

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF MISSOURI

# LOCAL POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT GUIDE 2019-20



**One of the most valuable things chapters of College Democrats can do is get involved and help their members get involved with local politics! Since most of us did not grow up where we are going to college, it may seem like a daunting task to figure out how to make these connections. Hopefully, this guide will help you navigate those problems and give you ideas for getting your chapter involved.**

## **CANVASS**

The number one way to make a district in local campaigns is by helping with Get Out the Vote efforts and knocking doors in Democratic candidates' districts! Check out the Democratic challengers in your area and see what you can do to help their campaign by contacting them on social media or through their website. Organizing a Phone Banking Event/Pizza Party/Canvassing Meetup for your chapter is a cheap and easy way to make a real difference!

## **CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

Most of you are located in counties with established Democratic Clubs. These tend to be the central hub for local politics and will serve as a great resource to you. State House and Senate candidates will generally have close ties to the county clubs and they can put you in contact with them. Also, they are almost always looking to get younger people involved and it can be a great way to help your members feel like a part of the community that they live in!

## **REACH OUT TO ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT REPRESENT CAMPUS**

Hopefully, these members will be Democrats and have a vested interest in your campus community! This can extend beyond the members that directly represent campus and can include the Representatives and Senators in areas where a lot of students live or even the whole town.

## **REGISTER STUDENTS TO VOTE**

This can make a HUGE difference for Democrats locally and across the state! The best time to do a voter registration drive is during the fall semester. College students tend to move around a lot, so this ensures that they will be registered to vote at the correct address come the November election. Registering to vote is super simple and you can get a stack of voter registration cards from your county clerk. Encourage students to register in your city and not

back home, because the likelihood of them going through the process of absentee voting is slim.

I am confident that all the Missouri College Democrats chapters will be an enormous help in securing the Blue Wave come November! Following this guide and getting involved locally should make it super easy for your members to stay plugged in.



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