



Turn Up Turnout

UM's Nonpartisan Civic
Engagement Organization

DINNERS FOR DEMOCRACY ON INTERSECTIONAL ISSUES

Dinners for Democracy are a long standing project of Turn Up Turnout, designed to help students connect issues they care about to voting. These Dinners for Democracy were designed to help students connect DEI issues to choices they have on the ballot.

Date/Time/Location

We did a series of ten dinners on five different topics, all hosted at the Ford School of Public Policy. The dates were October 2nd at 6 pm, October 2nd at 7 pm, October 5th at 6 pm, October 5th at 7 pm, October 11th at 6 pm, October 11th at 7 pm, October 12th at 6 pm, October 12th at 7 pm, October 19th at 6 pm, and October 19th at 7 pm.

Purpose & Objectives

These Dinners were on topics like the Judicial System and Racial Justice, Voting Access, Abortion Policy, Immigration Policy, and LGBTQ+ Policy. We would feed attendees a catered dinner, give them a presentation on the basics of the policy issue that we were discussing that night, and then lead a discussion on that policy issue and how it relates to offices on the ballot. The objectives of these dinners was to help UM community members connect their passions for DEI and intersectional policy issues to voting.

Highlights

Our dinner on October 11th on Abortion Policy broke our record for ODEI Grant Dinner for Democracy presentation for number of attendees. Those in attendance were excited to have a lively discussion about the history of this policy area and how their vote can impact the issue.

Our first dinner of the program on the Judicial System and Racial Justice had one of the most engaged discussions of the whole program. We spent double the time we usually spend in discussion talking about the many ways identity based factors shape the court system.

Attendee Feedback

In surveys of attendees, we heard that Dinner for Democracy presentations meaningfully improved attendees understanding of the policy issue being discussed, the importance of voting, and the logistical steps to voting. Anecdotally, many of the attendees of the ODEI Grant Dinner for Democracy program became trained members of TUT who now help us provide voter support around campus.

Contact

If you would like to get involved or have questions about this initiative, feel free to reach out to contact-tut@umich.edu!



<Nick presenting his D4D on LGBTQ+ Policy.

>Rose presenting her D4D on the Judicial System and Racial Justice.

