

Democracy Workshops: Promoting Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement on Campus and Beyond

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Project Summary

Bruinsvote, in partnership with ASUCLA Programming and Campus Life, put on a Democracy Workshop series with one large-scale workshop each quarter: The Special Election Soirée (fall), Letters to Legislatures (winter), and Bear the Ballot: Voting Extravaganza (spring).

Impact

The work of our organization and collaboration impacted the UCLA Community by exposing students to the importance of voting and the impact they can have via democratic participation. Our efforts met our project's objectives as we successfully created an engaging space that was accessible to all. We kept our non-partisan tone and provided information in a way that was easily digestible for our students.

Participants represented a range of demographic groups, with the majority being undergraduate students. We also saw meaningful engagement from graduate students who participated in our initiatives and events. Many of the students involved were eligible voters, reflecting the civic engagement focus of our efforts. Consistent with UCLA's overall student population, most participants were California residents.

The Special Election Soirée (fall)

- Over 465 attendees

Letters to Legislatures (winter)

- 20 attendees in a smaller engaged format

Bear the Ballot: Voting Extravaganza (spring)

- Over 200 attendees
- Collaboration with LA county brought 2,674 voter check-ins at the Vote Center and they assisted with 591 new voter registrations.

We aim to continue the democracy workshops series, sustaining the large-scale event format while adapting to the elections and civic issues most relevant at the time. We hope to keep engaging the range of diverse demographics represented this year in our undergraduate student attendance while expanding our reach in the graduate student population and first-time voters, and to build on partnerships like the one with LA County that extended our reach beyond the workshop itself.