



## Students, College Administrators, and Election Officials Working Together to Overcome Barriers to Student Voting

### Campus Vote Project

In 2012, the Fair Elections Legal Network (FELN) launched Campus Vote Project (CVP) to focus and expand our work around student voting issues. CVP works with universities, community colleges, faculty, students and election officials to reduce barriers to student voting. Our overall goal is to help campuses institutionalize reforms that empower students with the information they need to register and vote.

The estimated youth turnout of 22.2% in 2014 fits the pattern of young voter midterm turnout between 22–26%, going back to 1994. Surveys of non-voting students after the 2010 election indicated that barriers stemming from a lack of information, like missing voter registration or absentee request deadlines, kept them from the polls while only a minority of responses demonstrated a lack of interest.

To overcome these facts and increase student electoral participation, CVP works with colleges and universities to institutionalize practices that embed voter registration opportunities and information about the voting process into the campus culture, and to motivate young voters by connecting the issues they care about to the democratic process. When young voters are empowered with the information they need, they participate. In addition, working with trusted sources like administrators and faculty to deliver nonpartisan information to students increases the chance students will pay attention and act.

CVP works closely with national and state organizations representing college administrators, faculty, students, and election officials. These organizations include the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) and The Democracy Commitment (community colleges), American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the American Democracy Project (public colleges), state Campus Compacts (college presidents and service learning staff), AACRAO (college registrars), NASPA (student affairs administrators), the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)(private colleges), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)(African-American serving institutions).

In 2014, CVP expanded our network of college administrator partners by entering a formal partnership with The Democracy Commitment (TDC) and their members at 205 community colleges. TDC and the American Democracy Project (four-year institutions), both housed at AASCU, presented CVP materials to their members through their websites, blogs, emails, and in-person at conferences, as well as provided state-specific materials to members in target states. CVP also works with these partners and Campus Compact networks to host webinars covering student electoral engagement best practices and legal changes related to student voting.

CVP's resources to promote student registration and voting include:

- Student registration guides for all 50 states: [campusvoteproject.org/state-student-guides](http://campusvoteproject.org/state-student-guides)
- Best practices toolkit to jumpstart student voting on campuses
- Help developing content for campus voting information websites
- Trainings and webinars on voting rules for states
- Handouts on how and when to register and vote
- Talking points on policies impacting student voters
- Email and social media messaging
- Guides on how to run a voter registration drive
- Guides on how to run a voter education program

**To sign up for updates and find all our resources go to [www.campusvoteproject.org](http://www.campusvoteproject.org) or email [info@campusvoteproject.org](mailto:info@campusvoteproject.org) with specific questions.**