**Post-Election Empowerment Plan**

This worksheet is designed to help you stay involved in the issues that are important to you as our civic duty does not stop at the ballot box and the impact of elections does not end once the outcome is certified.

**Have the needs of my community changed in light of the election? If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am committed to remaining involved with the following causes or organizations:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What are some issues or topics I need to educate myself on? What is my plan to do that?**

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**What are some ways I can use my special skills or talents to make a difference in the broader world?**

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**What future would I like to see, and what steps am I taking today to ensure that future will happen?**

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**I am motivated to become engaged by the following election outcomes:**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Other post-election take-aways: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I am feeling:**

* Relieved
* Grateful
* Exhausted
* Inspired
* Frustrated
* Hopeful
* Fed up
* Sad
* Overwhelmed
* Angry
* Confused
* Anxious
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What are some strategies that will help me manage**

**these emotions?**

* Exercise
* Meditation
* Spend time with friends
* Time Outdoors
* Laugh
* Unplug from Social Media
* Spiritual Practices
* Listen to Music
* Journal
* Get creative
* Cook
* CAPS
* Volunteer
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What campus offices can help support me?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What is my plan to check-in and support my friends,**

**family, and loved ones? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**New/Re-Elected Officials**

President & Vice-President: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

US Senator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

US Representative: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State Governor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State Senator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What is my plan to hold these elected officials accountable?**

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Adapted from 

CARE DURING THE ELECTION SEASON

**Self-Care Strategies**

**Community Care Strategies**

**Invest in relationships and friendships.**

Check-in with friends and community members. Ask "How can I support you?"

**Support mutual aid efforts.**

Share what you have-be that a car, time, extroversion, money, writing skills, empathy, art supplies, etc. Any and all of these can be incredibly useful in supporting someone in community.

**Lend a hand to someone in need** – e.g. give

someone a ride to the store, walk someone's dog.

**Listen to others with compassion and nonjudgement.**

**Educate yourself about systemic racism** and

respect the boundaries and members of BIPOC and LQBTQ+ communities.

Limit the amount of time you spend on social media or the news.

When you get the impulse to look at social media, count slowly to

10 and ask yourself: What am I hoping to get out of this

experience? Let that question help you decide whether you still

want to open that app.

*S*et boundaries

Take mental and conversation breaks from politics (e.g., contemplate

all the things you’re grateful for that day, talk about your non-political interests).

It’s ok to walk away from an overly heated conversation that

doesn’t feel productive or meaningful.

Practice self-care

Incorporate activities into your daily life that help to make you feel good

and recharged (i.e. read a good book, watch a funny tv show/movie, go

for a walk/exercise, play a video game). Try mindfulness meditation.

Engage in self-care routines like exercise, nature, sleep, or

meditation. Participate in a hobby that is totally separate from the

election.

Surround yourself with positive resources, like friends or family

who you can talk to. If you need it, ask to avoid talking about

politics.

Inhale for four, exhale for four. Count your breaths. Relax your

shoulders. Unclench your jaw. The simplest of actions, like enjoying

a moment of silence, can help you reset your body and mind.

Do some prep work. Take care of essential chores (e.g. grocery

shopping, laundry) in advance of a stressful week. Set up your week

Counseling and Psychological Services

Pierson Hall Upper Level

[CAPS@longwood.edu](mailto:CAPS@longwood.edu)

434-395-2409

to require the least energy from you.

Be kind to yourself. Be realistic about what you have the mental

and emotional capacity for right now.



Ask your faculty and supervisors for what you need. Do you need

an extension on a paper or project? Do you need to make an

appointment during office hours? It's okay to ask.

**Use your resources.** A number of events are planned for the Longwood community during the week of the election - including free recreation classes, Well-Being Clinics, and **Drop in appointments in CAPS.**