

It's a Wrap!

Sierra College Voter Registration Activities Completed for Academic Year 2024-2025

Studying over, finals taken, plans for next year solidified. The Sierra College students and our AADC Voter Registration teams have wrapped up another academic year. While the elections of last November certainly did not bring the outcomes we had hoped for, we celebrate the conversations we've had, the connections we've made with students, the new voters we've registered, and the students we've encouraged to engage in political activism.

In total, we registered 168 students. All but 14 registrations occurred in the fall semester when election energy was high. This decrease in non-election years is very typical and may continue until closer to the 2026 election cycle. Many students continue to shun party affiliation and register as No Party Preference. They do, however, lean strongly democratic, so we continue to spend time and energy getting them to the ballot box. Our surveys help focus students on current issues. Our discussions provide an opportunity for students to express their opinions as they develop their world views and begin exercising their political muscle.

Springtime is a wonderful time to be on campus! The landscape is lush, and the weather is welcoming. The campus puts on numerous festivals and special events, including Earth Day and Job Fairs. Often there's music playing, and the atmosphere is relaxed. Until finals, that is, then the stress is palpable. Students who usually stop to chat quickly take our survey and then scurry off to the library to study instead. Luckily, Sierra hosts therapy dogs and goats to pet to help students destress!

At the end of April, we once again joined forces with our sister group, Placer Action Network, for Earth Day. Robert Sherriff made "seed bursts" with students, and we conducted a survey entitled "Burst into Action" to ascertain what political actions attendees have taken and hope to take in the near future. [For full survey results, click on the link below.] It was an enjoyable day with many groups and vendors providing information and resources for protecting Mother Earth.

Click here to see the full results of all surveys mentioned in this article.

Following Earth Day, we had only a few more weeks to help direct students to the political storms that seem to be a constant since January 20. In one survey, we asked how students feel President Trump did on key topics in his first 100 days in office this term, and we provided 5 choices: *Great, Good, The Same, Worse, Much Worse*. Of the 50 responses to the question, "How is Trump doing on the Economy?" 8 answered *Worse*, and 32 answered *Much Worse*. One survey taker told us we needed a choice that was far stronger than *Much Worse*!

In another survey, we asked students to weigh in on four controversial actions of that week, actions that continue to reverberate in the political sphere: (1) Trump's acceptance of a \$400 million Qatari jet for use as Air Force One; (2) the possible suspension of individuals' rights to *habeas corpus*; (3) the defunding of SNAP benefits and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts to the

wealthy; and (4) the granting of refugee status to white South Africans. Students were most concerned about the threat to *habeas corpus* and the cuts to SNAP, Medicaid and other safety net programs to provide tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

Both the Tuesday and Wednesday teams conducted “Farewell” surveys during their final visits to campus. The Tuesday survey concentrated on what activities students might be interested in pursuing during their summer (Top answers: Learning a new skill; work or start a career); what would energize them (Top answers: Hiking or camping and traveling); and what “causes” sound the most interesting (Top answer: Volunteering for a charity). For the Wednesday team, the focus was on students’ overall plans for what comes next.

It is with both pride and a tinge of sadness that we bid goodbye to some of our “regulars” who will be moving on to new endeavors, including UC Davis, UC San Diego, Sac State, San Diego State, Cal Poly Humboldt, and more. Some students, though, will return to Sierra College campus for the fall semester (the third week of August) and once again, they will find the AADC Voter Registration teams conducting our signature surveys and encouraging them to vote!

SURVEY RESULTS

Here are the full results of the surveys conducted by the AADC Voter Registration teams from late April through the end of the semester May 22.

***BURST* into Action!**

NOTE: AADC has used this survey frequently in the past few months, including at Sierra College Earth Day on April 24 and at Placer Pride Day in Roseville on May 17. We thought it would be fun to compare the results from these two events. (Attendees at the ***Where's Kevin?*** rally and at Auburn Spring Fest were also given the opportunity to weigh in, but those results are not available.) The survey is a fun way to engage with people visiting our booth. We've used it as a springboard to help a number of people download the 5 Calls app and to tune people in to our wonderful website with its community calendar.

WHAT I'VE ALREADY DONE! (Since 01/20/25)			
Ranted on social media about current political climate Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">23</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">147</div>	Emailed or sent postcard to my Representative and/or Senators Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">18</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">84</div>	Called my Representative or Senators Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">15</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">77</div>	Attended a rally, protest, or other in-person resistance event Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">28</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">183</div>
WHAT I WANT OR INTEND TO DO IN FUTURE (SOON)!!!			
Spend less time on social media and more time becoming well-informed about current events Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">46</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">140</div>	Keep sending emails or postcards to my representative. Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">10</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">73</div>	Download the 5 Calls app and make regular calls to use my voice! Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">11</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">60</div>	Rally my heart out (& learn how to stay informed about upcoming events) Sierra College Earth Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">30</div> Placer Pride Day responses <div style="text-align: center;">146</div>

After surviving our first 100 days under the Trump administration, Round 2, we surveyed students how they thought Trump was doing. One student told us we needed a category that was stronger than “much worse.” Here are the results of our survey.

How is Trump Doing – According to You? [Survey from April 30]

On the economy?	GREAT 3	GOOD 3	THE SAME 4	WORSE 8	MUCH WORSE 32
On immigration?	GREAT 5	GOOD 1	THE SAME 1	WORSE 7	MUCH WORSE 36
On national security?	GREAT 5	GOOD 2	THE SAME 2	WORSE 7	MUCH WORSE 33
On protecting peoples’ health?	GREAT 4	GOOD 1	THE SAME 2	WORSE 6	MUCH WORSE 36
Give Trump a grade!	A 3	B 1	C 2	D 6	F 33*

In the News This Week! [Survey from Wed, May 14]

This survey focused on which Trump-centric news items students found most worrisome. Students were asked to choose their top 2 concerns. Since students were gearing up for finals, we also included a “mental health” question so we could encourage them to take some down time!

Donald Trump is accepting a \$400 million dollar jetliner from Qatar (technically a gift from the Qatari Ministry of Defense to the Pentagon) despite the “emoluments” clause of the Constitution. This clause forbids Presidents (and other officials) from accepting gifts <i>“of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.”</i> He plans to use the jet as Air Force One while he remains in office. Refurbishing the 13 year old plane will cost U.S. taxpayers many millions of dollars.	4
According to a Trump advisor, the administration might be “actively looking” at whether to suspend the right of habeas corpus . Habeas corpus is a legal principle and procedure that ensures individuals are not unlawfully imprisoned. The Constitution says that habeas corpus <i>“shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.”</i>	24
To extend the Trump 2017 Tax Cuts to the richest Americans, GOP leaders in Congress are calling for huge cuts to Medicaid and SNAP (food) benefits. Democrats predict that 10.3 million people will lose healthcare coverage. By forcing states to pay 5 – 25% of SNAP funding (which the federal govt has paid since food assistance began in the Great Depression era), experts fear many individuals will be removed from food assistance programs, local budgets will have massive shortfalls, and food producers and retailers will suffer.	18

The Trump administration welcomed 59 White South Africans—mostly *Afrikaners* who ruled South Africa during apartheid. The administration claims they are fleeing discrimination and racially based violence in their home country and therefore need protection as “refugees”. Meanwhile, the administration refuses to allow entry to those fleeing from other dangerous areas, like Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Afghanistan.

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Which do you do to de-stress?

Hang with Friends	Listen to Music	Take a break from Social Media	Exercise
11	18	3	7

Taking a Break *[Survey from Tue, May 13]*

After two full semesters, it's at last time for a well-deserved break! How will you spend your months off: working, reading, traveling, relaxing, learning a new skill or language? No matter what your goals include, summer vacation is the perfect opportunity for college students to explore enriching activities that you don't always have time to pursue during the school year.

Put sticker[s] in the column that you believe best represents your opinion

Which serious summer pursuit might interest you?	
Learning a new skill	18
Pursue an Internship	6
A Summer course	11
Work or start a career	22
Other	4
Which activity might you do to energize your life this summer?	
Play an instrument	7
Paint, Draw, Sketch	13
Travel	14
Hike &/or Camp	23
Dance the night away	7
Anything at the Beach	12
Music - live or otherwise	9

Reading for enjoyment	9	
Athletic Adventures	12	
Other	0	
Make a difference: Which of these sounds the most interesting?		
Volunteer with a campaign	7	
Attend a political event	9	
Help a cause through social media	9	
Volunteer with a charity	18	
Contact a politician about an issue	7	
BACKGROUND: <i>Trump spent 428 days golfing on his own properties in his first term. He's taken 24 days so far during his 2nd term. On one trip to Scotland the Secret Service spent nearly a million bucks just to watch the President knock little white balls into holes. Meanwhile "Head Start" kids are being told there's no money for crayons and applesauce and our National Parks have been told to cut their budgets by 30%</i>		
Trump takes lots of time off to golf. How does this make you feel?*		
Angry or Sad 15	Neutral or no opinion 18	Fine with me 11

** One young woman said she hopes he plays more golf which gives him less time to mess everything else up!*