

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
University of South  
Carolina-Columbia

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**About This Report**

**Your Institution's Voting Data**

Voting and Registration Rates

How Your Institution's Numbers  
Compare

**Your Students' Voting Data**

By Voting Method

By Age Group

By Education Level

By Undergraduate Class Year

By Enrollment Status

By Gender

By Race/Ethnicity

By Field of Study

# 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 and 2016 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of nearly 30 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 2012 and 2016 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (FERPA-blocked records excluded) and publicly available voting files collected by Catalyst.

Institutional voting rates 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, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are non-resident aliens, resident aliens, or undocumented students. This may result in your institution's actual voting rate being higher than we report. To calculate that percentage, and to read more about NSLVE data, see our [FAQ on Campus Reports](#). Please also see [Creating and Maintaining the NSLVE Database](#) paper for a more detailed study methodology.

## 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. This report provides a baseline measure of your students' engagement in democracy in 2012 and 2016, and compares your institution's voting rates to similar institutions. Visit our website for more comparison data.
- ❑ Share the report widely and strategically, including posting it online.
- ❑ Put your data into practice. Use our IDHE Resources to guide you.
- ❑ Address your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, and participation. Start by bringing the IDHE team to your campus or using the IDHE self-assessment rubric available on our website.
- ❑ Partner with IDHE. We are available with virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions and in-person trainings.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

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

**53.5%**

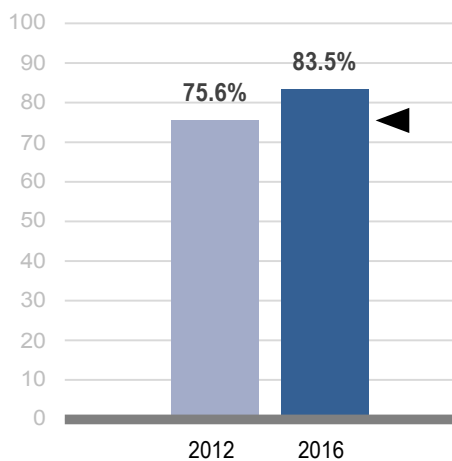
CHANGE  
FROM 2012

**7.7**

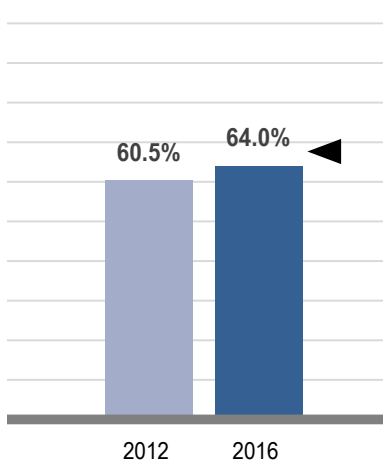
2016 VOTING RATE  
FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS

**50.4%**

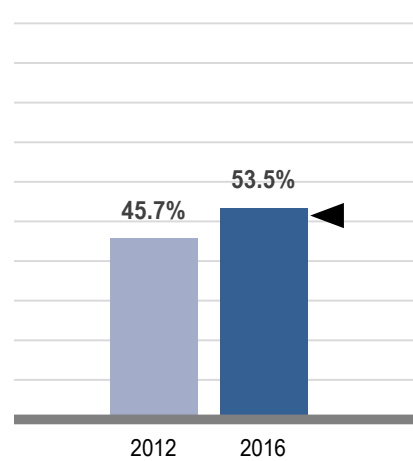
Registration Rate



Voting Rate of Registered Students



Voting Rate



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	30,850	32,992	↑ 2,142
Age under 18/Unknown	(108)	(91)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,319)	(1,509)	
FERPA records blocked	(288)	(44)	
Total eligible voters	29,135	31,348	↑ 2,213
Number of students who registered	22,022	26,177	↑ 4,155
Number of students who voted	13,318	16,754	↑ 3,436
Registration rate	75.6%	83.5%	↑ 7.9
Voting rate of registered students	60.5%	64.0%	↑ 3.5
Voting rate	45.7%	53.5%	↑ 7.7
Difference from all institutions	-1.2	+3.1	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

**2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**46.9%**

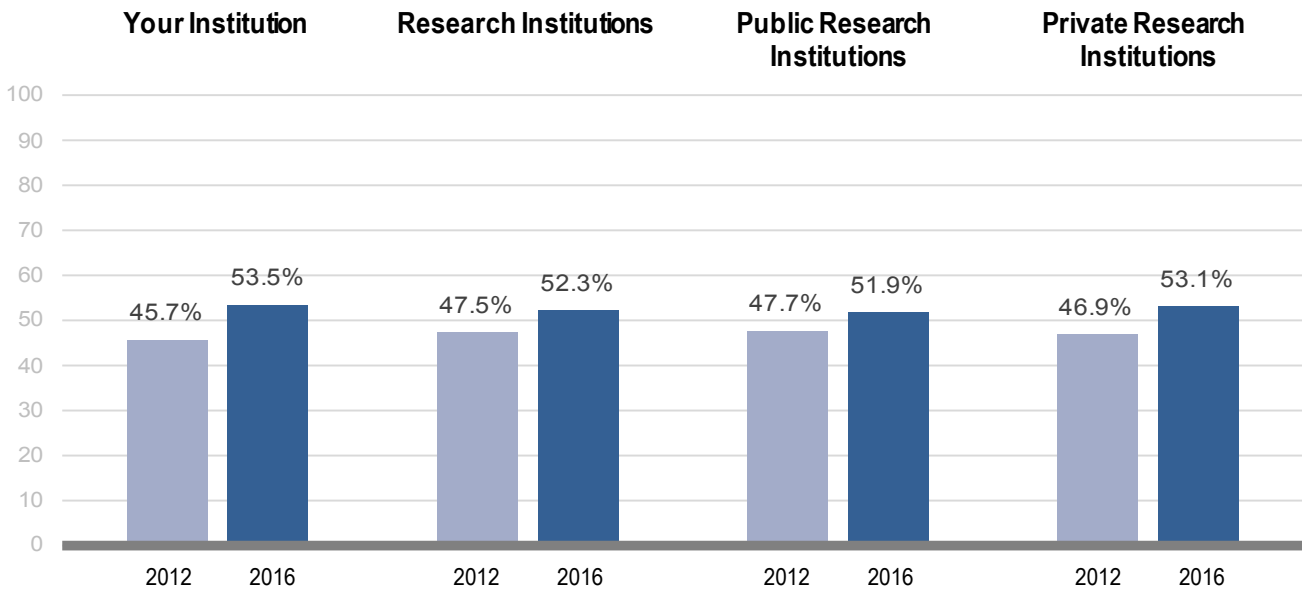
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

**2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**50.4%**

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

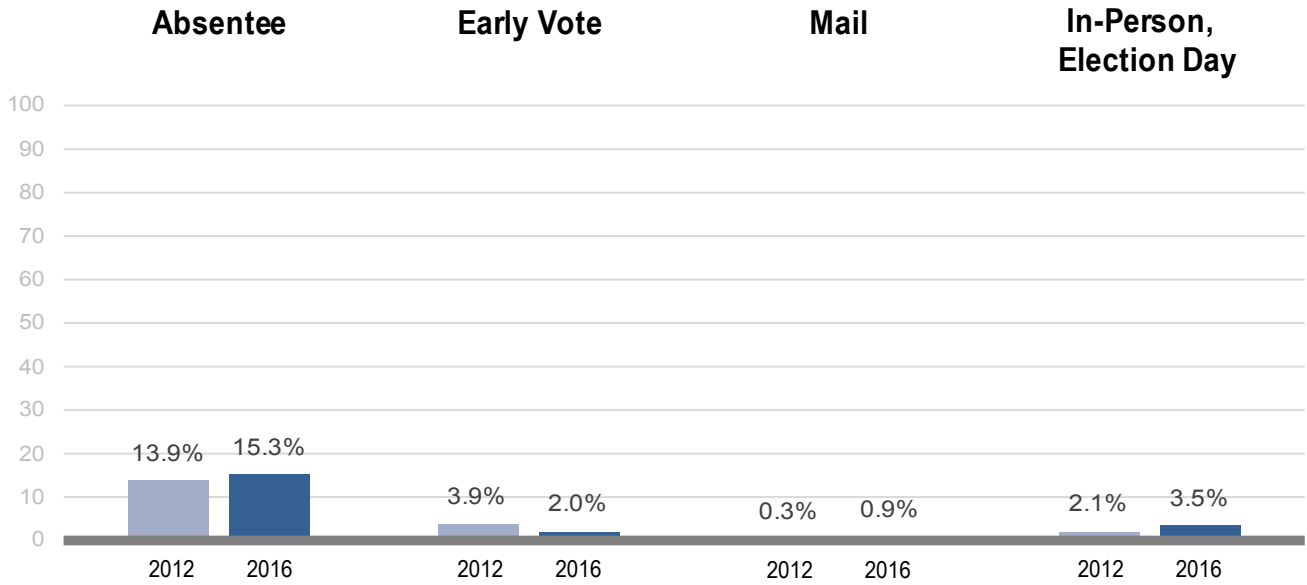
Difference from All Institutions **-1.2**

Difference from All Institutions **+3.1**



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

# By Voting Method\*

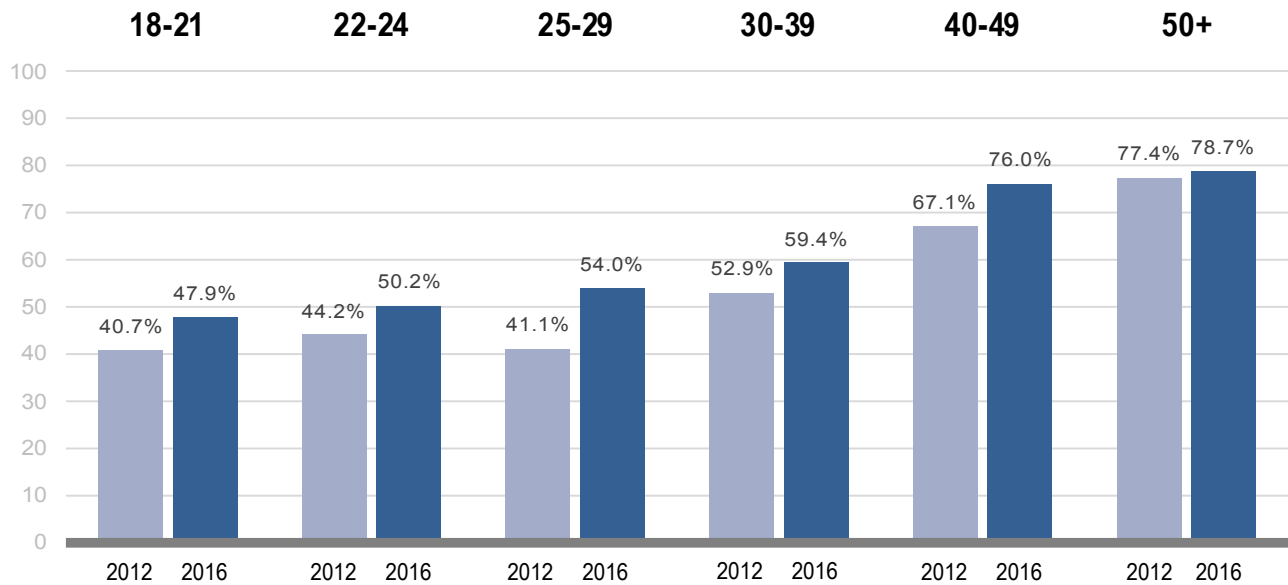


	2012		2016		Change	
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate		
Absentee	1,844	13.9%	2,569	15.3%	↑	1.5
Early Vote	517	3.9%	337	2.0%	↓	-1.9
Mail	33	0.3%	144	0.9%	↑	0.6
In-Person, Election Day	273	2.1%	588	3.5%	↑	1.5
Unknown	10,651	80.0%	13,116	78.3%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,318</b>		<b>16,754</b>			

\* 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\*

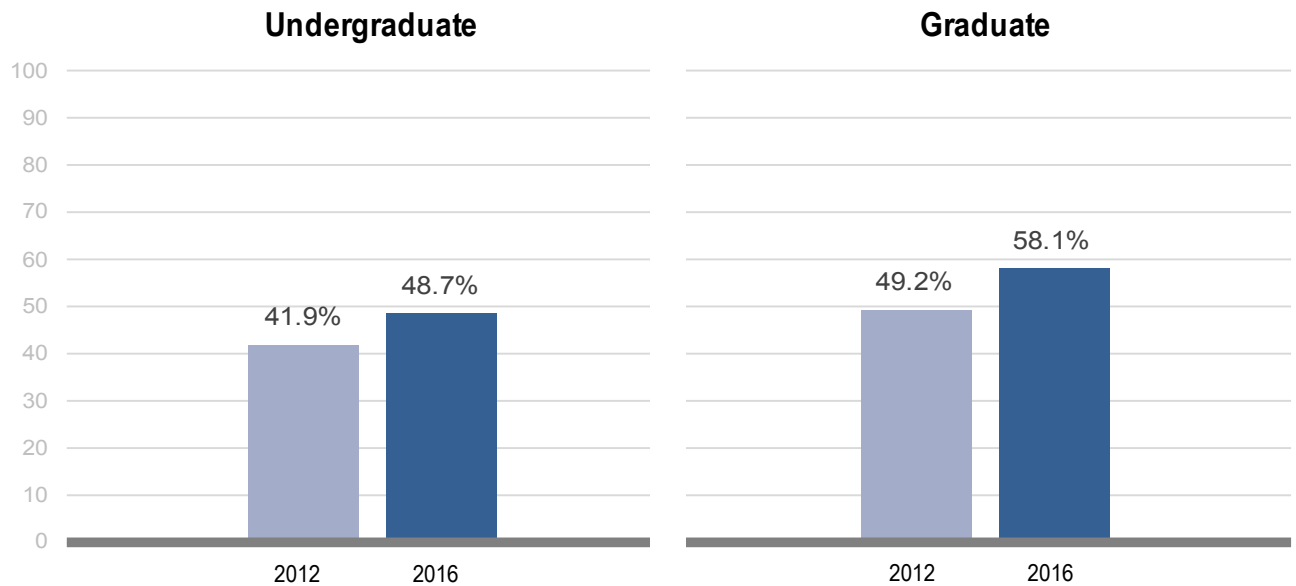


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	17,749	7,228	40.7%	19,968	9,564	47.9%	↑ 7.2
22-24	5,773	2,551	44.2%	5,834	2,927	50.2%	↑ 6.0
25-29	3,304	1,358	41.1%	3,329	1,799	54.0%	↑ 12.9
30-39	2,189	1,158	52.9%	2,292	1,361	59.4%	↑ 6.5
40-49	874	586	67.1%	945	718	76.0%	↑ 8.9
50+	565	437	77.4%	489	385	78.7%	↑ 1.4
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\*

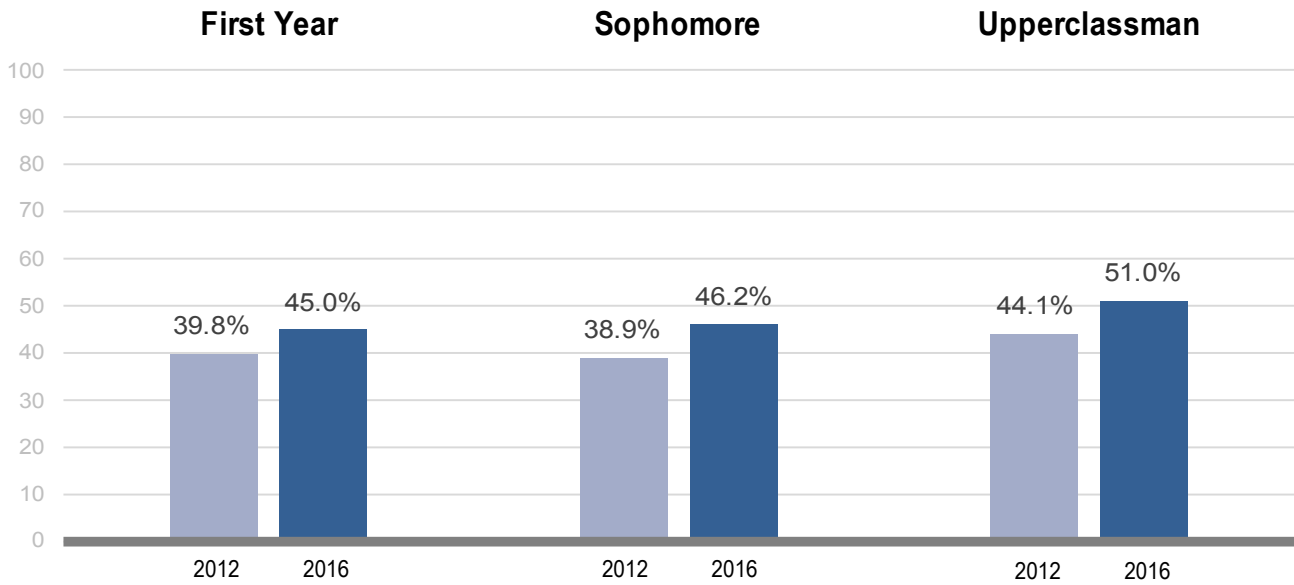


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	22,747	9,528	<b>41.9%</b>	24,694	12,014	<b>48.7%</b>	↑ 6.8
Graduate	7,706	3,790	<b>49.2%</b>	8,162	4,740	<b>58.1%</b>	↑ 8.9
Unknown	*			*			

\* 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\*



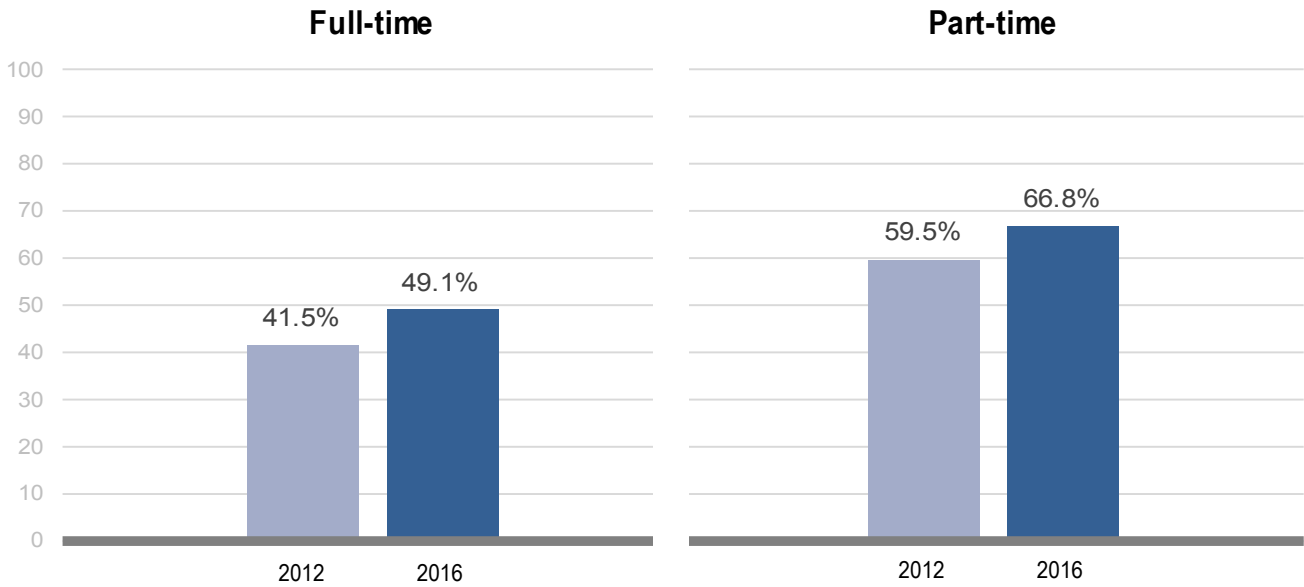
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	5,649	2,247	<b>39.8%</b>	4,954	2,229	<b>45.0%</b>	↑ 5.2
Sophomore	4,992	1,944	<b>38.9%</b>	5,737	2,649	<b>46.2%</b>	↑ 7.2
Upperclassman	10,740	4,732	<b>44.1%</b>	14,003	7,136	<b>51.0%</b>	↑ 6.9

\* 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\*

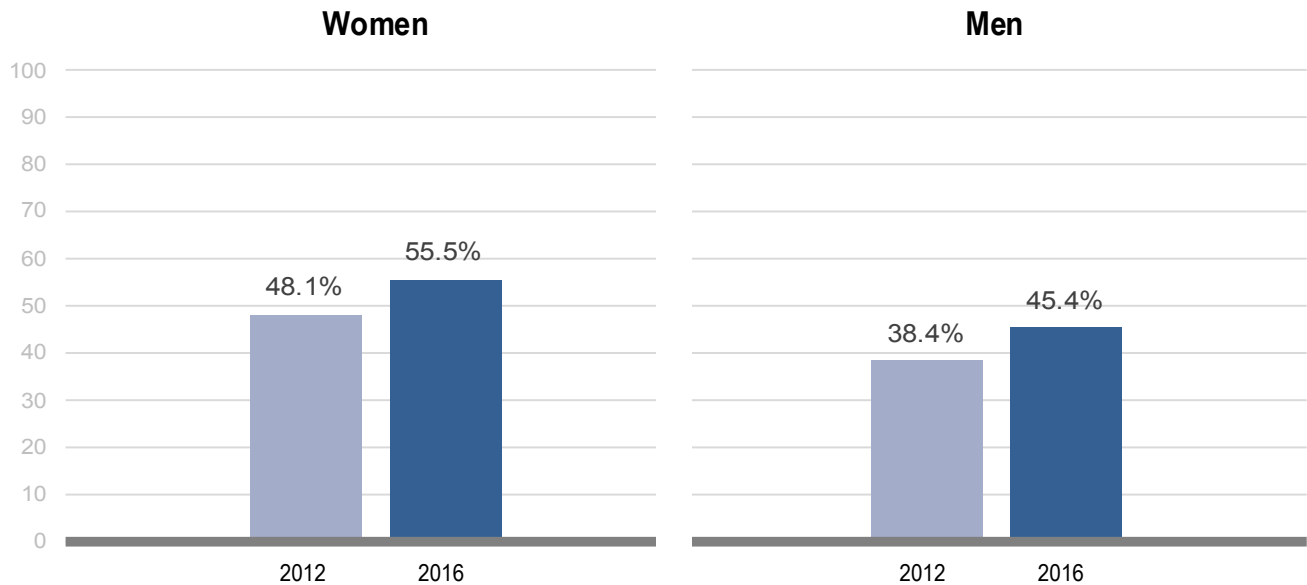


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	26,604	11,028	41.5%	29,334	14,401	49.1%	↑ 7.6
Part-time	3,850	2,290	59.5%	3,523	2,353	66.8%	↑ 7.3
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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 Gender\*

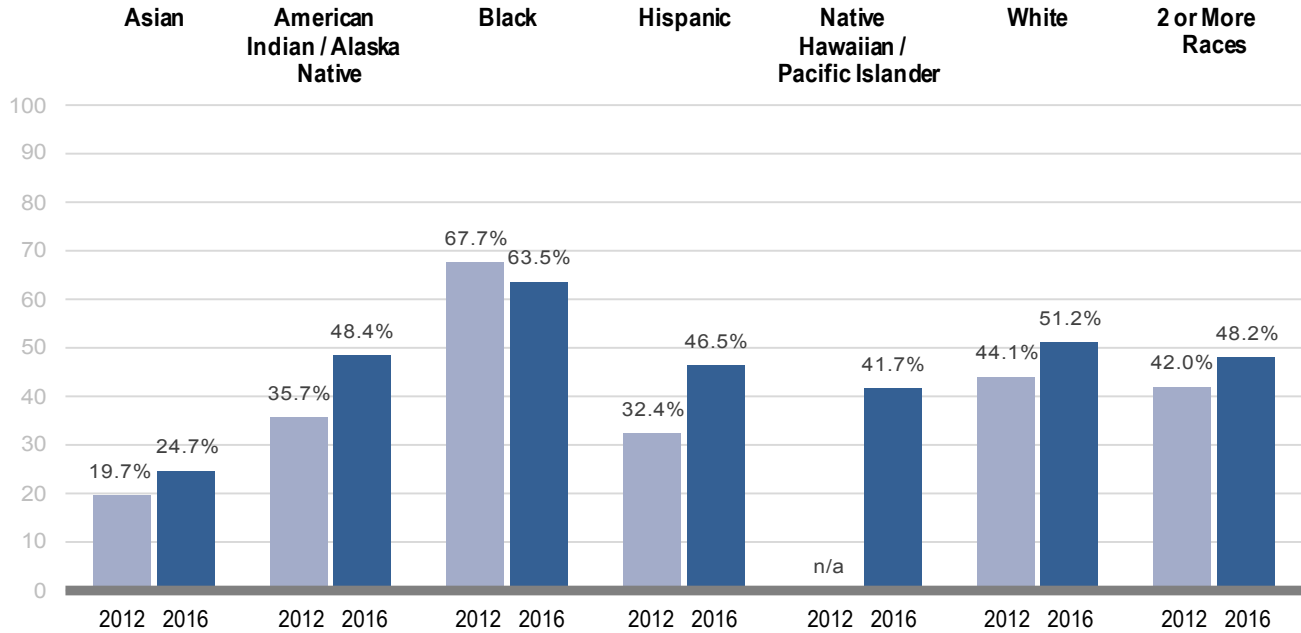


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Women	16,839	8,093	<b>48.1%</b>	18,242	10,120	<b>55.5%</b>	↑ 7.4
Men	13,613	5,225	<b>38.4%</b>	14,615	6,634	<b>45.4%</b>	↑ 7.0
Unknown	*	0	<b>n/a</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	

\* Your students' data broken down by gender. 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 Race/Ethnicity\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	801	158	19.7%	1,422	351	24.7%	↑ 5.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native	70	25	35.7%	64	31	48.4%	↑ 12.7
Black	3,334	2,257	67.7%	3,306	2,100	63.5%	↓ -4.2
Hispanic	1,090	353	32.4%	1,386	644	46.5%	↑ 14.1
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	22	*	n/a	36	15	41.7%	n/a
White	22,941	10,113	44.1%	25,055	12,836	51.2%	↑ 7.2
2 or More Races	842	354	42.0%	1,129	544	48.2%	↑ 6.1
Unknown	92			459			

\* Your students' data broken down by race. 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	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	42	23	54.8%	50	30	60.0% ↑	5.2
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,164	1,291	40.8%	3,488	1,714	49.1% ↑	8.3
Business, Management, and Marketing	4,468	1,769	39.6%	4,847	2,282	47.1% ↑	7.5
Communication and Journalism	1,509	632	41.9%	1,559	752	48.2% ↑	6.4
Computer and Information Sciences	312	134	43.0%	868	419	48.3% ↑	5.3
Education	2,038	1,151	56.5%	2,155	1,466	68.0% ↑	11.6
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	2,053	700	34.1%	2,587	1,169	45.2% ↑	11.1
English Language and Literature	500	229	45.8%	437	268	61.3% ↑	15.5
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	241	108	44.8%	152	63	41.5% ↓	-3.4
Health Professions	3,904	1,820	46.6%	4,714	2,588	54.9% ↑	8.3
History	471	250	53.1%	368	198	53.8% ↑	0.7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	691	288	41.7%	691	339	49.1% ↑	7.4
Legal Professions and Studies	643	346	53.8%	611	374	61.2% ↑	7.4
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	270	195	72.2%	3,750	1,711	45.6% ↓	-26.6
Library Science	325	241	74.2%	318	244	76.7% ↑	2.6
Mathematics and Statistics	351	135	38.5%	311	147	47.3% ↑	8.8
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	*	*	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources and Conservation	88	32	36.4%	167	80	47.9% ↑	11.5
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	650	223	34.3%	899	338	37.6% ↑	3.3
Philosophy and Religious Studies	100	41	41.0%	73	48	65.8% ↑	24.8
Physical Sciences	643	212	33.0%	620	278	44.8% ↑	11.9
Psychology	1,153	472	40.9%	985	491	49.9% ↑	8.9
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	783	461	58.9%	744	464	62.4% ↑	3.5

Social Sciences	1,628	744	<b>45.7%</b>	1,408	725	<b>51.5%</b> ↑	<b>5.8</b>
Visual and Performing Arts	1,180	495	<b>42.0%</b>	1,041	557	<b>53.5%</b> ↑	<b>11.6</b>
Unknown	3,242	1,325	<b>40.9%</b>	14	*	n/a	n/a

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: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

**References:**

NSLVE encourages to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2016). *2012 & 2016 NSLVE Campus Report*. Medford, MA.

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