Civic Engagement
“I am Engaged in the Life of This Community”
-True Blue Pledge
THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT IS TO OFFER A CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY TO ALL MIDDLE TENNESSEE STUDENTS

TCA 2-6-201 (2) ...... If a voter is enrolled as a full time student in an accredited college, university or similar accredited institution of learning in this state which is outside the county where the voter is registered. This provision also applies to the spouse of the student who resides with the student.
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 768

ANCESTOR BILL NO. 2101

By Kevin, Tracy

Referred to Senate Ways, Means, Finance

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, relative to voting centers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 3, is amended by adding section 3 to its existing subsection as follows:

3-2-305. (a) The purpose of this part is to create a pilot project to determine whether convenient voting centers could successfully be established for local and state elections to make it convenient for voters to vote at centralized voting centers on election day in the county in which the voter is registered, regardless of the voter’s previous voting history.

(b) A county shall indicate its willingness to participate in such a pilot project by adopting a resolution by a super-majority vote of its county election commission. A super-majority of at least five of the six (6) county election commissioners must agree their willingness to participate in the pilot program. The super-majority vote shall also be required to establish the number and locations of centralized voting centers in each county. Unless four (4) or less of the six (6) county election commissioners vote in favor of approving the pilot program, and the number and locations of the voting centers in the county, the county commission (as described in §§ 3-2-102 and 3-2-105) shall be utilized.

(c) Upon affirmative vote by the super-majority vote of the county election commission, the commission shall be the coordinating commission for the project plan for the convenient voting centers. The coordinating commission shall approve the plan prior to the county election commission implementing the plan.

3-2-306. (a) Upon approval of the project plan for the convenient voting centers, the coordinating commission shall not be limited by the provisions set forth in 3-2-101, provided that no polling location may be changed within ten (10) days of an election except in an emergency.

(b) A convenient voting center used in the election, the county election commission shall not be limited by the provisions set forth in 3-2-101(a)(x), provided that no polling location may be changed within ten (10) days of an election except in an emergency.

(c) Each convenient voting center used in the pilot project shall have a secure electronic connection for election tabulation. The coordinating commission shall establish all necessary equipment for polling information transmitted by the coordinating commission permitting any computer at a convenient voting center to be a part of the election system for the county. The secure electronic connection shall be sufficient to prevent any unlawful activity voting earlier than once and to prevent unauthorized access to the computer-based vote registration system.

(d) Each convenient voting center shall meet applicable federal and state laws, including the security and privacy requirements of the Help America Vote Act, public laws generally 42 U.S.C. § 15850.

(e) Chapter 7 of this title applies to all convenient voting centers.

3-2-307. (a) The county election commission shall establish a convenient voting center within a county pursuant to 3-2-305. The county election commission shall establish a convenient voting center within a county pursuant to 3-2-305 within a county pursuant to 3-2-305 in the county in which the voter is registered, regardless of the voter’s previous voting history.

(b) A county shall indicate its willingness to participate in such a pilot project by adopting a resolution by a super-majority vote of its county election commission. A super-majority of at least five of the six (6) county election commissioners must agree their willingness to participate in the pilot program. The super-majority vote shall also be required to establish the number and locations of centralized voting centers in each county. Unless four (4) or less of the six (6) county election commissioners vote in favor of approving the pilot program, and the number and locations of the voting centers in the county, the county commission (as described in §§ 3-2-102 and 3-2-105) shall be utilized.

(c) Upon affirmative vote by the super-majority vote of the county election commission, the commission shall be the coordinating commission for the project plan for the convenient voting centers. The coordinating commission shall approve the plan prior to the county election commission implementing the plan.

3-2-308. (a) Convenient voting centers shall be open for voting for a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive hours but no more than twenty-four (24) hours. All convenient voting centers in the county shall have a minimum of three (3) polling locations for general election voting. The polling locations shall be accessible to all qualifying voters at any time in which the voting location is accessible to the public.

(b) At least fifteen (15) days before the date of each election, the county election commission shall determine a uniform time for the opening of all convenient voting centers.

3-2-309. The coordinator of elections shall file a report with the state and local government committee of the senate and the local government committee of the house of representatives. The report shall contain the Coordinator’s evaluation of the pilot project, together with the coordinator's recommendations as to whether convenient voting centers should continue to future elections.

3-2-310. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act. The pilot shall only apply in any county having a population of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) as of the first day of the second biennial session of the legislature after the date of this act.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE CONVENIENT VOTE CENTERS?

- They are polling locations throughout the county that any voter can appear to vote. It does not matter where you live within Rutherford County.

- Convenient Vote Centers is a concept that we use during early voting. It utilizes technology to tabulate your vote in your proper precinct. By doing this, it allows you to vote at any location, thus making voting more convenient.

- If a voter has a change of address, Vote Centers allow the voter to change their address and vote at that location on Election Day. In the past, the voter had to go to a fail safe center to make these changes.
MTSU CAMPUS REPORT ON 2012 & 2016 VOTING DATA

- National Study of over 1,000 colleges and universities.
- A signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education.
Tennessee experienced a near record voter turnout in 2016 but we only saw a .5% increase over 2012.

Well below average compared to all 1,000+ institutions.
Educating students on the Absentee Voting process will generate significant improvement.

By Voting Method*

**Your Students’ Voting Data | Presidential Elections**

**By Voting Method**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting Method</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absentee</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Vote</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Person, Election Day</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>-6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,290</td>
<td>8,858</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Your students' data broken down by voting method. If your county has a high number of votes for 'unknown', it means that this information was not approved by your office when your students voted.
By Age Group*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2012 Enrolled</th>
<th>2012 Voted</th>
<th>2012 Rate</th>
<th>2016 Enrolled</th>
<th>2016 Voted</th>
<th>2016 Rate</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>11,222</td>
<td>4,227</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>10,504</td>
<td>4,116</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>5,721</td>
<td>2,326</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>4,812</td>
<td>1,834</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>1,356</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
<td>2,644</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>2,490</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>1,882</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Your students data broken down by age at the time of the election. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young or were enrolled but not in the country were removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or unregistered citizens.

Following National Trend
Generating a higher level of awareness with incoming freshman would improve our overall level of engagement.
### By Field of Study*

*Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose data was not reported to the Commonwealth, or those whose data is from states that did not provide data are removed from this table. Please note that ASI and VPAS students are not included in these calculations, data is from all students or unreported students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus top three and bottom three voting by field of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>2012 Enrolled</th>
<th>2012 Voted</th>
<th>2012 Rate</th>
<th>2016 Enrolled</th>
<th>2016 Voted</th>
<th>2016 Rate</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Agricultural Operations</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Management, and Marketing</td>
<td>3,406</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>3,025</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Journalism</td>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>1,232</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Technologies/Technicians</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Information Sciences</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>-4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2,421</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>1,349</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Engineering Technologies</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Literature</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Consumer/Human Sciences</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>-7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>1,663</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>1,425</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure and Recreational Activities</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Sciences</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Statistics</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Religious Studies</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38.5%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>-3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2016 compared to 2012

**Largest Increase by Major**

- **English**: +7.3%
- **Mass Com**: +5.6%

**Largest decline of voters by major**

- **Family & Human Sciences**: -7.9%
- **Social Services**: -6.3%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value1</th>
<th>Value2</th>
<th>Percent1</th>
<th>Value3</th>
<th>Value4</th>
<th>Percent2</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration and Social Service Professions</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
<td>-6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Materials Moving</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>2,367</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>1,845</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>-27.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Can WE Improve Student Civic Engagement?

- MTSU Board of Trustees create a culture of importance by establishing a university platform for civic engagement to be utilized by students.

- Instruct the University Marketing and Communications Office to engage with the Rutherford County Election staff to develop True Blue Civic Engagement programming, messaging, collateral materials and most importantly, implement information into existing university platforms. Creating awareness and visibility via social media, web based applications, banners, and posters promoting civic engagement that display how to participate.
We would have an election official at each CUSTOMS session to register in person any incoming student (in RuCo or another TN county) to vote at the time the student gets their student ID. This would satisfy the requirements within TCA § 2-2-115 (b) (7).

Election Commission staff would work with MTSU Student Government or a student organization at determined time periods during a state and federal election to create awareness by reminding and educating students of important dates and deadlines in the absentee voting process.
THE ABSENTEE PROCESS IS SIMPLE AND EASY
STEP ONE

Register to Vote / Vote In-Person
Tennessee Voter Registration Awareness Campaign
STEP TWO

Fill out Absentee Ballot Request Form
ATTENTION COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Mail, fax or email completed request to your county election commission

I formally "Request an Absentee Ballot" based upon the following information.

1) PRINT NAME ____________________________________________ 2) PHONE _______________________

3) ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE ________________________________

4) MAIL MY ABSENTEE BALLOT TO THIS ADDRESS ________________________________

5) SOCIAL SECURITY # __________________________________________

6) DATE OF BIRTH _______________________

7) I WISH TO VOTE IN THE [ ] General Election [ ] Primary Election ( ____ Republican ____ Democratic) or [ ] Other

8) REASON FOR VOTING ABSENTEE (Check One)

____ I am over 60 years of age.

____ I will be outside of this county during all hours of early voting and Election Day.

____ I am enrolled as a full-time student (or spouse of a student) at an institution inside Tennessee and outside the county where I am registered.

____ I am a voter with a disability and my polling place is inaccessible.

____ I reside in a licensed facility, outside the county, providing relatively permanent domiciliary care, i.e. Nursing Home

____ I am hospitalized, ill or physically disabled and because of such condition, I am unable to appear at my polling place for this election.

____ I am a caretaker of a person who is hospitalized, ill or physically disabled.

____ I am a candidate.

____ I am on jury duty in a state or federal court.

____ I am serving as an election official or a member or employee of the election commission on Election Day.

____ I am observing a religious holiday that prevents me from voting early or on Election Day.

____ I have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) or spouse or a person possessing a CDL or a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), will be out of county during early voting and Election Day, and have no specific out-of-county or out-of-state address to receive mail during this time. Enclosed is a copy of my CDL or my spouse's CDL or my TWIC card. The CDL# is ___________________________.

____ I am [ ] a member of the military, spouse or dependent, [ ] an activated National Guard member on state orders, [ ] an overseas citizen and otherwise qualified to vote in Tennessee (must include mailing address outside county even if ballot is emailed). Ballot to be sent: [ ] by Mail [ ] Email: email address ________________________________

I swear or affirm, under the penalty of perjury, that all information on this form is true and correct and that I am eligible to vote in the election.

8) SIGNATURE OF VOTER

(Digital Signature Not Accepted)

If voter is unable to sign their name or make a mark, the person assisting and one witness must also sign their names and provide their addresses.

1. ____________________________ __________________________________________

Name and address of person assisting

2. ____________________________ __________________________________________

Name and address of person witnessing
STEP THREE

Student would submit their Absentee Ballot Request form by U.S. Mail or e-mail to the proper County Election Commission in the county where they are registered starting 90 days before an Election, but NO later than 7 days before
IMPORTANT ABSENTEE VOTING DATES FOR TENNESSEE

May 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2018 – County Primary Election
First day to request an Absentee Ballot: January 31\textsuperscript{st}, 2018
Last day to receive an Absentee Request: April 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2018

August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2018 – State & Federal Primary

County General Election
First day to request an Absentee Ballot: May 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2018
Last day to receive an Absentee Request: July 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2018

November 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2018 – General Election
First day to request an Absentee Ballot: August 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2018
Last day to receive an Absentee Request: October 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018