October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Bowling Green State University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

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.

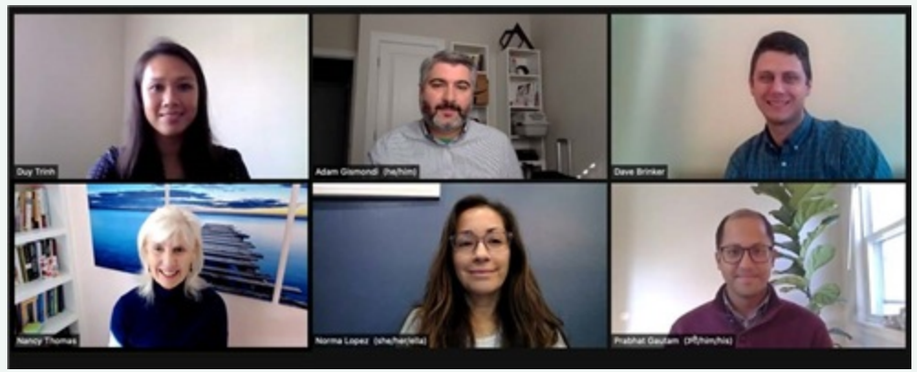
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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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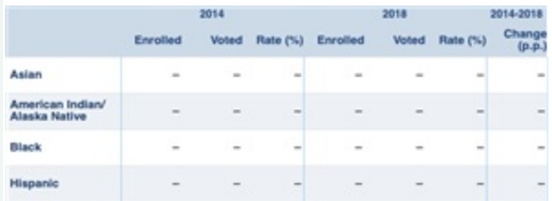
In This Report

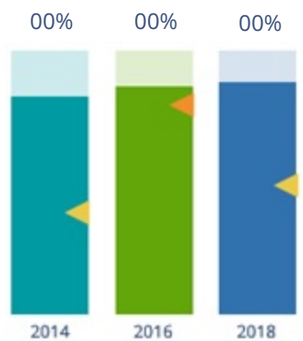
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut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



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

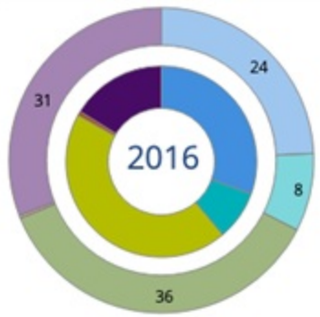
Tables

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 10), with the outer ring showing your campus method utilization and the inner ring showing the national breakdown. These are described in percentages.

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Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

67.6%

2020 Voting Rate

+11.9

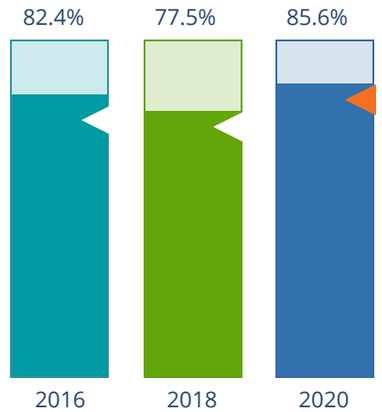
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

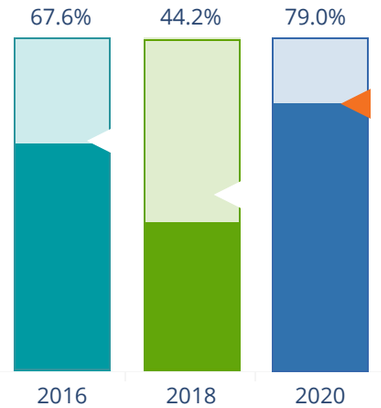
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



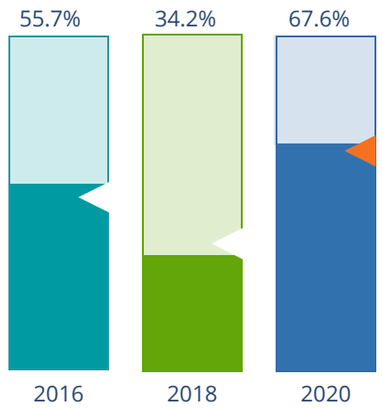
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

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	19,228	18,953	19,478	↑ 250
(Age under 18/Unknown)	16	38	46	↑ 30
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	898	779	655	↓ -243
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	1,756	1,708	2,271	↑ 515
Total eligible voters	16,550	16,419	16,498	↓ -52
Number of students who registered	13,633	12,722	14,114	↑ 481
Number of students who voted	9,219	5,619	11,149	↑ 1,930
Registration Rate %	82	77	86	↑ 3
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	68	44	79	↑ 11
Voting Rate %	56	34	68	↑ 12

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://id-he.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool.

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By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH 82%

LOW 13%

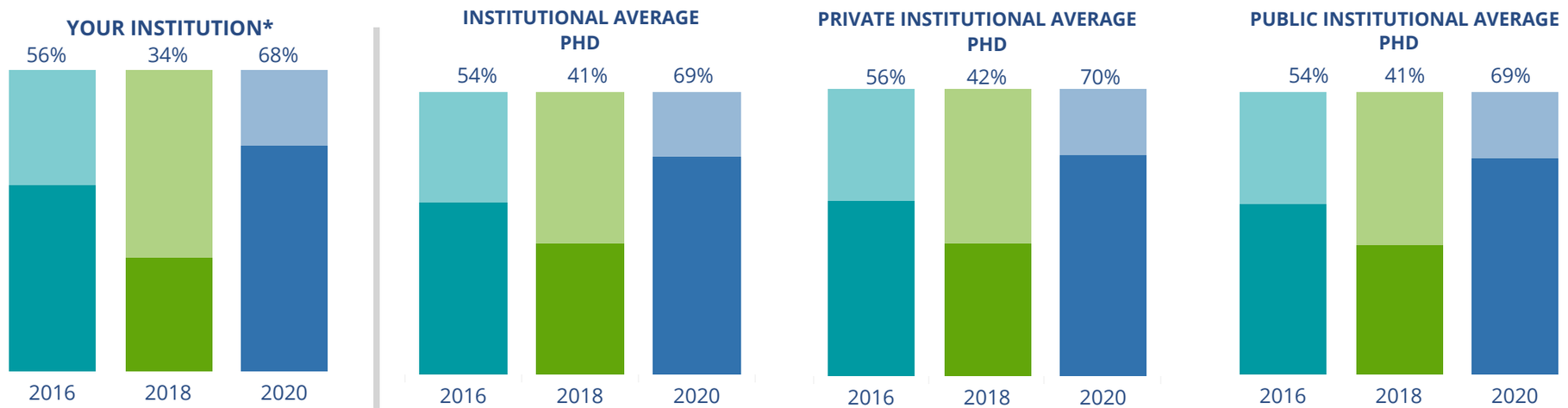
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

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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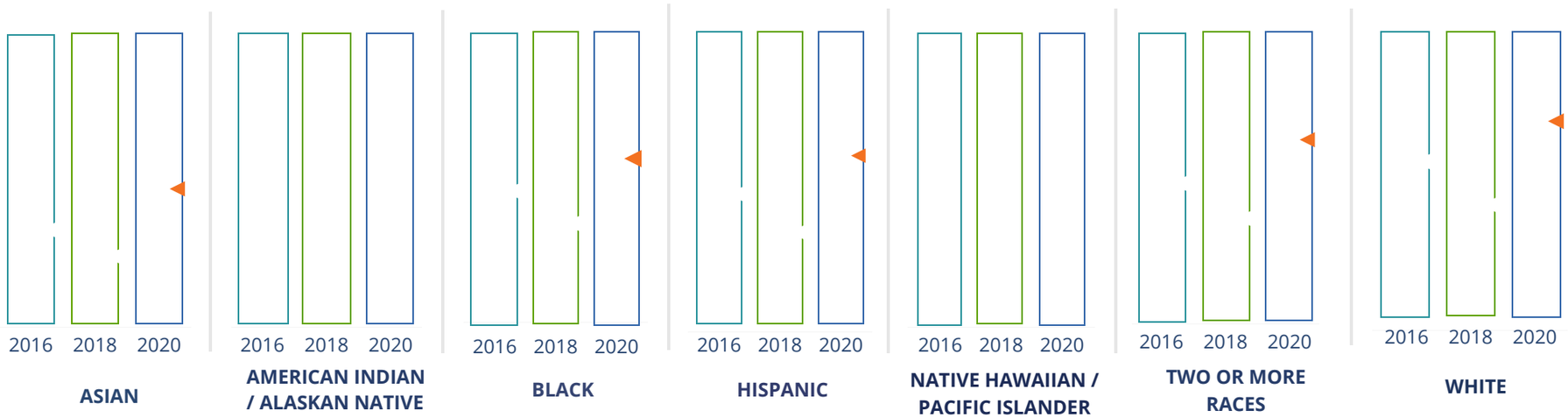
By Race / Ethnicity



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 (p.p)
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	17,364	9,219	53	17,126	5,619	33	17,075	11,149	65	↑ 12

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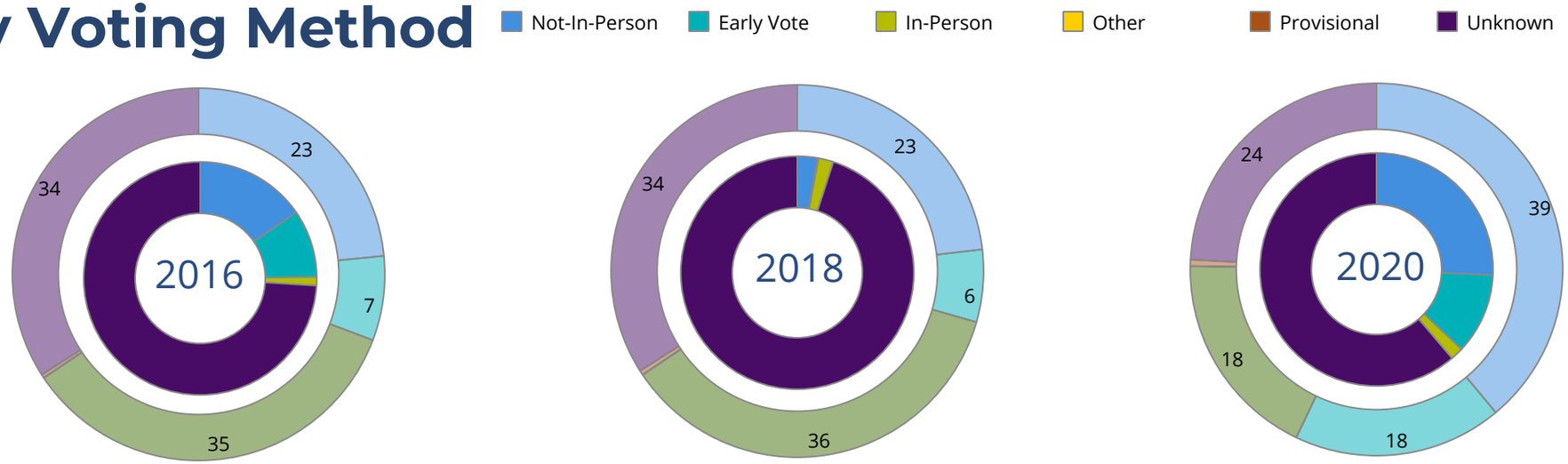
By Voting Method



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)
Early Vote	868	9	–	–	1,245	11	2 ↑
In-Person on Election Day	111	1	117	2	199	2	1 ↑
Not-In-Person	1,419	15	156	3	2,880	26	10 ↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Voting Method Unknown	6,821	74	5,337	95	6,820	61	-13 ↓

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	52%	28%	65%
22-24	51%	36%	67%
25-29	51%	41%	62%
30-39	58%	50%	64%
40-49	73%	61%	75%
50+	81%	82%	87%

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 (p.p)
18-21	11,276	5,895	52	11,406	3,196	28	11,104	7,189	65	↑ 12
22-24	3,242	1,665	51	2,946	1,074	36	2,937	1,955	67	↑ 15
25-29	1,351	690	51	1,361	555	41	1,291	794	62	↑ 10
30-39	931	544	58	902	451	50	1,103	710	64	↑ 6
40-49	402	294	73	367	225	61	457	341	75	↑ 1
50+	162	131	81	144	118	82	183	160	87	↑ 7

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Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	14,906	7,855	53	14,756	4,479	30	14,216	9,186	65	↑ 12
Graduate	2,359	1,308	55	2,361	1,138	48	2,854	1,960	69	↑ 13
Class Unknown	99	56	57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	4,701	51	2,375	4,292	23	995	3,949	59	2,332	↑ 9
Second Year	3,411	52	1,760	3,309	28	913	3,369	65	2,178	↑ 13
Upper Level	6,891	55	3,774	7,159	36	2,570	6,898	68	4,676	↑ 13
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	–	–	–	15,044	4,624	31	14,604	9,433	65	–
Part-time	–	–	–	2,082	995	48	2,471	1,716	69	–

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 (p.p)
Architecture	247	105	43	265	59	22	287	159	55	↑ 13
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	114	71	62	111	60	54	114	80	70	↑ 8
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	897	493	55	870	287	33	845	547	65	↑ 10
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,844	912	49	2,041	575	28	2,009	1,270	63	↑ 14
Communication and Journalism	399	222	56	397	151	38	391	293	75	↑ 19
Communications Technologies/Technicians	309	181	59	265	102	38	226	166	73	↑ 15
Computer and Information Sciences	81	45	56	122	41	34	111	76	68	↑ 13

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 (p.p)
Education	2,977	1,730	58	3,129	1,041	33	3,598	2,510	70	↑ 12
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,012	449	44	1,070	309	29	1,116	644	58	↑ 13
English Language and Literature	600	340	57	541	224	41	509	336	66	↑ 9
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	237	120	51	254	83	33	221	138	62	↑ 12
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	88	56	64	79	32	41	57	46	81	↑ 17
Health Professions	2,023	1,062	52	1,762	543	31	1,785	1,163	65	↑ 13
History	102	63	62	108	61	56	105	80	76	↑ 14
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	639	354	55	653	222	34	539	344	64	↑ 8
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,485	749	50	1,092	308	28	909	552	61	↑ 10
Mathematics and Statistics	268	101	38	243	66	27	240	110	46	↑ 8
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	217	133	61	251	105	42	217	150	69	↑ 8
Natural Resources and Conservation	119	72	61	136	50	37	131	107	82	↑ 21
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	599	255	43	539	113	21	484	291	60	↑ 18
Philosophy and Religious Studies	44	22	50	44	22	50	49	31	63	↑ 13

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Physical Sciences	282	125	44	370	103	28	410	249	61	↑ 16
Psychology	619	340	55	600	216	36	638	402	63	↑ 8
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	259	149	58	311	118	38	317	222	70	↑ 13
Social Sciences	414	241	58	390	182	47	331	229	69	↑ 11
Visual and Performing Arts	1,267	718	57	1,126	449	40	1,047	712	68	↑ 11
Unknown	74	35	47	45	15	33	30	18	60	↑ 13

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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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