

# **The Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act, AB 963 (2019) Workshop**

Co-hosted by **SSCCC**, CA Secretary of State's Office,  
and A Band of Voters



# Presenters

Stephen Kodur, **Community Organizer**, Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC)



Wendy Galván, **Students Vote Project**, Office of California Secretary of State, Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.



Joey Forsyte, **Founder**, A Band of Voters





# Background of Student Civic Engagement



- In 2019, A Band of Voters and California student leaders drafted and passed the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act, AB 963 (2019).
  - As a result, the Secretary of State's Students Vote Project was expanded and implements this monumental legislation.
  - This is the first law of its kind in the nation. A legal mandate to push higher education students to participate in the democratic process.
- The California Students Vote Project was established in 2016 through resolutions and a memorandum with each of the higher education institutions.
- California Community Colleges are legally required to help inform and mobilize student voters and increase learning opportunities for civic engagement.

# Six Requirements for AB 963 (2019) Implementation



1. Hire or Appoint a Nonpartisan Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator
2. Create an Action Plan
3. Host Civic Engagement Events
4. Send Critical Emails
5. Include Dates on Academic Calendar
6. Post on Social Media

# Action Plan Template



- **Leadership** - Contact information for those involved
- **Introduction** - Importance of civically engaging students, lessons learned
- **Goals and Actions** - What goals are you aiming for this year, what events and strategies will you have, what are some highlighted dates?
- **Community Partnerships** - How will you connect with on and off campus organizations to maximize your reach?
- **Evaluation and Reporting** - How will you gauge your success and observations for next year (NSLVE)?

# Keep in Mind



- California Community Colleges may request reimbursement from the California Commission on State Mandates for expenses related to AB 963 implementation.
- Begin your Action Plan early
  - Primary Election: June 7, 2022
  - General Election: November 8, 2022
- Completed Action Plans are due **December 5, 2022** to [CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov](mailto:CastStudentsVote@sos.ca.gov)
- Attend ABOV training on April 29th and submit an action plan template by May 31 to be entered to win a \$1000 grant for your campus

# Best Practices for Increasing Student Civic Engagement



- Register for the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) - gives you the registration and voting rates at your school (free and confidential)
- Convene a group of individuals including student and faculty leaders, student clubs, student affairs, academic affairs, and governmental affairs to plan a campus-wide effort - when creating an action plan or campus events
- Our coalition partners, The All In Campus Democracy Challenge and Students Learn, Students Vote, (SLSV) have lots of sample Action Plans, resources to create a great Action Plan and help signing up for NSLVE. They also have a competition and funding available.
  - <https://slsvcoalition.org/>
  - <https://allinchallenge.org/>

# Stay in Touch!



## Student Senate (SSCCC)

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## Students Vote Project

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## A Band of Voters

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**A BAND OF  
VOTERS**

The logo consists of a large white checkmark on the left, followed by the text "A BAND OF VOTERS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo area features several thin, white, curved lines that create a sense of motion or a stylized path.