

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maine Campus Voting Challenge

Augusta, ME– Colleges and universities can now compete for the best voter registration and turnout rates in the Maine Campus Voting Challenge, a new nonpartisan initiative announced today by Maine Students Vote and Maine’s Secretary of State, Matt Dunlap, in partnership with the nonpartisan nonprofit the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

All 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions in Maine are invited to be a part of the Challenge. Participating colleges and universities will be eligible for awards based on voter turnout and registration rates on their campuses for the November 3, 2020, election.

“Civic engagement is the heart and soul of what we do in Elections,” said Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap. “When we can encourage young adults to register and vote, it sets the stage for a lifelong commitment to participating in the democratic process.”

College and university administrators, faculty and staff can learn more and sign up at <https://www.allinchallenge.org/maine-campus-voting-challenge/>. There is no sign-up cost to participate. Institutions that opt into the Challenge will be provided guidance and tools to create an action plan for increasing student engagement on their campus. By signing up for the Challenge, all accredited, degree-granting higher education institutions across the city can improve, measure, and celebrate efforts to institutionalize nonpartisan civic learning, political engagement and informed voter participation.

Maine Secretary of State’s Office and Maine Students Vote will issue biennial statewide awards for 2-year and 4-year institutions based on campuses’ National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) reports generated by the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education at Tufts University in Mass. for the November 2020 election. Awards will be issued for the highest voter turnout, most improved voter turnout, and highest rate of voter registration.

Maine Students Vote is partnering with the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#), a national, nonpartisan nonprofit, to create a learning community for Maine campuses and to facilitate the competition. Institutions that sign up for the Maine Campus Voting Challenge will also be automatic participants in the nationwide ALL IN Challenge.

“Preparing students for their public lives as citizens, members of communities and professionals in society has historically been a responsibility of higher education,” said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, Executive Director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. “We are thrilled to partner with Secretary Dunlap and Maine Students Vote to encourage higher education institutions in Maine to make a plan to increase student voter engagement.”

Maine Students Vote

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a program of [Civic Nation](#), is a national, nonpartisan initiative started in 2016 that supports and recognizes more than 650 colleges and universities working to improve civic learning, political engagement and voter participation. The Challenge encourages institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, as well as institutionalize democratic engagement activities and programs – making them a defining feature of campus life.

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