

2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT

Student Voting Rates for
Virginia Polytechnic
Institute and State
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 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.

Follow us on Twitter [@TuftsIDHE](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE) or email us at NSLVE@tufts.edu.

Warm regards,
IDHE Team



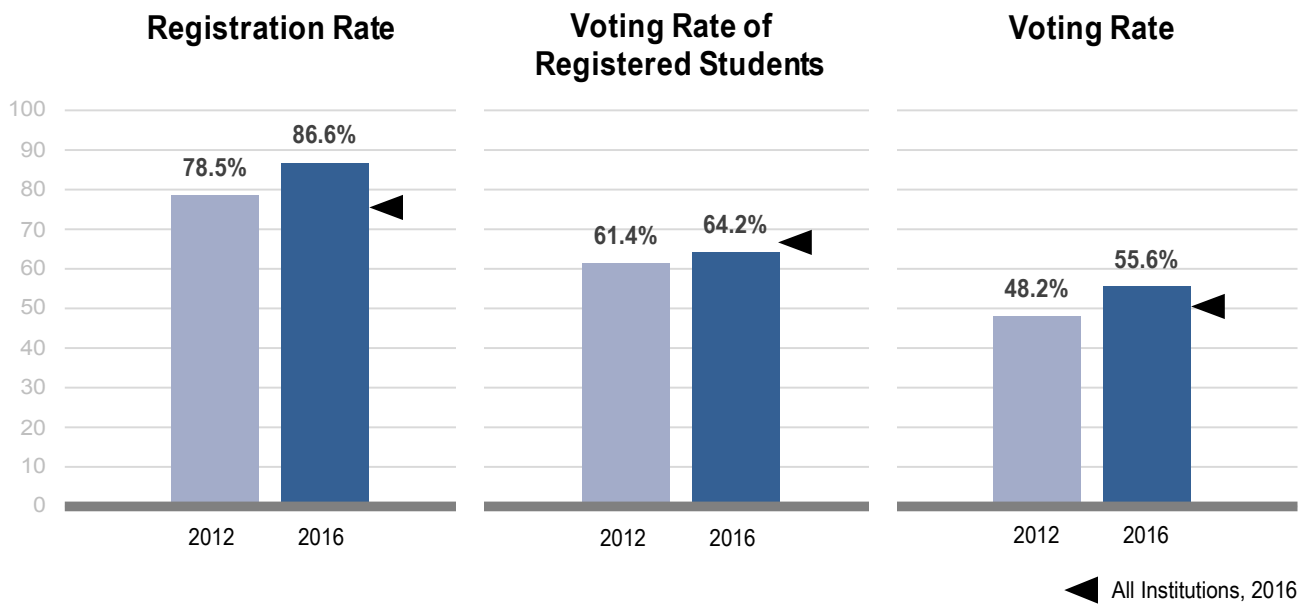
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Voting and Registration Rates

2016 Voting Rate
55.6%

CHANGE FROM 2012
7.4

2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS
50.4%



	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	30,229	31,737	↑ 1,508
Age under 18/Unknown	(126)	(84)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(2,506)	(3,406)	
FERPA records blocked	(656)	(477)	
Total eligible voters	26,941	27,770	↑ 829
Number of students who registered	21,158	24,043	↑ 2,885
Number of students who voted	12,984	15,432	↑ 2,448
Registration rate	78.5%	86.6%	↑ 8.1
Voting rate of registered students	61.4%	64.2%	↑ 2.8
Voting rate	48.2%	55.6%	↑ 7.4
Difference from all institutions	+1.3	+5.2	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

By Carnegie Classification

2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions
46.9%

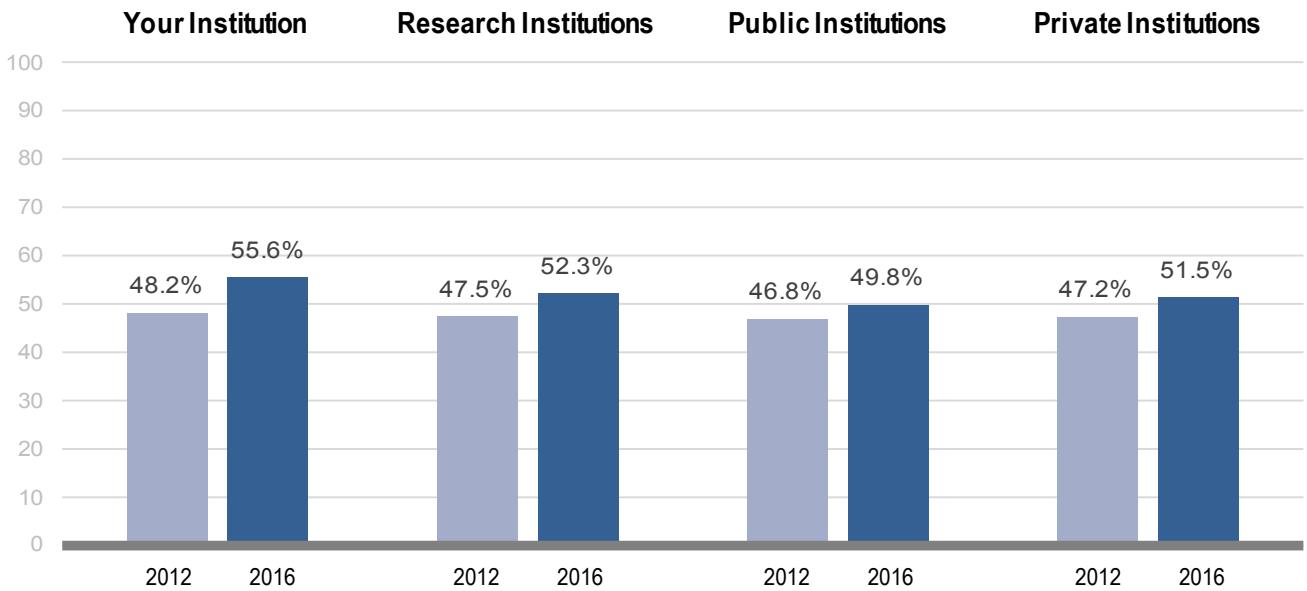
HIGH 72.9%
 LOW 19.3%

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions
50.4%

HIGH 81.4%
 LOW 13.1%

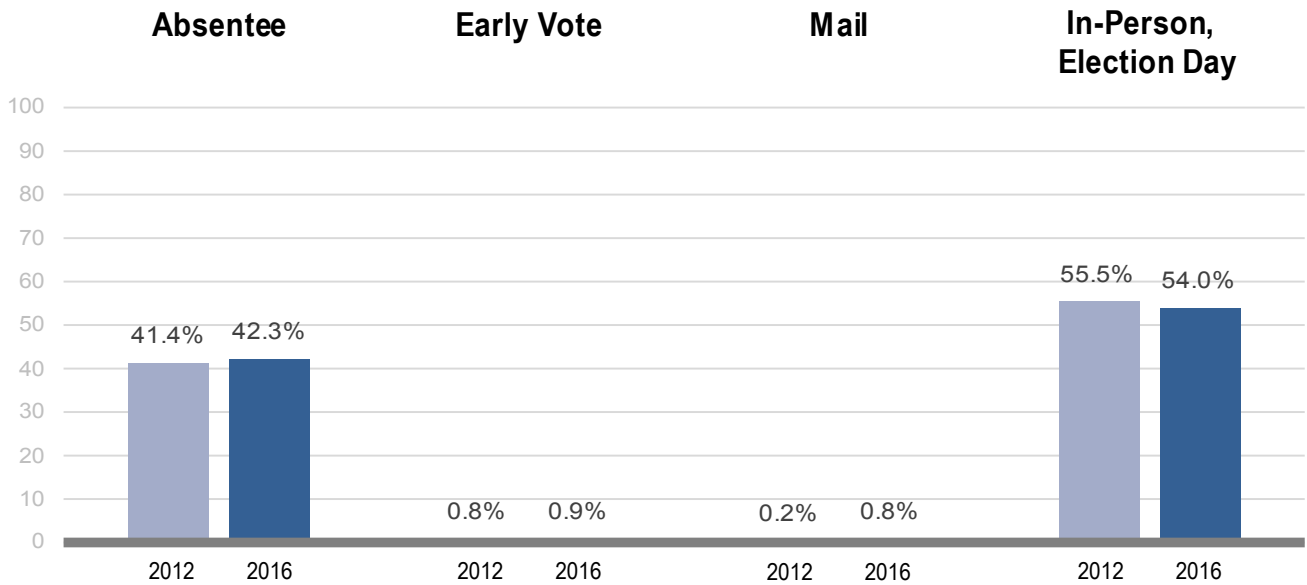
Difference from All Institutions **+1.3**

Difference from All Institutions **+5.2**



YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

By Voting Method*

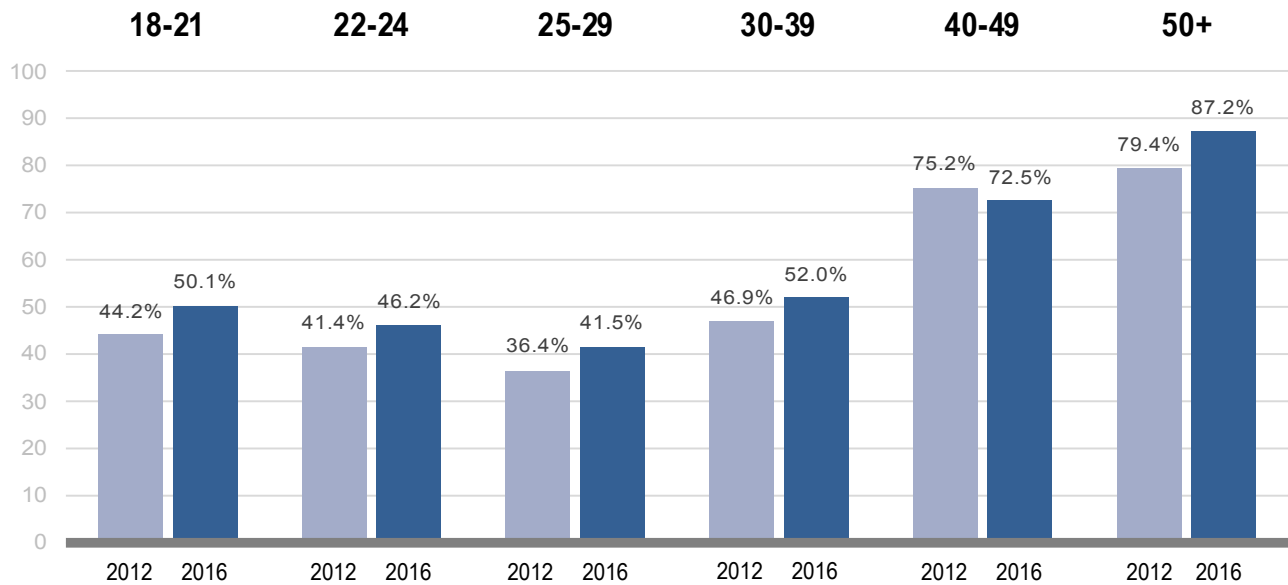


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	5,371	41.4%	6,520	42.3%	↑ 0.9
Early Vote	103	0.8%	140	0.9%	↑ 0.1
Mail	27	0.2%	121	0.8%	↑ 0.6
In-Person, Election Day	7,210	55.5%	8,327	54.0%	↓ -1.6
Unknown	273	2.1%	324	2.1%	
Total	12,984		15,432		

* 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*

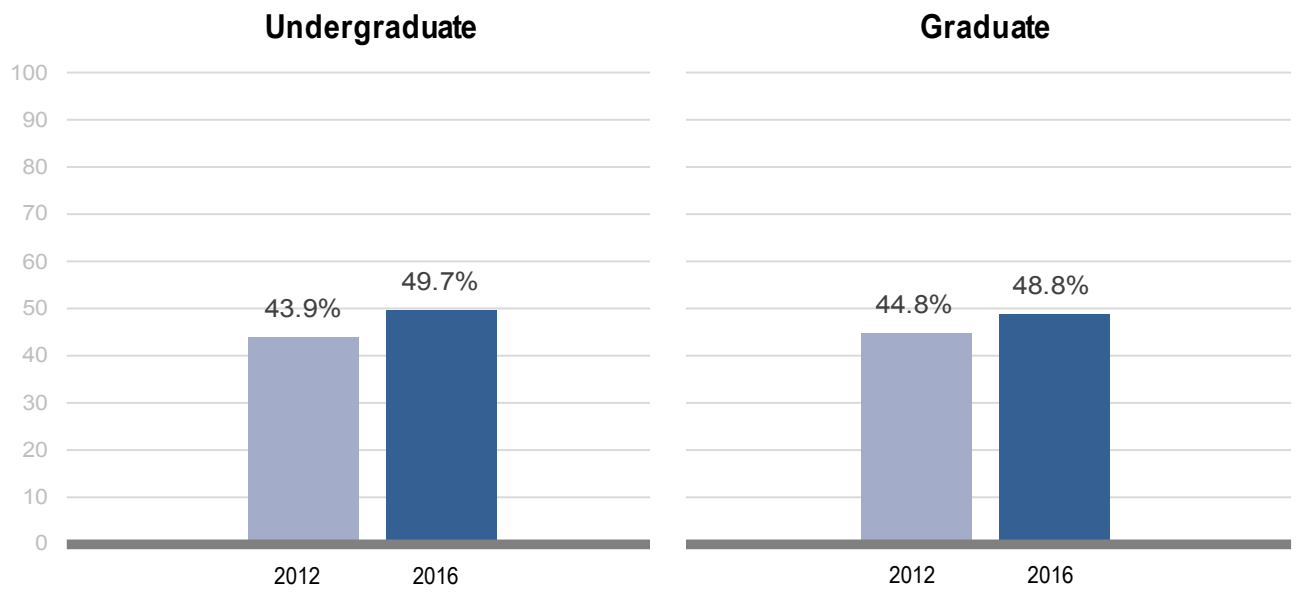


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	19,007	8,406	44.2%	20,804	10,432	50.1%	↑ 5.9
22-24	5,037	2,084	41.4%	4,932	2,276	46.2%	↑ 4.8
25-29	2,806	1,022	36.4%	2,910	1,207	41.5%	↑ 5.1
30-39	1,745	819	46.9%	1,733	901	52.0%	↑ 5.1
40-49	565	425	75.2%	539	391	72.5%	↓ -2.7
50+	287	228	79.4%	258	225	87.2%	↑ 7.8
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*

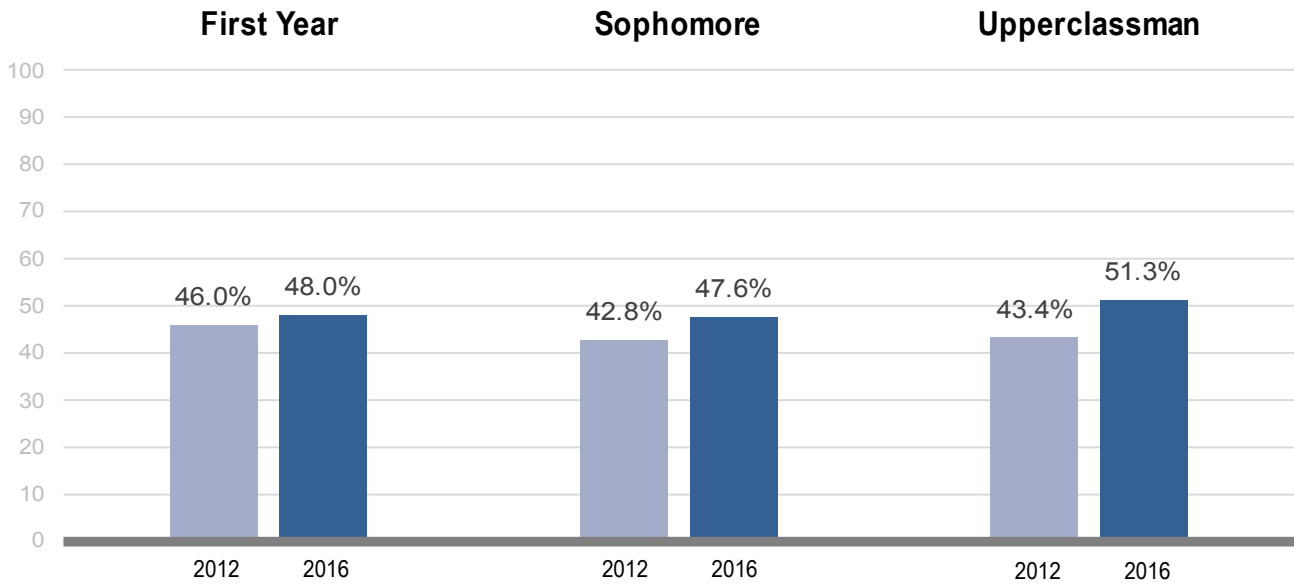


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	22,783	9,997	43.9%	24,386	12,117	49.7%	↑ 5.8
Graduate	6,663	2,986	44.8%	6,783	3,312	48.8%	↑ 4.0
Unknown	*			*			

* 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*

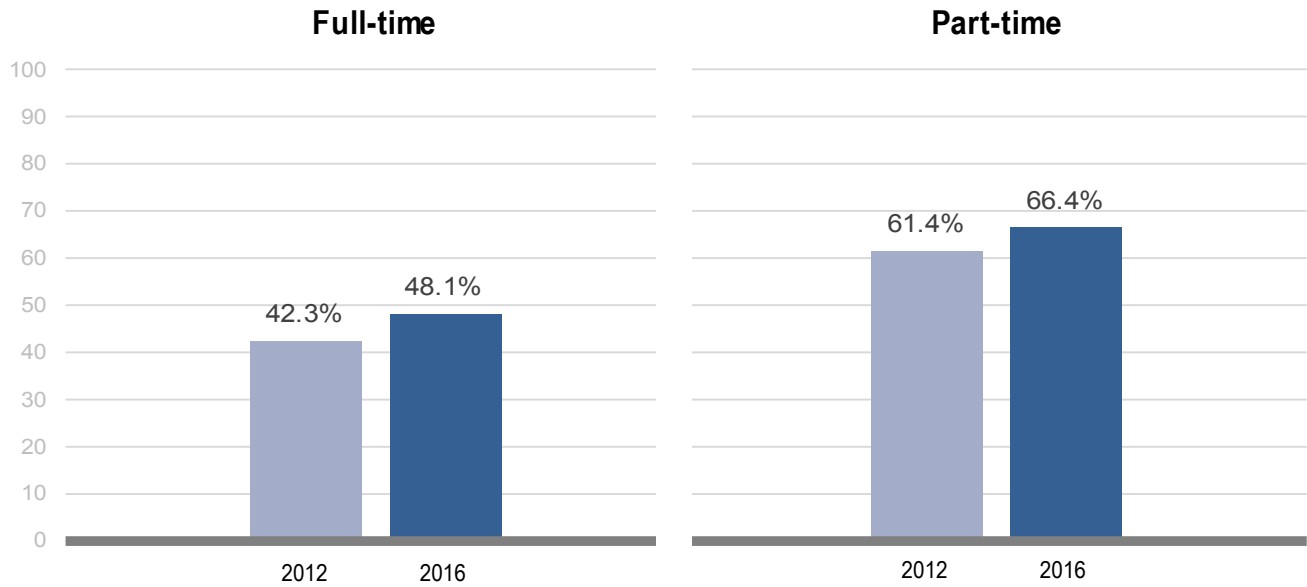


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	4,724	2,172	46.0%	5,091	2,441	48.0%	↑ 2.0
Sophomore	5,243	2,243	42.8%	5,836	2,775	47.6%	↑ 4.8
Upperclassman	11,878	5,152	43.4%	13,332	6,838	51.3%	↑ 7.9

* 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*

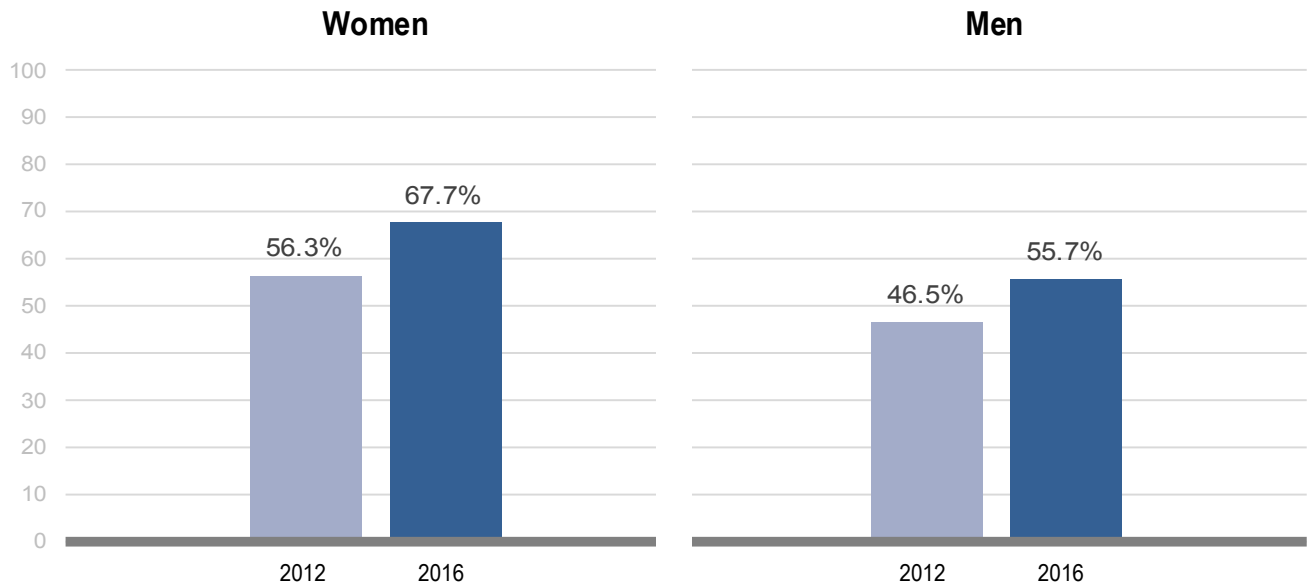


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	26,672	11,280	42.3%	28,786	13,844	48.1%	↑ 5.8
Part-time	2,775	1,704	61.4%	2,390	1,588	66.4%	↑ 5.0
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

* 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	11,039	6,217	56.3%	11,509	7,791	67.7%	↑	11.4
Men	14,531	6,757	46.5%	13,694	7,628	55.7%	↑	9.2
Unknown	3,877	10	0.3%	5,973	13	0.2%		

* 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.

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.

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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Contact us:

Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement
Lincoln Filene Hall, Medford, MA 02155
NSLVE@tufts.edu | 617-627-3804

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