

Stetson University 2026 Midterms Action Plan

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Executive Summary

This action plan was developed collaboratively by the Stetson Votes leadership team, the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action, campus partners, and community stakeholders committed to strengthening democratic engagement at Stetson University. The plan outlines Stetson University's strategy for promoting nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, civic learning, and electoral participation during the 2026 midterm election cycle while continuing to build a long-term culture of civic responsibility and democratic engagement.

At Stetson University, democratic engagement is grounded in our institutional values of Intellectual Exploration, Inclusive Community, Human Dignity, and Personal Growth. We believe that preparing students for lives of engaged citizenship is a core responsibility of higher education. Voting is one important expression of civic participation, but it is most effective when paired with civic learning, dialogue across differences, community involvement, and a commitment to the common good.

The Center for Dialogue and Civic Action serves as the institutional home for Stetson's democratic engagement efforts. As the administrative hub for civic engagement, the Center provides professional staffing, coordinates campus-wide partnerships, secures external grant funding, and supports the student leaders of Stetson Votes.

The Center also serves as a connector between Stetson Votes and the broader university community, helping faculty, staff, student organizations, and community partners integrate civic learning and voter engagement into their existing work. Through dialogue programs, educational initiatives, and civic engagement opportunities, the Center helps ensure that democratic participation is woven throughout the academic and co-curricular experience.

Stetson Votes remains the university's primary student-led, nonpartisan voter engagement initiative. Led by elected student leaders and supported by student volunteers, Stetson Votes conducts voter registration drives, voter education campaigns, candidate forums, debate watch events, classroom outreach, and election-related programming designed to help students participate confidently and responsibly in the democratic process.



The 2026 action plan places particular emphasis on expanding civic learning opportunities, strengthening faculty engagement, increasing participation among historically under-engaged student populations, and creating sustainable systems that will endure beyond a single election cycle. New initiatives include the creation of a Faculty Champions network, expanded classroom voter education efforts, enhanced use of institutional data to guide outreach, and increased collaboration with academic departments and student organizations.

Historically, Stetson has utilized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to assess student voter participation. Given uncertainty surrounding the future availability of NSLVE data, the university is expanding its assessment strategy to include institutionally maintained participation dashboards, the dashboard for our ALL IN Vote.org voter registration link, voter registration metrics collected through partnerships with election officials, and event engagement data maintained by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

Through this plan, Stetson University seeks to increase civic engagement participation by at least 25 percent, register at least 100 students through Stetson Votes voter registration efforts, expand engagement among student-athletes and Greek-affiliated students, strengthen civic learning across the curriculum and Hatter Ready immersive learning opportunities, and continue building a campus culture in which every student is encouraged and empowered to participate in our democracy.

This action plan will guide Stetson University's democratic engagement efforts throughout the 2026 election cycle and will be publicly available at www.stetson.edu/vote as part of the university's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.



Leadership and Institutional Commitment

Stetson University has a longstanding commitment to preparing students for lives of engaged citizenship. This commitment is reflected in our Stetson Values, which call students to engage thoughtfully with their communities and the broader world.

Stetson University's commitment to democratic engagement is visible throughout campus life. Students encounter civic learning through academic coursework, orientation experiences, public lectures, facilitated dialogue programs, community engagement opportunities, leadership development initiatives, and voter education efforts. These experiences encourage students to connect classroom learning with public life and develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for public leadership.

Stetson University has significantly expanded its investment in civic engagement. With the launch of the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action in 2024, the university committed \$100,000 annually in new funding for dialogue and civic programming. This expansion signals a deep institutional commitment to civic engagement. During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action and its campus partners hosted more than 35 programs focused on civic learning, dialogue across differences, community engagement, and democratic participation. These efforts complement the voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout initiatives led by Stetson Votes and help students understand voting as one component of lifelong civic engagement.



Leadership and Institutional Commitment

Stetson's institutional commitment is also reflected in university-wide educational initiatives that encourage students, faculty, and staff to engage important civic and democratic questions together. During the 2025–2026 academic year, the university's campus-wide theme, Free Inquiry and Expression and the Fate of Democracy, brought together academic departments, student organizations, and administrative units to explore the role of free expression, civil discourse, and democratic participation in public life. Through speakers, dialogues, courses, and co-curricular programs, students engaged a broad range of perspectives while strengthening their capacity for thoughtful civic engagement.

Similarly, Stetson's annual Values Day suspends regular classes in favor of a day dedicated to dialogue, reflection, service, and learning beyond the classroom. Values Day provides students with opportunities to explore how Stetson's core values shape their responsibilities as community members and citizens while engaging important social and civic issues alongside faculty, staff, and peers.

Looking ahead, the university's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will further strengthen this commitment through lectures, exhibits, dialogues, artistic programs, oral history projects, and community engagement opportunities that connect voting and democratic participation to the broader story of American civic life. Together, these campus-wide themes and initiatives demonstrate Stetson University's commitment to fostering informed, engaged, and responsible citizens.

At Stetson University, democratic engagement is not a standalone initiative or election-year activity. It is an institutional priority that reflects our mission of preparing students to lead meaningful lives of active citizenship, civic responsibility, and public engagement.



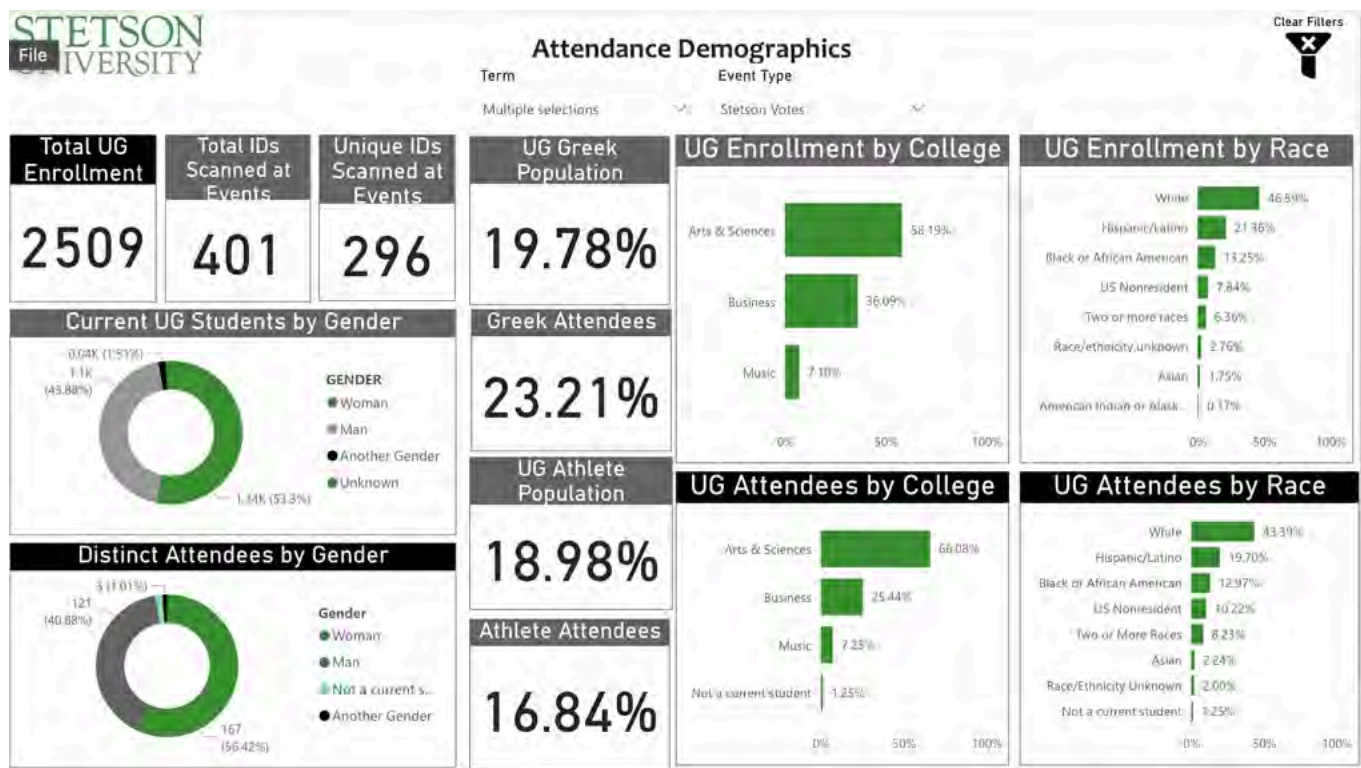
Landscape

Stetson University is a private, residential university located in DeLand, Florida, serving approximately 2,509 undergraduate students. The university attracts students from throughout Florida, across the United States, and around the world, creating a campus community with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and voting experiences. Approximately 58.2% of undergraduates are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences, 36.1% in the School of Business Administration, and 7.1% in the School of Music (1.4% of undergraduates are enrolled in multiple schools for dual-degree). The undergraduate population is 53.3% women and 43.9% men and includes substantial racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity.

As a predominantly residential campus, Stetson benefits from a highly engaged student culture in which students frequently participate in student organizations, athletics, Greek Life, residence hall activities, leadership programs, and campus events. These characteristics create valuable opportunities for peer-to-peer voter engagement, classroom outreach, tabling efforts, and campus-wide civic programming. Because students often encounter one another across multiple campus settings, successful voter engagement efforts can spread quickly through existing student networks and relationships.

At the same time, Stetson students face challenges common to many colleges and universities. A significant portion of students are registered to vote outside of Volusia County or outside the state of Florida and must navigate varying voter registration deadlines, vote-by-mail procedures, and election laws. In order to support our students' choice of voting location, our voter registration links provided by ALLIN -TurboVote allow us to register students in all fifty states. In addition, while student interest tends to be high during presidential election years, midterm elections often receive less attention despite their significant impact on state and local policy decisions. As a result of these two factors, voter education, tailored to unique student needs, remains as important as voter registration.

To better understand student participation patterns, the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action and Stetson Votes partner with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness to maintain an engagement dashboard that tracks participation across civic engagement programs. During the 2025–2026 academic year, Stetson Votes programs engaged 296 unique students, representing approximately 11.8% of the undergraduate student body. These programs generated 401 total attendances, demonstrating that many students participated in multiple civic engagement opportunities throughout the year.



Pictured: Stetson University Engagement Dashboard - Stetson Votes Events 2025-2026

Institutional data indicates that Stetson Votes is already reaching a broad cross-section of the student body. Participation rates among students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds closely mirror overall university demographics. Greek-affiliated students represented 23.2% of participants while accounting for 19.8% of the undergraduate population, suggesting that existing partnerships with Greek Life have been particularly effective. Student-athletes represented 16.8% of participants while comprising 19.0% of the undergraduate population, identifying an opportunity for additional outreach and engagement.

These findings directly inform the goals and strategies outlined in this action plan. During the 2026 election cycle, Stetson Votes will focus on increasing overall participation in civic engagement programming by 25%, facilitating at least 100 voter registrations or registration updates between the beginning of the Fall 2026 semester and Florida's voter registration deadline, expanding engagement among student-athletes, sustaining strong participation among Greek-affiliated students, and strengthening civic learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Stetson's greatest strength is the strong foundation of civic learning and democratic engagement that already exists on campus. Through years of voter engagement efforts, civic education programs, community partnerships, and institutional investment, the university has cultivated a culture that values informed participation in public life. This action plan seeks to build upon that foundation by expanding opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits of responsible citizenship.

Civic Learning and Curricular Integration

Stetson University recognizes that meaningful democratic participation is strengthened when civic learning is integrated into both the classroom and co-curricular experience. In addition to university-wide voter engagement efforts led by Stetson Votes and the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action, students encounter civic education, public policy, ethics, and democratic participation through academic coursework and experiential learning opportunities across multiple disciplines.

A number of courses directly engage students in the study of government, elections, public leadership, and civic responsibility. These courses help students understand democratic institutions while developing the critical thinking and dialogue skills necessary for active participation in civic life. Civic engagement-related courses offered during the 2025–2026 academic year include:

- American National Government
- Voters, Campaigns, and Elections
- Congress
- Leadership and Ethics in Florida Government
- Florida Government Relations

These courses expose students to topics such as electoral systems, political institutions, public policy, political communication, ethics in governance, and the practical realities of democratic participation. Faculty teaching these courses often partner informally with Stetson Votes and the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action by promoting voter education resources, encouraging civic dialogue, and connecting classroom learning with current events and election engagement opportunities.



Civic Learning and Curricular Integration

Beyond traditional coursework, Stetson University's Hatter Ready Initiative further demonstrates the university's commitment to preparing students for lives of civic leadership and social responsibility. The Hatter Ready Initiative encourages faculty and staff to create applied learning experiences that connect classroom knowledge with leadership development, ethical reflection, community engagement, and career readiness.

Hatter Ready Initiatives

Several Hatter Ready Initiatives during the 2025–2026 academic year specifically advance civic engagement and democratic learning:

- *Fostering Civic & Social Responsibility* supports students engaging in the community through mentoring, reflection, and leadership development.
- *Ethics Bowl* engages students in collaborative ethical reasoning and respectful dialogue around contemporary societal issues, emphasizing critical thinking and civil discourse rather than adversarial debate.
- *Planning for Healthy Cities* connects students with community partners to address local public health and civic challenges through applied community-based projects and public engagement initiatives.
- *Community Education Project (CEP) Internship and Stetson Community Outreach* educates students about issues related to mass incarceration and higher education in prison through research, campus programming, exhibits, and public educational events.
- *Food Insecurity Challenges and Solutions* uses experiential learning and partnerships with community organizations to help students better understand and address food insecurity and public health inequities within Volusia County.
- *Patrick L. Smith Model United States Senate* provides students with hands-on experience in legislative simulation, policy development, public speaking, coalition-building, and parliamentary procedure through preparation for statewide Model Senate participation.

Together, these curricular and co-curricular opportunities reflect Stetson University's broader institutional commitment to civic learning and democratic participation. By integrating civic engagement into academic coursework, experiential learning, leadership development, and community partnerships, Stetson seeks to cultivate graduates who are prepared not only for professional success, but also for thoughtful and engaged participation in public life.

Strategic Goals

Stetson University seeks to increase democratic participation, expand civic learning opportunities, and strengthen a culture of civic engagement that already exists across campus. The following goals will guide Stetson Votes and the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action throughout the 2026 election cycle and beyond.

Short-Term Goals (2026 Midterm Election Cycle)

Improve Overall Voter Engagement

Prior to uncertainty surrounding the future availability of NSLVE data, Stetson established ambitious benchmarks for the 2026 midterm election cycle, including an 88% voter registration rate, a 55% voting rate among registered students, and an overall campus voting rate of at least 45%. Achieving these benchmarks would surpass the university's previous midterm turnout record of 44.1%, established in 2018. If NSLVE data becomes available, Stetson will assess its performance against these goals and incorporate the findings into future democratic engagement planning.

Increase Participation in Civic Engagement Programming

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Stetson Votes engaged 296 unique students through voter education, civic learning, and democratic engagement programs, representing approximately 11.8% of the undergraduate student body.

For the 2026–2027 academic year, Stetson Votes seeks to increase unique participation by at least 25%, resulting in engagement of at least 370 unique students, or approximately 14.7% of the undergraduate student population.

Facilitate 100 Voter Registrations and Registration Updates

Between the beginning of the Fall 2026 semester and Florida's voter registration deadline for the November 2026 General Election, Stetson Votes will facilitate at least 100 completed voter registrations or voter registration updates.

This goal will be measured through registrations completed through Stetson's ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge voter registration portal, paper voter registration forms completed through partnerships with the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections, and other verified registration activities coordinated through Stetson Votes.

Increase Student-Athlete Participation

Student-athletes comprise approximately 19.0% of Stetson's undergraduate population but represented 16.8% of participants in Stetson Votes programs during the 2025–2026 academic year. Through partnerships with Athletics, Wellness and Recreation, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Stetson Votes will work to increase student-athlete participation so that engagement meets or exceeds athlete representation within the undergraduate student population.

Sustain Strong Greek Life Engagement

Greek-affiliated students represented 23.2% of participants in Stetson Votes programming while accounting for 19.8% of the undergraduate student population during the 2025–2026 academic year. Stetson Votes will continue partnerships with Greek Life organizations to maintain and expand this strong level of engagement while increasing the total number of Greek-affiliated students participating in civic engagement programs.

Expand Faculty Participation in Civic Learning

Recruit and recognize at least 15 Faculty Champions who actively support voter education and civic learning efforts through classroom announcements, student communications, event participation, and civic learning activities.

Faculty Champions will:

- Share election information with students
- Host classroom announcements
- Promote civic learning opportunities
- Be recognized through a door placard identifying them as a Stetson Votes Faculty Champion including voting registration resources
- Receive an invitation to the semesterly Faculty Think Tank supporting voting education integration across the curriculum

Increase Civic Learning Opportunities

Expand the number of classroom presentations, faculty partnerships, voter education initiatives, and co-curricular programs that help students understand democratic institutions, public issues, and opportunities for civic participation.

Long-Term Goals (2026–2028)

Expand Student Participation in Civic Engagement

Increase annual participation in Stetson Votes civic engagement programs from 296 unique students during the 2025–2026 academic year to at least 500 unique students by the conclusion of the 2028 election cycle (20% of the undergraduate student body).

Expand Faculty Engagement

Grow the Faculty Champions initiative from its initial goal of 15 participating faculty members in 2026 to at least 30 faculty members representing multiple academic departments by 2028. Faculty Champions will promote voter education, support classroom engagement efforts, and connect civic learning to their disciplines.

Close Participation Gaps Among Student Populations

Maintain participation rates among Greek-affiliated students that meet or exceed their representation within the undergraduate population and increase student-athlete participation so that athlete engagement exceeds their share of the student body by 2028.

Strengthen Assessment and Accountability

Publish updated democratic engagement action plans, participation reports, and assessment findings on www.stetson.edu/vote during each election cycle to ensure transparency, continuous improvement, and institutional accountability.

Sustain a Campus-Wide Culture of Democratic Engagement

Continue integrating civic learning and democratic engagement into university traditions, campus-wide themes, Values Day, orientation programs, dialogue initiatives, and Hatter Ready experiences so that students regularly encounter opportunities for civic learning throughout their time at Stetson.

Strategies

Stetson Votes has developed a strong foundation of voter registration, voter education, and civic engagement programming that reaches students at multiple touchpoints throughout the academic year. During the 2026 midterm election cycle, Stetson Votes will continue to strengthen successful existing programs while introducing new initiatives designed to increase civic engagement, voter registration, and democratic participation among Stetson students.

Strategic Priority 1: Register Every Eligible Student

Stetson Votes will work to ensure that every eligible student has access to voter registration information and opportunities to register or update their registration before election deadlines.

Key initiatives include:

- FOCUS Orientation voter registration session reaching approximately 700 incoming students each fall.
- Annual National Voter Registration Day activities.
- Daily voter registration tabling during Stetson Votes Week and Democracy Days.
- Weekly email campaigns to the student body featuring voter registration information, deadlines, and election resources.
- Social media education campaigns explaining how to register to vote, update voter registration information, and request vote-by-mail ballots.
- Partnerships with the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections to provide voter registration opportunities on campus.

These efforts support the goal of facilitating at least 100 voter registrations or voter registration updates between the beginning of the Fall 2026 semester and Florida's voter registration deadline (October 5, 2026).



Strategic Priority 2: Increase Civic Learning and Voter Education

Stetson Votes recognizes that registration alone is insufficient. Students must also understand how elections work, how public policy affects their communities, and how to make informed voting decisions.

Key initiatives include:

- Constitution Day programming and keynote address.
- Democracy Discovery Day featuring local candidates, civic organizations, and community resources.
- Debate Watch Parties featuring facilitated dialogue, food, and cultural credit opportunities.
- Candidate Forum featuring local candidates in a moderated, student-centered dialogue.
- Social media voter education campaigns, including debate viewers' guides, sample ballot tutorials, and election information resources.
- Movie Night on the Lawn featuring democracy-themed films and facilitated discussion.
- Themed educational events during Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Women's History Month highlighting the relationship between civic participation, voting rights, and democratic engagement.

Our goal to increase engagement in voter education programming by 25% supports the university's broader commitment to civic learning and informed democratic participation.

Strategic Priority 3: Meet Students Where They Are

Recognizing that students engage with campus life through many different channels, Stetson Votes will expand voter education efforts beyond traditional events and into classrooms, residence halls, digital platforms, and existing student experiences.

Key initiatives include:

- Faculty Champions Initiative, encouraging at least 15 faculty to integrate voter information and civic learning opportunities into their courses.
- Five-minute classroom voter education presentations conducted by Stetson Votes leaders and Civic Fellows.
- Faculty email toolkits that make it easy for instructors to share voting information, deadlines, and event opportunities with students.
- Canvas election reminders and voter registration links developed in partnership with the Office of Online Learning and Educational Technology.
- Residence Hall voter registration and voter education programs coordinated with Residential Living and Learning.
- Weekly email campaigns and digital outreach designed to reach students who may not regularly attend events.

Strategic Priority 4: Expand Engagement Among Key Student Populations

Using institutional participation data, Stetson Votes will focus additional outreach on student populations whose participation rates do not yet fully reflect their representation within the undergraduate student body.

Key initiatives include:

- Stroll to the Polls in partnership with Wellness and Recreation, Athletics, and Greek Life.
- Targeted outreach to student-athletes through Athletics and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council.
- Partnerships with the Cross-Cultural Center to strengthen engagement among historically underrepresented populations.
- Collaboration with multicultural organizations, religious and spiritual organizations, Greek Life chapters, and other student groups.
- Civic Fellows conducting relational outreach and peer-to-peer voter education across campus.

These efforts support the goal of increasing participation among student-athletes while sustaining strong engagement among Greek-affiliated students and maintaining participation from a broad cross-section of the campus community.

Strategic Priority 5: Build a Long-Term Culture of Democratic Engagement

Stetson Votes seeks not only to increase participation during a single election cycle, but also to contribute to a campus culture that values civic learning, democratic participation, and engagement with public issues.

Key initiatives include:

- Stetson Votes Week and Democracy Days, featuring daily programming and engagement opportunities.
- Rock for Democracy concert.
- Naturalization and citizenship ceremonies.
- Civic Scavenger Hunt connecting students with civic resources on campus and throughout the local community.
- Rides to the Polls during early voting and on Election Day.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action, Faculty Champions, and campus-wide civic learning initiatives.

Together, these strategies help students see voting not as an isolated act, but as one component of lifelong civic participation and democratic engagement.

Partnerships

Stetson Votes' success in the 2026 midterms will depend on a broad and coordinated coalition of campus and community partners working together to increase voter registration, civic learning, and student turnout. Our strategy intentionally brings together academic departments, student organizations, administrative offices, and trusted community agencies to ensure that voter engagement is visible throughout campus life.

Campus Partners

Stetson Votes relies on robust collaboration with student organizations, faculty, and campus departments. For 2026, we will partner with:

- Dr. Jeremy Posadas (Marchman Chair of Social Responsibility) – To build and lead our Faculty Think Tank which meets once per quarter to develop voter education resources for faculty use and to coordinate cross-departmental strategies that highlight civic responsibility in our academic mission.
- Alexandra Belk (Associate Director for the Cross-Cultural Center) – To strengthen outreach to historically underrepresented and under-engaged student populations and ensure our efforts are culturally responsive and inclusive.
- Office of Online Learning and Educational Technology – To develop Canvas pop-up election reminders and embedded voter registration links in online learning resources.
- University Marketing – To amplify voter education videos, promote registration events, and package civic content in engaging ways across Stetson's communication channels.
- Center for Public Opinion Research & Office for Institutional Research and Effectiveness – To analyze student voter participation data, identify populations with historically lower turnout, and guide targeted outreach campaigns tailored to those groups.
- Wellness and Recreation, Athletics, and Greek Life – To partner on "Stroll to the Polls," integrating civic action with health and wellness programming.
- Residential Living & Learning (RL&L) – To promote voter-ready student IDs and bring voter registration directly into residence halls through RA hall programs.
- Coalition of Student Organizations – Including College Democrats, College Republicans, Turning Point USA, Alexander Hamilton Society, Student Government Association, Multicultural Student Council, Greek Life, Religious and Spiritual Organizations, and the Athletics Student Advisory Council. Student leaders will expand our reach by sharing voter information within their networks and co-hosting events.

These campus partnerships expand the reach of Stetson Votes beyond traditional political spaces, embedding civic engagement into academic life, residence life, digital platforms, and student culture.

Community Partners

Stetson Votes is not currently a third-party voter registration organization and therefore relies on partnerships with community groups that are authorized to conduct in-person registration in Florida. For the 2026 midterms, we will strengthen our long-standing relationships with:

- Volusia County Supervisor of Elections Office – Partnering for voter registration drives, providing training and resources, and collaborating on election education.
- Volusia County League of Women Voters – Supporting candidate forums, tabling efforts, and civic education events.
- United Way Social Innovation Fund, Volusia Pride, West Volusia NAACP Chapter, and other civic organizations – Offering grant support to expand our outreach, fund stipends for Civic Fellows, and provide resources to students.

These partnerships provide essential support that allows Stetson Votes to maintain its nonpartisan mission while scaling its impact through trusted community networks.



Reporting

Stetson University is committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in its democratic engagement efforts. Throughout the 2026 election cycle, Stetson Votes and the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action will collect, analyze, and share data that measures progress toward the goals outlined in this action plan.

Participation Reporting

The Center for Dialogue and Civic Action partners with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness to maintain a civic engagement participation dashboard that tracks attendance at Stetson Votes programs and events. Data collected through ID scans* and attendance records will be used to monitor:

- Total event attendance
- Unique participants
- Participation by class year
- Participation by college
- Participation by gender and race/ethnicity
- Participation among student-athletes and Greek-affiliated students
- Repeat participation across multiple programs

Participation data will be reviewed throughout the academic year to identify trends and inform outreach strategies.

Voter Registration Reporting

Stetson Votes will track voter registration activity using multiple sources, including:

- The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge voter registration portal
- Paper voter registration forms completed through partnerships with the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections
- Registration events and outreach activities conducted on campus

These tools allow Stetson Votes to measure progress toward its goal of facilitating at least 100 voter registrations or registration updates between the beginning of the Fall 2026 semester and Florida's voter registration deadline.

*Data protected by FERPA.

Reporting

Digital Engagement Reporting

The Stetson Votes team will monitor the reach and effectiveness of digital outreach efforts through:

- Social media analytics
- Email open and click-through rates
- Website traffic and voter resource usage
- Engagement with voter education content

These metrics will help determine which communication strategies are most effective in reaching students.

Internal Reporting

Participation, registration, and outreach data will be compiled into semester reports and shared with:

- The Center for Dialogue and Civic Action
- Stetson Votes student leaders
- Faculty Champions
- University leadership
- Key campus and community partners

These reports will help stakeholders assess progress toward goals and identify opportunities for improvement.

Public Reporting

To promote transparency and accountability, Stetson University will publish its democratic engagement action plans, participation summaries, voter registration metrics, and assessment findings at www.stetson.edu/vote. By publicly sharing goals, outcomes, and lessons learned, Stetson seeks to contribute to a culture of civic engagement while demonstrating its ongoing commitment to democratic participation and civic learning.

If available, Stetson will also participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to benchmark our registration and turnout against national trends.

Evaluation

Stetson University is committed to using data-informed assessment and continuous improvement to strengthen its democratic engagement efforts. Throughout the 2026 election cycle, Stetson Votes and the Center for Dialogue and Civic Action will regularly evaluate progress toward the goals established in this action plan and adjust strategies as needed.

Evaluating Participation Growth

One of the primary goals of this action plan is to increase participation in Stetson Votes civic engagement programs by 25 percent. During the 2025–2026 academic year, Stetson Votes engaged 296 unique students, representing approximately 11.8% of the undergraduate student body. Success will be measured by increasing participation to at least 370 unique students, or approximately 14.7% of undergraduate enrollment.

Participation data will be collected through ID scans and attendance records and analyzed through the Institutional Engagement Dashboard maintained in partnership with the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

Evaluating Voter Registration Efforts

Stetson Votes seeks to facilitate at least 100 voter registrations or voter registration updates between the beginning of the Fall 2026 semester and Florida's voter registration deadline.

Progress toward this goal will be measured through data provided by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge voter registration portal, paper voter registration forms completed through partnerships with the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections, and records maintained through campus voter registration initiatives.



Evaluation

Evaluating Outreach to Key Student Populations

Institutional participation data allows Stetson Votes to evaluate engagement among specific student populations. During the 2025–2026 academic year, student-athletes represented 16.8% of participants while comprising approximately 19.0% of the undergraduate student population. Greek-affiliated students represented 23.2% of participants while accounting for 19.8% of undergraduate enrollment.

Evaluation efforts will focus on determining whether outreach strategies successfully increase participation among student-athletes while maintaining strong engagement among Greek-affiliated students and sustaining broad participation across the student body.

Evaluating Faculty and Classroom Engagement

The Faculty Champions initiative will be evaluated through the number of participating faculty members, classroom presentations conducted, voter education messages distributed to students, and participation in faculty engagement opportunities. Stetson Votes will also assess the reach of classroom-based voter education efforts, including faculty email campaigns, classroom visits, Canvas reminders, and other educational resources designed to meet students where they are.

Evaluating Civic Learning Outcomes

In addition to measuring participation and voter registration outcomes, Stetson will evaluate the effectiveness of civic learning initiatives through student feedback, event evaluations, and partner reflections. These measures will help determine whether students are developing a deeper understanding of democratic processes, public issues, and civic responsibility.



Evaluation

Continuous Improvement

The Stetson Votes leadership team and Center for Dialogue and Civic Action staff will review participation, registration, and engagement data throughout the academic year. Mid-semester and end-of-semester reviews will identify successful strategies, populations requiring additional outreach, and opportunities to strengthen programming.

Historically, Stetson University has utilized data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to evaluate voter registration and turnout. If NSLVE data remains available, it will continue to serve as an important component of Stetson's assessment efforts.

Under our original goals established for the 2026 midterm election cycle, Stetson seeks to achieve an 88% voter registration rate, a 55% voting rate among registered students, and an overall campus voting rate of at least 45%, surpassing the university's previous midterm turnout record of 44.1% established in 2018. Should NSLVE become available again, Stetson will evaluate its performance against these benchmarks and incorporate those findings into future planning.

Because the future availability of NSLVE data remains uncertain, Stetson has expanded its use of institutionally controlled assessment tools, including participation dashboards, voter registration data, and event engagement metrics, to ensure that meaningful evaluation can continue regardless of the status of national reporting programs.

At the conclusion of the 2026 election cycle, findings from this evaluation process will be used to inform future democratic engagement planning, including preparations for the 2028 presidential election cycle.

