

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President



Dear Spartan community,

From student government to federal government, the opportunity to elect the people who represent us is a basic right, privilege and responsibility for all eligible voters.

Today is [National Voter Registration Day](#), an initiative created to focus attention on the importance of voting as a central feature of our democracy. Many in our Spartan community are not currently registered. Maybe you didn't update your address when you joined us on campus this semester. Or, maybe you recently turned 18 and have never had the chance to register or preregister to vote. But if you want a say in how your local, state and federal lawmakers represent you, now is the time to do something about it.

[Constitution Day](#) commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. Under [36 U.S. Code § 106](#) "each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution."

The SJSU Votes Festival celebrating National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day will be held on the 7th St. Paseo today 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. You can obtain nonpartisan information about voting and voting rights, civic engagement opportunities, and/or the Constitution from over 35 campus and community partners at the SJSU Votes Festival today. You can also get some great SJSU Votes swag!

The next election is the November 5, 2024 General Election. The deadline to register to vote in California and receive a vote-by-mail ballot is 15 days before the election. If you are not already registered to vote, I encourage you to [register today](#). It only takes a few minutes. You can also check your registration status on that same page.

You can also register to vote in person at the SJSU Votes Festival today.

If you miss the voter registration deadline, you can also register to vote in person at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters' Office or a vote center using ["same-day" voter registration](#). SJSU's vote center will be located in the Provident Credit Union Event Center and open from Nov. 2-4 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Election Day, November 5 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.



Our Department of Political Science does a great job educating students on this topic. [SJSU Votes](#), managed by Professor Mary Currin-Percival, is focused on voting and other community engagement. Along with many campus partners - including Associated Students, Student Affairs, the Center for Community Learning & Leadership and our Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - SJSU Votes works hard to encourage our community to register and vote. I'm proud of all they do in the name of democracy and civic responsibility.

Stay in touch with SJSU Votes and [SJSU's elections website](#) to obtain information and updates about upcoming elections. Be sure to also check out upcoming events scheduled for National Voter Education Week October 7-11, so you can #VoteReady.

Even those individuals who may not be eligible to vote can participate. Anyone can actively support their preferred candidate, organization and cause, for example, and there are many activities they can take part in. Those who are not eligible to vote but want to better understand how to get involved in an issue or campaign may find our [UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center](#) to be a helpful place to visit.

I appreciate everyone who is working to express the importance of voting and other civic engagement. This is a critical part of our educational mission.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson
President
(She/Her/Ella)

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