December 2021

Student Voting Rates for

2020 NSLVE Campus Report
Rutgers -The State University Of NJ- New Brunswick

Tufts University | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

October 2021
Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to send this tailored report containing your students' voting rates for 2020. This report contains three years of relevant topline data: 2016, 2018, and 2020. As always, we disaggregate the data so you can better identify and address gaps in participation.

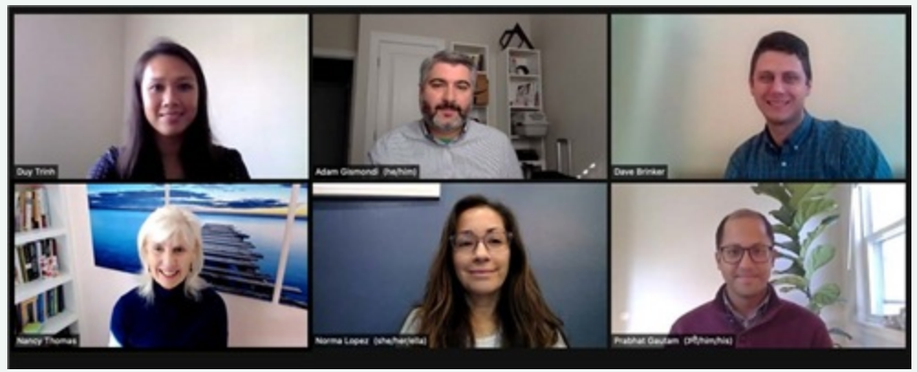
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

As in past years, we urge you to share this report widely and strategically, particularly with faculty who, in 2020, were often the most consistent communicators with students about ever-changing voting conditions and deadlines. We also urge you to review our recommendations for engaging elections to cultivate a robust and healthy campus climate for political engagement, discourse, equity, and participation: Election Imperatives (2019) and the more recent Election Imperatives: A Time of Physical Distancing and Social Action. Since "pervasive political discussions" and attentiveness to the campus culture around speech and academic freedom are among our top recommendations, we direct you to our discussion guides on talking about your NSLVE report, on free speech and inclusion , and on hot topics, our Making Sense of … guides.

Finally, we always encourage you to work with us. Help us help you get better data by reaching out. Email **IDHE@Tufts.edu** for more information. And as always, watch your inbox for our periodic newsletter, IDHE Update, for announcements about upcoming releases and new resources.

Congratulations on engaging your students in the 2020 election. Remember, student political learning is a year-round objective. Elections may be episodic, but student political engagement should not be.

All the Best,
IDHE Team



(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

We also want to acknowledge and thank **Syed Golam Mohaimen, M.S. student in Data Science at Tufts University** for his contributions toward the creation of these reports.

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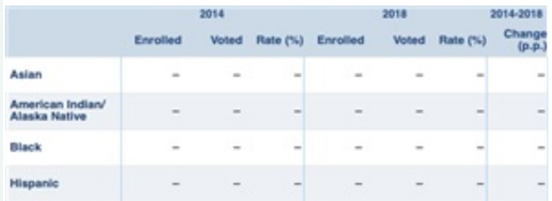
In This Report

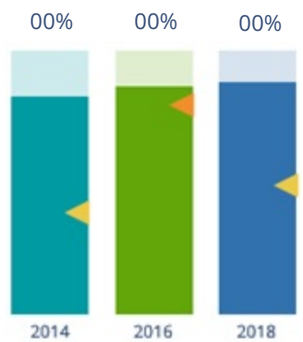
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut charts, and tables.



	2014			2018			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

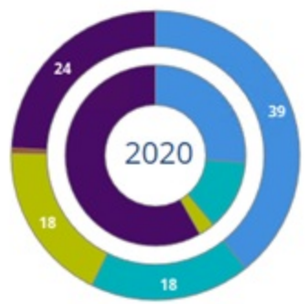
Tables

The tables show, on the left-side columns, the numbers of students and the rates from 2016, 2018, and 2020. On the left-side, percentage point (p.p.) changes between 2016 and 2020. A red down arrow indicates a decrease, a green up arrow indicates an increase, and a yellow arrow pointing to the right indicates no change. "-" in these tables indicates that the data is unavailable/missing, or is available for 10 or less students.



Vessel Chart

This chart shows rates out of 100%, with arrows to the right of each bar representing relevant national averages (medians), which you can find in IDHE's national report Democracy Counts 2020.



Overlapping Donut Chart

This chart is used to show the breakdown of vote method utilization (page 9), with the inner ring showing your campus's method utilization and the outer ring showing the national level utilization. These are described in percentages.

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Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

72.8%

2020 Voting Rate

+20.2

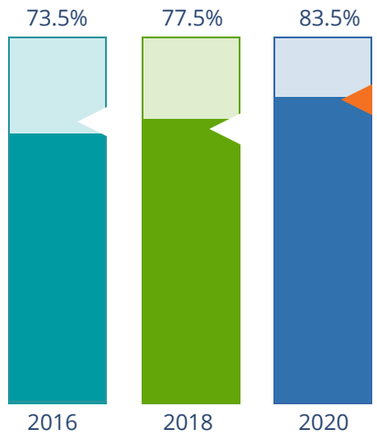
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

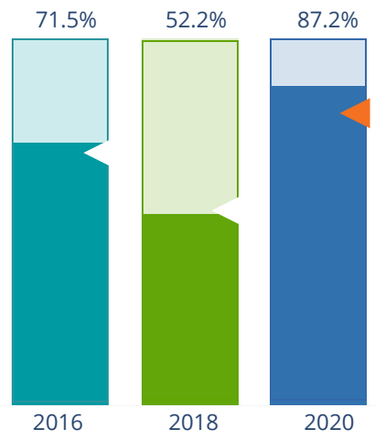
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



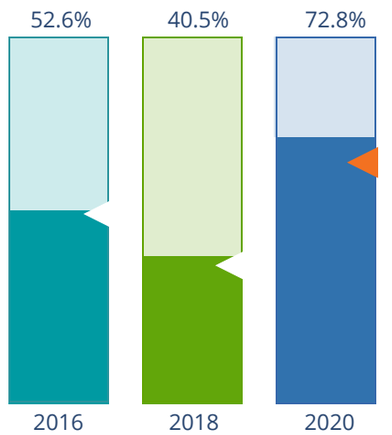
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE



The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

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Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	43,333	43,279	44,310	↑ 977
(Age under 18/Unknown)	308	287	269	↓ -39
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	5,409	5,528	5,020	↓ -389
(FERPA records blocked)	21	16	14	↓ -7
(Non-Degree Age Eligible Students)	–	–	–	–
Total eligible voters	37,595	37,448	39,007	↑ 1,412
Number of students who registered	27,648	29,016	32,563	↑ 4,915
Number of students who voted	19,757	15,151	28,390	↑ 8,633
Registration Rate %	74	77	83	↑ 10
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	71	52	87	↑ 16
Voting Rate %	53	40	73	↑ 20

This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.

We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This estimate is given by "IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens" on this page. If you believe the number of international students reported on this report is incorrect, you can manually adjust your institution's voting rates by using our recalculation tool. https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool

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By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH 82%

LOW 13%

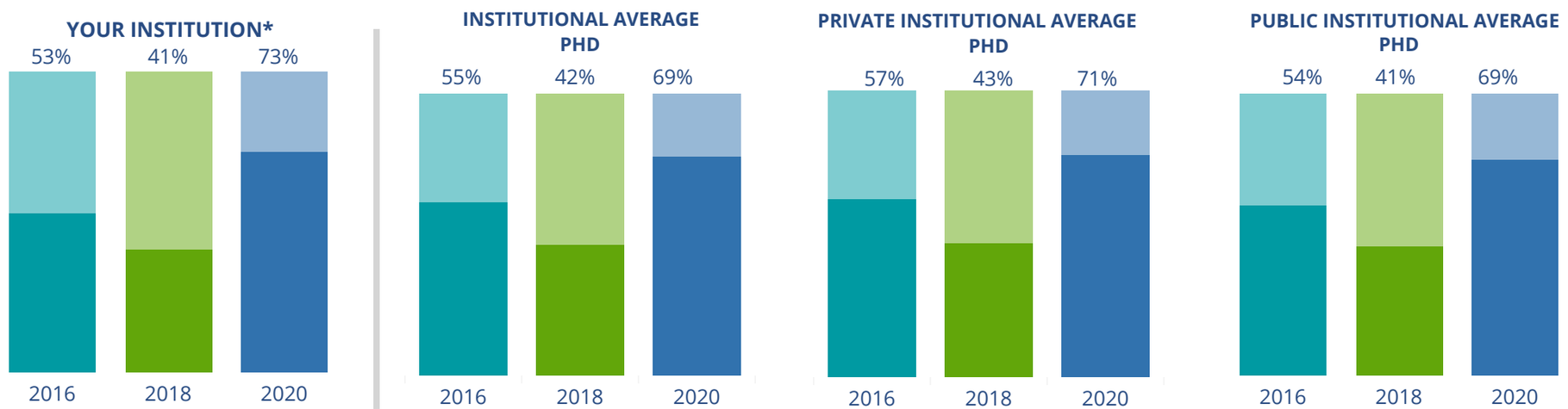
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

HIGH 89%

LOW 19%

These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. *"Your Institution" chart is presented at a different scale.



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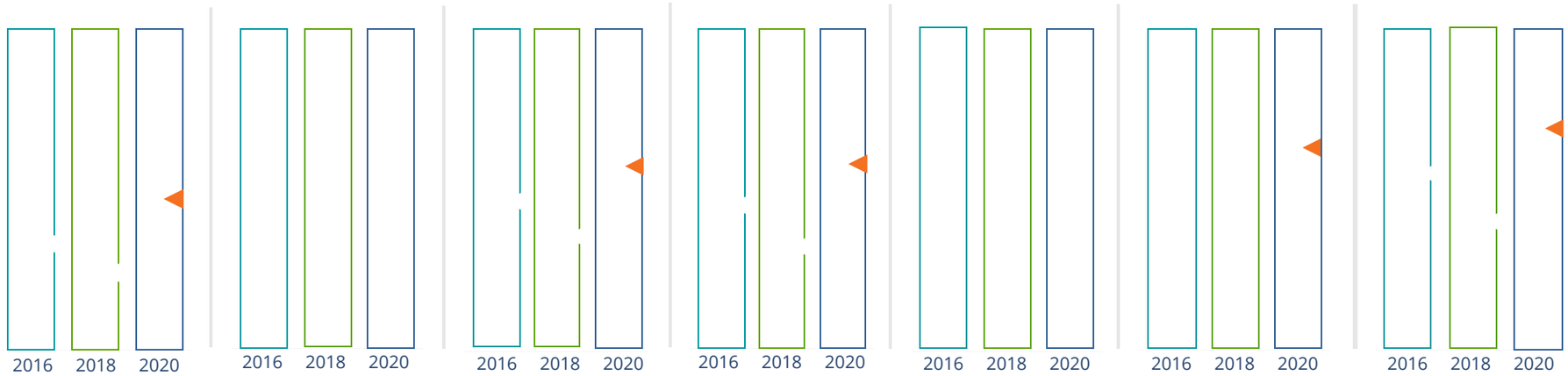
By Race / Ethnicity



These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail on why we cannot report national benchmark for some of the demographic groups: https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq

If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

**https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes*

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Looking Closer

By Race/Ethnicity

This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years.
If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	43,004	19,757	46	42,976	15,151	35	44,027	28,390	64	↑ 19

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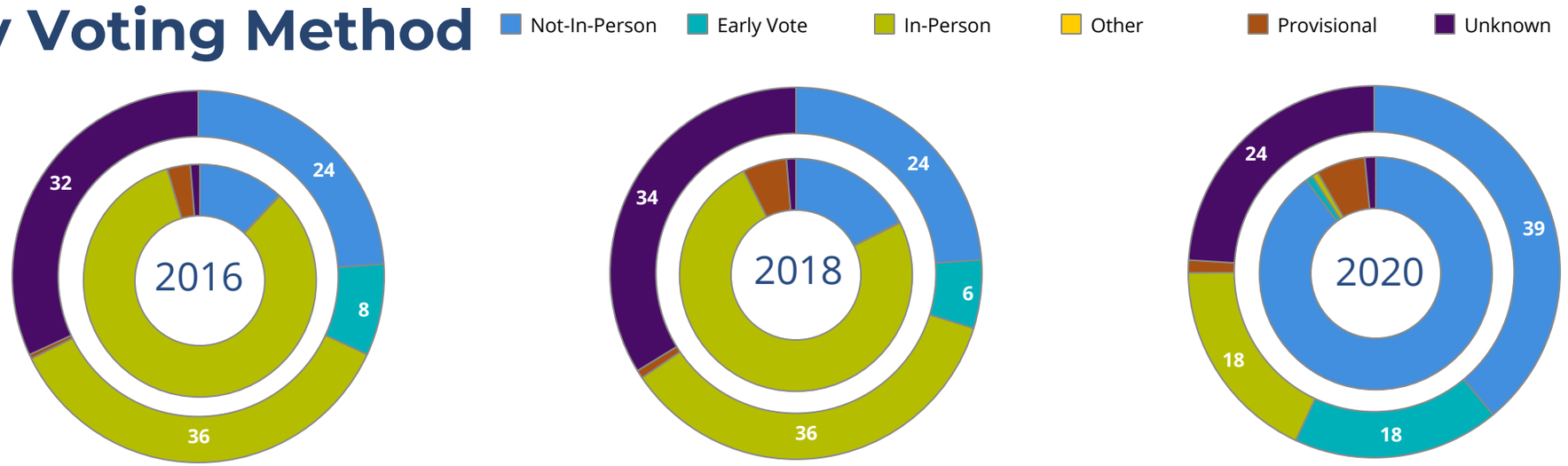
By Voting Method



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)
Early Vote	24	0	19	0	290	1	1 ↑
In-Person	16,504	84	11,366	75	269	1	-83 ↓
Not-In-Person	2,356	12	2,657	18	25,484	90	78 ↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provisional	636	3	922	6	1,935	7	4 ↑
Voting Method Unknown	236	1	186	1	412	2	0 ↑

These are estimated rates for vote method utilization, the number of students utilizing each method, and the percent of students utilizing each method. Not all U.S. states provide information on vote method; voting method for voter files from these states are classified "Voting Method Unknown." For a list of these states, see our FAQ. https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports

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By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	45%	32%	66%
22-24	45%	36%	62%
25-29	47%	40%	57%
30-39	49%	44%	59%
40-49	68%	61%	73%
50+	82%	77%	83%

Voting is habit-forming and young voters will usually continue as voters in subsequent elections. Also, young voters are more likely to be contacted by campaigns and are visible, and therefore significant, to elected officials. While in the past, we have seen voting rates increase across age groups, in recent cycles, the most significant increases have been among first-time and the youngest voters. Some colleges serve primarily young students, traditionally viewed as students in the 18-21 or 22-24 categories here. Others have much higher numbers of enrolled older undergraduate or graduate students.

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Looking Closer

By Age Group

Here, we provide the numbers of students in each age category and the voting rates for each group. These are based on the student's age on the day of the election, as calculated by the National Student Clearinghouse using data from student enrollment records.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
18-21	26,673	11,877	45	26,863	8,548	32	27,824	18,430	66	↑ 22
22-24	8,293	3,707	45	8,132	2,923	36	7,739	4,790	62	↑ 17
25-29	4,262	2,017	47	4,150	1,675	40	4,338	2,491	57	↑ 10
30-39	2,511	1,238	49	2,474	1,095	44	2,739	1,620	59	↑ 10
40-49	820	555	68	870	534	61	899	652	73	↑ 5
50+	445	363	82	487	376	77	488	407	83	↑ 2

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Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Female	–	–	–	22,176	8,981	40	23,157	15,987	69	–
Male	–	–	–	20,772	6,157	30	20,849	12,387	59	–

These are estimated voting rates for sex groups and the numbers we used to calculate their voting rates. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following the reporting procedures defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Presently, NCES requires institutions to report students as “Male” or “Female” only.*

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

*https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/survey-materials/faq?faqid=11

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Looking Closer

By Education Level / Undergraduate Class Year

	2016			2018			2020			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	(2016-2020)
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	33,582	15,145	45	33,583	10,971	33	34,160	22,321	65	↑ 20
Graduate	8,549	4,088	48	8,642	3,789	44	8,880	5,385	61	↑ 13
Class Unknown	873	524	60	751	391	52	987	684	69	↑ 9
CLASS YEAR										
Freshman	6,358	2,706	43	6,660	1,838	28	6,798	4,294	63	↑ 21
Sophomore	7,534	3,166	42	7,350	2,071	28	8,587	5,523	64	↑ 22
Upper Level	19,261	9,138	47	19,051	6,928	36	18,299	12,183	67	↑ 19
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	–	–	–	37,326	12,405	33	37,931	24,413	64	–
Part-time	–	–	–	5,650	2,746	49	6,096	3,977	65	–

These are estimated voting rates by Education Level (undergraduate/graduate), Class Year, and Enrollment Status (full-time/part-time), and the numbers we used to calculate these rates.

If you notice missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (i) does not report this data; (ii) did not provide this data in past years; (iii) does not separately submit data for one or more of the demographic groups, or (iv) the data is reported for 10 or fewer students.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Agriculture	663	316	48	675	225	33	651	462	71	↑ 23
Architecture	288	159	55	184	87	47	199	139	70	↑ 15
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	202	128	63	170	85	50	123	78	63	↑ 0
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,030	982	48	1,892	675	36	1,993	1,357	68	↑ 20
Business, Management, and Marketing	6,372	2,511	39	6,559	1,844	28	6,912	4,165	60	↑ 21
Communication and Journalism	1,166	687	59	1,017	472	46	915	692	76	↑ 17
Computer and Information Sciences	1,687	621	37	2,198	649	30	2,591	1,408	54	↑ 18

These are estimated voting rates by field of study, and the numbers we used to calculate the field of study rates. For an explanation of CIP codes, please see our FAQ.* There are roughly 8,000 fields of study among U.S. colleges and universities, so we provide rates for condensed categories.

*https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-report-faq

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Education	767	530	69	781	487	62	792	649	82	↑ 13
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	3,977	1,362	34	3,912	1,119	29	3,961	2,324	59	↑ 24
English Language and Literature	511	328	64	429	238	55	330	245	74	↑ 10
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	444	216	49	342	148	43	372	216	58	↑ 9
Health Professions	1,879	805	43	2,100	671	32	2,896	2,004	69	↑ 26
History	384	235	61	372	204	55	346	259	75	↑ 14
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	703	345	49	533	201	38	540	395	73	↑ 24
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	10,832	4,569	42	10,605	3,018	28	10,036	6,215	62	↑ 20
Library Science	376	267	71	555	355	64	555	432	78	↑ 7
Mathematics and Statistics	815	218	27	762	160	21	729	233	32	↑ 5
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	600	268	45	655	284	43	690	433	63	↑ 18

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Natural Resources and Conservation	403	240	60	344	187	54	336	265	79	↑ 19
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	882	409	46	960	277	29	1,088	764	70	↑ 24
Philosophy and Religious Studies	185	87	47	190	75	39	143	83	58	↑ 11
Physical Sciences	789	351	44	691	257	37	641	358	56	↑ 11
Psychology	888	499	56	1,212	530	44	1,362	1,002	74	↑ 17
Public Administration and Social Service Profe..	1,997	1,422	71	1,937	1,170	60	2,028	1,634	81	↑ 9
Social Sciences	2,017	1,002	50	1,805	735	41	1,600	1,009	63	↑ 13
Visual and Performing Arts	1,295	704	54	1,356	615	45	1,187	866	73	↑ 19
Unknown	852	496	58	740	383	52	1,011	703	70	↑ 11

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About This Report

Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement.

Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, nearly 1,200 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020 federal elections.

Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of over 50 million college student records, about 10 million for each election year, that serve as a foundation for innovative research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

NSLVE is a signature initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. The mission of IDHE is to shift college and university priorities and culture to advance political learning, agency, and equity. We achieve our mission through research, resource development, technical assistance, and advocacy.

About the Data

The voter registration and voting rates in this report reflect the percentage of your institution's students who were eligible to vote and who actually voted in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections.

These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and publicly available voting files collected by L2 Political.

Enrollment lists are adjusted by deducting students under age 18 (at the time of the election), people identified as non-degree seeking and those identified by campuses as "nonresident aliens" (NRAs) (the federal government's category for mostly international students). Unfortunately, not all campuses report NRAs to NSC. For those campuses, we use IPEDS to calculate the number of NRA students on each campus and adjust NSC enrollment numbers to estimate the number of students to remove. We also quality check NRA removals by verifying that there is little to no discrepancy between the number of international students reported by the campus to IPEDS and to NSC. We cannot adjust subgroup analyses absent identification of NRAs verified by the process above. We welcome closer partnerships with individual colleges and universities to provide more accurate rates. For more on the data and the matching process, see our FAQ on Campus Reports.

Thank you for the work you do to improve your students' political learning and engagement. We hope that you find your NSLVE report useful. For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources, and to sign up for our newsletter visit: https://idhe.tufts.edu.

References: IDHE encourages report recipients to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it on the college or university's website. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2021). 2016, 2018, and 2020 report for _____ [name of institution]. Medford, MA.

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