

University of Pennsylvania
Office of Government & Community Affairs

Voter Friendly Campus Designation
Campus Action Plan

The University of Pennsylvania's Office of Government and Community Affairs serves as a continuous resource for non-partisan voter engagement programming on campus. We operate the Penn Voters Task Force, which is a non-partisan initiative to build a stronger community of civically aware, practicing voters across campus. Penn Voters aims to increase awareness of voter registration, the absentee voting process and encourages participation on the Boards of Election. This includes involvement from students, staff, and faculty across our 12 schools.

We maintain social media platforms on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to remind the campus community about upcoming deadlines, voter information, and occasional historical facts. We run advertisements in our student-run newspapers to highlight registration deadlines and polling place information. We increase awareness around voting through posters, electronic advertisements, and thematic partnerships throughout our university. We work closely with the University's Communications Department to advance the promotion of Election Day.

Each semester, we make a good-faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to each of the 12 schools and campus residences, as well as various centers where there is high student traffic. During New Student Orientation in August, we include voter registration information in every freshman's welcome bag. We are present during the New Student Services Expo where we conduct voter registration and a voting machine demonstration. During the expo, we collaborate with the City Commissioner's office to provide a working voting machine with a sample ballot. The voting machine offers a hands-on example of what new students and first-time voters can expect to see on Election Day.

We are also present with voter registration forms and information at the President's graduate student welcome reception, and the Resident Advisors resource fair as well. Our office also makes an effort to be present at the annual Employee Resource Fair every year, and any other event that could benefit from a voter registration table. We also hold additional voter registration drives on campus to help students navigate the voter registration process and answer any queries around voting. On an annual basis, we celebrate Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day with voter registration drives and civic engagement activities. We have "I Registered to Vote" stickers included in these efforts.

On Election Day, our office recruits poll workers from the university community to serve on the Boards of Election at each of the seven polling places on our campus. In addition to identifying volunteers, we also coordinate Election Day operations with the City of Philadelphia. We assist in notifying building managers and stakeholders about voting machine pick-ups and drop-offs. We also provide supplemental information to each polling place, including a campus map that highlights the polling places, a voter FAQ sheet, voter registration forms, and a guide on how to work the polling machines. We have Penn "I Voted" stickers that are handed out at each voting location. We also provide snacks, beverages, and meals throughout the day to poll workers. We

try to make sure our polling place workers are well taken care of since they are taking care of our voters. We organize a student gathering when our president, Dr. Amy Gutmann, arrives to vote. Students ask questions about voter participation and take photos with her.

We're also collaborating with the Netter Center for Community Partnerships (NCCP) to support Penn Leads the Vote (PLTV), a nonpartisan, student-led voter education organization that amplifies the importance of registration and participation among undergraduate and graduate student groups. NCCP & PLTV are guiding the curricular components of Penn's comprehensive voter engagement program.