

MyUCLA Voter Registration

www.my.ucla.edu

Project	MyUCLA Voter Registration System . Making it easier for UC students to register to vote
Submitter	Sultan Jinnah, Manager, Distributed Technologies, IT Services (310) 562-0228 sjinnah@it.ucla.edu
Technical Team	Sultan Jinnah, Julia Sakowski, Naveen Chinthapally, Charles Paucar, Gevorg Ter-Petrosyan, Stephen Johann
Project Sponsors	UCOP California Secretary of State's Office UCLA Council UCLA Registrar (Frank Wada) UCLA Campus Life (Karen Hedges)

Executive Summary

The new **Voter Registration** has been added to the MyUCLA portal application allowing UCLA Students to register or re-register to vote in 90 seconds or less. The State of California and UCLA formed a partnership to build voting registration into a student's hectic schedules and make it as convenient as possible to improve the percentage of young people voting in elections.

UCLA became the first UC, and one of the first universities in the nation, to offer automatic, autofill voter registration to its students by linking the information through their MyUCLA portal. The application went live April 20, 2021.

The application was designed following WCAG compliance, making web content more accessible for people with disabilities.

Language preferences supported are: English, Spanish, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Project Overview

Rather than using third-party software or a centralized website, the Voter Registration application leverages existing MyUCLA's single sign-on capability (SSO) to tie together functionality provided by different campus organizations, avoiding unnecessary large-scale changes to the underlying architecture of the participating websites. From an architecture perspective, MyUCLA portal provides a consolidated uniform presentation tier and leverages the underlying infrastructure allowing for data to propagate seamlessly among all portal applications including the Voter Registration application.

The project was designed and implemented through a strong collaborative engagement with The California Secretary of State's office and UCLA's project management, infrastructure and application development teams.

With the success of MyUCLA, one way in which the UC could play its part would be by allowing students to register to vote, similarly to how they register for classes. Register to Vote links are now throughout the MyUCLA portal. These links take students to forms already filled out with existing student data. All the student has to do is click a button that says "Register." This is very convenient for the student since UCLA already has most, if not all, of the information (name, address, social security, etc.) needed to implement this registry system stored in its data repositories. This simple method will allow every student who resides in California, and attends UCLA to register to vote.

Benefits to Students

There are many benefits including empowering students to quickly register to participate in the democratic process of voting for local, state and federal elections. MyUCLA safeguards the student's information and helps ensure that all registration records are accurate and up-to-date with the California Secretary of State's office.

Benefits to Society

The Voter Registration System helps ensure that all registration records are accurate and up-to-date so that our elections are free and fair. Furthermore, this well-designed, user-friendly data platform layered on top of MyUCLA has simplified election organization by eliminating costly ballot paper work, removing the process of informing eligible voters by mail, making a physical space available to hold the registration, all previous requirements for students to vote. With connectivity to California Secretary of State's office, we reduced the paper work errors that often occur in the voting registration and voting process.

The Impact

A common sense idea for students to register to vote at the same time they are accessing MyUCLA to do many of the university processes that students do on a daily basis.

The State of California and UCLA built a voting registration process into the student's hectic schedules and make it as convenient as possible to improve the percentage of young people voting in elections. UCLA and the State of California agreed to address student's scheduling conflicts in order to promote student voting.

The accomplished system goals were:

ACCESSIBILITY: MyUCLA Voter Registration makes registering to vote accessible for more students who can sometimes find it a challenge to keep their registration information updated.

SECURITY: MyUCLA safeguards the student's information and helps ensure that all registration records are accurate and up-to-date so that our elections are free and fair.

ACCURACY: MyUCLA helps keep the voter information accurate and up to date with the California Secretary of State's office. This rids the errors and inaccuracies encountered by voters, advocates and campaigns each year.

EFFICIENCY: By replacing outdated paper-based systems with a modern, electronic one, we can eliminate wasteful red tape and save taxpayer money. MyUCLA Voter Registration can also improve efficiency at polling places on Election Day by reducing reliance on same-day registration.