

Riverside Community College District

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

November 13, 2025 at 2pm

<https://rccd-edu.zoom.us/j/89023820312?pwd=odJENjXk65JgiLnAGiHIBZuOKQVNra.1>

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Welcome and Introductions**
- III. **April 2, 2025 Minutes** (*Action*)
- IV. **Goals/Activities** (*Discussion*)
 - a. 2026 Legislative Plan
 - b. Ideas/Plans for the 2026 Election Year and How/What We Can Assist the Colleges
 - c. RCCD Guidelines on Government Relations & Political Campaign-Related Activities
 - d. Exhibits/plans for CSJ&CL 2026
 - e. CERT Training
- V. **College Updates/Civic Engagement Support** (*Discussion*)
- VI. **Future Agenda Items/New Business** (*Discussion*)
- VII. **Next Meeting**
Spring 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Adrienne Grayson, Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships
Amy DeArcos, Administrative Specialist
Chris Clarke, Executive Director, External Relations & Strategic Communications
Laura Dunphy, Associate Professor, Business Administration
Mark Hartley, Dean, Student Life
Meriel Anderson-McDade, CTE Employment Placement Coordinator
Rebecca Goldware, Vice Chancellor (VC), Institutional Advancement & Economic Development (IA&ED)
Sabeen Scott, Instructional Department Coordinator
Sigrid Williams, Associate Professor, Administration of Justice
Tracy Fisher, Director, Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties
Valerie Cruz, Student

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Parissa Clark, Associate Professor, Political Science

GUESTS AND DISTRICT EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Jessica Zenteno, Community Action Leadership Academy
Darci Manzo, Director, College Corps Grant
Renee Vigil, Executive Administrative Assistant, VC, IA&ED

CALL TO ORDER

The Civic Engagement Committee (CEC) meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

VC Goldware welcomed the CEC members and members introduced themselves to the committee.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE CHARGE

The CEC charge is before the members for review and approval. Member Clarke motioned to accept the charge and member Hartley seconded (11 ayes). The CEC focus and goals were discussed.

REVIEW OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The District has gone through a process and a draft was created by an assortment of faculty at the three colleges. There was a suggestion to clarify on implementation of the Acknowledgment being used and that this should be housed on the District website. It was discussed to engage native peoples of the community in the draft of the acknowledgment statement and it was emphasized inclusion the colleges in the draft process. Guest Darci Manzo shared that it would be helpful to include students and collect data to better serve students of the tribes.

VOTER/ELECTION UPDATE

Guest Manzo shared about the College Corps which is a statewide program through the Governor's office. The program was created to assist students with part-time work and there are several partnerships on campus as well as within the community. Guest Zenteno shared about the Community Action Leadership Academy with interns committed to community engagement which is a nine-month program. Voter engagement was discussed on how to help students register, vote and stay engaged.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

It was discussed about CERT training and it was recommended that this training be offered as a service program.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Several committee members shared updates about the colleges and the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties.

ADJOURN

The CEC meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

DRAFT

RCCD Guidelines on Government Relations and Political Campaign-Related Activities

This document provides comprehensive guidance for how Riverside Community College District (RCCD) employees, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and students should engage with government entities and participate in political campaign-related activities. The goal is to promote transparency, legal compliance, and protection of First Amendment rights, while maintaining RCCD's nonpartisan status.

All members of the RCCD community are encouraged to engage civically. However, when contacting elected or appointed officials on behalf of the District, employees must first notify the Government Relations office. This office coordinates communications, evaluates priorities, and ensures appropriate follow-up, including engagement with the Chancellor. If government officials initiate contact, the Government Relations office should be informed so appropriate actions can be coordinated.

Government Relations also monitors legislative and regulatory activities and informs relevant RCCD programs. Comments on proposed legislation should be forwarded to Government Relations for coordination. RCCD's legislative priorities are developed annually and submitted to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees for approval.

RCCD encourages civic engagement while complying with federal law that prohibits institutional political campaigning. Individual political expression is protected under the First Amendment and academic freedom principles, and must be clearly distinguished from institutional positions. Employees may express personal political views professionally and without using RCCD resources. They should avoid using titles or affiliations in political correspondence. Academic freedom is protected per AAUP guidelines, which affirm the right to research, publish, and discuss subjects freely in class.

Students are encouraged to engage in political activity consistent with academic standards and Board Policy 3500. Student organizations may host political events in accordance with Board Policy 5700. RCCD may also engage in nonpartisan voter education and registration efforts. Candidate appearances must be nonpartisan and must not involve fundraising.

In accordance with California Education Code Sections 7050–7058, public employees may not use public resources for campaign activity. However, they may participate in political activities on their own time. 'Nonworking time' refers to breaks, lunch periods, or time outside of scheduled work hours. RCCD supports employee rights to political expression and encourages clarity and professionalism in such activities.

To support understanding and compliance, RCCD provides guidance through the Government Relations office. The intent is not to penalize but to ensure that all members of the community feel supported in their civic engagement while maintaining institutional integrity.

For coordination of meetings and events with officials, the Government Relations office prepares materials and schedules as needed. The Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement and Economic Development serves as the office of primary responsibility for these guidelines.