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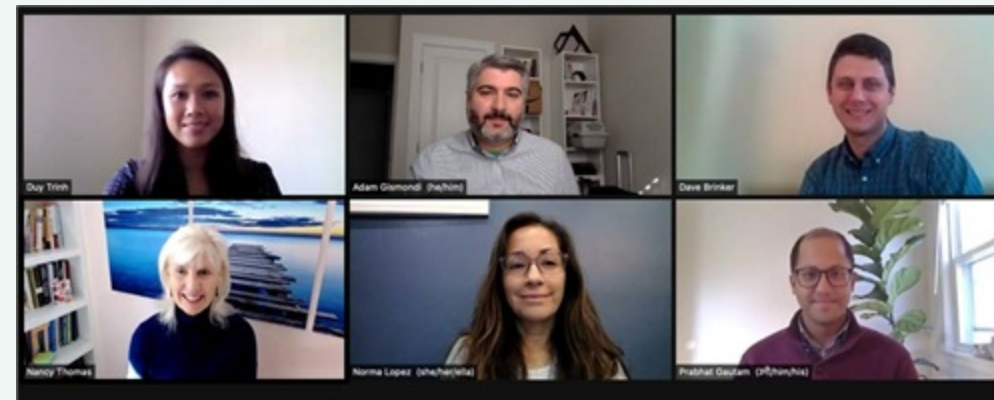
(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

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.

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.


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.
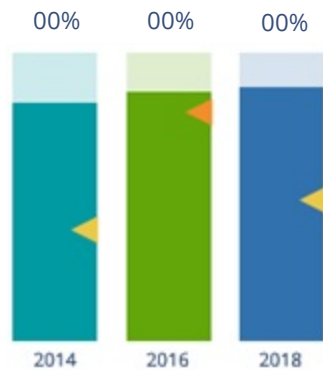
Vessel Chart

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.
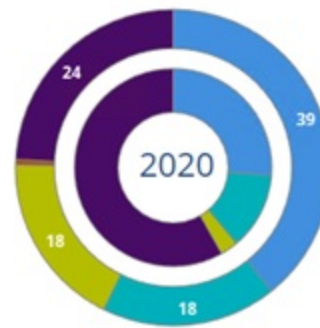
Overlapping Donut Chart

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.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

63.7%
2020 Voting Rate

+8.7
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

79.3%	71.2%	78.8%
2016	2018	2020
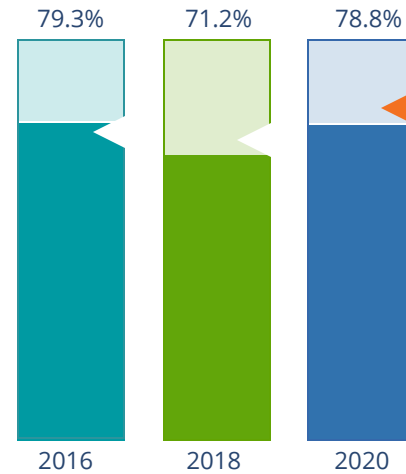
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

69.3%	52.8%	80.8%
2016	2018	2020
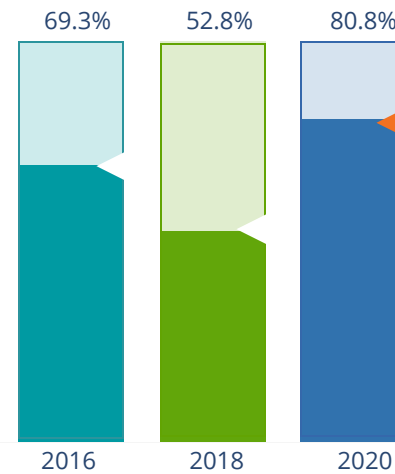
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE

55.0%	37.6%	63.7%
2016	2018	2020
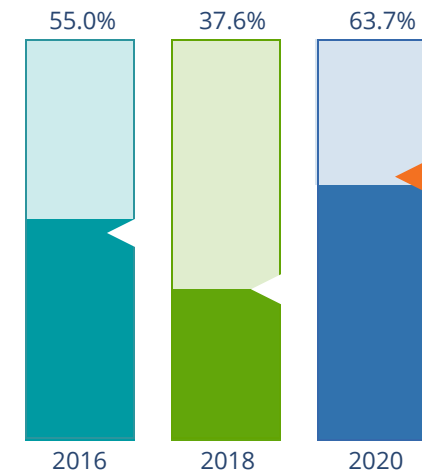
The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

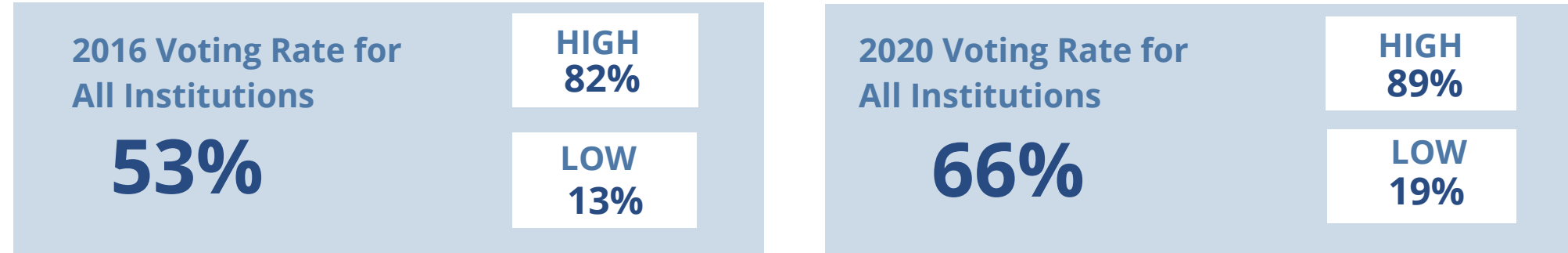|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	59,223	60,301	61,061	⬆ 1,838
(Age under 18/Unknown)	405	482	579	⬆ 174
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	6,121	6,376	5,488	⬇ -633
(FERPA records blocked)	237	199	137	⬇ -100
(Non-Degree Age Eligible Students)	1,363	717	395	⬇ -968
Total eligible voters	51,097	52,527	54,462	⬆ 3,365
Number of students who registered	44,648	44,593	49,001	⬆ 4,353
Number of students who voted	33,590	24,912	41,422	⬆ 7,832
Registration Rate %	87	85	90	⬆ 3
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	75	56	85	⬆ 9
Voting Rate %	66	47	76	⬆ 10

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 have removed non-resident aliens (international students) based on your institution's enrollment submission to the National Student Clearinghouse. This is indicated by "NSC reported non-resident aliens" on this page. **In all the subsequent pages, Enrolled represents voting eligible students.**

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 82%
53%	LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 89%
66%	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.

YOUR INSTITUTION*

55%   38%   64%

2016   2018   2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE BA

54%   39%   67%

2016   2018   2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE BA

55%   39%   69%

2016   2018   2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE BA

51%   38%   62%

2016   2018   2020
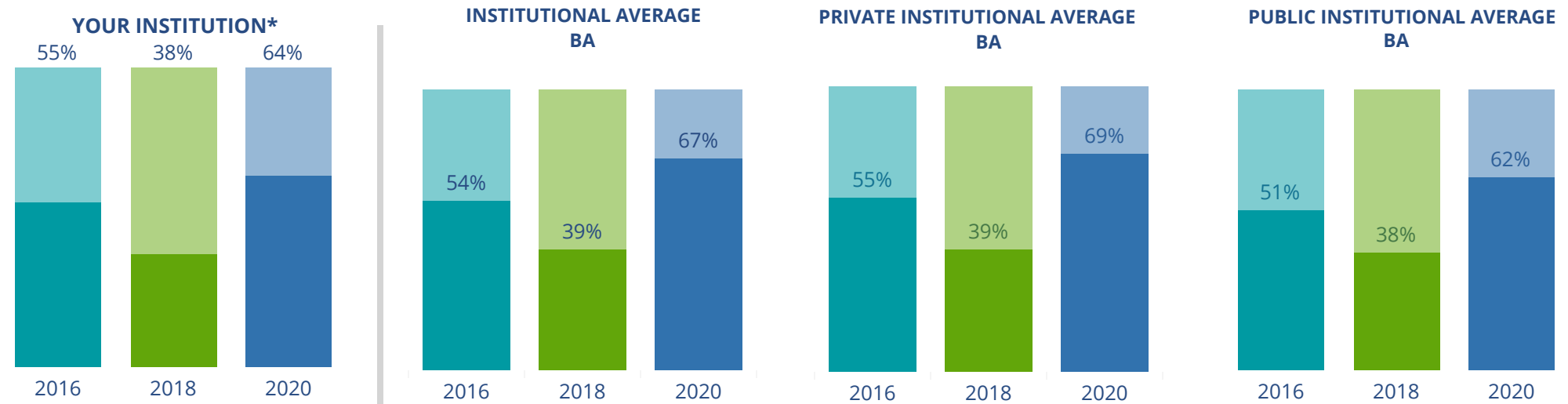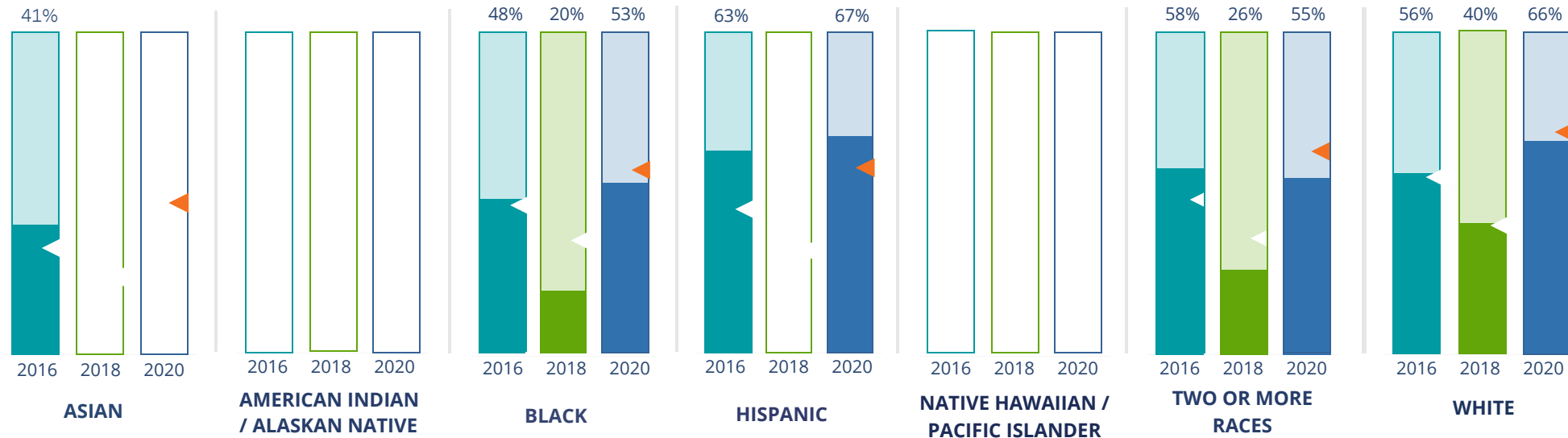
By Race / Ethnicity

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
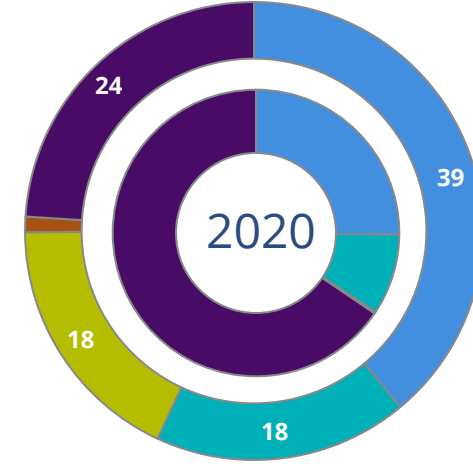
Looking Closer

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	37	15	41	24	–	–	21	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	96	46	48	87	17	20	100	53	53	⬆ 5
Hispanic	35	22	63	24	–	–	49	33	67	⬆ 4
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	33	19	58	42	11	26	33	18	55	⬇ -3
White	825	460	56	750	303	40	680	449	66	⬆ 10
Race Unknown	27	17	63	31	16	52	15	11	73	⬆ 10

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown

2016 donut chart: 24, 8, 36, 32

2018 donut chart: 24, 6, 36, 34

2020 donut chart: 39, 18, 18, 24
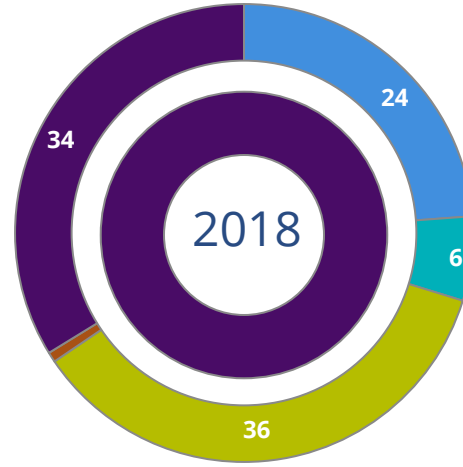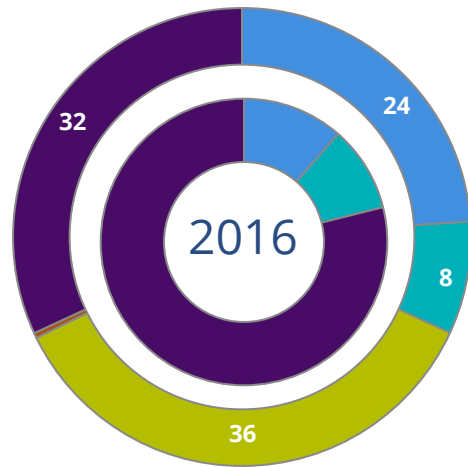
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)	
Early Vote	56	10	–	–	52	9	-1	⬇
In-Person	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Not-In-Person	66	11	–	–	144	25	14	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	457	79	360	100	375	66	-13	⬇

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

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	52%	33%	63%
22-24	59%	49%	62%
25-29	65%	39%	67%
30-39	64%	48%	77%
40-49	–	88%	–
50+	–	–	–

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.

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	808	423	52	727	242	33	702	439	63	⬆ 10
22-24	124	73	59	128	63	49	97	60	62	⬆ 3
25-29	54	35	65	36	14	39	43	29	67	⬆ 3
30-39	44	28	64	44	21	48	44	34	77	⬆ 14
40-49	13	–	–	16	14	88	–	–	–	–
50+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 | |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change	
Female	557	314	56	499	178	36	510	315	62	⬆	5
Male	496	265	53	459	182	40	388	257	66	⬆	13

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

Looking Closer

By Education Level / Undergraduate Class Year

	2016			2018			2020			Change (2016-2020)
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	1,048	578	55	923	338	37	874	558	64	↑ 9
Graduate	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Class Unknown	–	–	–	35	22	63	24	14	58	–
CLASS YEAR										
Freshman	572	272	48	493	134	27	403	238	59	↑ 12
Sophomore	193	108	56	172	77	45	204	135	66	↑ 10
Upper Level	284	198	70	258	127	49	267	185	69	↓ 0
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	949	519	55	848	296	35	823	521	63	↑ 9
Part-time	104	60	58	110	64	58	75	51	68	↑ 10

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.

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Agriculture	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	–
Architecture	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	53	26	49	62	17	27	53	35	66	⬆ 17
Business, Management, and Marketing	48	27	56	37	13	35	45	36	80	⬆ 24
Computer and Information Sciences	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Education	138	89	64	144	54	38	134	88	66	⬆ 1
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	14	64	–

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

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
English Language and Literature	29	23	79	26	16	62	24	21	88	⬆ 8
Health Professions	55	28	51	38	11	29	21	12	57	⬆ 6
History	14	–	–	21	18	86	17	12	71	–
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	50	26	52	53	18	34	39	25	64	⬆ 12
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	308	150	49	203	61	30	174	114	66	⬆ 17
Natural Resources and Conservation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Psychology	78	39	50	63	21	33	79	40	51	⬆ 1
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	75	51	68	68	32	47	95	59	62	⬇ -6
Social Sciences	48	31	65	33	14	42	40	25	63	⬇ -2
Visual and Performing Arts	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unknown	111	58	52	143	66	46	123	72	59	⬆ 6

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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