



Stony Brook
University

Department of Student
Community Development
Center for Civic Justice

226 Student Activities Center
Stony Brook, NY 11794-2800
P 631.632.6822
E civicjustice@stonybrook.edu
stonybrook.edu/civicjustice



New York State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5
Albany, NY 12207-2729

SUBJECT: *Annual Report of Stony Brook University's Student Voter Education Efforts*

In accordance with the memo *New Law Requiring SUNY Institutions to Distribute Election Information and to Make Annual Reports on Such Efforts* received from SUNY dated December 12, 2019, and as per Election Law §5-211(18), Stony Brook University is submitting this **annual report about its student voter education efforts from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020**. This annual report includes four sections:

Section 1. Efforts of the institution to register voters in the preceding calendar year.

Section 2. Date-stamped screen shot of the webpage for voter education that contains the required voter participation information.

Section 3. Number of students who were registered for course work in the preceding twelve months at such institution, and number of clicks on the links to online voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

Section 4. Any other efforts or recommendations the institution plans to implement to improve access to voter registration and absentee ballot voting for students at the institution.

Any questions about this annual report can be referred to Stony Brook University's Center for Civic Justice at CivicJustice@stonybrook.edu or (631) 632-6822.

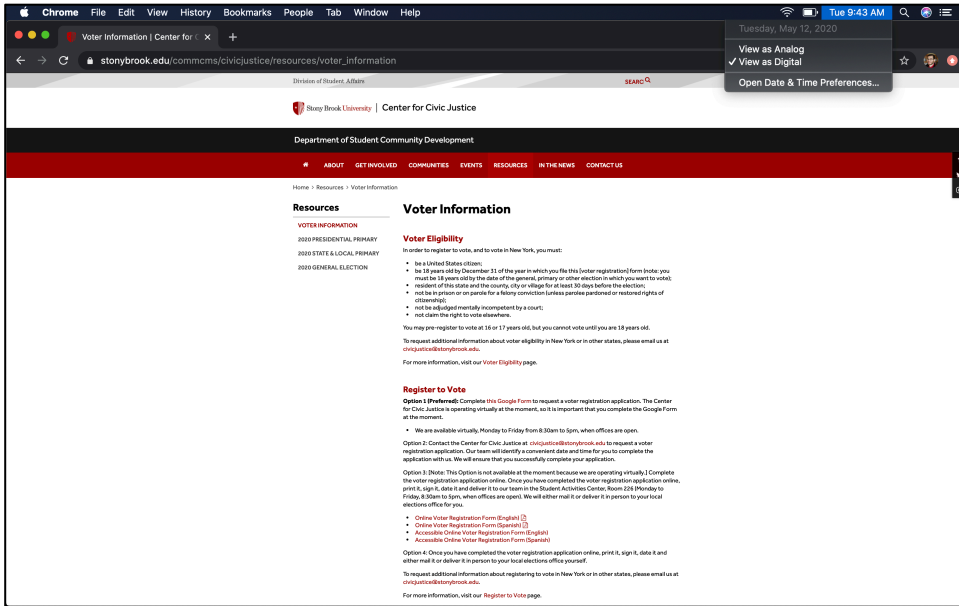
**FAR
BEYOND**

Section 1. Efforts of the institution to register voters in the preceding calendar year.

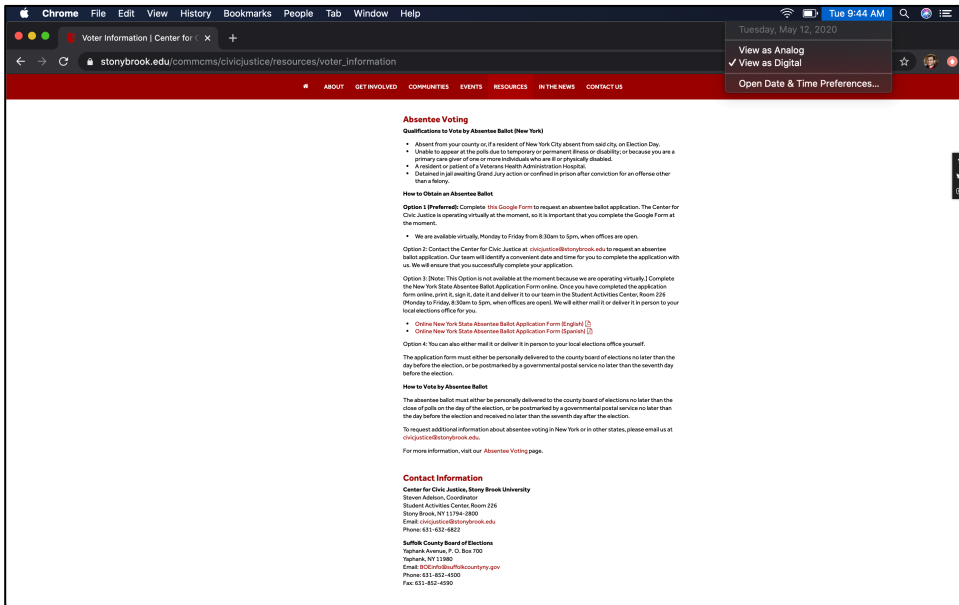
Stony Brook University is fully committed to supporting student voter registration. The following list includes some of the institution's ongoing non-partisan efforts to register voters from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020:

- First-year and transfer undergraduate students attending new student orientation during the months of June, July, and August 2019 were offered an opportunity in person to register to vote with trained staff support.
 - In total, 31 opportunities to register voters were hosted as part of new student orientation and 3,070 students completed a voter registration application.
- Hosted a series of activities on campus as part of Constitution Day on September 17, 2019, which included an opportunity in person to register to vote. Constitution Day was included as part of Stony Brook University's first-ever Civic Engagement Week from September 17 through September 24, 2019.
- Hosted a series of activities on campus as part of National Voter Registration Day on September 24, 2019, which included an opportunity in person to register to vote.
 - During Civic Engagement Week, 110 students completed a voter registration application.
 - Additionally, during Civic Engagement Week, over 2,000 students checked their voter status.
- Provided extended hours of operation with trained staff to support student voter registration during the week preceding the voter registration deadline for New York's general election in 2019.
- Updated Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education to include all of the required voter education information as per Election Law §5-211(18).
- First-year and transfer undergraduate students attending new student orientation during the month of January 2020 were offered an opportunity in person to register to vote with trained staff support.
 - In total, 11 opportunities to register voters were hosted as part of new student orientation and 567 students completed a voter registration application.
- Visited undergraduate, graduate, and professional student courses both in person and virtually from January 29 through February 13, 2020 to support students checking their voter status and updating their voter information.
 - In total, 77 undergraduate, graduate, and professional course visits were conducted, 691 students updated their voter information, and over 3,000 students checked their voter status.
- With the transition to remote instruction due to the COVID-19 outbreak, emails were sent to all students on April 1 and May 6, 2020 reminding them about New York's primary elections on June 23, 2020 and informing them about trained staff support available for registering to vote and requesting absentee ballot.
 - Upon request, students were provided with a printed voter registration application and pre-stamped envelope to send their completed application to their county's or state's board of elections.
 - In total, since April 1, 2020, 77 students requested a voter registration application, 742 students request an absentee ballot application, and 14 students requested information about voting in other states.
- The Center for Civic Justice and the Student Accessibility Support Center are the primary institutional units responsible for facilitating student voter registration. Opportunities for students to register to vote with these institutional units are regularly available during normal hours of operation.
 - If not more, these institutional units provide the same degree of assistance as required of other state agencies that provide voter education and registration services as per Election Law §5-211.

Section 2. Date-stamped screen shot of the webpage for voter education that contains the required voter participation information.



Alt Text: Date-stamped screen shot of Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education that contains the required voter participation information (Image 1 of 2)



Alt Text: Date-stamped screen shot of Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education that contains the required voter participation information (Image 2 of 2)

Direct link to webpage: https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/civicjustice/resources/voter_information

Section 3. Number of students who were registered for course work in the preceding twelve months at such institution, and number of clicks on the links to online voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

A. *Number of students who were registered for course work in the preceding twelve months at such institution.*

- For Fall 2019, 26,814 students were registered for course work.
- For Spring 2020, 25,576 students were registered for course work.

B. *Number of clicks on the links to online voter registration and absentee ballot applications. **

- Application for voter registration (English): 130
- Application for voter registration (Spanish): 24
- Application for absentee ballot (English): 0
- Application for absentee ballot (Spanish): 2

** Tracking clicks is from Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education. Started tracking the number of clicks on January 1, 2020 and is updated as of May 5, 2020.*

An majority of students receive their voter registration and absentee ballot applications through approaches that are in addition to Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education. See Sections 1 and 4 for more information about our approaches and the impact of our student voter registration and absentee ballot application efforts.

Section 4. Any other efforts or recommendations the institution plans to implement to improve access to voter registration and absentee ballot voting for students at the institution.

In addition to voter registration, Stony Brook University is fully committed student voter education and turnout. The following list includes some of the institution's ongoing non-partisan efforts to educate student voters and encourage student voter turnout from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020:

- Email was sent to all students on October 30, 2019 reminding them about New York's general election on November 5, 2019, as well as the opportunity to participate in early voting. The email included a checklist of things students should consider doing to prepare to vote (checking their voter status, confirming their polling location, finding out what will be on their ballot, etc.)
- Hosted a series of non-partisan educational and social activities on campus during the week preceding New York's general election to encourage students to make informed decisions when casting their ballot. Activities included learning about what will be on their ballot when they arrive to their polling location.
- Hosted a non-partisan Election Day celebration on campus on November 5, 2019 to serve as a reminder for students and to encourage student voter participation.
- During new student orientation in January 2020, piloted a civic engagement plan for students to complete, which included checking their voter status, updating their voter information, and identifying ways in which they might want to be civically engaged as part the Stony Brook University community.
- As per Election Law §5-211(18), email was sent to all students on January 29, 2020 informing them about Stony Brook University's commitment to supporting student voter registration. This email was devoted exclusively to voter registration. The email included the link to Stony Brook University's webpage for voter education, which includes applications for voter registration and absent ballot.

Moving forward, Stony Brook University is considering additional efforts to improve access to voter registration and absentee ballot voting for students. This is especially important as we continue to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our community and adapt our strategies accordingly:

- Establish a University-wide committee that will analyze all existing student voter registration, education, and participation initiatives; identify gaps in meeting the needs of all student voters; and coordinate new initiatives to meet these student voter needs.
- Continue to increase the accessibility of voter registration opportunities for all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students while meeting the needs of the individual student.
- Continue to document our efforts, highlight practices that are particularly effective, and share those better practices with other institutions in order to promote cross-institutional effectiveness.
- Continue to partner locally, regionally, and nationally with organizations and agencies that are committed to increasing student voter engagement through better practices.