

MINNESOTA STUDENT VOTER SUMMIT

20 24



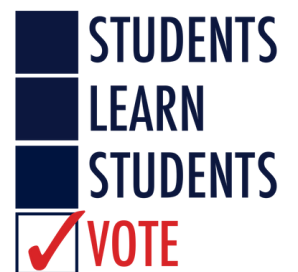
JUNE 11, 2024 • 9:00AM • UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Anderson Student Center, 2115 Summit Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Center for the Common Good



PROGRAM FLOW

2024 SUMMIT

8:30 AM	REGISTRATION WOULFE HALL		
9:00 AM	OPENING REMARKS WOULFE NORTH HALL	President Rob Vischer, John Runningen Secretary of State Steve Simon	
9:45 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION #1	Voter Outreach and Education in Higher Ed: What is required by law?	Room 364/365
		Action Planning Overview: Why, How, Who, When, and Recognition	Room 366/367
		Building power on campus: how to maximize impact	Room 202
		TRANScending Barriers: Navigating Local Government from School Boards to State Legislature	Room 341
10:45 AM	BREAK		
11:00 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION #2	So you're the Campus Vote Coordinator...now what?	Room 364/365
		YOUth votes & why to give a sh*t!	Room 202
		Federal Work-Study for Voter Registration Implementation	Room 366/367
		Voting, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement 101	Room 341
12:00 PM	LUNCH WOULFE NORTH HALL		
1:00 PM	ACTION PLANNING	101	Room 364/365
		102	Room 366/367
2:30 PM	ACTION PLANNING ASSESSMENT	101	Room 364/365
		102	Room 366/367
4:00 PM	CLOSING WOULFE NORTH HALL		

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE

2024 SUMMIT

President Rob Vischer,
University of St. Thomas



Rob Vischer, former dean of the School of Law, began his tenure as the 16th President of the University of St. Thomas on January 1, 2023. He is the second layperson to assume the role, after rising through the ranks in the university's law school beginning as an associate professor of law in 2005. Read more about President Vischer's background.

The President is responsible for the direction of the University of St. Thomas, a mission-driven institution striving to be a great place for students, staff and faculty to think, act and work to advance the common good. Rob Vischer will hone the university's vision for its future, advocate for that vision both internally and externally, build resources to turn that vision into reality, and achieve a level of excellence and impact that distinguishes the nation's top Catholic universities.

President John Runningen,
LeadMN



John is the President of LeadMN, a prominent nonprofit organization advocating for the 100,000 community and technical college students across the state. As a first-generation college student and non-traditional learner, he faced significant challenges navigating the financial aid system, including a daunting experience with the FAFSA that resulted in his denial of aid and accumulation of \$6,000 in debt during his first year of college.

Driven by these personal struggles, John is dedicated to ensuring higher education is both equitable and affordable for all students. His leadership at LeadMN focuses on breaking down barriers and creating opportunities, so every student has the support they need to succeed.

Secretary Steve Simon,
Minnesota Secretary of State



Steve Simon is Minnesota's 22nd Secretary of State. He was sworn into office on January 5, 2015, and as Minnesota's chief elections administrator pledged in his inaugural address to "work with anyone, of any political affiliation, from any part of our state" to protect, defend, and strengthen the right to vote in Minnesota.

As Secretary of State, he partners with township, city, and county officials to organize elections on behalf of Minnesota's nearly four million eligible voters, and to ensure that the election system is fair.

Simon grew up in St. Louis Park and Hopkins. He graduated with a B.A in Political Science from Tufts University in Massachusetts in 1992, and earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1996.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

Voter Outreach and
Education in Higher Ed:
What is required by law?

[Staff Track](#)
[Student Track](#)

*Michael Wall, Youth Voter
Outreach Specialist in the Office
of Minnesota Secretary*

Postsecondary institutions have a set of requirements that are a part of Minnesota law, and that are designed to increase voter registration, knowledge about the voting process, and voter turnout. Students, faculty, and administration not only play a role in increasing voter registration and turnout, they are all also certainly in a strong position to help keep the institution accountable to these legal requirements. Learn about the seven parts of the law (with an 8th as a bonus), and how you can help make your campus voter outreach efforts fully successful.

Michael Wall is the Youth Voter Outreach Specialist in the Office of Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon. What that means is he gets to spend his days connecting young people to the power of our representative democracy and their place in it, sharing how to discover their civic voice, helping people learn and utilize the (pre)registration and voting processes and educate themselves on candidates and issues, and generally feeling that he is so, so lucky to be supporting the idea that, "Your Vote is Your Voice." His background is in secondary and higher education and relationship development, and he pines for the next time he and his family will own a dog. Michael may be reached at Michael.Wall@State.MN.US or 651-201-6892.

Building power on campus:
how to maximize impact

[Student Track](#)

*Natalie Somerson is the Advocacy
Director for the Minnesota Youth
Collective*

This session will focus on how to build coalitions on college campuses -- with student organizations, individuals, faculty and admin; while not losing sight of your campaign's goals.

Natalie (she/her) joined the Minnesota Youth Collective in June 2022 and is a proponent of joyful changemaking and laughter based learning. She has 8+ years of experience managing and facilitating youth leadership development programs. Natalie believes in the power young people hold in creating lasting impact, in both the short and long term. She works to change the electorate, by striving towards a more equitable democracy and by infusing civic engagement into society. Natalie is a firm believer that ice cream is a year-round snack. In her free time, she can be found soaking up any sun she can find, searching for the best breakfast sandwich, and planning a vacation to expand her earring collection.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

Action Planning Overview:
Why, How, Who, When, and
Recognition

[Staff Track](#)
[Faculty Track](#)

Developing and implementing a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan is a proven method to increase and institutionalize nonpartisan democratic engagement. During this session, we will share information about the action planning process, partners and resources to support your action plan development and implementation, and the timeline for campuses to develop 2024 action plans. We'll provide an overview of programs like the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and Voter Friendly Campus initiative that support campus action planning as well as answer questions about the action planning process. Moreover, participants will be able to directly interact with campus stakeholders deeply engaged in the process of action planning. This provides an opportunity to glean insights from their firsthand experiences and benefit from the guidance they have to offer. This session will be beneficial for all individuals (students, faculty, administrators, staff, community partners, etc.) regardless of past action planning experience.

*Danny Fersh is the Director of
Communications for the Students
Learn Students Vote Coalition*

Before joining the SLSV Coalition, Daniel worked for more than three years at Laurel Strategies, where he crafted and executed communications strategies for leaders in technology, finance and philanthropy. Prior to Laurel Strategies, Daniel spent three years teaching English as a second language to both children and adults while living in the cities of Madrid and Seville, Spain. A graduate of Syracuse University, Daniel has a BS in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

TRANScending Barriers:
Navigating Local
Government from School
Boards to State Legislature

Student Track

In this interactive session, students will explore how to empower trans youth to actively participate in local and state government processes - even if they aren't eligible to vote! Through amplifying youth choice and youth voice, participants will learn how to navigate the challenges faced by trans students and create inclusive spaces that honor their identities and needs. By delving into recent and potential Minnesota state law changes affecting trans rights and advocacy efforts, equipping attendees with the knowledge and tools to navigate legal challenges effectively. With a combination of discussions, practical strategies, and legal insights, students will walk away with action steps to position them as experts in their own experiences. The purpose of this workshop is to empower trans students to engage meaningfully in local government processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. By providing practical strategies, legal insights, and a commitment to JEDIB principles, we seek to create a more inclusive and equitable local government that reflects the diverse needs and experiences of our community.

Myrtle Lemon-Todd (they/he) is an Artist, Activist, and Community Organizer.

Myrtle Lemon-Todd (they/he) is an Artist, Activist, and Community Organizer. He has worked with organizations like Queer Equity Institute, Flip the Script, QUEERSPACE collective, Minnesota trans and Intersex Resource Network (MNTIRN), currently serves as the Campaign Communications Dir. for Leigh Finke for MN, and runs their own digital communications contracting service SharkyLemon. Myrtle is a proud Transgender and Non-Binary individual and has provided training to multiple organizations around the country including: Best Buy Teen Tech Centers, GenderJustice, Foster/Adopt MN, Lutheran Social Services, Hennepin County, Ramsay County, MN Youth Collective, and more.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

WORKSHOP SESSION #2

So you're the Campus Vote Coordinator...now what?

Staff Track

Alyssa Herzog Melby, Program Director for Academic Civic Engagement in the Smith Center for Global Engagement AND Campus Vote Coordinator, St. Olaf College.

This session is for staff and faculty who have taken on the role of "Campus Vote Coordinator" and wish to learn from each other. We will first review the new state statutes pertinent to this position. Participants will then discuss the challenges and opportunities, on-campus and across campuses, for this work, as well as outstanding questions that remain about this role and its responsibilities. Participants will leave with ideas for how to leverage this role in election engagement efforts through the sharing of best practices and innovative ideas.

Since 2017, Alyssa has served as matchmaker between the local community and the St. Olaf campus through community-engaged learning, led election engagement efforts, and assisted with other experiential learning curricular innovation. For more information, see stolaf.edu/profile/melby1

Voting, Advocacy, and Civic Engagement 101

Student Track

Michael Wall, Youth Voter Outreach Specialist, Office of MN Secretary of State

Civic engagement and advocacy is a great goal! Every journey begins with a first step, and becoming more educated, engaged, and developing a voice in your community (however you define community) is no exception. This session will lay out some foundational steps and knowledge in developing a civic-engagement mindset, including the how-tos of (pre)registration, voting, community involvement, discovering your voice, and leadership development.

Michael Wall is the Youth Voter Outreach Specialist in the Office of Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon. What that means is he gets to spend his days connecting young people to the power of our representative democracy and their place in it, sharing how to discover their civic voice, helping people learn and utilize the (pre)registration and voting processes and educate themselves on candidates and issues, and generally feeling that he is so, so lucky to be supporting the idea that, "Your Vote is Your Voice." His background is in secondary and higher education and relationship development, and he pines for the next time he and his family will own a dog. Michael may be reached at Michael.Wall@State.MN.US or 651-201-6892.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

WORKSHOP SESSION #2

YOUth votes & why to give a sh*t!

Student Track

Rahhel Haile, Executive Director of Minnesota Youth Collective

Young people are often tasked with saving democracy -- but what if you're not eligible to vote? what if your vote doesn't feel like enough? this session explores using voting as a tool of harm reduction and presents civic engagement as a framework to critical thinking and systemchange work.

Rahhel is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Minnesota Youth Collective. MNYC is an organization centering the leadership development of the next generation of movement leaders, leveraging electoral work and issue advocacy as tactics to have a more equitable state. She started organizing her peers in college at the U of M Morris and went on to have an extensive youth organizing background. Rahhel has prioritized working with BIPOC youth without co-opting their movements, and believes in giving young people the tools to succeed.

Federal Work-Study for Voter Registration Implementation Workshop

Staff Track

Bianca Rosales is the Director of Partnerships for the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition

The U.S. Department of Education recently clarified that Federal Work-Study (FWS) funds can be utilized to support college students in performing nonpartisan work on elections, including on-campus voter registration and assisting government agencies such as state and local election offices. This means institutions across Minnesota have the opportunity to access new funding to help students participate in the democratic process - and we want to help you take advantage! The Students Learn Students Vote (SLSV) Coalition, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, and the Campus Vote Project collaborated to develop a Federal Work-Study for Voter Registration Implementation Toolkit: a comprehensive guide addressing common questions and challenges that arise when establishing the position, as well as detailed strategies informed by campuses that have successfully established FWS positions for nonpartisan voter registration. During this session, we'll give an overview of the Implementation Toolkit and leave ample room for participants to ask questions.

Bianca Rosales is the Director of Partnerships for the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition, the the national hub & largest nonpartisan network in the country dedicated to increasing student voter participation. Bianca is an activist and community organizer with experience at the local and national level. Prior to joining the team, Bianca was the Director of Community Engagement for a city council office in San Antonio, Texas. She also served as an elementary school educator where she organized her students and their families around immigration rights and helped lead efforts to bridge educational inequities in and out of the classroom. Before that, Bianca spent time in Washington, D.C. working for NARAL Pro-Choice America and fighting for reproductive freedom for all. Bianca Rosales was born and raised on the southside of San Antonio and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where she earned a B.S. in Communication Studies, Human Relations.

SESSION DESCRIPTION

2024 SUMMIT

ACTION PLANNING

Action Planning 101

For campuses and high schools that have not yet created an action plan.

Teams are charged with developing a thorough plan for democratic engagement, taking into consideration their institution's historical voting rates, available resources, and the specific challenges encountered by student voters. After leading teams through an evaluation of their campus environment and dedication to voting, action plans materialize as participants select from various tactics and proven strategies aimed at boosting voter turnout among their student population. Additionally, action planning coaches will be on hand to offer valuable insights and advice for achieving success.

Action Planning 201

For campuses that have created an action plan.

Teams are tasked with refining and improving their plan for democratic engagement

Action Planning Group
Assessment 101 and 201

Teams will collaborate to exchange plans for each other's campuses. This activity will adhere to the Action Plan rubric established by the All-In Campus Democracy Challenge.