



SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Student Development

Santa Ana College

Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan

1530 West 17th St · Santa Ana, CA 92706 · www.sac.edu

Executive Summary

The Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) and Santa Ana College (SAC) actively support civic engagement by hosting student voter registration drives, creating opportunities for students to connect with local community leaders who champion civic initiatives, registering students to vote, providing voter education, and working to increase student voter registration while emphasizing the importance of participating in the democratic process.

The Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan was developed by the Student Program Specialist in Student Development at Santa Ana College during the Fall 2025 semester. The purpose of this plan is to uphold the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (California Education Code §66850–66852; California Elections Code §2148.5) and to expand opportunities for students to access voter education resources and tools that promote civic engagement, participation, and increased college student voter registration.

This plan serves as a guiding framework that will continue to be implemented through coordinated efforts between Student Development, the Associated Student Government, and community organizations. The goal of this plan is to expand civic learning on our campus and strengthen our civic engagement initiatives, including aiming to increase student voter registration and civic engagement event turnout. It will remain in effect for the rest of the 2025–2026 academic year, continuing into Spring 2026, to guide and strengthen our ongoing commitment to civic engagement on our campus.

Leadership Coalition at Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College's commitment to civic engagement is strengthened by dedicated campus leadership and student representatives who guide and advance these initiatives. Student leaders in the Associated Student Government particularly the Judicial Branch (Chief Justice and Associate Justices), play a key role in coordinating events, and promoting voter education.

Santa Ana College also partners with on campus departments, and external organizations, including the Orange County Registrar of Voters and local community members, to provide students with direct access to civic resources, real-world perspectives, and civic engagement opportunities for students.

Our leadership includes the following:

- Dr. Vaniethia Hubbard, Vice President of Student Services

- Dr. Jennifer De La Rosa, Dean of Student Development & Deputy Title IX Coordinator
- Bianca Guzman, Student Program Specialist
- Student Leaders in Associated Student Government, Judicial Branch (Chief Justice and Associate Justice's). These ASG leaders represent the diverse student body of Santa Ana College
- Representatives from the following areas:
 - Local Elections Office: Orange County Registrar of Voters
 - Guest Speakers: Local Community Members

Although our leadership coalition may change, we have institutionalized efforts to support our civic engagement responsibilities. The ASG Judicial Branch has outlined duties and responsibilities in our ASG Handbook, where students are assigned with overseeing civic engagement and social justice initiatives on campus. Even as student leaders change throughout the year, these responsibilities remain consistent.

Similarly, the Student Program Specialist in Student Life ensures that the Judicial Branch members uphold their civic engagement responsibilities. This role also serves as the Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator for the campus. If this position were to change, the incoming program specialist would continue to assume these responsibilities.

Commitment and Current Landscape

In recent years, Santa Ana College's Associated Student Government (ASG) has continued to partner with students, staff, and community organizations to promote civic engagement on campus. These initiatives have included annual events such as Constitution Day, Civic Engagement Day featuring guest speakers, and Student Voter Registration Days. ASG has also conducted ongoing outreach through tabling efforts and collaborations with various campus departments to provide students with voter education resources.

Previous Commitment: In Spring 2018, three students and six faculty/staff members attended the Civic Learning & Engagement Conference. In Fall 2019, the Civic Engagement Subcommittee was established, further strengthening the college's dedication to civic involvement.

As civic engagement initiatives continue to expand and evolve through student leadership, the college remains committed to supporting and implementing efforts that increase voter education, voter registration opportunities, and overall student participation in civic life. To further emphasize the college's institutional commitment, these civic engagement efforts directly align with Santa Ana College's mission: "Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners." Civic learning and democratic participation are essential components of empowering students to become informed decision-makers, engaged community members, and active contributors to a healthy democracy. By integrating civic engagement opportunities across campus programs, events, and student leadership initiatives, Santa Ana College upholds its mission through intentional efforts that support student learning, growth, and community impact.

Our commitment is to continue enhancing democratic engagement on campus and collaborating with partners to ensure Santa Ana College students have the resources and tools they need to be

informed and active participants in their communities. We are committed to providing voter education by hosting voter registration days and offering voter registration applications in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. We also aim to continue offering an online format that allows students to submit voter registration applications, with the application accessible in an even broader range of languages.

In addition, our college has expanded our commitment by continuing our efforts to increase the number of engaged participants in our Civic Engagement events that discuss topics such as:

- Why local government matters to students
- The impact of civic engagement from students in their local community
- Understanding Local Government & getting involved
- Structure of local government (mayor, city council, agencies)
- How students can have a voice in local policy
- Decision-making processes (budgets, policies, community initiatives)

We are committed to continuing to foster these conversations with our students and with civic leaders in our community. In addition, our commitment extends beyond facilitating these conversations. Events such as Constitution Day and student voter registration tabling have been led by our student leaders in collaboration with other campus departments, including the Santa Ana College Nealley Library. During these events, the library has provided recommended resources and texts that support civic learning, accessible both through print materials in the library and e-books available during our tabling activities. Our commitment not only includes facilitating these initiatives but also creating innovative ways to further support and strengthen our students' participation in civic learning.

Analysis of recent data from Spring and Fall 2025 shows that 120 students participated in civic engagement activities, including Constitution Day, voter registration tabling, Civic Engagement Day with civic leaders, and interactions with ASG student leaders. This provides a baseline for measuring future growth and highlights both successes and opportunities for expanded engagement. While Santa Ana College has strong leadership, established initiatives, and resources to support student civic learning, there remains potential to increase participation, strengthen online civic engagement tools, and sustain involvement across multiple election cycles.

Goals and Strategy

As Santa Ana College continues to grow, our efforts remain focused on strengthening student involvement in civic learning and democratic engagement across campus. Building on previous Associated Student Government (ASG) efforts and our institutional commitment to democratic participation, we aim to re-establish a Civic Engagement Subcommittee within ASG beginning Spring 2026. This subcommittee will serve as a student-centered leadership body responsible for elevating student voices, coordinating cross-campus civic engagement initiatives, and strengthening partnerships that promote democratic participation both on campus and within the broader community.

Our short-term goals focus on increasing student participation in civic activities leading up to upcoming elections. These goals include expanding and coordinating campus-wide voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout efforts through initiatives such as Constitution

Day, voter registration tabling, Civic Engagement Day with civic leaders, and engagement with ASG student leaders. During the Spring and Fall 2025 semesters, a total of 120 students participated in these civic engagement activities. This participation will serve as the baseline measure, with the goal of increasing student engagement by at least 30 students (from 120 to 150) by the next election cycle through expanded outreach, additional tabling opportunities, and strengthened collaboration with academic departments and campus support programs. These activities will be implemented in collaboration with students, academic departments, and campus support programs.

To support these efforts, we aim to strengthen its civic engagement-focused social media presence to disseminate accurate and nonpartisan voting information, promote civic engagement events, and increase student awareness of registration, and election dates. Collectively, these strategies aim to increase student voter registration rates, improve voter education, and encourage active participation in civic processes within our diverse student body.

Our long-term goals focus on building sustainable, equitable, and institutionalized civic engagement infrastructure at Santa Ana College. This includes increasing access to reliable, nonpartisan voter information; expanding student voter registration across multiple election cycles; and deepening students' understanding of civic responsibility and democratic participation beyond a single election. A key objective is to enhance online civic engagement by developing and maintaining a comprehensive, year-round civic engagement section on the college website. This digital hub will provide accessible voter education materials, voter registration tools, election information, and civic learning resources designed to support students throughout the academic year.

Additionally, another long-term goal is providing ongoing voter registration training for ASG student leaders. This training will prepare students to serve as civic ambassadors by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to engage peers, support voter registration and education efforts, and participate in civic initiatives both on campus and in their surrounding community. Through this approach, civic learning and democratic engagement will become a sustained and integral component of the student engagement experience.

National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

NSLVE data was not available at the time this Civic Engagement Action Plan was developed due to the campus not having reauthorized participation. To address this, Student Development will work in collaboration with the college's research department to re-authorize NSLVE participation and ensure the timely receipt of future reports. The goal is to obtain and incorporate NSLVE data into the 2026 Civic Engagement Action Plan to better inform and strengthen student voter registration and participation efforts.

Reporting and Evaluation

Santa Ana College is committed to working alongside student leaders to continue advancing the institutional efforts outlined in this Civic Engagement Action Plan, including both short-term and long-term goals. A follow-up evaluation will be conducted with the Dean of Student Development to assess progress toward obtaining NSLVE reports and to determine how this data

can be used to strengthen student engagement and civic participation initiatives. Efforts will also be made to ensure that Judicial Branch student leaders have access to these reports so they can effectively utilize the data to support and enhance ongoing civic engagement efforts on campus. This report will also be shared with the ASG Judicial Branch, to encourage them to provide updates to the Associated Student Government regarding civic engagement initiatives and alignment with this plan as they continue through the year.

As the campus undergoes a website transition, we will aim to make the Civic Engagement Action Plan, upcoming civic engagement events, and relevant resources accessible through the new website for Santa Ana College students and the broader community. Additionally, the Dean of Student Development will share this information with the Vice President of Student Services, with the goal of ultimately reporting progress and outcomes to the President's Cabinet to ensure institutional leadership remains informed.