

# Paws to the Polls Nonpartisan Voter Education Initiative

(est. Feb 2020)



Report 2020 - 2023



**Missouri State**  
UNIVERSITY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The Rationale

Paws to the Polls formed in response to low college-age national voting rates: for example, 48% in the 2016 presidential election (50% at MSU) and 40% in the 2018 midterm election (36% at MSU), low voting rates in local elections, lack of student access to education about the voting process and non-partisan political sources (*see our data at right*), and feeling disengaged, intimidated, or anxious about the process.

## The Solution & Our Goals

We set out to investigate and overcome barriers (perceived or actual) to voting in order to raise voting knowledge and rates at Missouri State University.

## The Approach

Grounded in anthropological techniques (mainly participant observation), the founding student team steered the direction of this grassroots initiative using innovative ideas to energize and engage fellow students. The curricular approach is one of self-discovery, using various forms of media to encourage civic engagement; our activities and incentives (prizes, food, fun) help draw students in to for us to engage with them.

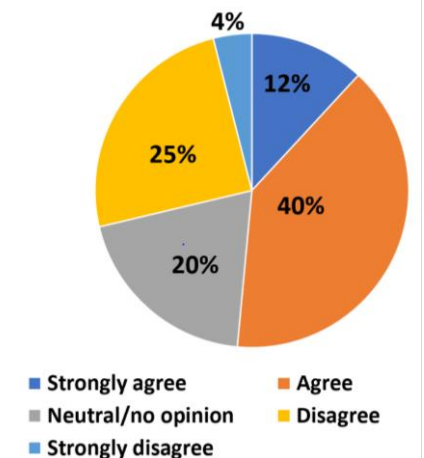
## The Scope

Our actions in the realms of education, outreach, and voter support are strictly nonpartisan; the curriculum, voter information booklets, self-produced voting videos, and presentations focus on why and how to engage with the process. Our voter support and advocacy actions involve knowledge about elections, voting-related legislation, legislator interactions, and liaising with the county clerk. Our campus and community partnerships are rewarding, beneficial, and expanding.

### Surveys from Classroom Visits 2020 & 2021

Indicate your level of agreement with this statement:

I know where to find sources of nonpartisan, unbiased political information (N=256)



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The Impact (since Paws to the Polls' establishment, 2020)

### Education

- Approximately 640 students have completed the voter education curriculum; by doing so, the scoring of voting as “very important” increases by 20% (*see page 13*)
- Over 9000 Voter Information Booklets have been distributed

### Outreach

- Approximately 4600 students have been reached via classroom presentations
- Over 150 students have been reached via presentations to residence halls, student organizations, and groups
- Over 1600 students have participated in our campus events
- Sample evidence of our impact: a Multicultural Resource Center event and a faculty presentation on the mathematics of voting were timed to coincide with our self-designated “Voter Awareness Week” in Oct 2023

### Voter Support

- Over 580 voters registered using paper forms, many additional ones registered online from our information
- Legislation introduced in 2022 (HB 219) arose from our work advocating reinstating university ID as valid for voting

### Voting Rates

- MSU was recognized by American Democracy Project for raising voting rates in 2020 and 2022, earning the Silver Seal Award for 2020 for raising rate from 50.4% to 62.6% (*see graphics at right*)

## The Significance

Civic engagement is the cornerstone of our democracy; a well-informed and engaged young citizenry will allow for the civil discourse necessary to produce future coalition builders and leaders. Community and civic engagement assist in cultivating civic virtues, paving the way to students’ development as contributing members of society. While the practical aspects of voting are not covered in any Missouri school curricula, our initiative provides the impetus, information, non-partisan resources, and legislative connections to facilitate civic participation from the outset of our students’ education.



Missouri State U

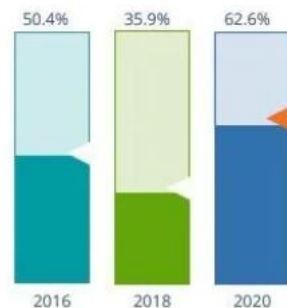
62.6%

2020 Voting Rate

+12.2

Change From 2016

### VOTING RATE



# OUR MISSION

A photograph of a university building at dusk. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of blue, purple, and pink. A tall, modern tower with a glass facade is illuminated from within, standing prominently on the left side of the building. The building itself is a long, multi-story structure with large windows, some of which are lit up. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and some greenery, including trees and benches. The overall atmosphere is serene and modern.

## Civic Engagement and the Public Affairs Mission

Paws to the Polls formed to increase voter engagement and voting knowledge at Missouri State University. Our mission is to drive cultural change by turning MSU into a voting campus. Inspired by the university's mission in public affairs, our aim is to weave civic engagement into the fabric of the university via education and outreach.

# Rationale for Paws to the Polls: Low College-Age Voting Rates



## Barriers to Voting

- **Logistical barriers**
  - Election laws and policies make voting less feasible and equitable (e.g., strict voter ID laws, polling location inaccessibility, changes in voting laws, etc.)
- **Educational barriers**
  - Lack of institutional transmission of voting information
  - Little opportunity to discover personal relevance of voting
  - Bias and misinformation is an obstacle to factual learning
  - Not knowing they can register where they attend college
- **Perceived barriers**
  - Emotional and psychological factors (e.g., intimidation, unfamiliarity, anxiety, disengagement, confusion) that impede likelihood of voting



## Overcoming the Barriers

- **Logistical solutions**
  - We advocate for college student voter access in Jefferson City
  - We distribute information to counter confusion and voting law changes
- **Educational solutions**
  - We provide practical information on the voting process
  - We facilitate understanding of how voting is relevant for all
  - We offer nonpartisan resources to avoid bias and misinformation, and clarify voting regulations
- **Perceived barriers**
  - We familiarize students with the voting process to ease anxiety
  - We provide information to promote engagement
  - We strive to enhance outreach to student members of underrepresented populations and to the Springfield community

# HISTORY

**Who:** Formed in February 2020 by a group of 14 students from the social sciences and an Anthropology professor.

**Why:** Formed in response to low college student voting rates and the growing partisanship evident in the United States.

Through informal focus groups of approximately 60 students, the following information was obtained:

- Most admitted to obtaining their political information from social media and did not know how to access nonpartisan sources.
- Despite the civics education requirement, many knew little about the practical aspects of voting.
- Many expressed feelings of disengagement, unfamiliarity, intimidation, or anxiety related to the voting process.

First meeting, February 2020



# Timeline of Development



Evolution of a logo

## February & early March 2020

- Meet to establish initiative

## Mid-March 2020

- Pandemic begins, campus closed

## April and May 2020

- Multiple meetings per week via Zoom
- Established mission, goals, dreams

## Summer 2020

- Video production:
  - MSU Students Vote: filmed at Greene County Election Center
  - Finding Your Voice: the Public Affairs mission and the importance of voting for young people
- Voter Education Curriculum produced: five modules for use by Freshman Foundations (GEP 101) instructors
- Proposal preparation: SGA funding, SAC co-sponsorship
- Production of Voter Information Booklet

## Fall 2020

- Hit the ground running: tabling, presentations, and distribution of Voter Information Booklet
- Partnership established with Office of Public Affairs Support; website developed through that office

# Funding History



- 2020-23 In-kind support via Office of Public Affairs Support: printing, logistical assistance, event funding contributions, maintain and update website
- 2023 League of Women Voters Education Fund, \$1700 (exception for “emergency” funds to print voter information booklet after SGA (Student Initiative Fund) funding not received
- 2022 League of Women Voters Education Fund, \$1000
- 2022 Student Government Association Student Initiative Fund grant, \$10,966
- 2021 League of Women Voters Education Fund, \$1000
- 2021 Student Government Association Student Initiative Fund grant, \$7639
- 2020 Student Government Association Student Initiative Fund grant, \$6831
- 2020 League of Women Voters Education Fund, \$400



# WHO ARE WE?



## **Leadership Team 2023-24 (Executive board\*)**

Adrianna Avila-Wilkins, Emma Bloodworth, Paul Bohlen, Jonathan Branstetter, Carista Davis, Zoeyanne DeCapria, Amanda Gott, Eliot Gudreau, Abigail Hardwick, Addie Kimmerle, Kinli Miller\*, Zelda Okeson-Haberman, Gabriel Patino-Rodriguez\*, Newt Peterson, Isabella Rossi, Shelbyann Shafer, Clemmie Taylor, Sam Wang, Grace Wasson\*, Lauren Willis

*(A total of 46 students have been involved)*

## **Faculty Coordinator**

Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, PhD, Professor of Anthropology  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Gerontology

## **Graduate Assistants**

Zion Riffe-Stevens, Department of Political Science  
Ava Taylor, Department of Political Science

## **Advisory Board (PttP founding members)**

Emily Fessler, MPH, Community Partnership of the Ozarks  
Elizabeth Wertz, Jobs with Justice



# Paws to the Polls Voter Education Initiative

## Education

- Voter Education Modules
- Voter Information Booklets
- Video Production

## Outreach

(Campus and Community)

- Voter Registration Tabling
- Presentations
- Events

## Support & Advocacy

- Legislative Interactions
  - Jefferson City
  - On campus
- Liaison w/Greene County Clerk

# EDUCATION



Our success is not measured in terms of the number of students we register; our main objective is to ensure that all MSU students have access to the resources and information they need to vote – and to vote knowledgeably.

Education is the centerpiece – we need to help students to understand how voting is relevant to their lives and that their engagement is needed for the future of our democracy. Civil discourse is only possible with access to factual, unbiased information, and we facilitate its distribution.

By demonstrating the process of registering to vote and voting, we create familiarity to diminish anxiety as an obstacle.

*“It is intimidating for college students to feel confident in the voting process because it is not taught in normal curricula. Young people are magically expected to have this information, but the voting process can be complicated and initially very intimidating. That is why initiatives like Paws to the Polls are so important in helping to educate about the voting process.”*

*- Veronica Jacobs, '21*

# Voter Education Modules

Used by some instructors in the Freshman Foundations class, the five interactive modules foster critical thinking skills in relation to civic engagement, personalize and familiarize the voting process, illustrate avoidance of misinformation and bias, direct students to identify their legislators and learn their positions on issues. The emphasis is on self-exploration and discovery, engaging students to actively seek answers for themselves, key to knowledge retention and for elevating students' sense of self, responsibility, and agency as contributing citizens.

Since the fall of 2020, approximately 640 students have accessed this curriculum.

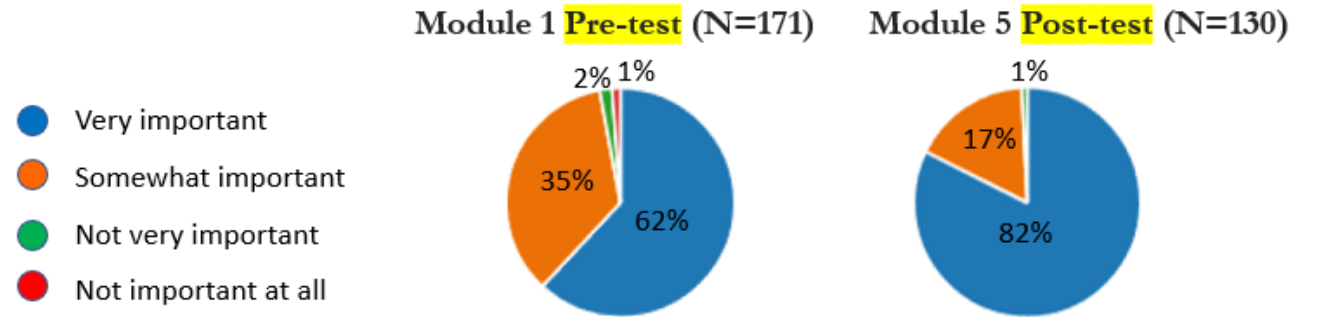
The pre- and post-tests embedded in the modules allow for robust quantitative assessment and demonstrate their effectiveness; a sample of these results are on the following page.



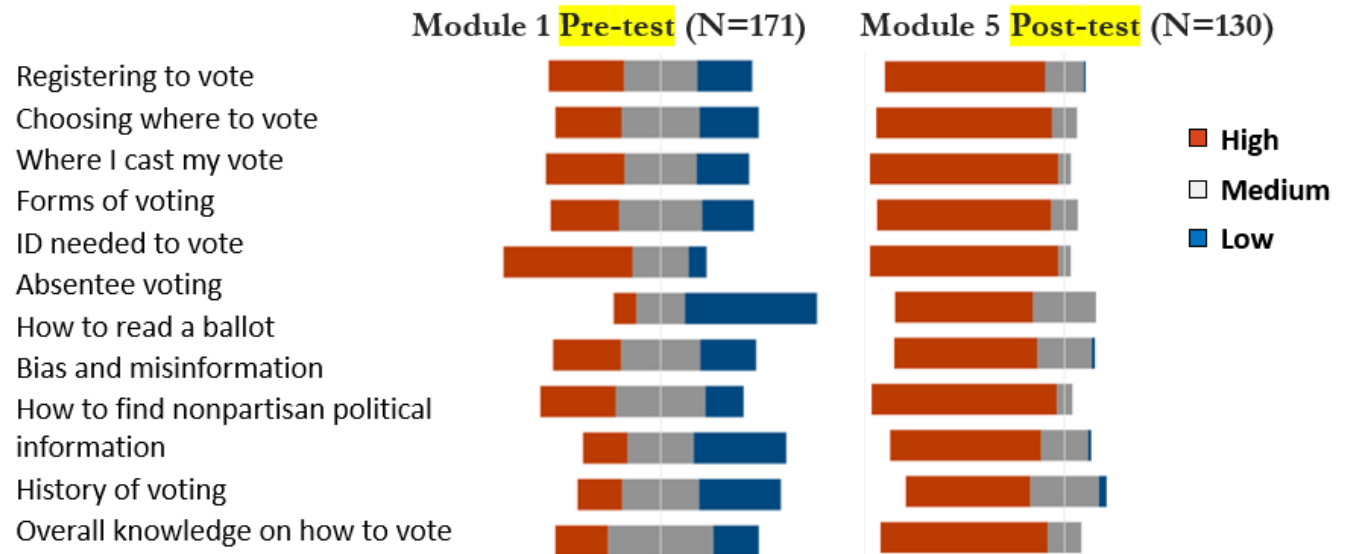
# Voter Education Modules

- Sample results from pre- and post-tests of Voter Education Modules in GEP 101, Fall 2022
- 2 self-assessment questions (shown here)
- 14 objective questions
- Additional data available upon request
- Publication in preparation

“How important do you feel it is to vote?”



Voting-related knowledge



# Voter Information Booklet

**Get Your Vote On,  
Missouri State!**



**Voter Information and Resources  
2023-24**



- Includes all necessary information on registering to vote, absentee voting, in-person voting, election dates, benefits of voting at school vs. home, accessible voting, where to find voter support resources, and nonpartisan sources of political information. Updated at least once each year.
- We include our Linktree for ease of access to all U.S. County Clerks' offices, for online voter registration, and checking on one's voter registration.
- Has been distributed to over 9000 individuals and programs on campus since fall of 2020. Since 2022, delivered to all incoming first-year students via their GEP 101 (Freshman Foundations) or UHC 110 (Freshman Honors Seminar) classes.
- Locate our voter education booklet [here](#) from the homepage of our website.



*"If every college student in the United States who was eligible to vote sought information from various sources, asked themselves hard questions about where their beliefs come from, had conversations with people who disagreed with them, and exercised their right to vote – the entire country would experience a significant change for the better."*

*- Jacqueline Batista-Martinez, '21*

# Video Production

Our two videos were produced in 2020. They are accessible on our [website's homepage](#) (scroll down) and comprise a component of the Voter Education Modules for Freshman Foundation classes.



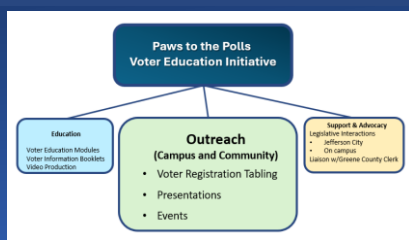
- “Finding Your Voice” – Paws to the Polls students discuss the importance of voting, especially in local elections, and the role of civic engagement in MSU’s public affairs mission.
- “Casting Your Vote” – Filmed at the Greene County Election Center and facilitated by the County Clerk’s Office, using voting machines and paper ballots are demonstrated to familiarize new voters with the process.

*“As a film student, it is important for me to participate in an initiative that strives to find and deliver unbiased sources of information.”*

*- Aby Dawson, '22*



# OUTREACH



- The purpose of our outreach efforts help enhance our visibility to make ourselves available to the campus community and the community at large, raising awareness not only about voting, but the fact that our political system goes in with or without our participation.
- We aim to forge new community connections and enhance existing ones and have connected the campus community to state and local elected officials through our actions.
- An engaged student is a successful student – we aim to help enact the public affairs mission through student engagement at all levels.
- In addition to activities highlighted in this report, our community outreach has included:
  - 11 SPS high school voter registration drives with League of Women Voters, resulting in 86 new registrations
  - At least 10 additional events with community partners
  - Our three social media contests, now conducted around each Election Day, have drawn almost 200 participants



*“Peer-to-peer engagement is real, and Paws to the Polls understands that and uses that to motivate the Missouri State student body. While it takes some time to change the culture of a university, there are students that are passionate about this and truly want to see MSU as a voting campus.”*

*- Emily Fessler, BA '20, MPH '22*



# Campus Partnerships



## Campus Offices – Collaboration & Support

- Office of Public Affairs Support\*
- Office of Multicultural Programs
- First Year Programs
- Residence Life's Diversity Committee

## Student Organizations – Collaboration & Participation

- Student Activities Council
- Student Government Association
- Pan Hellenic Association
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Students for a Sustainable Future

\*Provides logistical, in-kind, and financial support for events



**VOTING AWARENESS**  
Tuesday, October 17th 12:00-3:30PM, MRC (PSU 101)

- Learn about voting and advocacy from PROMO & Paws to the Polls
- Who is PROMO? Missouri's statewide organization advocating for LGBTQ+ equality
- Who is Paws to the Polls? Our own non-partisan campus organization to increase civic engagement with a focus on voter participation and voter literacy at Missouri State University

**VOTE!**

- Register to vote & get a charm for Crocs
- Learn about voting
- Learn about advocacy
- Come to Voting event

Missouri State LGBTQ+ STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE of MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS

To individuals who need special services, assistance, or appropriate modifications to fully participate in these events, please indicate by contacting the Office of Multicultural Programs at multiculturalprograms@missouristate.edu. Please notify us 1-2 weeks prior.

# Community Partners



League of Women Voters of SW Missouri



Office of the Greene County Clerk



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity



Youth Civic Leadership Institute (multi-institutional program via a Musgrave Foundation grant)



Local businesses

- Pickleman's Deli
- Alamo Drafthouse



# Voter Registration Tabling - Campus

Approximately 40 days of voter registration tabling on the MSU campus



National Voter Reg Day, 2021



With President Clif Smart and Gail Smart, Belong-BQ 2022



PttP first ever tabling event, with SAC, Sept 2020



# Election Day Tabling – Campus Central Polling Location



Each Election Day, we are on hand at the campus Central Polling Location to provide voter information, answer questions, distribute nonpartisan voter guides and “I voted” bear paw pins, and “First-time voter” sign for photos.

- November 3, 2020, General Election
- April 5, 2022, Municipal Election
- November 8, 2022, General Election
- April 4, 2023, Municipal Election



With County Clerk Shane Schoeller



# Voter Registration Tabling - Community



Drew Lewis Foundation Family Fall Festival, 2023



Homecoming Tabling w/Alpha Phi Alpha, 2022



SPS Voter Reg w/League of Women Voters, 2023

Moxie Cinema Sponsored

Selma (2014) at Moxie Cinema, part of MLK Weekend 2023. This FREE screening of SELMA (2014) is sponsored by the Springfield Sigma Nu Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri will be onsite with Paws to Polls to register people to vote. There will be a panel discussion following the screening.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Voter Reg w/Alpha Phi Alpha, 2022



Labor Day Parade, 2022 & 2023



# Presentations

## Campus

- 130 class presentations to almost 3400 students
  - First-year students in GEP 101 & UHC 110
  - RCASH and CNAS colleges
- Presentations to almost 160 students in residence halls, student organizations, & campus groups

## Community

- Youth Civic Leadership Institute
- Greenwood Lab School
- Alpha Phi Alpha (MLK Day Panel, 2022)



Activity & Presentation to Youth Civic Leadership Institute, Aug 2023

# Events and Activities

## Voter Awareness Week 2023: Spotlight on Local Government

### Voting Fair – meet-n-greet with local elected officials

- Participants: 14 elected officials, including mayor, state representatives, city council, school board, city manager, and county clerk (bottom right photo)
- Greene County Clerk's office, voting machines for demos
- League of Women Voters
- Approximately 300 attendees
- 7 campus offices and student organizations participated
- 1 local business participated

Multicultural Resource Center presentation

Voter registration tabling

Social media contest



Shurita Thomas-Tate (left, School Board) and Callie Carroll (middle, City Council) talk to students



Paws to the Polls with state and local elected officials



# Events and Activities



## Voter Awareness Week Event

October 6, 2022

Plaster Student Union Theater

3:30 – 5:00 PM

### ***Collaborative Conversations: A Discussion with Our Elected Officials***

#### **Agenda**

Introduction	Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, PhD & Zion Riffe-Stevens, Grad. Asst.
Opening Remarks	Ken McClure, Mayor of Springfield
Panel Discussion   Q&A	Nora Cox, Moderator
Closing Remarks	Paws to the Polls student leader

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS**



Senator  
Doug Beck  
District 1



Senator  
Lincoln Hough  
District 30



Representative  
Alex Riley  
District 134



Representative  
Betsy Fogle  
District 135



Visit the  
Paws to the Polls  
website

#### **Missouri State**

Today's program is sponsored by:  
Paws to the Polls with support of the  
MSU Office of Public Affairs Support

## Voter Awareness Week 2022

### Voting Fair

- Greene County Clerk's office, voting machines for demos
- League of Women Voters
- Approximately 500 attendees, over 23 student and staff volunteers
- 9 campus offices and student organizations participated

Legislator panel: open to community, over 260 attendees

Voter registration tabling

Social media contest

Musical guests at the Voting Fair



Fun & games with Paws to the Polls



Boomer registers to vote



# Events and Activities

## Local Election Candidate Forum, Feb 2023

- Mayoral candidates
- City Council candidates
- School Board candidates



### ELECTIONS

## Mayoral hopefuls face off in candidate forum organized by Missouri State student group

**Andrew Sullender** Springfield News-Leader

Published 5:03 a.m. CT Feb. 28, 2023



Candidates running for Springfield's mayor and city council spoke during a forum at Missouri States Plaster Student Union on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023. *Nathan Papes/Springfield News-Leader*

Local Election Candidate Forum, February 2023  
Paws to the Polls student Lauren Willis interviews Mayor Ken McClure

# Events and Activities

Trivia Night, March 2021



*“Paws to the Polls is deeply centered on promoting inclusivity to help make becoming a voter an easier and more important process for young voters. Voting, especially as a student at Missouri State University with its public affairs mission, should be something to be proud of. But to make that happen for the majority of students, we must first help to change the culture around voting and make it our own.”*

*- Veronica Jacobs, '21*

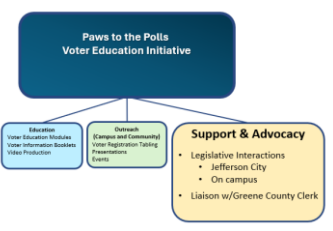


Discover Public Affairs, Oct 2023 (SAC)



MSU Showcase, Nov 2023





# SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

## Election Information

- Produced, printed, and distributed 2000 Paws to the Polls local election voter guides for April 2023 municipal election, 20 pp.
- Distributed ~1350 League of Women Voter Guides for general elections, 2020 & 2022

## Deputy Registrar training with Greene County Clerk's Office

- 15 trained deputy registrars

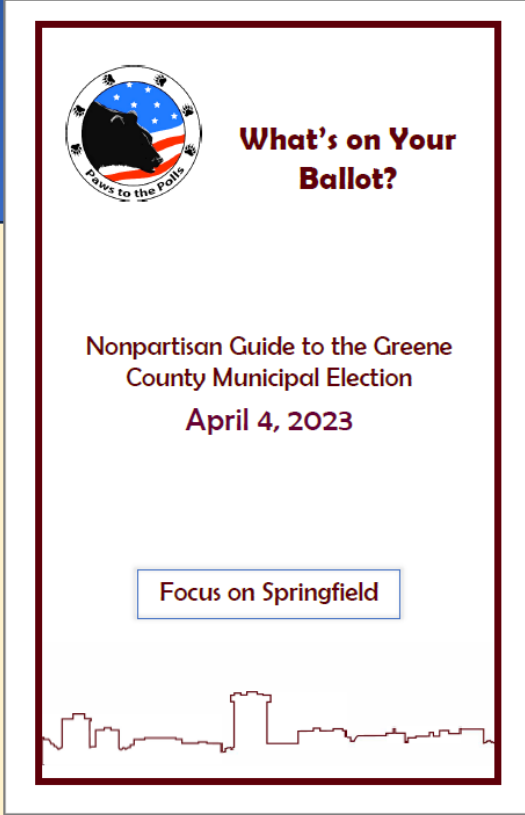
## Advocacy partnering with League of Women Voters

- 9 Paws members are League members, current and former students serve as voting delegates to State Conference
- Paws to the Polls organized and ran fundraiser for Annual Meeting

Website produced and maintained by Office of Public Affairs Support:

<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>

*I've seen numerous images and documentaries about the groundwork Blacks have made in order to vote. As a young Black woman, I find it extremely important to honor the lives and strides made by the people before me by using my right to vote. - Kristen Brown, '21*



Deputy Registrar Training Fall 2023, MSU, by Greene County Clerk Official

# Legislative Interactions

- Legislative tracking and research for Missouri state voting-related bills
- 2 letter-writing campaigns to advocate for federal bills; 30 letters sent
- Provided written testimony to Missouri House Elections Committee for hearing to oppose HB 1878
- 4 meetings with Missouri state representatives and senators on MSU campus
- Representative Betsy Fogle pre-filed HB 219 in Dec. 2022 based on Paws to the Polls fact sheet (on effects of HB 1898 on student voting)



Meeting with Senator Lincoln Hough at MSU, April 2022



Meeting with Rep Betsy Fogle at MSU, Dec 2022

# Legislative Interactions

Jefferson City Trips  
Jan 2022, Jan & April 2023



# Legislative Interactions

Spring 2022 and 2023 Legislative Sessions:  
Met with 43 legislators



Paws to the Polls members with Representatives David Smith (tallest person) and Joe Adams (center, red shirt), 2023



Paws to the Polls members w/Rep Betsy Fogle, 2022



Paws to the Polls members w/Rep Alex Riley, 2023

# Legislative Interactions



Paws to the Polls is a nonpartisan, student-driven initiative at Missouri State University. Our goal is to increase civic engagement on campus and ensure that all citizens eligible to vote can do so without undue hardship

People who work or attend college in MO are part of our community. They should be able to register and vote where they live, work, and study.

11% (over 32,000,000) of our fellow U.S. Citizens lack state-issued ID.

Other secure forms of ID should be restored as valid for voting.

IDs issued by MO state employers, schools, or universities require birth certificate and/or social security number. Their security is equal to current voter IDs.

*"As an out-of-state student, I study, work, and live here just like every other MSU student. My Colorado ID does not mean that my life is unaffected by local elections, yet it keeps my voice unheard. Out-of-state students are active participants in the community and, as citizens of the United States, should be allowed to exercise the right to vote where we live."*  
Isabella Rossi, Missouri State U

**Strengthening our Democracy:  
Supporting Secure Voting Access for  
All Eligible U.S. Citizens**

**Support for HB 219 & HB 975**

House Bill 219 and HB 975 seek to restore use of a nonexpired student ID issued by a Missouri high school or accredited institution of higher education as acceptable for voter identification, and HB 219 to restore use of a Missouri state-issued employee identification card.

Our federal and state government accepts university ID as valid photo ID associated with the I-9 form for employment. These IDs have stringent requirements and are secure forms of photo identification. Voting access for our citizens strengthens our democracy.



**Why doesn't everyone have a state-issued ID?**

**Life's priorities:**

- 16% of MO citizens lack sufficient food and /or stable housing
- Their priority is to work or study
- Voting should be feasible for them with use of other forms of secure ID
- Non-drivers shouldn't have to prioritize state-issued ID (includes elderly, disabled, those lacking a car)

**Difficult for some to attain:**

- Many necessary documents
- Documents unavailable/ inaccessible
- Name discrepancies or changes on official records (errors, adoption, marriage...)
- Fees required for documents or court actions
- Lack transportation

**Need residential address:**

- Lower-income and college students move often
- Many people do not receive utility bills or bank statements with address
- Housing instability

## Advocating for voting access, Feb 2023

- Express concern about HB 1878
- Support for inclusion of university and state employee ID
- Support for voting access for those on probation and parole



Paws to the Polls with Rep. Alex Riley



Zion Stevens with Rep. Roger Reedy



Paws to the Polls with Rep. Melanie Stinnett



# Conferences & Publication



Zion Riffe-Stevens (grad asst) and Liz Wertz (founding Paws member), League of Women Voters Spring Conference 2023 (above) and Fall Conference (below), Columbia, MO



Poster presentation, Conference of Citizenship Learning and Democratic Engagement, Boston, 2023. Walker-Pacheco, Fessler, Wertz (latter two are founding members of Paws to the Polls) “Weaving Civic Engagement into the Campus Culture: Modeling a Voter Education Initiative” Conference attendance funded by Office of Public Affairs Support.

## Publication:

Walker-Pacheco, S.E., J. Batista-Martinez, M. Bradford, K. Brown, A. Dawson, T. Hang, D. Hyatt, V. Jacobs, E. Reichgeld, J. Slocum, and E. Wertz (2020) Paws to the Polls: the making of a campus initiative. *e-Journal of Public Affairs*, Volume 9, Issue 2. (all but first author are founding Paws members)

Two manuscripts in preparation (with two founding Paws members)

# PAWS in the NEWS



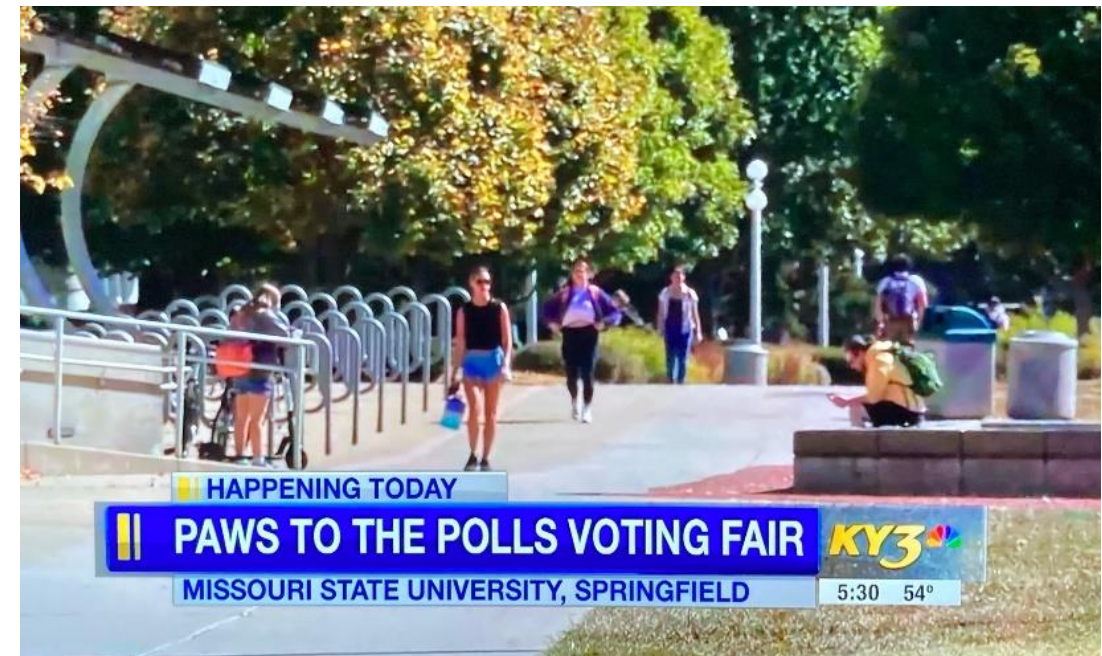
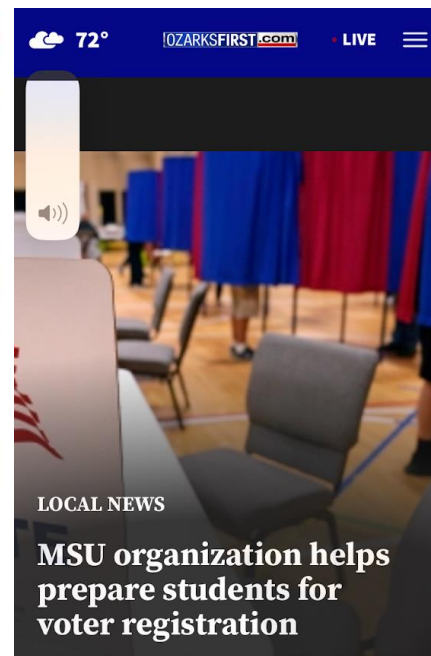
OZARKSFIRST.com

Missouri State University working to get more 'Paws to the Polls'

## Missouri State students provide resources to community



From left to right, Paws to the Polls members Sam Wang, Ava Taylor, Emma Bloodworth and Clemmie Taylor pose for a photo outside of the Davis-Harrington Welcome Center on Missouri State University's campus on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Greta Cross/Springfield News-Leader



About 112 results (0.31 seconds)

KSMU

## Paws to the Polls works to educate MSU students about the election process

The organization is hosting its annual Voter Awareness Week, which will include the 2nd Annual Voting Fair on Wednesday, October 18,...

2 days ago

OzarksFirst.com

## Get registered to vote for upcoming elections in Springfield

GREENE COUNTY, Mo. — A coalition of Springfield and Greene County partners will celebrate National Voter Registration Day with drives aimed...

1 month ago

The Standard

## Bohlen: In elections big and small, student votes matter

As new and returning students march onto campus this August, some are coming from across the country or the world, while some are simply...

Aug 20, 2023

News

## Empowering MSU to engage students in democracy

Engagement in campus democracy is important, especially to Zion Riffe-Stevens. Zion Riffe-Stevens. A Missouri State University student and...

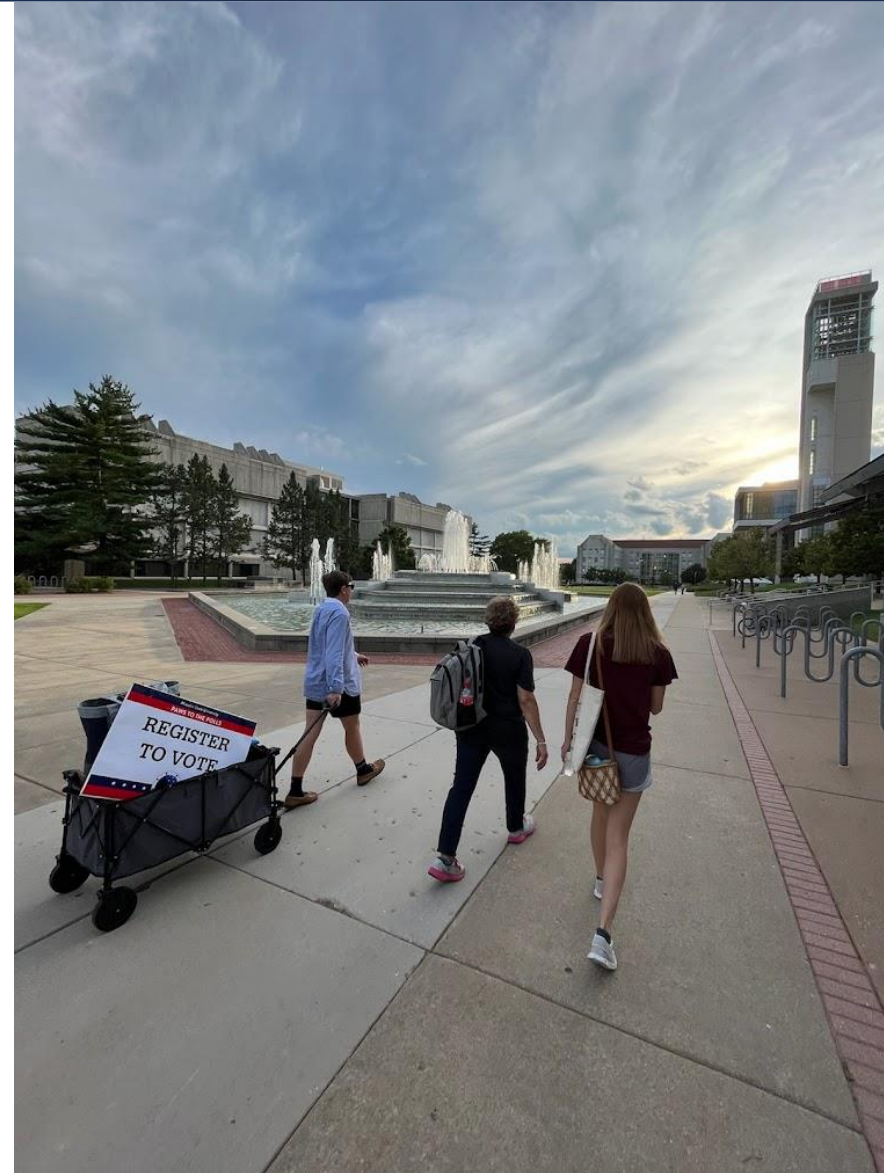
May 9, 2023



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION



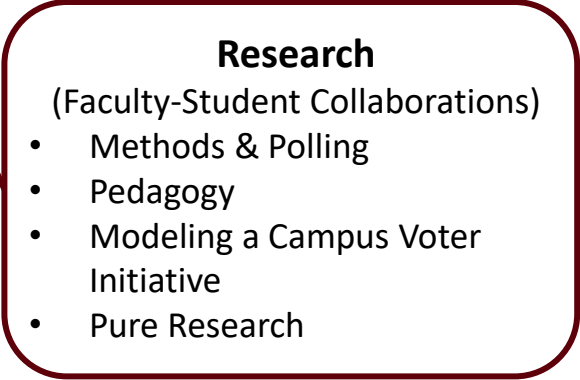
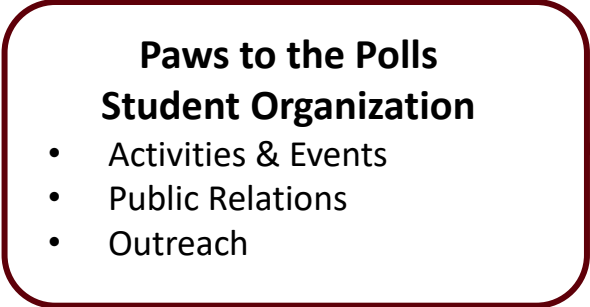
- 2020 All-in-Democracy Challenge Silver Campus, MSU 62.6% voting rate (Office of Public Affairs Support maintains our membership in American Democracy Project, submits reports on campus voting-related actions)
- 2021 Washington Monthly – top 200 voting colleges
- 2021 Springfield Community Focus Report Update
- 2022 All-in Democracy Challenge Presidential Commitment Signatory (striving toward full student voter participation)
- 2023 All-in Democracy Challenge Student Award for Promoting Democracy on Campus (Zion Stevens, Paws to the Polls graduate assistant)
- 2023 League of Women Voters of Missouri, Harriet Woods Award for Exemplary Community Service (Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, Faculty Coordinator)



*“The path of the person who acts is not always easy, but it is always worth it.”*  
- Josh Slocum, '22

# Future Directions

Interdisciplinary



**Making the Civic Engagement Leadership Institute a Destination Program by Building on a Foundation of Public Affairs, Academic Exploration, and Student Development**



# Contact Us

Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, Faculty Coordinator  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Gerontology  
Missouri State University  
901 S. National Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65897  
[suzannewalker@missouristate.edu](mailto:suzannewalker@missouristate.edu)  
(417) 836-6358

Paws to the Polls office: Strong Hall room 463  
[pawstothevotes@missouristate.edu](mailto:pawstothevotes@missouristate.edu)  
<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>



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