

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Northern Illinois  
University

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# About This Report

Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has helped us build a robust database for research on more than 10 million de-identified student records for each election year.

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. IDHE is an applied research center focused on college and university student political learning and participation in democracy. IDHE researchers study voting, campus conditions for political learning and discussion, closing equity gaps in participation, and increasing student agency and participation. We accomplish our goals through research, resource development, assisting institutions and the higher education community, 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 voted in the 2012 and 2016 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files collected by Catalist. We exclude FERPA-blocked records. (For exceptions for campuses with disproportionately high numbers of FERPA blocked students, see our Campus Reports FAQ.)

The institutional voting rates reported on page 3 are adjusted by deducting an estimated number of students identified by each institution as non-resident aliens and reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For breakdowns by student characteristics in subsequent pages of the report, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are ineligible to vote: non-resident aliens (international students), resident aliens (undocumented students), and students who have been disenfranchised due to a felony conviction. As a result, your institution's actual voting rate may be higher than we report. If you have access to more complete data for students who are ineligible to vote, you may recalculate your rates by using the Recalculation Tool - <https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve-recalculation-tool>.

To read more about NSLVE data, see our Campus Reports FAQ - <https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/frequently-asked-questions>.

## Reviewing the Data

Use the following key to interpret the charts:

\* = number of students is less than 10

n/a = no data was collected or calculated for this field.

## What to do next?

□ Review the data and identify your challenges and opportunities. This report provides comparisons between subgroups of your students and with similar institutions. For more comparisons or to see national voter registration and voting rates, read our national report, Democracy Counts 2018. To access our data portals - <https://idhe.tufts.edu/public-data-portal-visualizations>.

□ Share the report widely and strategically by sharing it with institutional leaders, faculty across disciplines, student government leaders, and other student groups.

□ Read and implement *Election Imperatives*, ten recommendations for providing your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, equity, and participation - <https://idhe.tufts.edu/electionimperatives>.

□ Work with us. IDHE can help via virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions, coaching, and in-person workshops.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: <https://idhe.tufts.edu/>.

Follow us on Twitter [@TuftsIDHE](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE).

We appreciate hearing from you! Please email us at [NSLVE@tufts.edu](mailto:NSLVE@tufts.edu).

Warm regards,

IDHE Team



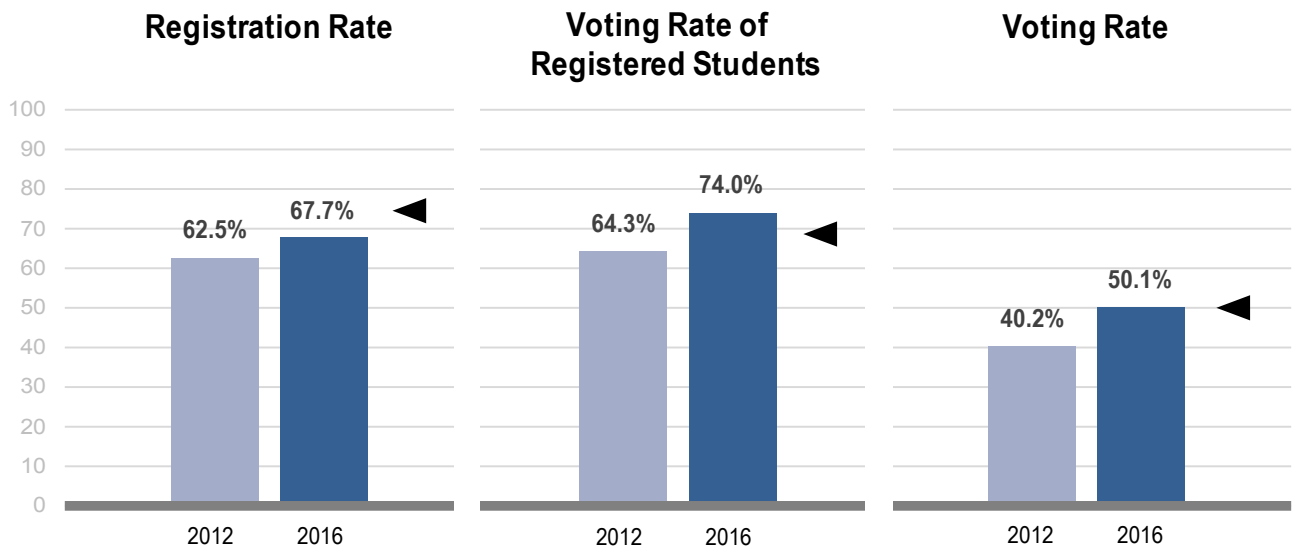
**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**50.1%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**+9.9**

2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**50.6%**



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	21,800	18,535	↓ -3,265
Age under 18/Unknown	(28)	(21)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(654)	(1,074)	
FERPA records blocked	(880)	(498)	
Total eligible voters	20,238	16,942	↓ -3,296
Number of students who registered	12,656	11,467	↓ -1,189
Number of students who voted	8,138	8,483	↑ 345
Registration rate	62.5%	67.7%	↑ 5.1
Voting rate of registered students	64.3%	74.0%	↑ 9.7
Voting rate	40.2%	50.1%	↑ 9.9
Difference from all institutions	-7.4	-0.5	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

**2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**47.6%**

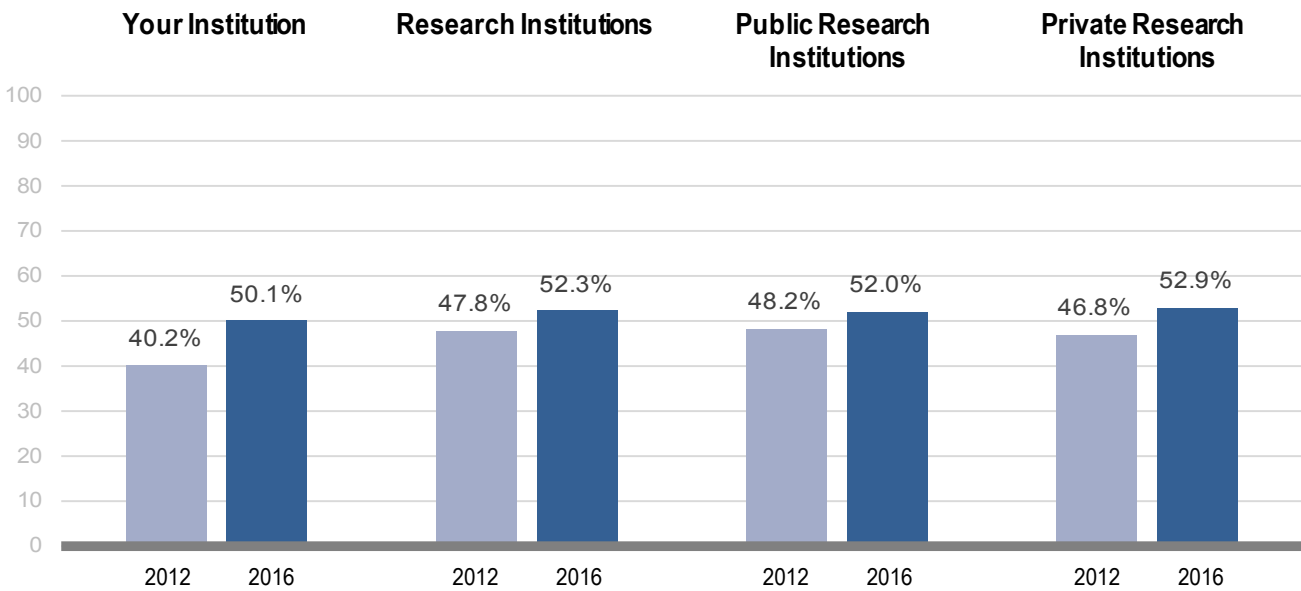
HIGH 75.65%  
 LOW 19.35%

**2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**50.6%**

HIGH 81.35%  
 LOW 13.12%

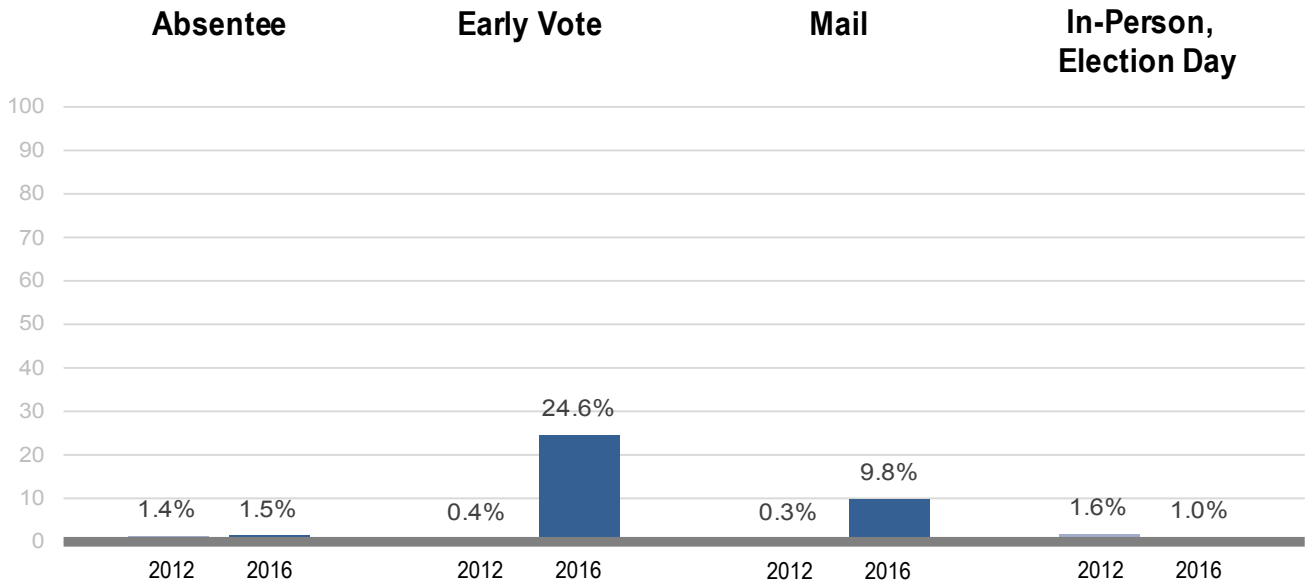
Difference from All Institutions **-7.4**

Difference from All Institutions **-0.5**



**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Voting Method\*

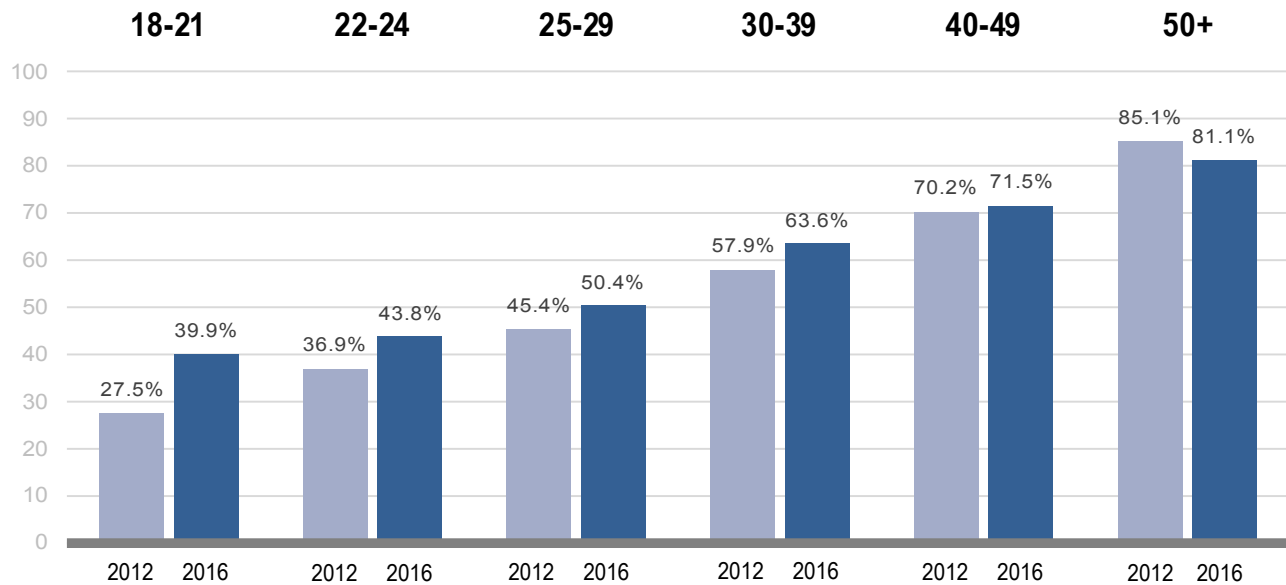


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	113	1.4%	124	1.5%	↑ 0.1
Early Vote	29	0.4%	2,084	24.6%	↑ 24.2
Mail	20	0.3%	835	9.8%	↑ 9.6
In-Person, Election Day	133	1.6%	85	1.0%	↓ -0.6
Unknown	7,843	96.4%	5,355	63.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,138</b>		<b>8,483</b>		

\* Your students' data broken down by voting method. If your campus has a high number of voting method "Unknown", it means that this information was not reported by local officials where your students voted.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Age Group\*

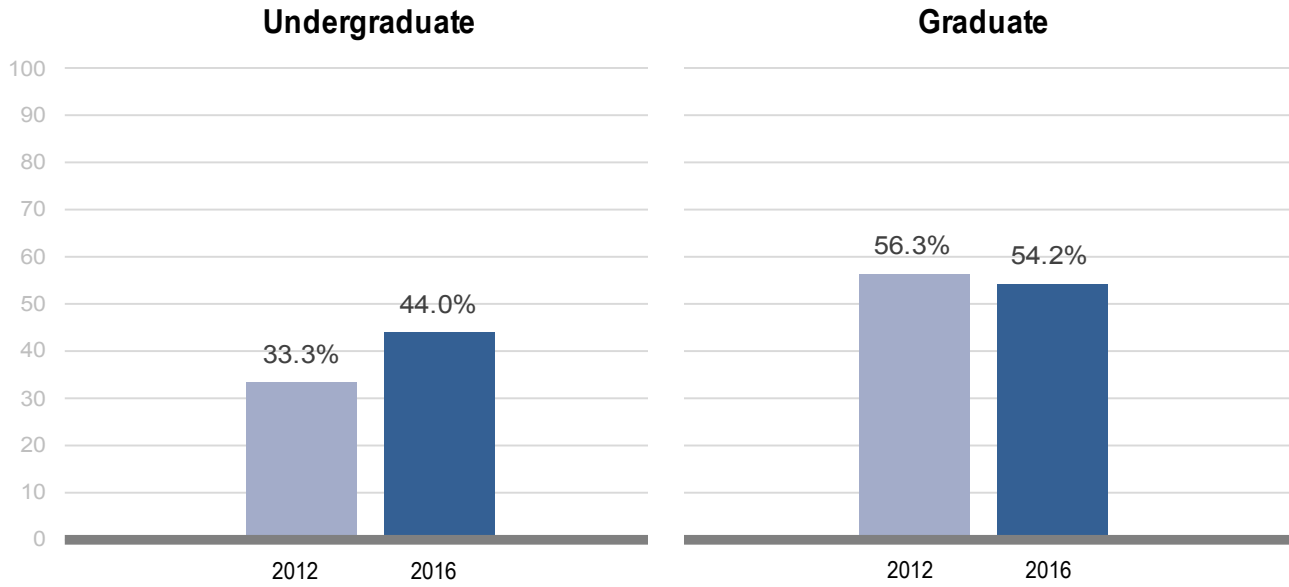


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	8,983	2,468	27.5%	7,578	3,027	39.9%	↑ 12.5
22-24	5,363	1,977	36.9%	4,791	2,098	43.8%	↑ 6.9
25-29	2,876	1,305	45.4%	2,728	1,375	50.4%	↑ 5.0
30-39	2,140	1,239	57.9%	1,765	1,122	63.6%	↑ 5.7
40-49	1,027	721	70.2%	774	553	71.5%	↑ 1.3
50+	503	428	85.1%	380	308	81.1%	↓ -4.0
Unknown	0			0			

\* Your students' data broken down by age at the time of the election. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Education Level\*

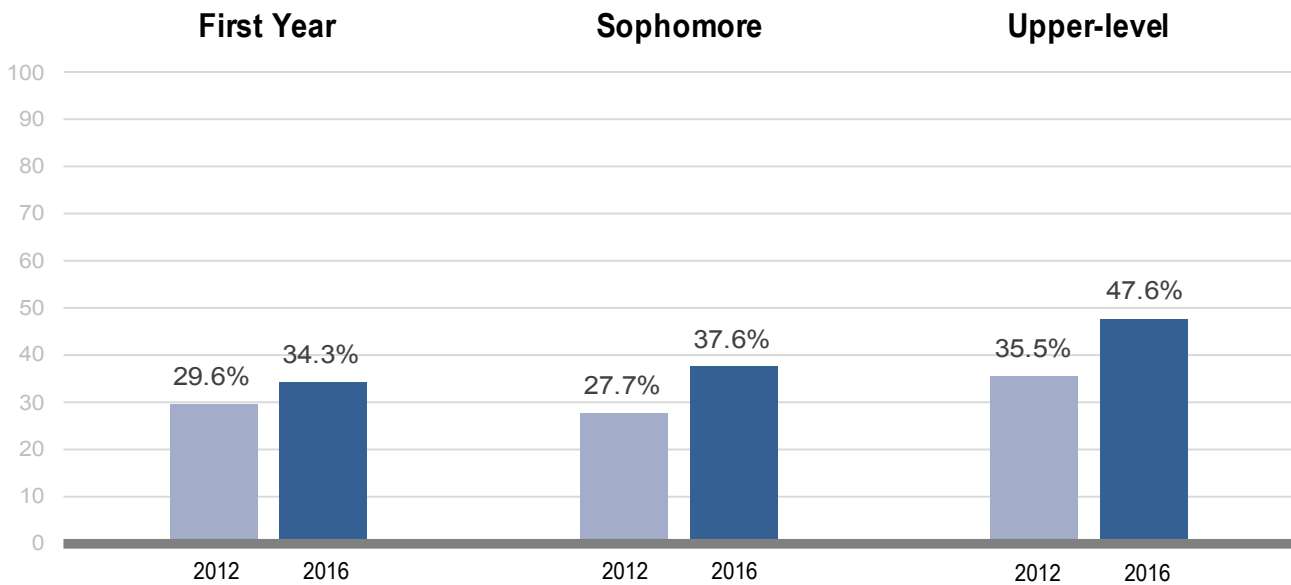


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	15,745	5,241	<b>33.3%</b>	12,805	5,632	<b>44.0%</b>	↑ 10.7
Graduate	5,145	2,896	<b>56.3%</b>	4,042	2,190	<b>54.2%</b>	↓ -2.1
Unknown	*			1,169			

\* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate and graduate students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Undergraduate Class Year\*



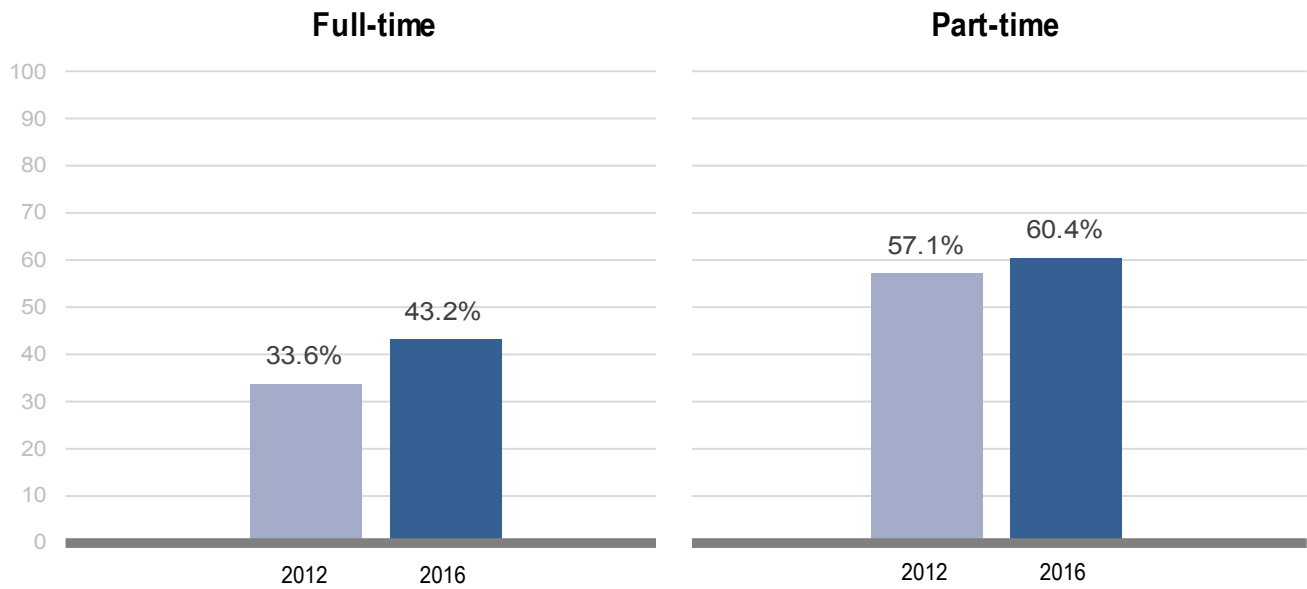
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	5,369	1,589	29.6%	2,199	755	34.3%	↑ 4.7
Sophomore	2,025	560	27.7%	2,184	820	37.6%	↑ 9.9
Upper-level	7,105	2,523	35.5%	7,396	3,517	47.6%	↑ 12.0

\* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate students' class level. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.



**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Enrollment Status\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	16,105	5,404	<b>33.6%</b>	13,956	6,030	<b>43.2%</b>	↑ 9.7
Part-time	4,787	2,734	<b>57.1%</b>	4,060	2,453	<b>60.4%</b>	↑ 3.3
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* Your students' data broken down by part-time and full-time students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

## YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## By Field of Study\*

\* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	624	217	34.8%	597	267	44.7% ↑	9.9
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,214	1,054	32.8%	3,149	1,343	42.7% ↑	9.9
Communication and Journalism	574	210	36.6%	774	355	45.9% ↑	9.3
Computer and Information Sciences	239	47	19.7%	695	259	37.3% ↑	17.6
Education	2,224	1,153	51.8%	2,028	1,160	57.2% ↑	5.4
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,364	385	28.2%	1,663	638	38.4% ↑	10.1
English Language and Literature	457	216	47.3%	330	191	57.9% ↑	10.6
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	411	173	42.1%	310	127	41.0% ↓	-1.1
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	147	51	34.7%	113	63	55.8% ↑	21.1
Health Professions	2,667	1,055	39.6%	2,115	998	47.2% ↑	7.6
History	355	172	48.5%	218	124	56.9% ↑	8.4
Legal Professions and Studies	321	173	53.9%	247	166	67.2% ↑	13.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	193	101	52.3%	1,430	710	49.7% ↓	-2.7
Mathematics and Statistics	336	145	43.2%	261	119	45.6% ↑	2.4
Natural Resources and Conservation	63	21	33.3%	121	71	58.7% ↑	25.4
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	302	79	26.2%	396	119	30.1% ↑	3.9
Philosophy and Religious Studies	57	26	45.6%	49	27	55.1% ↑	9.5
Physical Sciences	512	180	35.2%	447	221	49.4% ↑	14.3
Psychology	966	348	36.0%	843	382	45.3% ↑	9.3
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	114	75	65.8%	187	125	66.8% ↑	1.1
Social Sciences	1,032	436	42.3%	874	431	49.3% ↑	7.1
Visual and Performing Arts	988	356	36.0%	728	368	50.6% ↑	14.5
Other	12	*	n/a	10	*	n/a	n/a
Unknown	3,720	1,463	39.3%	431	213	49.4% ↑	10.1

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. (2019). *2012 and 2016 report for \_\_\_\_\_ [name of institution]*. Medford, MA.

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