which resulted in long lines throughout Election Day. Recorder Fontes as well as ASU administrators and student leaders recognized the 2018 location was not suitable and therefore searched for appropriate substitutions that could accommodate the number of voters. After lengthy discussions, it was decided that in-person early voting and Election Day voting for the 2020 election cycle—including the presidential preference election (PPE), state primaries, and general election—would be held at the Sun Devil Fitness Complex (SDFC), ASU's main gym, located on the Tempe campus. The location meets all the requirements a polling place must adhere to which center around ADA access as well as proximity to parking.

Arizona's PPE took place on March 17, 2020 and luckily turnout was quite high given the circumstances of COVID-19. The SDFC was used for the first time for this election, and the location was a great success. The location was close to parking and restrooms, was ADA accessible, and the county was able to maintain sanitary requirements. Fortunately, the line was never too long even with social distancing guidelines, and the poll was appropriately staffed with enough poll workers. Arizona's many voting options help to bolster turnout and ensure voters have options when seeking to exercise their right to vote. During the general election on November 3rd, 2020, the same story held true. Students — in the face of a global pandemic — ran to the polls and voted at a rate 7.5 percentage points higher than in 2016's general election,

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[23] See Maricopa County Election Facts | Voting Equipment and Accuracy: https://www.maricopa.gov/5539/Voting-Equipment-Facts

thanks to the innovative efforts of Vote Everywhere Ambassadors encouraging and equipping their peers.[24]

Since the County Recorder left office on January 1st, 2021, ASU's Vote Everywhere team has persisted in developing relationships with key state administrators to maintain the polling site. Students are working with the new County Recorder, Stephen Richer, and the Secretary of State's office to host events providing information to both in-state and out-of-state Sun Devils interested in civic engagement. Engaged staff at ASU continue to inform and learn from state administrators to sustain their relationship with the Vote Everywhere Team. As a part of the broader Civic Engagement Coalition's "all-in plan," which includes 30+ civically engaged organizations on ASU's diverse campus, the Vote Everywhere team is committed to broadening its advocacy by continuing to provide educational materials and polling access to historically marginalized communities, including Native American and AAPI students. As Anusha Natarajan, Vote Everywhere student ambassador and chair of the Civic Engagement Coalition, puts it: "If the call to participate in American Democracy comes from someone our age, or who looks like us, people in our generation will listen. They will pay attention, vote, and be engaged on campus."

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[24] See ASU News: "ASU Student Voter Participation in 2020 Rises from 2016":
https://news.asu.edu/20211115-asu-student-voter-participation-2020-rises-2016

East Carolina University

By Alex Dennis, Andrew Goodman Campus Champion and Assistant Director of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, East Carolina University

Updates by Sterling Bland, based on an interview with Alex Dennis on March 25, 2022

East Carolina University (ECU) is located in Greenville, North Carolina, a city of 100,000 people in the heart of eastern North Carolina. ECU is a public research university and is a member of the University of North Carolina system, with a student population just under 30,000. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, ECU students voted at a rate of 52.6 percent in the 2016 general election,[25] even though the closest one-stop early voting site was one mile away. This location was housed in the Willis Building, a campus building – but one that sits off main campus and is not utilized by students, with no easy access via public transportation. NSLVE also showed that most student voters (58.9 percent) voted early utilizing North Carolina's One-Stop Early Voting program, which allows for up to two weeks of early voting and same-day registration. In January 2019, ECU opened a brand new, state of the art student center which presented a great opportunity for a more accessible on-campus one-stop early voting site for students, faculty, and staff.

In an effort to remove barriers to voting that ECU students face, the Pirates Vote team, supported by The Andrew Goodman Foundation and Campus Vote Project, decided to begin work on a campaign to move the one-stop early voting site from the Willis Building to the new Main Campus Student Center. Before approaching the Pitt County Board of Elections (BOE), the team worked to build support on campus and to begin an initial discussion with the Director of Elections for Pitt County. The Pirates Vote team worked to acquire a 700-signature petition from students in support of the move, a unanimous Student Government Association resolution in support, and a letter of support from Dr. Virginia Hardy, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. After meeting with the Director of Elections, the team worked to secure the most ideal room within the student center for voting, accessible parking for voters on campus, outdoor space for campaign signs and electioneering, and an easily accessible ADA compliant location for curbside voting. The team wanted to make sure all potential obstacles had been addressed and solutions made available prior to presenting the campaign to the Pitt County BOE.

On April 23, 2019, the Pirates Vote team presented to the Pitt County BOE, proposing a move from the Willis Building to the Main Campus Student Center for early voting. The team shared all the

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[25] See "Student Voting Rates for East Carolina University," 2012 and 2016:
https://engage.ecu.edu/organization/center-for-leadership-and-civic-engagement/documents/view/1886442

solutions and logistics that had been worked on, along with the overwhelming campus support. The Pitt County BOE would not decide the 2019 municipal election one-stop plan until August 20, 2019. The Pirates Vote team showed up again with strong numbers at that meeting, reiterating the main points from the April 23 presentation. In a 3-2 vote, the Pitt County BOE voted to move the early voting site to the Main Campus Student Center, but since it was not unanimous, the decision went to the North Carolina Board of Elections to decide. The State BOE approved the move and the student center served as a one-stop early voting site for the 2019 municipal election. The Main Campus Student Center saw a 0.6 percent increase of total voters compared to the Willis Building (18.2 percent of total votes in 2019 compared to 17.6 percent in the 2017 municipal election).

The Pitt County Board of Elections met on December 2, 2019 to vote on the one-stop plan for the 2020 election season. The Pirates Vote team again spoke to the BOE during the public comment period, highlighting the value of having the polling site in the Main Campus Student Center. They also shared over 130 comments from the university community in support of the Main Campus Student Center as a polling site. Additionally, staff reiterated to the Board the university's commitment to supporting the Main Campus Student Center site. In a 4-1 decision, the board voted to move the one-stop early voting site back to the Willis Building. Again, since their decision was not unanimous, it went to the State BOE to be decided. The Pirates Vote team along with faculty, staff, and even some national partners began a letter writing campaign to the state board in support of keeping the site in the Main Campus Student Center. On December 20, 2019, the state board voted to override the Pitt County BOE's decision and keep the site in the student center.

The Pirates Vote team worked even harder to ensure that 2020 primary voting went smoothly in the Main Campus Student Center and that students, faculty, staff and community members took advantage of the location. Ultimately, 1,763 people voted at the student center site during one-stop early voting for the 2020 primary election, which is 14.1 percent of all voters in the county. When compared to the Willis Building location during the 2016 primary election, this is a 4.7 percent increase. The Main Campus Student Center also had the largest turnout for ages 18-25 (70.6 percent) in the county. The Pirates Vote team continued to lobby the Pitt County BOE and fought to keep the Main Campus Student Center — through which roughly 20,000 students walk daily — as a one-stop early voting location for the 2020 general election. Because of the persistence of student advocates, the broader university community, and national partners, the Pitt County BOE is now completely on-board with the early voting site. Going into the election, East Carolina University had successfully registered 90% of eligible students. Despite North Carolina's having no online voter registration system, the Andrew

Goodman Foundation, Campus Votes Project, and the Pirates Vote team transitioned their work to accommodate Covid-19 safety protocols, implementing an online voter registration module, boosting their social media engagement, and crafting new online-suitable democratic engagement plans to reach as many students as possible given the obstacles of the pandemic. As a result, voter turnout in the 2020 general election increased 20 percentage points, from 52.1% to 72.6% of students voting.[26]

East Carolina University is well on the way in institutionalizing a voting culture on its campus. Citizen U, a semester-long student affairs program, features a highly-anticipated, year-long civic engagement workshop series that discusses the ins-and-outs of everyday civic engagement on campus, media literacy, and personal financial literacy, to conversations about broader community work featuring guest speakers like Greenville's mayor, Defense Attorney, and local police officers who cover a broad range of topics. Over Spring Break, students are given the opportunity to take Alternative Break Experiences, one of which is civic engagement themed, allowing students a hands-on experience touring the state governmental buildings, meeting elected representatives, and providing civic engagement-related service. The Pirates Votes Team sets up regular meetings called "Dinner and Discourse," where instead of shrinking away from politically polarizing topics, they take them head on. Students from all political persuasions gather around the table for good food and tough conversation, creating an environment where equity and inclusion is rooted in a true passion for civil discourse. This bridges political divides to build student solidarity around civic engagement. As Alex Ray Dennis, Andrew Goodman Campus Champion puts it, "at the end of the day, red and blue makes purple. Purple is our school color — we're Pirates at the end of the day."

Moving forward, student advocates will continue to use the Main Campus Student Center as an early voting site. They are pressing forwards, fulfilling a vision where students are registered to vote as early as first-year orientation, using a robust state-wide digital voter registration platform.

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[26] See "Student Voting Rates for East Carolina University," 2020:
https://engage.ecu.edu/organization/center-for-leadership-and-civic-engagement/documents/view/1886442

Georgia State University

Original campus story by Evan Wayne Malbrough, former Andrew Goodman Ambassador and AGF summer intern, Georgia State University

Updates by Emma Strother, based on an interview with Evan Malbrough, March 15, 2022

Georgia State University (GSU) is one of the largest universities in the state of Georgia with its largest campus located in the middle of downtown Atlanta. The university has six campuses in three different counties and serves 55,000 students in total. GSU's Atlanta campus is a few blocks away from the Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta City Hall, and the Fulton County Government Center.

In 2016, Evan Malbrough was a GSU freshman music major who spent his weekends campaigning for local candidates. He helped found Vote Everywhere GSU — a campus coalition of student voting advocates — to tackle the deep disillusionment he heard from many first-time voters who did not see their values reflected in government in 2016. With support from the Andrew Goodman Foundation, Evan and his peers built one of the most impactful student voter empowerment programs in the country by 2020.

At first, Vote Everywhere GSU focused on voter registration and access to the polls. It was sometimes an uphill battle. Evan would walk from campus to the Georgia State Capitol to personally submit students' paper voter registration forms. Then Stacey Abrams' 2018 gubernatorial race sparked the rise of non-partisan voting rights groups on campus, including the NAACP, Fair Fight, and Black Voters Matter. With voter registration well-supported, Vote Everywhere GSU could take the next step and engage students in voting rights year-round. Evan shared that learning from the Andrew Goodman Foundation was key to this strategic shift. "Having relationships with municipalities goes a long way. AGF teaches you the basics and helps build those relationships."

The team visited Introduction to American Government classes, and convinced professors to give their students extra credit if they either registered to vote, wrote a paper about why they would not vote, or for international students, listed the officials who governed their home. They lobbied the administration to purchase TurboVote, an app for voter registration, absentee ballot requests, and election reminders. They ramped up National Voter

Registration Day events, and leveraged The Great Debate – an annual GSU debate between College Democrats and College Republicans – to invite local election officials to campus and win grants for non-partisan voter engagement.

In 2019, Fulton County Commissioner Robb Pitts announced his goal to increase youth civic participation. In July, he agreed to meet with Evan and a small group of GSU students who pitched their idea for a poll worker pipeline on campus and a student-run precinct. At the time, Fulton County used a mobile precinct to travel between public colleges, but it was stretched thin. Evan knew that he "needed to find the most qualified students imaginable, just to get a foot in the door." Ultimately, the group included the GSU Student President, a Congressional Black Caucus intern, an ACLU intern, a career military medical school student, and an intern in the UK House of Lords.

In "Our Democracy Depends On It: Why Young People Should Consider Becoming Poll Workers"[27]Evan wrote about the need for young poll workers. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission reports that most poll workers who worked in the 2016 general election were between the ages of 53 and 70. The Commission also reports that 65 percent of jurisdictions reported that it was "very difficult" or "somewhat difficult" to find and hire poll workers.[28] To fill this need, Vote Everywhere GSU pitched to Commissioner Pitts they would create a cohort of students to add to the ranks of poll workers.

By the time Fulton County and the GSU administration approved this plan, GSU's Atlanta campus had served as an early voting "outreach" polling location for three election cycles. Being an "outreach" location meant that it was not open the entire three weeks of early voting, but rather for two-to-three days as a way to expand access to student voters. GSU's outreach location was usually busy due to its placement in the center of the city. For the 2016 and 2018 general elections, it was staffed by poll workers trained by the Fulton County Election Office.

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[27] Malbrough, Evan. "Our Democracy Depends On It: Why Young People Should Consider Becoming Poll Workers - Blavity." *Blavity News & Politics*, 2019, blavity.com/our-democracy-depends-on-it-why-young-people-should-consider-becoming-poll-workers?category1=politics&subCat=opinion.

[28] "EAVS Deep Dive: Poll Workers and Polling Places: U.S. Election Assistance Commission." *EAVS Deep Dive: Poll Workers and Polling Places | U.S. Election Assistance Commission*, www.eac.gov/documents/2017/11/15/eavs-deep-dive-poll-workers-and-polling-places.

In 2019-20, eight GSU students went through the early voting training process to become certified registrars and poll workers. This program was the first of its kind in Georgia, and it took eight months to set up. The State had just signed a contract with Dominion Voting to overhaul its election system. It was February 2020 by the time students had access to Dominion voting machine training. They had to miss classes for training and in order to run the precinct.

In March 2020, the students set up the polling location in GSU's ballroom and staffed it for two full days. The location served 420 people who were mostly students. Vote Everywhere GSU also set up a voter information table outside the location to give out-of-county students vital information on how to cast a ballot. The precinct closed on schedule, and just three days later GSU shut down due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Evan reflected, "if it had been scheduled one week later, it would not have happened at all."

After the success of the polling location, Evan published *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Building a Youth Poll Worker Project* with the Andrew Goodman Foundation and Democracy Works. The comprehensive guide takes student advocates step-by-step through the process of opening and staffing their own polling locations. While this guide was circulating, Evan took his expertise on the road. GSU students were some of the last poll workers to be trained on Dominion machines before the Covid-19 lockdown, and Evan used this knowledge to run precincts across Fulton County after graduation. It was through this experience that the need for youth poll workers really hit home.

At one precinct, ethernet cords malfunctioned minutes before voting started, and Evan was forced to run the entire precinct from a WiFi hotspot on his cellphone. They were so understaffed with so many voters that staff arrived at 5:00 am and did not leave until 2:00 am. Evan knew they needed more early voting precincts, staff, and youth leaders, so he launched the Georgia Youth Poll Worker Project. The nonprofit organization started as an Instagram campaign to help recruit and train young poll workers across the State. The project amplified how pollworking can meet young people's economic needs, and "dug its heels into the cultural organizing space," making the case that youth are crucial to the future of democracy.

Now a Fellow with the ACLU of Georgia and a Board Member of the Andrew Goodman Foundation, Evan continues to work at the forefront of youth political and civic empowerment.

Louisiana State University

Updates to the story by Sterling Bland, based on an interview with Campus Champion Leonard Apcar and Geaux Vote President Mia R LeJeune in March 2022

Louisiana State University (LSU), the flagship school for the state of Louisiana, is situated in the state's capitol of Baton Rouge. LSU boasts approximately 35,000 undergraduate and graduate students, making it the largest student body in the state, of which minorities comprise approximately 30 percent.[29] Prior to 2019, LSU students were treated unequally when it came to their voting rights. A major ongoing cause for concern on campus was the manner in which the voting precinct line was drawn, cutting directly through the middle of the central avenue of campus. LSU students living on one side of Highland Avenue could vote conveniently on campus, while students living on the other side had to travel a mile and a half off campus through an adjacent community. This split student vote caused confusion about who should vote where, and discouraged students who were juggling heavy workloads to venture off campus through unfamiliar terrain, where public transportation does not connect the neighborhoods. Furthermore, the resources available at off-campus polling locations are limited and contribute to long lines and lack of adequate parking space.

The issue came to a head in the highly-watched 2019 gubernatorial race, where Election Day coincided with both LSU Homecoming and a major football Game Day. Student advocates were concerned that traffic onto and off campus would be untenable, and that security concerns would arise even if they organized shuttles to bring students to and from the off-campus voting location. Two additional factors complicated this tension at LSU. First, pursuant to state law, LSU students who vote at the wrong polling place—for example, those who arrive to vote conveniently on campus like their peers, rather than traversing to the off-campus location they are assigned to—will have their votes counted for federal races, but not the local or state races.[30] In other words, provisional ballots are

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[29] *See* "LSU Budget and Planning: Enrollment by Race," *available at:* *https://www.lsu.edu/bgtplan/trend/dashboards/race.php* (last accessed April 3, 2022)

[30] La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 18:566; *see also* Louisiana Secretary of State, Vote Provisionally, *available at:* http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteProvisionally/Pages/default.aspx (last accessed March 7, 2019).

not a safeguard for LSU students who cannot make it to their assigned location off campus. Second, the dividing precinct line splits the student vote across two state legislative districts.

AGF campus leaders at LSU worked with local and state election officials to troubleshoot sustainable solutions in advance of the 2020 presidential race, with a central demand being to secure a centrally located polling place on campus for all LSU students. Fortunately, after years of advocacy, Geaux Vote, which is how LSU's Andrew Goodman Campus Team is locally known, has been successful in securing a consolidated [on-campus voting location](). They redrew the line of one polling precinct such that it might be consolidated with the one off campus, without displacing neighborhood voters. As a result, all LSU students would be able to vote at one on-campus polling location. Key to this success was a combined advocacy effort using data and storytelling to present the case. Student advocates met one-on-one with city council members, presenting the nonpartisan case for student voting rights. At the same time, the Geaux Vote team took to the streets, tirelessly registering as many voters as possible in hopes to dissuade City Council from their belief that students were politically apathetic. Their efforts have sustained to the present, in which voter registration on campus increased nearly ten percentage points, alongside a 16.7 percent increase in voter turnout from 2016 to 2020.[31]

Unfortunately, however, because of local law, consolidated voting at a single polling place could not occur until after the latest decennial census – thus, the on-campus voting location continued to remain in place, but only some students could vote there. Next year, a state-wide election will be held and students will all be able to vote on campus for the first time, using their student IDs as legal voting documentation. While celebrating their hard-fought success, LSU student advocates are committed to further study of whether their campus is unconstitutionally gerrymandered. Furthermore, their aim is set on making the most of their new on-campus voting location by increasing voter registration. LSU voter turnout, last measured at 64.7%, is just below the national average across institutions in the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](), which ranks it Silver. The Geaux Vote team has its eyes set on Gold (70-79% voter turnout), and have created a "Civic Engagement Improvement Plan" — targeted towards engaging students through partnership with the college athletics department and institutionalizing an online registration platform across various school webpages. As the plan establishes, LSU is the flagship university of the state. As such,

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[31] 2020 NSLVE Campus Report. "Student Voting Rates for Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College," October 2021.

its campaign for an on-campus polling location and its drive to increase voter registration will emanate far from the university's gates in revitalizing American democracy.

North Carolina A&T

By Sterling Bland, based on an interview with Student Ambassadors Bryan and Brandon Daye and Campus Champion Tiffany Seawright on April 7th, 2022

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, America's largest HBCU and home to 12,566 students who call themselves Aggies, is located in Greensboro, North Carolina. According to the U.S. Department of Education, North Carolina A&T produces the most African American Undergraduates in Engineering and Agriculture as well as masters degrees in Mathematics/Statistics and Engineering.[32] The school's stellar performance is driven by its rich history. A&T is a university rooted in legacy: on February 1st, 1961, four freshmen, Ezell Blair, Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond, later known as the "A&T Four," started the Lunch Counter Sit-In Demonstrations of the Civil Rights Movement, a call for desegregation.[33]

The voting rights fight which began during the Civil Rights movement in Greensboro continues to provoke student activism today. In 2016, A&T was split across two predominantly GOP districts: North Carolina District 6 and District 13 in a racial and partisan motivated gerrymander to limit the impact of the student vote. In response, student voting rights advocates launched an "Real Aggies Vote" campaign to gauge students' awareness around the issue and receive their backing in the Fall of 2019. Over two thousand students ran to join the effort, signing a petition to invalidate the gerrymander in under 24 hours. Running off of the support of the student body, both undergraduate voting rights advocates and students across academic departments attended the county's weekly Board of Election (BOE) meetings — following the example set by The A&T Four — until the court invalidated the gerrymander. Subsequently, the students' persistent BOE advocacy for an on-campus voting site was a success.

In the Spring of 2020, students had three locations to vote: an on-campus voting site for the primaries, an early-vote site, and a general election site. Unfortunately, however, the sites were made available at the same time the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged in full swing, giving

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[32] See https://www.ncat.edu/about/rankings-and-recognition/index.php
[33] See https://www.ncat.edu/about/history-and-traditions/index.php

opponents fuel to justify their closures. Shortly after the primaries, students were sent home to take safety precautions and voting dwindled — but only initially. The Andrew Goodman Team quickly implemented methods to get the remaining students on campus to vote, including voter education initiatives, early voting initiatives, a vote-from-home campaign, and a march to the voting site. But it wasn't enough for the Board of Elections.

Despite the results of this labor — that over 91% of Aggies were registered to vote, 71% of whom voted — the BOE decided that the on-campus voting site was not sufficiently used for continued investment after the 2020 general election. As a result, they removed the early voting site, leaving students to walk a mile to the county courthouse. This is despite the fact that Aggie freshmen are unable to drive, and many of the residents in the Guilford area are older Black and brown residents with limited access to transportation. As Tiffany Seawright, current Campus Champion, stated, the removal of the early voting site hurts the communities most vulnerable because of economic concerns: "When you take away convenience for people, it will automatically lower rates of voting…if you put a price on people's vote and on who matters, that's very unfortunate." The cost of a voting population lost far exceeds that of maintaining a polling location.

Given North Carolina A&T's history, it is no surprise that student advocates haven't given up. As Bryan Daye, current AGF Student Ambassador stated, "When we say Aggie Pride, we have to rejoice in A&T's legacy and make it even better. That's what keeps us going." To that end, The Andrew Goodman Team, in partnership with the Office of University Relations and the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement, is currently running an "Activate the Vote'' campaign with three steps: register, educate, and execute. The team has put on a multitude of programs to engage students, even for off-campus voting. To name a few initiatives, they have started a Civic Champion Program, which engages a fleet of fifty students to embark in an on-the-ground mission for voter registration, which delivered over 5,000 voter education packages to students living in dorms this academic year. They began a "More than A Vote" social media series, an annual Stroll to the Polls with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Engagement, and savvy-named educational programming like "Donuts and Democracy" and "Pizza and

Politics." It is this work, in the face of the obstacles at hand, that keeps Aggie voter registration and turnout high even with opportunities far from campus.

The journey of North Carolina A&T is a long, arduous, beautiful, unfinished masterpiece. The resilience and dedication of the AGF Team is a witness to the sacrificial advocacy embedded in the history of the HBCU and its prominent role in the fight for civil rights. This work, as current student ambassador Bryan Daye puts it, is far from self-aggrandizing. "This is selfless work. You have to be a truly selfless person. It's more than you at the end of the day. It might be a bit tiring, a little stressful, you might want to pull your hair out. But when you have a team of students rallying behind you, making sure your events come to fruition, it is one of the greatest feelings ever. That you can stand for a greater cause, changing and advancing the world, day by day — that's what it's all about. " For Bryan and the North Carolina A&T AGF Team — as for those who came before them — that's what it's about: fighting persistently, not for personal gain, but for the good of the community.

Prairie View A&M University

Campus story by Emma Strother, based on an interview with Andrew Goodman Ambassador Evan Gross and the Honorable Frank Jackson, former Mayor of Prairie View

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Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution in Texas, located 40 miles northwest of Houston. An average of 8,250 students attend the HBCU annually, with more than 50% of undergraduates living on campus. The university has been internationally recognized for excellence in Agricultural Research, Architecture, Biology, Business, Education, Engineering, Juvenile Justice, and Nursing.[34] Closer to home, it plays an important role in the history and daily life of Waller County and the City of Prairie View, population 5,576.[35]

Prairie View A&M has a rich history of voting rights advocacy, inextricably linked to racial justice, that long predates its connection to the Andrew Goodman Foundation. In 1876, the university was established in the Texas Legislature by state Rep. William Holland and state Sen. Matthew Gaines, both of whose mothers were enslaved.[36] It opened on the former Alta Vista plantation, where hundreds of Black people were enslaved, and where students still attend classes today. When Prairie View A&M was founded, the surrounding community was majority African American. Yet white people, including the Ku Klux Klan and the White Man's Party systematically used violence, terror, poll taxes, and other intimidation tactics including segregationist legislation to disenfranchise Black residents of Prairie View.[37]

After the ratification of the 26th Amendment lowered the U.S. voting age to 18 and outlawed age discrimination in access to the ballot, white Waller County officials forced Black students to fill out intrusive questionnaires attempting to delegitimize their residency before registering to vote where they lived. The ensuing lawsuit made its way to the Supreme Court in 1979, where the questionnaire was confirmed unconstitutional.[38] In the 1980s and again in the early 2000s, federal intervention stopped the Prairie View A&M campus from being gerrymandered to break the small student body into multiple precincts. In 1992, more than a dozen students were baselessly accused of voter fraud by the county district attorney, who dropped the charges due to student protest and national attention. In 2004, multiple students at Prairie View were arrested and indicted simply for voting where they were registered to vote.[39]

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[34] "FACTS ABOUT PVAMU." Recruitment, 19 Aug. 2020, https://www.pvamu.edu/recruitment/facts-about-pvamu/.
[35] Alley, Samir. "City of Prairie View, TX." Prairie View Visitors, https://www.prairieviewtexas.gov/visitors/index.php.
[36] Ura, Alexa. "Texas' Oldest Black University Was Built on a Former Plantation. Its Students Still Fight a Legacy of Voter Suppression." The Texas Tribune, The Texas Tribune, 25 Feb. 2021, https://www.texastribune.org/2021/02/25/waller-county-texas-voter-suppression/.
[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Ibid.

In 2013, Prairie View A&M finally secured an election day polling site on campus after decades of student and community-led advocacy. In a city that lacks public transportation, where most students do not own cars, the on-campus polling site was crucial to voter accessibility. Yet in 2018, racially discriminatory policies limited early voting at the site, which served predominantly Black voters. Student leaders organized volunteer carpools to a polling location 2.5 miles from campus one way, and the university chartered private transportation at its own expense to help fill the gap. Students filed a lawsuit against the county with the help of the NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, and entered an arduous and prolonged fight for the same early voting hours as other precincts. At this time, Yael Bromberg, Chief Counsel at the Andrew Goodman Foundation visited Prairie View and met with Mayor Jackson. Yael and Annabel Park filmed an interview with six students, on their voting rights advocacy, the upcoming elections, and their views on democracy. The students' fight is ongoing today.[40]

Evan Gross became the first Andew Goodman Ambassador at Prairie View A&M in January 2021.[41] She is keenly aware of her campus' history, brings passion and organizing savvy to the current fight for voting rights, and cares deeply about passing on practical tools and knowledge to the next generation of student advocates. "Our history is unique in a lot of ways, and it's one of the first things you learn freshman year," she reflected. "For example, we don't walk on the grass out of respect because enslaved people are buried in unmarked graves on the school grounds." Evan's political and civic activism began after the 2016 presidential election, and she joined the fight for fair early voting hours in 2018. Much of her advocacy has been working with key stakeholders at the university and in the surrounding community to advance youth voter access.

Prairie View A&M was hit hard by the pandemic. Students lost close family and friends to Covid-19. The grief continues, alongside economic uncertainty. As election officials across the country seek to justify closing precincts by citing lower levels of in-person voting due to the pandemic, students at Prairie View continue the fight. Evan's tactic is to plan ahead and then meet students where they are. She often tells her peers, "Help out now, because we don't know what's going to happen later." She spends a lot of time talking to students about registration, voting, and civic engagement more broadly. She shared, "The history of voting rights activism here is a reminder of our potential."

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[40] Ibid.
[41] "Evan Gross." Andrew Goodman Foundation, https://andrewgoodman.org/people-list/evan-gross/.

University of Chicago

Original case by former Campus Champion Purvi Patel and the Andrew Goodman Foundation

Updates to the story by Sterling Bland, based on an interview with Campus Champion Matilda-Thornton Clark on March 16, 2022

The University of Chicago (UChicago) is a private research institution located in Chicago, one of the most diverse cities in Illinois[42]. The UChicago Institute of Politics (IOP) founded the student-led, nonpartisan voter engagement organization called UChiVotes, led by Andrew Goodman Ambassadors, in 2018 with the initial goal of boosting on-campus voter registration to 70 percent and voter turnout to 40 percent during the 2018 midterm elections[43]. Since then, UChiVotes and the IOP have continued to work to make the ballot more accessible to students. In October 2019, the campus was approved by the Chicago Board of Elections to host an early voting site at the Reynolds Club during the early voting period[44]. This early voting site was in operation for the presidential primary from March 11, 2020 through March 13, 2020. The UChiVotes team was in charge of working with the Board of Elections and university to organize the site, so they set to work planning for the site immediately, especially because the early voting period fell during the winter quarter's final exam period.

As COVID-19 began impacting university and college regulations in early March, the UChiVotes team realized that their early voting site would not be able to operate without significant modifications. There were not clear guidelines from the Chicago Board of Elections for how to maintain an early voting site under the CDC's new COVID-19 regulations until March 10, 2020[45], the day before the polling site opened. However, the team learned ahead of time that the site would be considered a convening of over one hundred people, which defied the

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[42] "The University of Chicago." The University of Chicago. Accessed April 29, 2020. https://www.uchicago.edu/.

[43] "UChiVotes." UChiVotes | Institute of Politics | The University of Chicago. Accessed April 29, 2020. https://politics.uchicago.edu/pages/uchivotes.

[44] Mandeville, Adrian. "Early Voting Site in Reynolds Draws Hundreds as Coronavirus Affects Primary Voting." *The Chicago Maroon*, March 20, 2020. https://www.chicagomaroon.com/article/2020/3/20/early-voting-site-reynolds-draws-hundreds-coronavi/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=91c8f5c7-7022-44cd-b985-c7ebbb19078a.

[45] "Recommendations for Election Polling Locations." Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 10, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html.

CDC and university guidelines[46]. They set to work with the university President's office, the UChicago Student Center, Campus and Student Life, and Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners to consult about the risks and implement preventative measures for social distancing and sanitizing supplies to keep the site open.

In the meantime, UChiVotes' Andrew Goodman Ambassadors and staff prepared awareness raising communications to ensure the UChicago community had the information they needed to cast a ballot in the primary and take advantage of the same-day voter registration opportunities at the early voting site. The team created social media reminders for Instagram and Facebook, designed coffee sleeves for a campus coffee shop, and conducted in-person educational events for as long as possible. Students' perspectives were key to this communications campaign. As Matilda Thornton-Clark, current AGF Campus Champion put it, "it's all student-driven. As staff we don't know what's going to most resonate with students, so letting students have the opportunity to brainstorm what their peers would want to put on their laptop, on their waterbottle…what would be *fun,* that is what makes the difference." The Communications Director of UChiVotes, Julianna Rossi, indicated that their main focus was messaging about safety and public health measures to show that voters would be safe voting in person at the site[47]. In the days prior to the early voting period, UChiVotes team members also rushed to obtain hand sanitizer, latex gloves, alcohol pads, and Lysol wipes so they would have the necessary supplies to provide to voters and keep voting machines clean.

When the early voting site opened at the Reynolds Club, UChiVotes Andrew Goodman Ambassadors and volunteers worked to mark the floor with blue chalk and tape to indicate where folks should stand in line to remain six feet apart, as well as posted signs[48]. Co-Director of UChiVotes, Joshua McKie, shared that the team also assured voters that they could stand in the same line to register to vote and cast a ballot if they weren't already registered[49]. Furthermore, the team facilitated bus transportation to the early voting site for students and community members. The work of the UChiVotes team was paramount because most of the poll workers at

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[46] Purvi Patel, phone conversation with author, April 8, 2020.
[47] Mandeville, *Early Voting Site in Reynolds.*
[48] *Id*.
[49] *Id*.

the site were senior citizens and in the age range of those most at-risk for COVID-19 complications.

In total, approximately 950 voters cast their ballots at the early voting site[50], with 300 voters turning out on the last day of early voting[51]. The early voting site was particularly effective for voters who were unable to receive absentee ballots. An unidentified voter reported that they tried to request a mail-in ballot, but never received it in the mail[52]. They had to vote in-person, and the early voting site was a convenient way to cast their ballot. This is not to say the early voting site has faced no failure. Unfortunately, the site was temporarily dismantled in the Fall of 2020 because of city-wide mask mandates, which limited non-student access to campus, effectively disenfranchising voters. With the mask mandate now lifted, the UChiVotes team has oriented its efforts to prepare for the delayed June primary.

Moving forwards, UChiVotes is developing partnerships with The University of Chicago's Undergraduate Student Government to create a campus culture of civic engagement. As such, the Undergraduate Student Government Passed the uchiVOTE Act in February 2022. The Act resolves to offer students free stamps around campus during election periods, to partner academic departments with voter registration initiatives, to count Election Day absences (with proof of voting) as excused absences, and to continue to offer early voting locations on campus, among other initiatives. Moreover, the UChiVotes team is targeting specific STEM departments where students vote at lower rates. Key to this work has been letting student advocates share their stories voting with peers of the same major, who congregate in the same campus spots.

Reflecting on achieving the early voting site, Andrew Goodman Campus Champion, Purvi Patel, shared on her personal Twitter account that after the primary she was "feeling profound gratitude for the amazing students, staff, and partners who made this all come true. Keeping community wellbeing and democracy at the heart of our work isn't always easy—but it's possible."[53] UChiVotes, led by Andrew Goodman Ambassadors and the Andrew Goodman Campus Champion, exemplified a successful effort to adapt to the challenges presented by

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[50] Purvi Patel, phone conversation with author, April 8, 2020.
[51] Mandeville, *Early Voting Site in Reynolds.*
[52] *Id.*
[53] Purvi Patel, Twitter post, March 11, 2020, 1:48 P.M. (CST), https://twitter.com/purvi899/status/1237797657864790016.

COVID-19 and created a safe and convenient location for students and community members to vote in the presidential primary. The hard work of the UChiVotes team is not only democratizing UChicago's culture, but making strategic external partnerships to impact the city as a whole.

University of Central Arkansas

Original campus story by Yael Bromberg, with Andrew Goodman Ambassador Karlie Galarza and Campus Champion Lesley Graybeal

Updates to the story by Emma Strother, based on an interview with Graybeal, March 17, 2022

The University of Central Arkansas (UCA) is located in Conway, Arkansas, a city nicknamed the "City of Colleges." Over 10,000 of the 65,000 Conway residents reside on the UCA campus, so UCA has hosted an Election Day voting site on campus for years. In January 2018 the voting site was suddenly revoked by the Faulkner County Election Commission, presenting an obstacle for over 15 percent of the city's potential voters[54].

The Election Commission cited various reasons for removing the voting site. There were concerns about public accessibility to the site, a lack of reliable and trained poll workers, and difficulty securing voting machines on campus. The Andrew Goodman Campus Team knew they needed to disprove these concerns and reinstate the voting site. Thus, the team joined forces with UCA President Houston Davis, campus administrators, Student Government Association, and a coalition of politically engaged student organizations and took action. President Davis scheduled meetings with local elections officials (LEOs) and campus administrators to understand why the voting site was removed and to discuss how to reinstate the site, a worthwhile effort as students were determined to get the site back. Former UCA Andrew Goodman Ambassador, Karlie Galarza, indicated that, "without us coming together to show [President Davis] our commitment, he might not have understood how much it meant to us. We are incredibly grateful our administration fought with us."[55]

While the administration and President were meeting with LEOs and state officials, the Andrew Goodman Campus Team convened a coalition of student organizations and faculty to develop a contingency plan and share ideas for educating on-campus voters about the process and requirements prior to the midterm election. For example, the Student Government

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[54] Hurtado, Kevin. "Collaboration Increases Voting Accessibility at University of Central Arkansas." *News* (blog). The Andrew Goodman Foundation, May 1, 2018.
https://andrewgoodman.org/news-list/collaboration-increases-voting-accessibility-at-university-of-central-arkansas
[55] Hurtado, *Collaboration Increases Voting*.

Association drafted a resolution and gathered letters of support from student groups to present to the Elections Commission demonstrating why it was so important the voting site be reinstated. UCA Andrew Goodman Campus Champion Lesley Graybeal reflected on AGF's role in this coalition. "AGF provides centralized support for voter engagement and works with many different campus organizations for the broader goal of civic engagement."

With the hard work of the students, faculty, administrators, and President Davis, the voting site was finally reinstated in time for students to use in the 2018 midterm election. Lesley attributes the success to "the importance of both grassroots organizing and a supportive administration in making sustainable progress in civic engagement in higher education."[56]

According to the 2018 National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement[57] approximately 45 percent of UCA students voted. This was a decrease from the percentage of students who voted during the 2014 midterm by 8 percent, but there exists a possible explanation for this. Earlier in 2018, the voting site was revoked during the primary elections. Therefore, students did not have access to an on-campus voting site in May 2018, and potentially were unaware the site was reinstated in time for the general election.

This situation not only demonstrates the importance of maintaining a consistent presence of on-campus voting sites, but shows that removing a site from a campus can adversely affect student participation in elections. It can take years to re-educate students on voting opportunities in their community. For example, many people do not know that Arkansas has a uniquely open ballot initiative process, with citizens' initiatives relatively likely to appear on the ballot as compared to other states.[58] The number of signatures needed for citizens' initiatives on the 2022 ballot is 71,321. Arkansans have used this method in the past to raise the minimum wage and legalize medical marijuana, among other reforms.

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[56] *Id*.

[57] Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement. (2019). *2014 and 2018 report for University of Central Arkansas.* Medford, MA.

[58] As an example, according to the *2022 Initiatives and Referenda Handbook* from Arkansas State Legislature, "An initiated measure for a state law must contain the signatures of qualified electors in the amount of eight percent (8%) of the total number of votes cast for the office of governor in the last preceding general election." The complete handbook can be found here: https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/uploads/elections/2021-2022_I__R_Handbook_-_November_2021.pdf.

In the 2020 presidential election, the Covid-19 pandemic presented unique challenges and opportunities for the UCA on-campus voting site. Social distancing mandates helped the university secure a "bigger and better" site in the university basketball stadium, Lesley shared. To make the move and raise awareness of the new site, dozens of student volunteers staffed a "Path to the Polls" from the centrally located student center and the Andrew Goodman Campus Team hosted an outdoor "Party at the Polls" to celebrate voting while also sharing information about building COVID-19 safety protocols with voters. Despite lowered in-person voting rates across the country due to the pandemic, at least 500 people voted at the site, including not just students, faculty, and staff but also alumni and surrounding community members.

In several ways, 2020 provided hope for UCA student voters regardless of political affiliation. According to Lesley, many students from Arkansas were inspired by the close competition in their home districts, starting to believe that "in their generation change can happen, and a political process could become a lot more open than they imagined growing up." For the Andrew Goodman Campus Team, the next goal is to make an even greater commitment to their campus voting site as poll workers.

University of Mississippi

Original campus story by Yael Bromberg

Updates to the story by Emma Strother, based on an interview with Andrew Goodman Ambassador Caroline Leonard, Campus Champion William Teer, and President Katelyn Winstead, March 22, 2022

The University of Mississippi (UM) is the state's largest university, and in recent years has become a model for other colleges and universities in its "deliberate, thoughtful, and measured" response in coming to grips with difficult aspects of its Confederate past.[59]

Yet, UM's main campus contains no centrally-located polling place. Moreover, students are assigned to multiple off-campus polling sites far from campus, and in a confusing manner that causes them to vote in directions opposite from their dorms. Students living in the Residential College South dorm must travel six miles round trip to vote at an off-campus polling station east of campus. Whereas students living just 100 yards northeast of that dorm in Luckyday Residential College, which serves diverse first-generation students predominantly of color, must travel west of campus eight miles roundtrip. Luckyday's assigned polling station is problematic because it is in rural terrain with lack of availability to public transportation, and with inadequate parking space for those wishing to drive. It also has a reputation for its long wait lines. UM students must cross paths to vote in the opposite directions from their dorms, and must travel a substantial distance to vote despite the size and stature of the campus.

These two dorms illustrate a larger pattern. Students residing in the predominantly white Delta Delta Delta and Alpha Delta Pi Sororities are assigned to a polling station east of campus, approximately six and three miles roundtrip, respectively—even though the sororities are located to the west of Luckyday, whose students are sent west for an eight-mile round trip. Similarly, students in the freshman honors dorm Pitman Hall must travel east to vote, approximately three miles roundtrip, even though the dorm is situated west of Luckyday.

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[59] Timothy Ryback, What Ole Miss Can Teach Universities About Grappling With Our Pasts, The Atlantic (Sept. 19, 2017), *available at*:
https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/09/what-ole-miss-can-teach-universities-about-grappling-with-their-pasts/540324/. *See also* Final Report, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on History and Contextualization (June 16, 2017), *available at*:
http://context.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/89/2017/07/ChancellorAdvisoryCommitteeFinalReport.pdf.

This crisscrossed patchwork resulting from multiple polling station assignments dispersed among various voting districts can only sow voter confusion about where and for whom one is to vote. Moreover, the multiple miles that students are required to travel off campus only serves to suppress their engagement, and is irrational given UM's size and position.

Making matters worse, Mississippi is among the 22 states in the nation that fully reject provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct. Thus, if a student voter attempts to vote in a more convenient precinct although they are not assigned to it, their provisional ballot will be completely disregarded, even for state and federal races.[60]

UM Andrew Goodman Ambassadors Caroline Leonard and Katelyn Winstead know first-hand that young people can lose hope when they don't have access to the polls. In the last election, Katelyn spoke to a biomedical engineering major who chose not to vote because "as a liberal, my vote doesn't count in Mississippi." At the same time, Caroline and Katelyn are more driven than ever to secure voting rights on their campus. As Katelyn shared, "You may not think that it's important, but it really is. The only way we can make change — sustainable change that will last — is through our vote."

The Andrew Goodman Campus Team has grown from three to six students in 2022, and the team is planning to host a Voting Summit this year to increase awareness and support for youth civic empowerment at UM. They continue to lobby the administration and local election officials for an Election Day holiday and a polling location on campus. UM lawyers have discouraged students asking for Election Day off, arguing that they would need to forfeit another holiday in exchange. Local election officials actively resist a campus polling location.

In recent years, UM has endeavored to reconcile its divisive racial and political history by developing a methodical plan to increase the diversity of students, faculty, and administrators, and to confront its historical legacy as an opportunity for education. While these culture and pedagogy shifts are critical, history reveals that equality is impossible without unfettered access to the ballot.

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[60] *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 23- 15-571, -- 73; State of Miss., Office of the Att'y Gen., Op. No. 1999-0697 (Dec. 22, 1999) (explaining that affidavit ballots cast in the wrong precincts are "improperly cast and should not be counted"), *relying on Wilbourn v. Hobson*, 608 So.2d 1187, 188 (Miss. 1992). *But see* Miss. Cod. Ann. § 23- 15-13 (certain individuals may be eligible to vote by affidavit ballot in a new precinct or ward, having changed ward or precinct residency within thirty days of election).

In 2021, UM Andrew Goodman Ambassador Caroline Leonard published an article tracing the history of voting and voter suppression through systemic racism and resistance led by Black American voting and civil rights advocates in Mississippi. From the 14th and 15th Amendments, Jim Crow, and anti-Black racism within the suffragette movement, to the Civil Rights Movement, Freedom Summer, and Voting Rights Act, Caroline analyses this history to make the case for anti-racist voter empowerment in the future.

The ramifications of this history continue to deeply impact the University of Mississippi. Andrew Goodman Foundation Campus Champion William Teer described the "wounds" of racism on campus as "fresh and raw." He shared, "there are just as many voices advocating for anti-racism education as we have voices that say 'let the past be in the past,' while supporting Confederate monuments." The Lyceum, UM's main administrative building and the first building constructed on campus in 1848 has kept bullet holes intact and on display from white supremacist gun violence directed at James Meredith when he became the first Black student to enroll in 1962, as a reminder of the danger of these divisions.

When student advocates protested the Confederate statue located in the center of campus in 2020, they received death threats. However, the proposal to remove the statue from the campus center was eventually approved unanimously, by student government and other university organizations including staff and faculty councils, across party lines and racial groups.[61] The statue now sits in a cemetery on the periphery of campus, despite Mississippi state laws that prohibit moving Confederate statues – and as William reflected, "what started with conversations among students led to a state-wide initiative of making Confederate statues less prominent that ultimately created some positive change."

In this context, what motivates the UM Andrew Goodman Campus Team to continue the fight for voting rights? Katelyn sees a "new moral standard" among the rising generation of campus advocates. "Words that our parents said fifty years ago are not acceptable now," she shared. "We have so many people, working so hard, just trying to make a difference. Just because there are those really outspoken people trying to prevent change doesn't mean we're not working really hard to create change."

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[61] Student Senators who wrote the original resolution to relocate the Confederate statue in 2019: John Chappell, Katie Dames, Jarvis Benson, Charlotte Armistead, Arielle Hudson, Leah Davis, Tyler Yarborough, and Dalton Hull.

University of South Carolina-Upstate

Original campus story by Yael Bromberg

Updates to the story by Emma Strother, based on an interview with Andrew Goodman Campus Champion Dr. Allison Ellis, March 29, 2022

The Upstate Campus of the University of South Carolina (USC-Upstate) is the fastest growing college in the state.[62] It is ranked by U.S. News as one of the Best Regional Colleges in the South[63] and is a part of the University of South Carolina system, the largest higher learning institution in the state.

USC-Upstate is largely a commuter campus, with many students living in the surrounding areas. These students are often registered to vote in their home districts and busy with classes on campus on Election Day. Requesting an absentee ballot to vote near campus is a cumbersome process. It is impossible to request an absentee ballot in South Carolina online, instead voters must sign documentation in person at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

The Supervisor of Elections Office is located five miles away from campus. For one year, USC-Upstate ran a free shuttle to the Supervisor of Elections Office. However, it was discontinued the next year due to lack of use. If a student lives on campus and is registered to vote at their campus address, their polling location is roughly one mile from campus.

The difficulties that USC-Upstate students face in requesting absentee ballots and in voting are particularly problematic given the role that South Carolina plays in national races. The fourth state in the country to participate in the presidential primaries, the state receives a tremendous amount of attention in election cycles. Presidential campaigns regularly tour and court the state's voters, including the student base.[64]

Despite these challenges, USC-Upstate students care deeply about the democratic process and have gained important victories for voting rights on campus. Many USC-Upstate

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[62] Employment at Upstate – Upstate University of South Carolina, https://www.uscupstate.edu/employment/(last visited Apr 23, 2019).

[63] 2019 Best Southern Colleges - US News Rankings, https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges-south (last visited Mar 27, 2019).

[64] For example, during the 2016 presidential election, two leading campaigns visited Upstate to pursue the student vote: former President Bill Clinton on behalf of Candidate Hillary Clinton, and scholar Cornel West on behalf of Candidate Bernie Sanders.

students are first-generation college students and/or first-generation Americans. Andrew Goodman Campus Champion Dr. Allison Ellis shared, "many of our students are the first people in their families to vote, and they're driven by this opportunity to participate."

Andrew Goodman Ambassadors at USC-Upstate have brought together a constellation of student groups on campus to promote voting and election education, including local chapters of the NAACP and The Divine Nine. Leading up to the 2020 presidential election, these groups collaborated on a video about voter registration, absentee ballots, and why voting matters. They showed the video in a 'University 101' class that all first-year students take to help them navigate the transition to college. "The message from the students was clear," said Dr. Ellis. "If you want to have influence in your community and the world, you need to vote. Otherwise, you're letting other people decide what happens."

Today, USC-Upstate remains without an on-campus polling location. Students still cannot use their USC-Upstate ID cards as required voter identification at the polls. Administrative turnover during the last few years has prevented strong relationships from forming between the university and local election officials. The USC-Upstate Chancellor has changed three times in just over two years, and the campus has experienced similar turnover of the Senior Vice Chancellor. Dr. Ellis cited these logistical factors as the main barrier to student voter enfranchisement.

Yet student voting advocates continue to promote civic engagement on campus. Data from the Tufts University National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement suggests that turnout increased by 10% at USC-Upstate from 2016 to 2020. Andrew Goodman Ambassadors remain hopeful. "Georgia gives South Carolina hope," Dr. Ellis shared. "Georgia had a legacy of being one-sided, and then look what happened there in 2020… This is not about Democrats vs. Republicans. It's just about a competitive race. Competition gets voters excited for the future, it shows them concrete evidence that their vote matters, and it drives turnout."

Western Carolina University

Original case by Yael Bromberg and WCU Campus Champions Amanda Hanson & Lane Perry

Updates to the case by Sterling Bland, based on an interview with Campus Champion Lane Perry on March 22, 2022

Western Carolina University (WCU) is located in Cullowhee, North Carolina, a rural town in Jackson County. In 2016, WCU triumphantly earned a one-stop early voting site in their University Center, where students can both complete their registration and vote, in time for the general election in November. At the time of the surge in efforts to obtain this early voting site, there were 9,000 students impacted by the lack of accessibility to voting in Cullowhee. Furthermore, WCU students make up 25 percent of Jackson County voters, and when registered, even vote at a percentage higher than the general population of the state of North Carolina[65].

The lack of accessible voting on campus severely impacted student voters registered on campus. Students without a car were forced to travel a mile and a half along a busy highway with no sidewalks and without access to public transportation.[66] Not only that, but onerous voter identification requirements[67] forced students who did not bring compliant ID to head back to campus, leaving them highly unlikely to walk all the way back to the far-away polling location to vote. When student advocates began to speak out about the problem, Campus Champion Lane Perry knew he had to amplify their voices. As he put it, "an institution can ask you to do something, a supervisor can ask you to do something, but you'll never do anything with as much enthusiasm and fervor until a student asks you to do something."

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[65] "WCU Ambassadors Successfully Advocate for Polling Place On Campus." *News* (blog). The Andrew Goodman Foundation, July 13, 2016. https://andrewgoodman.org/news-list/wcu-ambassadors-successfullyadvocate-polling-place-campus/

[66] Eldridge, Davin. "Mountain College Students Get On-Campus Voting, Turnout In Record Numbers." BPR, August 3, 2016. https://www.bpr.org/post/mountain-college-students-get-campus-voting-turnout-recordnumbers#stream/0.

[67] "Bringing the Ballot to Western Carolina University." *News* (blog). The Andrew Goodman Foundation, December 6, 2016. https://andrewgoodman.org/news-list/bringing-ballot-wcu/.

Upon recognizing the barriers to voting and suppression tactics that WCU students face on Election Day, the Andrew Goodman Campus Team, in collaboration with the other members of the Democracy Coalition,[68] sought to bring an early voting site to campus. Before approaching the Jackson County Board of Elections, the team worked to build a campus coalition and record of community support. Key partnerships included the WCU student body, WCU administration, and the local board of elections, in a concerted effort for bi-partisan support both at the state and campus level. Andrew Goodman Student Ambassadors chose to lay aside any partisan leanings, giving up opportunities to invest in political campaigns and instead choosing to neutralize their politics to increase student civic engagement. The results were remarkable.

By engaging with these key partners, the team managed to acquire 1,000 signatures for their petition from students, faculty, staff, and community members, and lobbied to get the support of campus administrators. The initiative also gained support from North Carolina State Senator Tom Apodaca, an alumnus of WCU, and North Carolina State Representative Joe Sam Queen.[69] After obtaining the support of the greater WCU community, the Andrew Goodman Campus Team prepared for their presentation to the BOE by researching election law and statutes, establishing promises of financial backing from the County Manager and County Commissioners, gathering bipartisan congressional letters of support, preparing a bipartisan team of students to lead the presentation, observing BOE meetings, and finally securing a place on the BOE calendar.

When the team reached the BOE, they proposed to the majority-Republican BOE that the University Center was the perfect location to host the early voting site. The building satisfied all of the requirements for parking, room accommodations, and Americans with Disabilities Act provisions.[70] In addition to presenting the proposed location, the team highlighted the bipartisan support they received from the campus community and local political leaders. After

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[68] The Democracy Coalition was comprised of major campus stakeholders, including administrators, faculty, staff, Andrew Goodman Ambassadors, and Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellows.

[69] *WCU Ambassadors Successfully Advocate, supra* footnote 1.

[70] The checklist of requirements for polling places compliant with the ADA can be found at https://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.htm.

listening to the team's presentation, the BOE spent a month deliberating and ultimately awarded the early voting site to the WCU campus.

Former WCU Andrew Goodman Ambassador Joanna Woodson was thrilled to learn that her team's efforts were successful and holds that "bipartisanship was the key to our success. By reaching across all aisles from our nonpartisan standpoint, our effort was able to focus on the process of civic engagement, instead of the ill-perceived focus on end product." Furthermore, Woodson states, "this process showed me that building relationships and connecting all departments, organizations, students, and people can really make a difference."[71] This work was not accomplished by students alone, but by a community of people giving a good faith effort to eliminate obstacles to their success. Even before the on-campus location was available, students were bused back and forth to a one-stop voting location, at which a few were unable to simultaneously register to vote on site because, surprisingly, they "didn't have utility bills." Fortunately, Lane Perry, Campus Champion and shuttle driver at the time, was prepared. He had sent workers at the voting site a massive excel spreadsheet beforehand — logging students residency in on-campus dorms — and luckily was able to source the information in real time when the voting site's computer failed to function with Microsoft Excel.

It is the sedimentation of this perseverance that has led to the sustained success of the early voting site today. According to the 2016 National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement,[72] the percentage of WCU students who voted early increased by 12.6 percent from 2012, with 71 percent of students voting early. With this expanded availability of early voting on-campus, the usage of in-person Election Day voting decreased by 12.3 percent, with 19.9 percent of students voting in person on Election Day. Additionally, 570 students were registered to vote during the early voting period at the early voting site.

And the work continues to expand WCU's culture, fulfilling its mission to foster active citizenship among students. According to WCU's 2018 NSLVE data, the voting rate in 2018 (31%)

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[71] This quote was first published in AGF's School Spotlight on Western Carolina University. The article is available upon request.
[72] All-In Campus Democracy Challenge: Western Carolina University, https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/western-carolina-university/?msclkid=377e9a38b7fe11ecaa3d9691f7bf7697

was double that of 2014 — despite a 25% increase in student population during the same period. Based on preliminary data regarding the 2018 Midterm Election, Western Carolina University was highlighted as the primary contributor to increasing the youth vote in Jackson County to nearly 30%. And in 2020, the voter registration rate was 91.2%, a ten percentage point increase from that in 2018.[73] At this point, a majority of that impact is being attributed to the on-campus polling location and its accessibility, including its role as a one-stop voting site which additionally allows for voter registration. A WCU student said it best: "until I moved to WCU, I hardly ever heard about elections outside the Presidential Election. Students at WCU have taken it upon themselves to inform every student of upcoming elections and sign as many people up as they can to vote. The point in this is for our democracy to not be relegated to a set of increasing or decreasing percentage rates, but for it to remain an integral part of our culture and what it means to be a U.S. citizen, what it means to be a North Carolinian, or what it means to be a Catamount. It means that you serve, you inform yourself, you vote, and you believe in a democracy that is bigger than you, but better because of you."

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[73] All-In Campus Democracy Challenge: Western Carolina University,
https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/western-carolina-university/?msclkid=377e9a38b7fe11ecaa3d9691f7bf7697

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Campus story by Emma Strother, based on interviews with Hillel President and CEO Greg Steinberger, Hillel Civic Programs Coordinator Shelby Fosco, and Hillel Voter Organizer Interns Lindsay Dubin, Sophie Reeves, and Calvin Floyd March 2022

More than 47,000 students attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) each year.[74] Located in the center of state government, the main campus is a short walk from the Wisconsin State Capitol. Many UW-Madison students are passionate about politics and civics, and 72.8 percent of eligible students voted in the 2020 presidential election.[75]

UW-Madison policy prohibits students, faculty, or staff from registering voters on campus. However, the Higher Education Act obligates the University to provide voter registration opportunities to students. Therefore outside groups, such as the League of Women Voters register students and others on campus. At least one Student Government campaign in 2022 is running to change this rule. Meanwhile, UW-Madison students take the lead on building a culture of democratic engagement. BadgersVote is a coalition of student groups, including Andrew Goodman Ambassadors that educate and empower voters on campus to participate fully in all elections. With a social justice lens, BadgersVote students also advocate for policy change, such as striking down voter ID laws or fighting for an Election Day holiday.

The UW Hillel Foundation — a pluralistic organization that cultivates a Jewish community on campus — has been an institution in Madison for the past 100 years.[76] Traditionally, they have hosted Election Day events, partnering with MitzVote (a voting rights project of Hillel International) and Rock the Vote in recent years. Yet annual events felt insufficient to build the pipeline of civic engagement. UW Hillel President Greg Steinberger remembers, "after 2016 we asked, if Hillel were serious about voting education as an operational effort, what would it take to move the needle? That became our mantra."

UW Hillel staff contacted local election officials and asked to open a polling location in their building. Luckily, they were met with enthusiasm and have now served as a polling location in six elections, even recruiting poll workers from the UW-Madison community. The polling

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[74] "UW-Madison Facts." University of Wisconsin–Madison, https://www.wisc.edu/about/facts/.
[75] "UW–Madison Student Voting Rose in 2020, Exceeds National Rate." News, 2 Nov. 2021, https://news.wisc.edu/uw-madison-student-voting-up-from-2016-above-national-average/.
[76] "Our Story: UW Hillel." UWHillel 2.0, https://www.uwhillel.org/story.

location is run by paid staff rather than volunteers, for sustainability's sake. Roughly 2,500 people voted at UW Hillel in the 2020 presidential election. The administration publishes state-mandated proof of residence forms for all students on their "myUW" university accounts online. When UW Hillel started letting students print proof of residence at its polling location, other on-campus voting sites quickly followed suit. The latest redistricting in Madison added more student housing designated to the Hillel polling location.

In 2020, UW Hillel launched a new "voter organizer" internship program. According to Greg, the program was an "opportunity to channel a spiritual connection into civic action." It was one of the first opportunities for Jewish and non-Jewish students to work together through UW Hillel. Twelve interns joined the inaugural program. They used the peer-to-peer texting platform ThruText to text 18,000 students collectively about their plans to vote.[77] This work let interns share up-to-date voter information and answer their peers' questions in real time.

The team also created voter guide infographics for Instagram and TikTok that students across campus shared with their friends. They partnered to promote voting with BadgersVote, the Interfraternity Council, local ACLU organizers, and the Black Student Union. In the future, UW Hillel interns want to expand voter education on campus. For example, students still lack an easy, reliable way to confirm their voter district. If a voter travels to the wrong polling location, they will be turned away and may not make it to the right location before the polls close.

Hillel interns Lindsay, Sophie and Calvin reflected on their experience, sharing why voting rights matter to them. "Young people are the future," Lindsay emphasized. "We'll experience the consequences of these elections." Sophie added, "It's such an important area for advocacy… and a way to get your policy goals accomplished." Calvin was surprised by the number of positive interactions he had with potential voters across campus, and the tangible impact of helping more people access the polls. As Greg put it, "Students can work on existential issues, but they can't solve them in four years. Voting rights is a way that students can make an impact immediately, and it makes other issues easier to work on."

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[77] "During a Confusing Election Year, 12 Madison Hillel Interns Are Helping Students Register and Vote: Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle." Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle | Jewish Life, Jewish Community and Events in Wisconsin, 30 Oct. 2020, https://www.jewishchronicle.org/2020/10/30/during-a-confusing-election-year-12-madison-hillel-interns-are-helping-students-register-and-vote/.

Strategic Summit:

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Although the final deliverable for the strategic summit workstream was the execution of the summit, analysis, and final recommendations. Please find below the links to the documents used to support the planning, coordination, and execution of the summit - just in case any of the materials could be helpful for future AGF staff in planning for future summits:

Folder Name	Folder Description	Link
Proposal and Program Description	This folder includes subfolders to all materials related to the planning of each section of the summit - the welcoming remarks, keynote, panel, & working-group.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F39_1Sou7VOe0Jp-lQIW8FJ0GdOCjInx?usp=sharing
Project Management	This folder includes the weekly progress reports provided to AGF leadership on the status of the strategic summit planning.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rlBK2XV62pPWBcGQZ7sbSo4JmdfmK8Gp?usp=sharing
Outreach	This folder includes two excel spreadsheets that tracked the invitations of all invitees and attendees.\n\nThis folder also includes a subfolder with the draft communications that were created for AGF to send to key-stakeholders which include original invitations and the final promotion materials.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u00SO5bN-4wP81rt-b08pPmdEGAGCLvo?usp=sharing
Summit Outputs	This folder includes the scanned commitment sheets gathered from the summit and key quotes scribed.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ttmhF3em4RU_sy8oFUxbvmwxK5uUWnOI?usp=sharing
Media	This folder includes the recap video of the strategic summit and the link to the folder of photos taken at the summit.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fBk9ZC9UfLXLx8H_BiXJaFqcB-emD4hc?usp=sharing