



Fact Sheet: SUNY's Commitment to Civics & Service

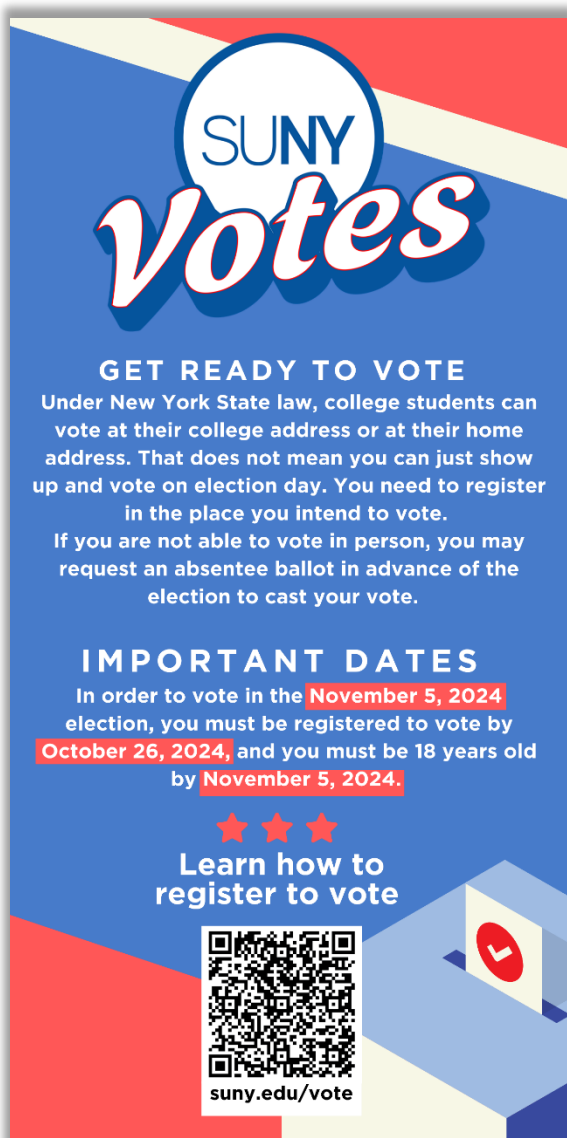
As Chancellor King explained in the 2024 State of the University address: "The mission of public higher education has always been and must always be the preparation of citizens and securing the future health of our democracy." College has the unique power to bring students together in service and learning, while celebrating and exploring their different experiences and backgrounds. SUNY recognizes that civil discourse is an essential skill for our students and that civic engagement is a vital outcome of higher education.

SUNY's robust Civics & Service Agenda includes:

- ***Encouraging Nonpartisan Voter Engagement:*** SUNY is committed to supporting students through nonpartisan civic engagement, including participating in voting and elections. This fall, all SUNY campuses received nonpartisan "[SUNY Votes](#)" postcards with information about voter registration and voting to distribute as part of campus housing packets or orientation materials. Thirty-nine SUNY campuses are also participating in the national ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge – which provides free resources and strategies to colleges and universities to increase student voting and civic engagement – and SUNY is providing [first-ever mini-grants](#) to support nonpartisan student voter outreach efforts.
- ***Launching the Empire State Service Corps:*** More than 500 SUNY students are participating in paid service in their communities through SUNY's [Empire State Service Corps](#), a new program championed by Governor Hochul, launched in partnership with Lieutenant Governor Delgado, and confirmed as an AmeriCorps program. During its first application cycle, nearly 2,000 SUNY students submitted applications for the program, which provides assignments in areas such as K-12 tutoring, SNAP and basic need outreach, peer mental health, sustainability, anti-hate and anti-bias prevention, nonpartisan civic engagement, and FAFSA completion. The Empire State Service Corps builds on other SUNY paid service initiatives including the [SUNY FAFSA Completion Corps](#), [SUNY Climate Corps](#), and [Veterans Enrollment and Support Internship Program](#).



- ***Incorporating Civic Discourse in Fall Orientation Activities and the SUNY General Education Framework:*** SUNY is helping students, faculty, and staff develop and employ resources to embrace arguments informed by nuance, disagreements conducted respectfully, and questioning that probes not only our opponents' assumptions but also our own. Campuses are incorporating tools for civil discourse into [fall orientations and back-to-campus content](#) at the beginning of the fall 2024 semester for new students, returning students, students in leadership positions, and student employees in areas like residence life. To ensure students develop strong lifelong skills, SUNY is working through the shared governance process to update the General Education Framework by adding a [core competency in civic discourse](#) for all undergraduate students.




SUNY
Votes

GET READY TO VOTE
Under New York State law, college students can vote at their college address or at their home address. That does not mean you can just show up and vote on election day. You need to register in the place you intend to vote.
If you are not able to vote in person, you may request an absentee ballot in advance of the election to cast your vote.

IMPORTANT DATES
In order to vote in the **November 5, 2024** election, you must be registered to vote by **October 26, 2024**, and you must be 18 years old by **November 5, 2024**.

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Learn how to register to vote


suny.edu/vote

- ***Naming the Inaugural Civic Education & Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows:*** SUNY's 10 inaugural [Civic Education & Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows](#) are working with their peers to prioritize civic engagement and civil discourse and equip faculty, staff, and students with resources that they can deploy on their own campuses. The Fellows are leading training sessions, panel discussions, webinars, and course content development across the SUNY System.
- ***Recruiting AmeriCorps Alumni to SUNY and Recognizing SUNY Schools of National Service:*** SUNY is committed to attracting AmeriCorps alumni to our campuses, recognizing that AmeriCorps participants come to SUNY with a deep appreciation of other cultures and a broad perspective that fosters greater diversity of thought and inclusion. SUNY has enacted a System-wide [college application fee waiver for AmeriCorps alumni](#) and 15 SUNY campuses have been designated as AmeriCorps Schools of National Service by taking additional steps to recognize students who served in AmeriCorps – including enrollment deferrals, priority admission consideration, and scholarships.