



TEXAS A&M
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

**Texas A&M International University
Voter Friendly Campus Designation
End-of-Year Report**

January 31, 2023

Executive Summary

Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) is a selective admission Hispanic Serving Institution located on the border between Mexico and the United States, with an enrollment of over 8,500 students. We are, in fact, the four-year institution with the highest percentage Hispanic enrollment (95%) in the United States. The 2019-2022 student body includes 54.2% first-generation students, 61% female, and 81% of our students are Pell-Grant Recipients. While our TAMIU four-year graduation is 25% and our 6-year graduation rate is 47%, our first-year persistence rate is 79%: the highest of the regional institutions in the Texas A&M System. The University delivers over 80 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs.

Developed by our ALL-IN Taskforce members, TAMIU created a Campus Plan that outlined our university's voter education, registration and turnout efforts throughout the Spring 2022 and Fall 2022 academic semesters. The document was also meant to serve as a guide that provides structure for our campus partners and helps track our progress as an institution. With TAMIU's third year in participation of democratic engagement opportunities, campus plans such as this one offer an opportunity to track yearly progress and add revisions to established strategies. The document covered all of the democratic engagement opportunities that were to be hosted on campus for students and members of the community. While our plan serve as a starting point, this year required us to dramatically change our efforts given the COVID-19 pandemic. In many ways, this forced our task force to welcome in the 21st century and embrace technology in a way that we had not before.

TAMIU's mission aligns with democratic engagement values, as our institution aims to "prepare students for leadership roles in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society," as we strive to improve "the quality of lives for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities." A collaboration between universities and organizations like the Campus Vote Project and NASPA are vital for the removal of barriers that deter our young adults to participate in our democracy. Clearly, hosting and promotion of democratic engagement opportunities through this plan continues to be essential for the sustainment of an informed citizenry who engages in political action, specifically for young Hispanics, who have been historically underrepresented at the national level.

This report details what was planned and executed during the 2022 General Election to include the following:

- Coalitions built
- Goal Achievement
- Analysis of Work
- Looking Beyond 2022
- NSVLE Data

This report was put together by the TAMIU All-In Democracy Task Force Co-Chair Dr. Nicholas Hudson and staff member Pedro Rivera, as well as Democracy Fellow Angela Carranza.

Coalitions Built

Based on the leadership team from your campus plan, how did your coalition function throughout the fall semester? Did they follow through on the campus commitment to continue your democratic engagement work? Why was your coalition effective or not effective? How will it change for continued Democratic Engagement work, particularly focused on the mid-term elections?

- What other partners did you work with internally or externally? What was their role?
 - What role did students play in writing your campus plan?
 - Moving forward, how will you recruit students into the coalition? Who will be leading the coalition beyond 2022?
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TAMIU All-In Democracy Task Force Members

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Dr. Daniel De la Miyar, Co-Chair, UC | 15. Dr. Arthur Soto-Vasquez, COAS |
| 2. Dr. Nicholas Hudson, Co-Chair, Student Success | 16. Dr. Alfonso Vergaray, COAS |
| 3. Diego Collazo, Student Success | 17. Olinda Dominguez, CNHS |
| 4. Scheiby Gonzalez Fisher, Student Success | 18. Dr. Jason Norris, COED |
| 5. Glenn Herring, Student Success | 19. Preston Salazar, SGA President |
| 6. Priscilla Martinez, Student Success | 20. Jorge Chacon, SGA Vice President |
| 7. Christine Rojas, PRMIS | 21. Carolina Ramirez, SGA PAC |
| 8. Sean Saputo, Athletics | 22. Maxiliano Prado, SGA PAC |
| 9. Lilia P. Cantú, UC | 23. Ilse Rodriguez, Greek Council |
| 10. Dr. Haley Kazen, UC | 24. Alicia Huerta, Greek Council |
| 11. Dr. Irma Cantú, COAS | 25. Mayela Villarreal, CAB |
| 12. Dr. Jared Dmello, COAS | 26. Krystel Castillo, MOVE Texas |
| 13. Dr. Nilda Garcia, COAS | 27. Cecilia Jimenez, MOVE Texas |
| 14. Dr. Andrew Hazelton, COAS | 29. Ilse Mendez, Next Gen America |
| | 30. Arizbeth Espinoza, Democracy Fellow |
| | 31. Yulianna Laurencin, Democracy Fellow |

TAMIU's leadership team set clear goals before the beginning of the Fall '22 semester to ensure smooth navigation and execution of its campus plan.

Throughout the semester, TAMIU's leadership team met virtually on a bi-weekly basis. It must be noted that the majority of members in attendance were faculty and staff. The in-person dialogue between members quickly evolved into email conversations. Meetings were recorded and provided to members who were not in attendance in efforts of keeping all members updated. Students were active in conversations and activity execution, thereby ensuring they continued to play a central role in the activities of the task force.

TAMIU developed partnerships with various external resources such as the following: Campus Vote Project, All-In Democracy Project, Students Learn Students Vote, and Ask Every Student. We also partner with TurboVote and DemocracyWorks to provide students, faculty, staff and community members with opportunities to register to vote and develop a voting plan for the election. Additionally, we maintained a partnership with MOVE Texas non-profit organization to provide supplies to encourage engagement with students, as well as developed a new partnership with Next Gen America. We worked with our local TV stations, newspapers, Texas Public Radio and local radio stations to promote TAMIU's efforts for voter registration, voter education and voter turnout.

Our partnerships with MOVE Texas and Next Gen America were instrumental in achieving our goals. As a result of their partnership and the Memorandum of Understanding signed between our institution and these organizations, both were eligible for federal work study positions that would be housed under their main organization. This allows for students to get direct experience working on civic learning and democratic engagement. These organizations facilitated many of our on-campus voter registration, education and turnout events.

Regardless of these obstacles, TAMIU's leadership team continued finding innovative ways to continue its democratic engagement initiatives. While the new methods of communication between members were not what was originally expected, they provided a way to document dialogue on plans and goals. This, in turn, provided members with a clear vision of where we stood and where we were headed.

As with most institutions, there are a variety of moving parts that must be navigated in order to effect change and move the proverbial needle related to any institution work. Traversing a variety of agendas, personalities, interests and motivations always presenting an obstacle to the effective work of committees, including getting everyone on board with any plan. The pandemic added another layer of complexities that the committee had to navigate through. When evaluating the efforts of the committee/task force, it is important to keep these in the forefront as we ascertain whether we achieved the numerical count of strategic goals and coalitions.

While all of our colleges were invited to have participants, our Business School did not have participation. Additionally, the coalition leadership was intentional in developing working relationships and having specific student membership for organizations that would be best aligned with the coalitions work. These students did not fully have the bandwidth for fully participation. Upon reflection, it has been difficult to inspire students to become involved in the democratic process here in Laredo and at TAMIU.

Moving forward, our taskforce will be led by some familiar faces. We can continue counting on Dr. Nicholas Hudson's and Dr. Daniel de la Miyar's leadership this upcoming election cycle. Partnerships with our institution's student organizations are as strong as ever, with new members providing new perspectives and ideas and returning students bringing experience and drive to the table.

Overview

Based on your campus plan's executive summary, what were the main goals your campus had for carrying out democratic engagement in 2022? (Refer to your campus' Voter Friendly Campus plan.) Did your campus meet these goals? Why or why not?

- Did you have to adapt your action plan due to other unexpected situations?
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TAMIU's overall long-term goal in democratic engagement is to provide students with the tools necessary in becoming lifelong active citizens and community leaders. One of the main strategies to achieve this long-term goal is to institutionalize democratic engagement efforts in our campus' culture. During the 2022 calendar year, our campus conducted its 5th year in participation and execution of democratic engagement activities. Campus plans like the one developed for the 2022 cycle are essential in ushering the institutionalization of these efforts, as they provide a clear direction to follow. A clear direction, in turn, allows for certain democratic engagement efforts to be conducted on a semesterly basis. Another long-term goal is ensuring that our institution's efforts are student-led and incorporate our student organizations. While there was some input and involvement from some student organizations in the taskforce, it did not meet the level of engagement that was planned/hoped for. The coalition had to develop creative avenues to increase student participation, which was executed.

This academic year, TAMIU hoped to:

- Increase our 2018 voting rate by 8 percentage points, achieving a 50%
- Increase our 2018 registration rate by 7 percentage points, achieving an 85%
- Increase our 2018 voting rate of registered students by 10 percentage points, achieving a 64%
- Utilizing the 2020 NSLVE Data to target specific majors to increase their voter registration and turnout
- Increase voter registration and turnout rate in specific majors to all above 50%
 - Engineering 43%
 - Business 48%
 - CIS 48%
 - Foreign Language 49%
 - Humanities 43%
 - Fitness 40%
 - Physical Sciences 49%
- Host voter registration drives at all signature events
- Institutionalize MOU with Move Texas
- Create a scholarship and fundraise for scholarship for democratic engagement

To increase student participation and get a wide variety of student perspectives, the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement hosted a Social Media competition with student organizations. These organizations competed in a week's worth of activities to promote the deadline for voter registration, encourage students to develop a vote plan, promote coalition, etc. This proved to be quite effective in reaching a broader scope of students in passive programming. For additional information, see the attached documentation at the end of the report.

To increase voter education and turnout, we held a series of events throughout the Spring and Fall in conjunction with the Student Government Association Political Action Committee (PAC). This included several meet the candidates series events as well as voter registration efforts. At all signature events, including orientation, Welcome Week and other events throughout the year, we held voter registration

efforts. This also included hosting several voter turnout events, including Party at the Polls and Parade to the Polls.

We institutionalized the Memorandum of Understanding with MOVE Texas and Next Gen America to include work study students. This MOU allowed for these partner organizations to have access to space, enter into classrooms to provide class wraps, and to engage with students on a more frequent basis.

Additionally, we encouraged students to serve as Election Judges and Poll Workers to ensure that the City and County had enough volunteers and staff to have an effective election.

The success of our voter registration and voter turnout rates will not be able to be determined until the release of the 2022 NSLVE data.

We have been working with the Office of Institutional Advancement for the creation of the scholarship and identifying potential donors to endow the scholarship. Initial meetings were held throughout the year; however, this goal has not been completed.

Analysis of your work

There are four pillars of work for a well-rounded democratic engagement plan. Please describe how each of these programs were actualized, if they were successful, and what you learned, based on the strategy you outlined in your campus plan.

- Voter registration: How did your campus register students? How many students did you register?
 - Voter education: How did you provide students nonpartisan voting information?
 - Voter turnout: How did you encourage your students to vote on or before Election Day?
 - Student voting rights: How do you make sure students have access to voting? What successes or hurdles do student voters at your institution face?
 - How close did you get to achieving full voter participation?
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1). Voter Registration

Our traditional methods of campus-wide efforts and collaboration with student organizations and set up voter registration booths around campus, filling TAMIU with continuous messages to register to vote, were back in full force after the COVID-19 restrictions limited efforts in the last election cycle. To aid these efforts, we did the following:

1. Maintained a partnership with TurboVote and Democracy Works to have a specific website dedicated to TAMIU that is branded with TAMIU colors and messaging
2. Creation of a banner promoting Voter Registration on Blackboard Learning Management System main home page
3. Creation of internal messaging to all students, faculty and staff on internal TAMIU announcement website
4. Social Media campaign with student organizations creating videos challenging their peers to register to vote
5. Providing a voter registration form to all apartments and residence hall rooms at TAMIU with a centralized return date
6. Email and electronic message campaign to students via the TAMIU Trailblazers platform and the Division of Student Success
7. Infographic creation for faculty to deliver to their students in their own classes
8. Creation of Voting Matters videos
9. Creation of Screen Savers, emails, social media and posters throughout campus
10. Participation in National Voter Education Week (see attached)
11. “Dorm Storm” with Democracy Fellows and Resident Assistants placing flyers on each residents door to remind them to register to vote
12. National Voter Registration Day efforts at multiple locations throughout campus
13. Voter Registration events throughout orientation, Welcome Week and key events throughout the semester

This past election cycle, our taskforce hosted a National Voter Registration Day event with multiple locations throughout campus. Our partners participated in these activities as well. Multiple Voter Registration Drives were also hosted during the month of October. Through TurboVote, our institution was able to provide registration assistance to additional Dustdevils.

2). *Voter education*

Nonpartisan voting information was provided to our students in multiple manners. Our efforts began as early as Spring 2022, with Student Government Association PAC activities aimed at educating students around the March 2022 primary with their meet the candidate series. This continued into orientation programming including presentations about the importance of registering to vote and voting. These presentations also informed our incoming students about our taskforce's democratic engagement efforts and must-know dates. Throughout the semester, our taskforce was able to host multiple events revolving around the topic of nonpartisan voting information. Panels, such as our "Su Voto Su Voz: Impact of Latino and Youth Vote" event, had 50 Dustdevils in attendance.

Our voter education efforts included the following:

1. Meet the Candidate series
2. Orientation "Democratic Engagement" Presentations delivered by Orientation Leaders
3. Su Voto, Su Voz: Impact of Latino and Youth Vote event aimed at educating students around their power as Gen Z featuring multiple partner organizations
4. Dustdevils Vote Voter Guide Development delivered to all students (attached at end of report)
5. KGNS (TV), Laredo Morning Times, Texas Public Radio, and other media forms educating the public about voter registration and voting opportunities
6. Social media activities educating public on voter registration and turnout opportunities at TAMIU
7. Democracy Fellows creation of informational Voting Toolkit
8. Dustdevils Vote Voting Kahoot
9. Candidate Townhalls (Mayoral and City Council races)
10. Election Night Watch Party
11. Participation in National Voter Education Week (see attached)

3). *Voter turnout*

Voter turnout was a focal point for this cycle's taskforce. Our taskforce concluded that the most effective way to encourage students to vote was to inform them about the importance of voting and the opportunity to vote on campus. Information about the dates and locations for early voting and voting on campus were provided to students completing their orientation during the summer. Furthermore, this information was also distributed through videos, screen savers, mass emails, posters, and social media. Information about voter registration was also shared in this manner. We hosted "Party at the Polls" during TAMIU Early Voting to answer questions and get folks to the polls. Partner agencies and student organizations hosted booths around campus to create a carnival like atmosphere, complete with a dunk tank. We encouraged faculty to end their classes early and provide time and space to have students head to the polls during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Student-led and student-focused initiatives kept voter turnout at the forefront of the campus community's attention. Voter turnout was also a focus for a continued project: our "TAMIU Votes" Student Org Competition. Our TAMIU Votes competition made democratic engagement among our student organizations fun, incorporating challenges and social media activity.

TAMIU Voter Turnout efforts included the following:

1. Early Voting and Election Day TAMIU "Party at the Polls" table to answer questions. Table included merchandise/giveaways. Student organizations hosted tables with activities. Partner organizations hosted tables with activities and food. Dunk tank to dunk staff and students.

2. Whiteboard storming throughout campus to encourage students to vote
3. Email sent to faculty through Deans and Faculty Senate to encourage faculty to end class early during TAMIU Early Voting days and forwarded on to all faculty
4. Flyers distributed to all attendees of Campus Activities Board Halloween Fest event (1000 attendees)
5. KGNS (TV), Laredo Morning Times, El Manana, Texas Public Radio, and other media forms educating the public about voter registration and voting opportunities
6. Dustdevils Vote Voter Guide Development delivered to all students (attached at end of report)
7. TAMIU TurboVote website texting those that signed up information about their voting location
8. "Dorm Storm" with Democracy Fellows and Resident Assistants placing flyers on each residents door to remind them to vote
9. Participation in National Voter Education Week (see attached)
10. Social media activities educating public on turnout opportunities at TAMIU
11. KGNS (TV), Laredo Morning Times, Texas Public Radio, and other media forms educating the public about voting opportunities at TAMIU
12. Centralized messaging from University and University President on Voting Locations and Necessity to participate in election

4). Student voting rights

Our institution is fortunate enough to count with both, an Early Voting site and an Election Day site. Due to recent changes in Texas election law, our campus served as a permanent early voting site. All registered voters could vote at any of the permanent early voting sites and on our campus on Election Day due to a waiver granted by the Texas Secretary of State. This makes our institution a place where students and members of the community can exercise their right to vote. Promotion of these dates and sites is essential, and our taskforce collaborated with our institution's Public Relations team to inform the public about this. Furthermore, information about these sites was also made available on the Internet and social media by other parties. TurboVote also aided individuals to vote by mail. This provides students from outside our community or state the opportunity to make their voices heard back home. In the future, constant promotion of voting-by-mail will be conducted by our taskforce, with a focus on our nonresident students.

5). Full voter participation?

It is unclear how close we were to achieving full voter participation. We currently do not have access to our NSLVE data, so it is difficult to calculate how close (or far) we were to this goal. Keeping the current situation in mind, however, our voter participation can best be described as "fair". Lines outside our polls still developed, a good sign in cases like this. Voter participation for the City of Laredo reached 40% overall. We anticipate a similar voting rate to the 2018 midterm elections for TAMIU students.

Successes

What are your institution's top successes (up to 3) of your democratic engagement efforts in 2022?

- How did you measure these efforts to assess for success?
 - What campus climate factors and other institution-wide efforts helped you achieve your goals?
 - How do you plan to report these successes to campus stakeholders?
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One of the major successes we had was the long-term Memorandum of Understanding signed between the institution and the partner agencies: MOVE Texas and Next Gen America. This allows for institutional support at a deeper and more meaningful level than had historically taken place. Given the institution's support for democratic engagement, these partnerships that provide support to our students allows for students to not only receive experiential learning opportunities, but also to see outside organizations participate in solidifying their commitment to the democratic experiment.

Another major success was the continuation of student-led programming aimed towards Generation Z. The changing needs of Generation Z requires our institution to be innovative with programming, creating "snackable" content that is easily digestible by current students. We were forced to create content that was eye-catching and memorable. The Social Media contest, for example, yielded substantial engagement of over 8,000 impressions on the varying videos and posts across a variety of platforms. All of this was student-led and created content. The reach went beyond the TAMIU campus community and could be felt in the community at-large. Additionally, the Student Government Association Political Action Committee held a series of Meet the Candidate Series and Candidate Townhalls that informed not only the TAMIU community on candidates, but also the larger public, bridging the town-gown relationship. The centralized support by the Student Government Association has allowed for more student-led programming and relieved the undue pressures from institutional offices already stretched thin.

Measuring these successes are achieved through a combination of quantitative and qualitative efforts. Most of the results are buttressed by hard data, including the social media impressions provided to us by the students, the number of users who signed up to utilize TurboVote, and the website traffic gained, amongst others. Others results were discussed collectively as a Task Force, a reflective exercise that allowed for qualitative analysis, especially on the programmatic efforts beyond sheer number of attendees and participants. We were able to learn from these conversations to ensure that the same mistakes were not duplicated.

Our campus partners were constantly updated with developments and results of our initiatives throughout the year. Communication through email and virtual platforms made it easy to share information. Furthermore, we maintain a centralized repository of democratic engagement initiatives, including campus plans, reports and engagement activities on the internet. Once we receive our 2022 NSLVE report, this information will be displayed under our Democratic Engagement tab on the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement's website, the centralized repository for all information related to democratic engagement. Under this tab, users can find information on voting resources, getting involved (joining our taskforce), registering to vote, and our resources and campus plans. The plan is to create another university-wide website that will contain all of these efforts as we move forward.

Additional university-wide promotion of organizational efforts have been promoted through university announcements and stories related to the impact of the work. This will continue throughout the upcoming years.

Barriers

What are your institution's barriers (up to 3) faced in implementing your goals for democratic engagement work in 2022, as outlined in your campus plan?

- What can partners do to help you overcome these barriers?
 - To what extent did you achieve the goals that you set out in your campus plan?
 - What campus climate factors and other institution-wide efforts were barriers to you achieving your goals?
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The first barrier that our campus tried to overcome was the lack of student engagement and participation within the taskforce itself. While the participation of individual students in our taskforce's events (voter registration drives, panels, events, and actual voting) has been markedly high, participation of students in the taskforce is not where we would like it to be. Students who did volunteer to serve on the Task Force rarely attended the meetings and if they did attend, they did not add substantively to the conversation. An increase in individual students (non-members of student organizations) joining our taskforce would be beneficial. While we have had a fair amount of student and student organization participation in the taskforce itself, an increase in the membership of student organizations in our taskforce would also be beneficial. Not only would our promotional efforts be greater, additional student feedback would be beneficial for developing more efficient campus plans tailored to their specific needs. Having our current student organization members recruit individual students and student orgs is an effective strategy to increase their participation. Another option would be to have the faculty and staff taskforce members reach out to the organization they are advisors for. Student engagement and participation at TAMIU has consistently been a challenge across the board. Our coalition partners and other partners, including external partners, could provide the greatest level of assistance with our efforts to broaden the reach of student participation on the task force.

Another barrier to the Task Force's efforts is the continued rigidity of the Webb County Registrar's Office and the State of Texas voter registration and turnout impediments in general. This has created an undue burden on our efforts comparative to those nation-wide. In order to register voters in Texas, one must be a Deputy Voter Registrar and certified in their particular county. Due to changes made during COVID-19, the Webb County Registrar would only host individual meetings for this certification, wherein the past they did a joint in-person training for our campus as we attempted to get many students deputized. The Webb County Registrar resisted efforts to move towards virtual training/certification, whereas other County Registrars allowed this.

The final barrier is overall faculty support across all colleges and schools here at the institution. There was ample support from one college in particular; however, the Task Force faced difficulties in getting additional support from colleges/schools. It is vital that we not only include their voices but as we attempt to address lower-voter rates for specific majors, it is imperative that we achieve broad-based support from faculty. We also experienced faculty resistance to in-class presentations on democratic engagement. A final note related to this is the lack of institutional support for the direction of democratic engagement at the institution. Many of the efforts are directed by the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement without further resources to assist in the implementation of the plan.

Beyond 2022

Local and state elections, legislative issues, and other democratic engagement activities should take place year round. Looking into 2023 and future years, how do you plan on continuing to engage and educate students about the democratic process? What steps is your campus taking to prepare for the 2024 mid-term elections?

The development and execution of a campus plan is an effective way to engage and educate students about the democratic process. While the 2022 Campus Plan was developed with the 2022 Presidential and General Elections in mind, we are astutely aware of the implications of having a well-informed and democratically engaged student population. As such, the efforts of the TAMIU All-In Democracy Task Force will continue moving forward. While we may not meet on as frequent of a basis during the 2023 calendar year, the work will continue nonetheless. It is the intention of the TAMIU All-In Democracy Task Force that we begin some of the institutionalization of the task forces efforts by focusing on the following areas for 2023:

- Institutionalization of democratic engagement principles into the upcoming university strategic plan initiatives
- Institutionalization of democratic engagement activities into the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership, and Engagement as the main university office to ensure university-wide activation and activities
- Institutionalization of democratic engagement commitment into academic and university systems, including syllabi and a sole website dedicated to university-wide initiatives
- Recognition of existing democratic engagement activities and successes through promotional efforts
- Institutionalization of democratic engagement efforts through creation of student award for democratic engagement
- Preparing for the 2024 presidential elections through creation of a 2024 campus plan, educational efforts and administrative authorizations
- Convening of the Task Force earlier in Spring 2023 to develop the plan and get all on board
- Developing additional service-learning opportunities related to democratic engagement
- Target specific majors through educating advisors and faculty in those specific areas

NSLVE Data

- When you receive your campuses' NSLVE report, what plans are in place with your coalition to evaluate this data and to inform future initiatives?
 - How will you use information about participation based on demographic characteristics such as gender, race, and ethnicity to inform future efforts?
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As the coalition is a continuing body, once we receive the NSLVE report, the plan is to discuss the data contained therein and fully dissect the data to determine where there may be areas for improvement and where there were successes. Did our voter registration efforts yield substantive gains or did our turnout increase or decrease? While the report may not fully elucidate the information needed to make the determination whether our efforts were successful or not, we can infer whether our efforts had any significant impact on the overall democratic engagement of fellow Dustdevils.

As with any post-mortem data deep dive, it is important to differentiate between the differing characteristics of our student population. At TAMIU, this is a little more complex than at other institutions. We are quite homogenous in race and ethnicity, as over 95% of students self identify as Latino/Hispanic. We know our participation rates for this historically underrepresented population is quite high comparative to our other counterparts nationwide. We plan to look at the aggregated information by major and by year classification as a way to determine how and where we should focus our resources moving forward. We want to ensure that TAMIU students, across all educational classifications and majors, are participating in the democratic process.

2022 TAMIU STUDENT
VOTER GUIDE



**YOUR
VOICE.
YOUR
VOTE.**

TAMIU Voting Location

Western Hemispheric Trade Center Lobby

October 24 - 28 8:00am - 5:00pm

October 29 8:00am - 8:00pm

October 30 12:00pm - 6:00pm

October 31- November 4 8:00am - 8:00pm

November 8 8:00am - 7:00pm



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Fellow Dustdevils,

In 2022, Gen Z (that's you) will make up 10% of eligible voters and Millennials (that may also be you) will make up 27% of the electorate. In the 2020 elections, young voters turned out in record numbers.

Young voters have the power to change elections. But less than half of voters age 18-24 are registered to vote and voter turnout for youth voters remains lower than other age groups- even with the increased voting participation rates in 2020. At TAMIU, we have a history of voting and continue to increase in voter turnout, defying the statistics about youth participation. TAMIU students voted at higher rates than the rest of Webb County and other institutions across the country. In fact, TAMIU students who are registered to vote turnout to vote at more than 70%.

College voting matters! **Your voice matters!** Make sure you head to the polls this election to ensure that your voice and your vote counts in this election. Whatever your causes or values may be, we can all agree that having students vote and participate in the democratic process is one of the most important duties we as Dustdevils can do as active and engaged global citizens.

The TAMIU All-In Democracy Task Force, in conjunction with the TAMIU Student Government Association and the Office of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement, created this 2022 TAMIU Student Voter Guide filled with resources to help you participate in democracy this November. Review the resources as they will help you become an informed voter. This guide is non-partisan and explains what the different positions that you will see on the ballot. There are links to other county resources as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the [Student Government Association](#) or the [Office of Student Orientation, Leadership and Engagement](#) for assistance. Please review the [Democratic Engagement](#) tab on the SOLE Website for additional information if needed.

Whether this is your first time voting or your tenth, we know that this can be a daunting task, but it is up to you to exercise your right to vote. Ensure that you have a say in who will be the next leaders of our school boards, city, county, state and federal governments.

Happy voting,

Dr. Nicholas Hudson
Co-Chair, TAMIU All-In Task Force

Dr. Daniel De La Miyar
Co-Chair, TAMIU All-In Task Force

5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041 TAMIU.EDU



TAMIU ALL-IN TASKFORCE



TAMIU EARLY VOTE DATES

MON. OCT. 24, 2022 - FRI. OCT. 28, 2022

8:00AM - 5:00PM

SAT. OCT. 29, 2022

8:00AM - 8:00PM

SUN. OCT. 30, 2022

12:00PM - 6:00PM

MON. OCT. 31, 2022 - FRI. NOV. 4, 2022

8:00AM - 8:00PM

WESTERN HEMISPHERIC TRADE CENTER LOBBY

Make your voice heard!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ORIENTATION, LEADERSHIP
AND ENGAGEMENT
956.326.2280
SOLE@TAMIU.EDU

Important Voting Related Links

Below, you will find important external links to better assist you as you navigate through your voting experience.

[Early Voting Locations](#)

[Election Day Locations](#)

[Sample Ballots](#) (find your precinct)

[Find out if you are registered](#)

[Voter ID Requirements](#)

[Locate Your Precinct](#) (where you will vote on Election Day)

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Webb County Elections Administrator Office: 956-523-4050.

WHY DOES VOTING MATTER?

#DUSTDEVILSVOTE

VOTING IS POWER

VOTING IS COMMUNITY CARE

VOTING CREATES A BETTER TOMORROW

VOTING ENSURES OUR DEMOCRACY WORKS

**VOTING HONORS THE LEGACY OF CIVIL RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR RIGHT TO VOTE**

Non-Voters are Scary!





Be #VotePlanReady

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

You're more likely to vote if you **have a plan**. Knowing how and when you're voting, and what you need to bring with you, makes voting easy. Today, we're helping you make a plan to vote this November.

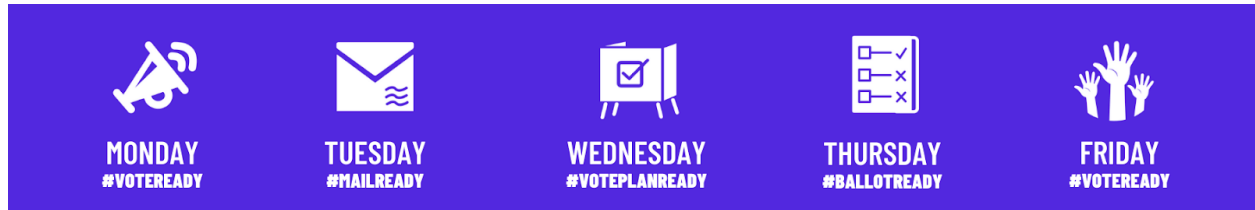
Voting matters, and making a plan means you won't leave these important choices that impact you, your loved ones, and your community, up to chance. **Voters often cite conflicts or busy schedules as key reasons why they don't vote, so build voting into your calendar today.** If you're able to vote early, do so — to take advantage of greater flexibility, shorter lines, managing your own schedule, and reducing crowds. It's a win-win for you, your loved ones, and your community.

When you vote matters. Whether you're voting by mail, voting early or on Election Day, make sure you've got your plan down. If you're voting in person, make sure you've confirmed the hours for your polling place, which may vary. If you get to your polling place late in the day, lines might be longer. Show up early, save time, and make sure you don't plan to vote after work if your polling place closes early.

If you are in line by the time the polls close, you can still vote. **Voting is a right, and you have the right to stay in line.**

Where do you vote? Your voting location is your voting precinct — in some cases these locations are still being finalized by counties and municipalities. Early voting locations often differ from election day voting sites, so make sure you're informed and look up your voting location [here](#).

If you feel uncomfortable or are having trouble casting your ballot, call the Election Protection Hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE** or tweet **@866OURVOTE**. Voting is your right, the election protection hotline can help.





#TAMIUVOTES

VOTING IS EASY!

- 1) Head to the polls with your State ID, mask, pen and pencil. You will sign your name in pen and get an "I VOTED" sticker. Keep your phone on silent while at the voting location.**
- 2) Get your ballot, head to voting booth and select the candidate you choose for each position on the touchscreen.**
- 3) Place your completed ballot in the secure machine as you head to the exit.**

Make your voice heard!





Be #BallotReady

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

We're more likely to vote, and vote confidently, if we know what's on our ballot. Learn what's on your ballot by getting to know your options for candidates, constitutional amendments, local referendums, and ballot initiatives.

What's on your ballot? Ballot options range from local offices like school boards, to state roles like governor, to federal ones like US Senators and members of the US House of Representatives. State and local elections can shape your life

much more immediately than federal choices, so make sure you vote in every national, state, and local election! You might have the chance to shape policy even more directly through ballot measures and referendums.

Many different elected positions might be on your ballot, and might include: the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, State Supreme Court Justices, Comptroller, Treasurer, State Senators, State Legislators, School board, Mayor, town or city council members, county commissioner, etc.

Elections are also moments for big policy decisions specific to your community, county, or state. They can be called ballot measures, referenda, constitutional amendments, propositions, and more. These issues and options are typically direct policy decisions, and can have a profound impact on your community. Make your voice heard!

Ready to find out what's on your ballot? Go to Ballotpedia.org to see what's on your ballot, or visit your local elections office to see a sample ballot for your community to know exactly what's on your ballot, and how it will look, before your vote. Bring your sample ballot with you to the voting booth as a guide on election day, there's no need to make guesses about legal or legislative jargon!

For any issues, questions, or concerns about ballot inaccuracies, call or contact the Election Protection Hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE** or tweet **@866OURVOTE**.



Official Ballot Positions – November 8th, 2022, General Election

Webb County, City of Laredo, Laredo College,
Laredo ISD, United ISD, Webb Consolidated ISD

Federal

- **United States Representative, District 28-** also known as congressmen and congresswomen, are elected officials who represent specific congressional districts within a state, defined by population and are elected to two-year terms.

State

- **Governor** - is the chief executive of the state and is elected by the citizens every four years. The governor must be at least 30 years old and a resident of Texas for five years immediately before the election.
- **Lieutenant Governor** - second-highest executive office in the government of Texas, a state in the U.S. It is the second most powerful post in Texas government because its occupant controls the work of the Texas Senate and controls the budgeting process as a leader of the Legislative Budget Board.
- **Attorney General** - Defending the State of Texas and its duly enacted laws by providing legal representation to the State, its officials and agencies, rendering legal opinions, reviewing bonds of public security, and ensuring compliance with the Texas Public Information Act.
- **Comptroller of Public Accounts** - the central accounting officer or chief fiscal officer of the state, and as such is responsible for maintaining effective methods for accounting for the state's funds. He or she is the state's principal tax administrator and collector of tax revenue.
- **Commissioner of the General Land Office** - manages state lands, operates the Alamo, helps Texans recovering from natural disasters, helps fund Texas public education through the Permanent School Fund, provides benefits to Texas Veterans, and manages the vast Texas coast.
- **Commissioner of Agriculture** – The Department of Agriculture is under the direction of the commissioner of agriculture, who is responsible for exercising the powers and performing the duties assigned to the department by this code or other law
- **Railroad Commissioner-** is the state agency that regulates the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining.
- **Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3** - eight justices, the Supreme Court of Texas is the court of last resort for civil matters in the state. ... Supreme Court justices are elected to staggered six-year terms in statewide elections.
- **Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5** - eight justices, the Supreme Court of Texas is the court of last resort for civil matters in the state. ... Supreme Court justices are elected to staggered six-year terms in statewide elections.
- **Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9** - eight justices, the Supreme Court of Texas is the court of last resort for civil matters in the state. ... Supreme Court justices are elected to staggered six-year terms in statewide elections.
- **Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 5** The court is composed of a presiding judge and eight judges. Each judge serves a six-year term, hears appeals from people who were convicted or pleaded guilty and were sentenced by a Supreme or District court judge, also hears appeals lodged by The Crown against the severity of a sentence.

- **Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 6** The court is composed of a presiding judge and eight judges. Each judge serves a six-year term, hears appeals from people who were convicted or pleaded guilty and were sentenced by a Supreme or District court judge, also hears appeals lodged by The Crown against the severity of a sentence.
- **Member, State Board of Education, District 1** There are 15 state Board of Education members who are elected by Texans to four-year terms of office. Each member represents about 1.8 million Texans. The board members are listed by district below. The State Board of Education (SBOE) sets policies and standards for Texas public schools.
- **State Senator, District 21** - represent certain districts within their own state, so only residents in those areas can vote for them, serve in the state legislature, and serve four years.
- **State Representative, District 42** - Members of the Texas House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are not subject to term limits. Texas legislators assume office at the beginning of the legislative session (January).
- **Chief justice, 4th Court of Appeals District, Place 6-** The Fourth Court of Appeals is comprised of seven Justices who hear cases from thirty-two counties located in South Texas and the Texas Hill Country.
- **Chief justice, 4th Court of Appeals District, Place 7-** The Fourth Court of Appeals is comprised of seven Justices who hear cases from thirty-two counties located in South Texas and the Texas Hill Country.

County (Webb)

- **County Attorney** - Represents the state in prosecuting misdemeanor criminal cases. Works with law enforcement officers in the investigation of criminal cases. Provides legal advice to the Commissioners Court and to other elected officials.
- **Sheriff** - acts as a conservator of the peace and the executive officer of the county and district courts, serve writs and processes of the courts, seizes property after judgment, enforce traffic laws on county roads and supervises the county jail and prisoners
- **County Tax Assessor-Collector** - The tax assessor-collector calculates property tax rates for the county, collects taxes for the county (and sometimes for additional local taxing entities) and collects various other fees for the state and county.
- **County Commissioner, Precinct No.1** each serve as the road and bridge administrator in their precinct. Other responsibilities include reviewing and approving subdivision platting and wastewater treatment for rural areas. Some commissioners are also responsible for providing rural ambulance services and subsidizing rural fire protection
- **Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1, Place 1-** presides over the justice court in cases involving misdemeanors, small civil disputes, landlord/tenant disputes and more. They also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies.
- **Constable-** A constable is a licensed peace officer and performs various law enforcement functions. They also serve legal documents and perform other duties.

Local (Laredo)

- **Mayor** - the chief executive officer of the municipality. The mayor shall always actively ensure that the laws and ordinances of the municipality are properly carried out. The mayor shall perform the duties and exercise the powers prescribed by the governing body of the municipality.
- **Municipal Court Judge** - a public official appointed to decide cases in a court of law.

- **Councilmember, District I, City of Laredo-** This district covers the southeast corner of Laredo. It runs side-by-side with District 3 and ends south of the city at Mangana Hein Rd. District 1 has a population of about 30,000 people and is considered one of the fastest growing areas in Laredo. District 1 has 1 fire station and two police substations, five elementary schools, three middle schools and three high schools.
- **Councilmember, District II, City of Laredo-** This district covers parts of east and central Laredo. It is above District 1 and next to District 3. This district has seen major industrial and residential development in the past few years. Some of the amenities of District1 are: 1 baseball field, 3 tennis courts, basketball court, sisters of mercy waterpark, and las Misiones Park.
- **Councilmember, District III, City of Laredo-** This district covers the southwest corner of Laredo as well as most of south Laredo. It runs much farther south than District 1, which is on its right. Its unique elements make it a great place to live. Those natural elements come in the form of the Chacon-Creek and bike trail, an ever-growing network of trails with a Mexican free-tailed bat colony located in the creek under the Meadow Avenue overpass. This district also contains a slaughter park, and a major sports complex with soccer and baseball fields.
- **Councilmember, District VI, City of Laredo-** District 6 covers the vast majority of North and Northeast Laredo east of IH35 and the district is anchored by the jewel of District 6, North Central Park. This wonderful park has a network of trails, a playground, a pool complex, reflection pond and even a new disc golf course for you to enjoy.

United Independent School District

- **Trustee, United ISD-** make decisions on a wide range of issues, such as hiring and evaluating a superintendent and treasurer; setting district policy; planning student services; goal-setting and long-range planning; adopting curriculum; establishing budgets; engaging parents; being good fiscal stewards; acting in the best interest of the school district and within the scope of their legal authority; and creating community relations programs

Laredo Independent School District

- **Trustee, Laredo ISD-** make decisions on a wide range of issues, such as hiring and evaluating a superintendent and treasurer; setting district policy; planning student services; goal-setting and long-range planning; adopting curriculum; establishing budgets; engaging parents; being good fiscal stewards; acting in the best interest of the school district and within the scope of their legal authority; and creating community relations programs

Laredo College

- **Trustee, Laredo College-** The Laredo College District Board of Trustees is the official governing body of the district. The Board has the final authority to determine and interpret the policies that govern the college district and, within the limits imposed by other legal authorities, has complete and full control of the college district.

*Condado de Webb, Ciudad de Laredo, Colegio de Laredo,
Laredo ISD, United ISD, y Webb Consolidado ISD)
3 de Noviembre de 2020*

Federal

Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito 28: también conocidos como congresistas y congresistas, son funcionarios electos que representan distritos electorales específicos dentro de un estado, definidos por población y son elegidos por períodos de dos años.

Estado

Gobernador: es el jefe ejecutivo del estado y es elegido por los ciudadanos cada cuatro años. El gobernador debe tener al menos 30 años de edad y ser residente de Texas durante cinco años inmediatamente antes de la elección.

Vicegobernador: segundo cargo ejecutivo más alto en el gobierno de Texas, un estado de los EE. UU. Es el segundo cargo más poderoso en el gobierno de Texas porque su ocupante controla el trabajo del Senado de Texas y controla el proceso presupuestario como líder del Junta de Presupuesto Legislativo.

Procurador General - Defender el Estado de Texas y sus leyes debidamente promulgadas brindando representación legal al Estado, sus funcionarios y agencias, brindando opiniones legales, revisando los bonos de seguridad pública y asegurando el cumplimiento de la Ley de Información Pública de Texas.

Contralor de Cuentas Públicas: el funcionario central de contabilidad o el principal funcionario fiscal del estado y, como tal, es responsable de mantener métodos efectivos para contabilizar los fondos del estado. Él o ella es el principal administrador de impuestos del estado y recaudador de ingresos fiscales.

Comisionado de la Oficina General de Tierras: administra tierras estatales, opera el Álamo, ayuda a los tejanos a recuperarse de desastres naturales, ayuda a financiar la educación pública de Texas a través del Fondo Escolar Permanente, brinda beneficios a los veteranos de Texas y administra la vasta costa de Texas.

Comisionado de Agricultura: el Departamento de Agricultura está bajo la dirección del comisionado de agricultura, quien es responsable de ejercer los poderes y realizar las funciones asignadas al departamento por este código u otra ley.

Comisionado de Ferrocarriles: es la agencia estatal que regula la industria del petróleo y el gas, los servicios públicos de gas, la seguridad de las tuberías, la seguridad en la industria del gas licuado de petróleo y la extracción de carbón y uranio a cielo abierto.

Juez, Tribunal Supremo, lugar 3: ocho jueces, el Tribunal Supremo de Texas es el tribunal de última instancia para asuntos civiles en el estado. ... Los jueces de la Corte Suprema son elegidos para mandatos escalonados de seis años en elecciones estatales.

Juez, Corte Suprema, lugar 5: ocho jueces, la Corte Suprema de Texas es el tribunal de último recurso para asuntos civiles en el estado. ... Los jueces de la Corte Suprema son elegidos para mandatos escalonados de seis años en elecciones estatales.

Juez, Corte Suprema, lugar 9: ocho jueces, la Corte Suprema de Texas es el tribunal de último recurso para asuntos civiles en el estado. ... Los jueces de la Corte Suprema son elegidos para mandatos escalonados de seis años en elecciones estatales.

Juez, Tribunal de Apelaciones en lo Penal Lugar 5: El tribunal está compuesto por un juez presidente y ocho jueces. Cada juez cumple un mandato de seis años, escucha apelaciones de personas que fueron condenadas o se declararon culpables y fueron sentenciadas por un juez de la corte suprema o de distrito, también escucha apelaciones presentadas por The Crown contra la severidad de una sentencia.

Juez, Tribunal de Apelaciones en lo Penal Lugar 6: El tribunal está compuesto por un juez presidente y ocho jueces. Cada juez cumple un mandato de seis años, escucha apelaciones de personas que fueron condenadas o se declararon culpables y fueron sentenciadas por un juez de la corte suprema o de distrito, también escucha apelaciones presentadas por The Crown contra la severidad de una sentencia.

Miembro, Junta Estatal de Educación, Distrito 1: Hay 15 miembros de la Junta Estatal de Educación que son elegidos por los tejanos para mandatos de cuatro años. Cada miembro representa alrededor de 1,8 millones de tejanos. Los miembros de la junta se enumeran por distrito a continuación. La Junta Estatal de Educación (SBOE) establece políticas y normas para las escuelas públicas de Texas.

Senador estatal, Distrito 21: representan ciertos distritos dentro de su propio estado, por lo que solo los residentes en esas áreas pueden votar por ellos, servir en la legislatura estatal y servir durante cuatro años.

Representante Estatal, Distrito 42: Los miembros de la Cámara de Representantes de Texas sirven mandatos de dos años y no están sujetos a límites de mandato. Los legisladores de Texas asumen sus cargos al comienzo de la sesión legislativa (enero).

Presidente del Tribunal Supremo, 4º Tribunal de Distrito de Apelaciones, lugar 6: el Cuarto Tribunal de Apelaciones está compuesto por siete jueces que escuchan casos de treinta y dos condados ubicados en el sur de Texas y Texas Hill Country.

Presidente del Tribunal Supremo, 4º Tribunal de Distrito de Apelaciones, lugar 7: el Cuarto Tribunal de Apelaciones está compuesto por siete jueces que escuchan casos de treinta y dos condados ubicados en el sur de Texas y Texas Hill Country.

Condado (Webb)

Fiscal del condado: representa al estado en el procesamiento de casos penales de delitos menores. Trabaja con los agentes del orden en la investigación de casos penales. Brinda asesoría legal al Tribunal de Comisionados y a otros funcionarios electos.

Alguacil: actúa como guardián de la paz y como oficial ejecutivo de los tribunales del condado y del distrito, entrega órdenes y procesos de los tribunales, confisca la propiedad después del juicio, hace cumplir las leyes de tránsito en las carreteras del condado y supervisa la cárcel y los prisioneros del condado.

Asesor-recaudador de impuestos del condado: el asesor-recaudador de impuestos calcula las tasas de impuestos a la propiedad para el condado, recauda impuestos para el condado (y algunas veces para entidades tributarias locales adicionales) y recauda otras tarifas para el estado y el condado.

El Comisionado del Condado, Precinto No.1 sirve como administrador de carreteras y puentes en su precinto. Otras responsabilidades incluyen revisar y aprobar la planificación de subdivisiones y el tratamiento de aguas residuales para áreas rurales. Algunos comisionados también son responsables de proporcionar servicios de ambulancia rural y subsidiar la protección contra incendios rurales.

Juez de Paz, Precinto No. 1, Lugar 1- preside el tribunal de justicia en casos que involucran delitos menores, disputas civiles menores, disputas entre propietarios e inquilinos y más. También realizan investigaciones y pueden realizar ceremonias matrimoniales.

Alguacil, Precinto No. 1 - Un alguacil es un oficial de policía con licencia y realiza varias funciones de aplicación de la ley. También sirven documentos legales y realizan otras funciones.

Local (Laredo)

Alcalde - el director ejecutivo del municipio. El alcalde velará siempre activamente por el debido cumplimiento de las leyes y ordenanzas del municipio. El alcalde desempeñará las funciones y ejercerá las facultades que le señale el órgano de gobierno del municipio.

Juez de Tribunal Municipal - un funcionario público designado para decidir casos en un tribunal de justicia.

Concejal, Distrito I, Ciudad de Laredo- Este distrito cubre la esquina sureste de Laredo. Corre lado a lado con el Distrito 3 y termina al sur de la ciudad en Mangana Hein Rd. El Distrito 1 tiene una población de alrededor de 30,000 personas y se considera una de las áreas de más rápido crecimiento en Laredo. El distrito 1 tiene 1 estación de bomberos y dos subestaciones de policía, cinco escuelas primarias, tres escuelas intermedias y tres escuelas secundarias.

Concejal, Distrito II, Ciudad de Laredo- Este distrito cubre partes del este y centro de Laredo. Está sobre el Distrito 1 y al lado del Distrito 3. Este distrito ha experimentado un importante desarrollo industrial y residencial en los últimos años. Algunas de las comodidades del Distrito 1 son: 1 campo de béisbol, 3 canchas de tenis, cancha de baloncesto, parque acuático Sisters of Mercy y el Parque Las Misiones.

Concejal, Distrito III, Ciudad de Laredo: Este distrito cubre la esquina suroeste de Laredo, así como la mayor parte del sur de Laredo. Corre mucho más al sur que el Distrito 1, que está a su derecha. Sus elementos únicos lo convierten en un excelente lugar para vivir. Esos elementos naturales vienen en forma de Chacon-Creek y sendero para bicicletas, una red de senderos en constante crecimiento con una colonia de murciélagos mexicanos de cola libre ubicada en el arroyo debajo del paso elevado de Meadow Avenue. Este distrito también contiene un parque de faena y un importante complejo deportivo con canchas de fútbol y béisbol

Concejal, Distrito VI, Ciudad de Laredo- El Distrito 6 cubre la gran mayoría del norte y noreste de Laredo al este de la IH35 y el distrito está anclado por la joya del Distrito 6, North Central Park. Este maravilloso parque tiene una red de senderos, un parque infantil, un complejo de piscinas, un estanque de reflexión e incluso un nuevo campo de golf de disco para que disfrutes.

Distrito Escolar Independiente Unido

Fideicomisario, United ISD: toma decisiones sobre una amplia gama de asuntos, como contratar y evaluar a un superintendente y tesorero; establecer la política del distrito; planificación de servicios para estudiantes; establecimiento de objetivos y planificación a largo plazo; adoptar un plan de estudios;

establecer presupuestos; involucrar a los padres; ser buenos administradores fiscales; actuar en el mejor interés del distrito escolar y dentro del alcance de su autoridad legal; y creando programas de relaciones comunitarias

Distrito Escolar Independiente de Laredo

Fideicomisario, Laredo ISD: toma decisiones sobre una amplia gama de asuntos, como contratar y evaluar a un superintendente y tesorero; establecer la política del distrito; planificación de servicios para estudiantes; establecimiento de objetivos y planificación a largo plazo; adoptar un plan de estudios; establecer presupuestos; involucrar a los padres; ser buenos administradores fiscales; actuar en el mejor interés del distrito escolar y dentro del alcance de su autoridad legal; y creando programas de relaciones comunitarias

Colegio Laredo

Fideicomisario, Lugar 7, Laredo College La Mesa Directiva del Distrito Universitario de Laredo es el órgano de gobierno oficial del distrito. La Junta tiene la autoridad final para determinar e interpretar las políticas que gobiernan el distrito universitario y, dentro de los límites impuestos por otras autoridades legales, tiene el control total y completo del distrito universitario.

Candidate Statements

The following candidate statements were solicited by the Student Government Association Political Action Committee and provided by the candidates or their officials. The SGA PAC reached out to all candidates for local office to participate in the candidate statements and the candidate townhalls. The following candidates provided their statements. These are provided as an educating tool. The SGA PAC does not endorse a particular candidate nor a political party.

Mayor:

1. **Roque Vela-** The short term mission is obvious. Stabilize our city management, water, reckless spending, etc. The same rhetoric we've all heard every election cycle. Candidates promising what frankly is the bare minimum that a city government should be providing anyway. Because of my experience we can accomplish that in a fairly short time. My work as a council member supports that. The long term goal is to change how our city government approaches its day to day business and how the people of Laredo think for that matter. Unfortunately because our city government has let us down time and time again we citizens have come to expect so little. The fact that we are asking for the bare minimum clean dependable water, public safety, infrastructure, etc speaks to that sentiment. My goal as Mayor is to raise the people's expectations of our city government. Our city government should and under my administration will attract and retain new businesses that will increase our quality of life.
2. **Mercurio "Merc" Martinez III-** "As your Mayor, I will address the water issues, help fix our roads and highways, and make city government more responsive and transparent. I want to put your priorities first, this means together we can make Laredo a more beautiful place to live."
3. **Victor D. Treviño-** I am running for the office of Mayor because as a member of the community, I am tired of the corruption, lack of leadership and vision which has created distrust in our local government. More specifically, I am fighting for what our local government has failed to deliver: the truth, equality, quality of life, and a brighter future for everyone.

City Council:

4. **Maxine Rebeles-** A mother, teacher, and Navy veteran raising her family in Lomas del Sur, Laredo. Raised in the Canta Ranas barrio, by a single mother, Maxine joined the Navy shortly after graduating high school to help pay for her higher education. She was the first in her family to attend college, and has devoted herself in the last 8 years to young people in Laredo as a middle school teacher. Maxine has been at the forefront of our fight to protect our air and water from ongoing pollution in Laredo. She is running for District 1 City Council because she believes our community deserves a champion for the

people, una campeona para la gente. If elected, she will make sure that our government works for the people, so that ALL of Laredo can thrive!

5. **Patricia Tijerina San Miguel**- My name is Patty Tijerina San Miguel and I am seeking the opportunity to be the voice for the residents of District 1. My commitment to our district is to work hard every day, communicate with the working people of Laredo, and plan for the future economic, social, and educational growth of the community.
6. **Geovanna "Gigi" Rodriguez**-If elected, I plan to establish committees that will show transparency by conducting studies and finding solutions to the issues we face on the day-to-day. For example, our infrastructure that is in dire need of modernizing to avoid reoccurrence of the 2021 power outage and water boil mandates. I plan to continue supporting our first responders by working together for the welfare of our community and establish a good working relationship with the council members by supporting their ideas to create a better Laredo for our future.
7. **Melissa R. Cigarroa**- If elected to City Council, my priorities will be: Oversight of the \$120 Million Water Infrastructure Plan now in place and contracts associated with it so that they are carried out with efficiency and effectiveness. No one nor family should be without basic access to potable water. Traffic Safety concerns of the residents of District 3, including safer sidewalks, streets, and speed-reducing measures, and Open lines of Communication through scheduled and frequent town hall and community meetings in every neighborhood during the term.
8. **Abraham "Abey" Lugo**-I want to bring fresh ideas and positive solutions to the issues facing our city. To get the best possible deal and to achieve the best possible outcome for Laredo, we need a voice who understands compromise. I am that voice!!
9. **L Vish "Viswanath"**- The goal of my campaign is to bring trust to city government. To have a longer term vision of the future of the city by looking into long term solutions of issues like water, secondary water and other quality of life issues. Bring transparency and accountability into City Hall. Have qualified and trained staff and management and root out corruption and self dealings.
10. **Fernando Baldazo**- Campaign Goals: -immediate water solutions -property tax relief -improve Loop 20 safety and mobility -Add and improve green spaces -Efficient and Honest government
11. **David "Tyler" King**- Tyler King is a husband, father, doctor, former teacher and Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve who believes we deserve better from our City government here in Laredo. Originally from Memphis, TN, Dr. King and his wife Alejandra, who is originally from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, have made Laredo their home, along with their daughter Sophia. They are fighting for a better quality of life, an improved

water infrastructure and long term water plan, an honest government that people can trust is there to work for them and a City that is open for business with a pro growth mindset.

12. **Rick Laurel-** I was raised in Laredo; I love Laredo, I am proud to be raising my family here. I understand constituents' needs and wants. I bring 22 years of professional experience in international trade as a Customs Broker. I have my Bachelors in Business Administration. I am the most viable and legitimate choice for District 6. I would use my business experience and education to ensure the growth of the district and the city ensuring that we are fiscally responsible to ensure success for the future of our city.

13. **Rafael Duenas-** I am a first-generation American born and raised in Laredo. I have served as the chair for the economic development advisory committee, and on the board of the association of logistics and forwarding agents. I'm a small business owner in the transportation industry. In the past four years one-third of my friends have left the city either because of competitive wages or quality of life. Division, strife, and personal agendas have slowed down our vision for progress. We must continue to strengthen our international trade while diversifying our economy. The local government must be an ally to all small businesses and provide the infrastructure we need and deserve. Together we can build a city that we're proud of.

WHY VOTING MATTERS

We shape the outcome only if we provide input.

It enhances the chance that those in charge will speak for you

1

2

It reminds politicians who they serve

It sparks positive change and shifts the tide

3

4

It shows your commitment to the common good

It impacts important decisions about healthcare, education, the economy, jobs, infrastructure, the health of our communities and more

5

6

It doesn't make you a passive bystander, leaving the responsibility to others

It demonstrates that you're hopeful, positive and engaged

7

8

It's a way to make your voice matter

“Vote because it is the one absolutely necessary step toward any better place. It reminds public servants about the public they serve. It dilutes the power of big donors and narrow interests. It builds civic muscles we need all through the year to serve our neighbors and strengthen our communities.”

- Nancy Gibbs, director of the Shorenstein Center and visiting Edward R. Murrow professor at Harvard Kennedy School

TAMIU Votes Social Media Competition Instructions and Guidelines

Thank you for signing up for the 2022 TAMIU Votes Social Media Competition. Below are the list of required activities and expectations of those participating. You have the opportunity to win the prizes listed below. Additionally, you will also be eligible for the “Excelling Organization” designation through the TAMIU SOLD program. You will create the social media posts and post them on your OWN social media platforms. Remember, the more likes and shares the better!!!

Should you have any questions regarding this campaign, please feel free to contact Dr. Nicholas Hudson at Nicholas.hudson@tamiu.edu.

Activity #1: Voter Registration Deadline Post

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) by **Monday October 3rd** by 5:00pm reminding people to register to vote and that the deadline is TUESDAY OCTOBER 11th
- Encourage people to go to TAMIU SOLE (STC 224) to become registered by October 11
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu, movetexas
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #voteready #NVEW2022 #movetexas

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

Activity #2: Mail In Ballot Post

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) about Mail in Ballot by **Tuesday October 4th 10:00am**. Reference <https://www.webbcountytexas.gov/ElectionsAdministration/ApplicationforBallotbyMail/>;
- Use hashtags: #tamiuvotes; #NVEW2022; #mailready;
- Tag @txamiusole @txamiu

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

Activity #3: TAMIU Votes Post

- Create social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) to RUN on **Wednesday October 5th** by 10:00am with hashtags #tamiuvotes #NVEW2022 & #VotePlanReady #movetexas
- MUST INCORPORATE INTERACTIVE RESPONSE WITH STUDENTS REPLYING W/ THEIR VOTING PLAN (HOW WILL YOU VOTE THIS NOVEMBER? EARLY, ELECTION DAY, MAIL-IN BALLOT?)
- Encourage people to go to TAMIU SOLE (STC 224) to become registered by October 11
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu, movetexas

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

Activity #4: Sample Ballot Post

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) about Sample Ballots and learning what is on the ballot beyond the gubernatorial election by 10:00am **Thursday OCTOBER 6th** . Reference <https://www.webbcountytexas.gov/ElectionsAdministration/SampleBallots/>;
- Use hashtags: #tamiuvotes; #NVEW2022; #ballotready;
- Tag @txamiusole @txamiu

Activity #5: TAMIU.TURBOVOTE.ORG Promotion Post

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) by **Friday October 7th** by 10:00am encourage people to sign up on tamiu.turbovote.org
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #voteplanready #mailready

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (200 points), 2nd place (180 points), 3rd place (160 points), 4th place (140 points), 5th place (120 points). All participants will receive 100 points.

Activity #6: TikTok Video posts

- Create a TikTok video related to VOTING (Free choice)
- Create social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) with TikTokvideo to **RUN by October 10th** by 5:00pm
- MUST INCORPORATE MOVE TEXAS sponsored Blue Light Glasses & must thank them!
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu, movetexas
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #weready #movetexas

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

VIDEO CREATIVITY will be awarded extra 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 points respectively

Activity #7: TAMIU Votes Video

- Create a video with members answering this question “VOTING MATTERS because...”
- Create social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) with video to **RUN by October 12th** by 5:00pm
- Remind folks that early voting runs from October 24th to November 4th.
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu, movetexas
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #weready #movetexas
- Must incorporate TAMIU/Dustdevils (etc.)

- MUST INCORPORATE MOVE TEXAS sponsored Blue Light Glasses & must thank them!

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

VIDEO CREATIVITY will be awarded extra 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 points respectively

Activity #8: Early Vote Promotion posts

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) by **Friday October 14th** by 12:00pm noon encourage people to vote early (October 24-November 4)
- Post text must include TAMIU early voting days: October 31, November 1, 2, 3
- Post text must include where to see early voting sites:
<https://www.webbcountytx.gov/ElectionsAdministration/11082022%20-%20Early%20Voting%20Sites-Approved%20092622.pdf>
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #voteplanready #ballotready

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

Activity #9: SGA Townhalls posts

- Create a social media post (FB, Insta & Twitter) by **Tuesday October 18th** by 12:00pm noon encourage people to vote early (October 24-November 4)
- Post text must include TAMIU early voting days: October 31, November 1, 2, 3
- Post text must include where to see early voting sites:
<https://www.webbcountytx.gov/ElectionsAdministration/11082022%20-%20Early%20Voting%20Sites-Approved%20092622.pdf>
- Tag txamiusole, txamiu
- Use hashtags #tamiuvotes #voteplanready #ballotready

Most shares and likes will get 1st place (100 points), 2nd place (90 points), 3rd place (80 points), 4th place (70 points), 5th place (60 points). All participants will receive 50 points.

DATES/DEADLINES

1. October 3- Activity #1 DUE
2. October 4- Activity #2 DUE
3. October 5- Activity #3 DUE
4. October 6- Activity #4 DUE
5. October 7- Activity #5 DUE
6. October 10- Activity #6 DUE
7. October 12- Activity #7 DUE
8. October 14- Activity #8 DUE
9. October 18- Activity #9 DUE

JUDGING

All posts will be judged for their most shares and likes ON October 21st

PRIZES

\$500 1st place

\$300 2nd place

\$200 3rd place

\$50 participation



TAMIU ALL-IN TASKFORCE

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

GET REGISTERED TO VOTE AND LET YOUR
VOICE BE HEARD THIS NOVEMBER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

ACROSS CAMPUS

TAMIU.TURBOVOTE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ORIENTATION,
LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT
956-326-2280
SOLE@TAMIU.EDU

TAMIU ALL-IN TASKFORCE



TAMIU EARLY VOTE DATES

MON. OCT. 24, 2022 - FRI. OCT. 28, 2022

8:00AM - 5:00PM

SAT. OCT. 29, 2022

8:00AM - 8:00PM

SUN. OCT. 30, 2022

12:00PM - 6:00PM

MON. OCT. 31, 2022 - FRI. NOV. 4, 2022

8:00AM - 8:00PM

WESTERN HEMISPHERIC TRADE CENTER LOBBY

Make your voice heard!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ORIENTATION, LEADERSHIP
AND ENGAGEMENT
956.326.2280
SOLE@TAMIU.EDU



Be #BallotReady

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

We're more likely to vote, and vote confidently, if we know what's on our ballot. Learn what's on your ballot by getting to know your options for candidates, constitutional amendments, local referendums, and ballot initiatives.

What's on your ballot? Ballot options range from local offices like school boards, to state roles like governor, to federal ones like US Senators and members of the US House of Representatives. State and local elections can shape your life

much more immediately than federal choices, so make sure you vote in every national, state, and local election! You might have the chance to shape policy even more directly through ballot measures and referendums.

Many different elected positions might be on your ballot, and might include: the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, State Supreme Court Justices, Comptroller, Treasurer, State Senators, State Legislators, School board, Mayor, town or city council members, county commissioner, etc.

Elections are also moments for big policy decisions specific to your community, county, or state. They can be called ballot measures, referenda, constitutional amendments, propositions, and more. These issues and options are typically direct policy decisions, and can have a profound impact on your community. Make your voice heard!

Ready to find out what's on your ballot? Go to Ballotpedia.org to see what's on your ballot, or visit your local elections office to see a sample ballot for your community to know exactly what's on your ballot, and how it will look, before your vote. Bring your sample ballot with you to the voting booth as a guide on election day, there's no need to make guesses about legal or legislative jargon!

For any issues, questions, or concerns about ballot inaccuracies, call or contact the Election Protection Hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE** or tweet **@866OURVOTE**.





Be #VotePlanReady

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

You're more likely to vote if you **have a plan**. Knowing how and when you're voting, and what you need to bring with you, makes voting easy. Today, we're helping you make a plan to vote this November.

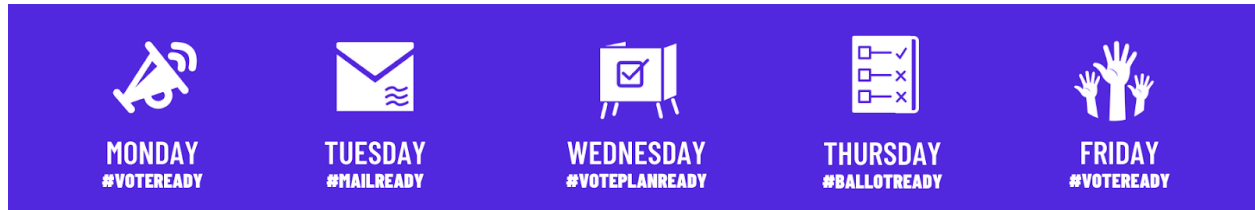
Voting matters, and making a plan means you won't leave these important choices that impact you, your loved ones, and your community, up to chance. **Voters often cite conflicts or busy schedules as key reasons why they don't vote, so build voting into your calendar today.** If you're able to vote early, do so — to take advantage of greater flexibility, shorter lines, managing your own schedule, and reducing crowds. It's a win-win for you, your loved ones, and your community.

When you vote matters. Whether you're voting by mail, voting early or on Election Day, make sure you've got your plan down. If you're voting in person, make sure you've confirmed the hours for your polling place, which may vary. If you get to your polling place late in the day, lines might be longer. Show up early, save time, and make sure you don't plan to vote after work if your polling place closes early.

If you are in line by the time the polls close, you can still vote. **Voting is a right, and you have the right to stay in line.**

Where do you vote? Your voting location is your voting precinct — in some cases these locations are still being finalized by counties and municipalities. Early voting locations often differ from election day voting sites, so make sure you're informed and look up your voting location [here](#).

If you feel uncomfortable or are having trouble casting your ballot, call the Election Protection Hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE** or tweet **@866OURVOTE**. Voting is your right, the election protection hotline can help.





#TAMIUVOTES

VOTING IS EASY!

- 1) Head to the polls with your State ID, mask, pen and pencil. You will sign your name in pen and get an "I VOTED" sticker. Keep your phone on silent while at the voting location.**
- 2) Get your ballot, head to voting booth and select the candidate you choose for each position on the touchscreen.**
- 3) Place your completed ballot in the secure machine as you head to the exit.**

Make your voice heard!

