June 2024

Student Voting Rates for Pennsylvania State University

NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

NSLVE THE NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT

June 2024
Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to share this tailored report containing your students' voting rates for several recent election cycles. For the first time ever, this report contains *four* years of relevant topline data: the midterm elections of 2014, 2018, and 2022, along with contextual data from the 2020 presidential election year. As we build the NSLVE data over time, the additional years of data may help your institution to begin to understand longer-term trends and considerations for practice.

This month, we are also looking forward to the release of Democracy Counts 2022, our national report on our most recent midterm elections. The results from 2022 were mixed – some encouraging trends and some signs of more work to do. We are excited to dive into the results with you and share what we see as the major takeaways in the coming weeks, so stay tuned.

You've heard this from us before: we urge you to share this report widely and strategically across your campus community. NSLVE data is an important resource for not only understanding your institution but also building a culture of political learning in higher education. We also invite you to invite you to lean on our team's resources, including our Election Imperatives report series, which provides data-backed practical recommendations for centering civic and political learning and participation.

Other resources that you might find helpful in your work include our forthcoming national report (keep an eye on our homepage!) , our report on how institutions use NSLVE reports, and our discussion guide on how to talk about your NSLVE reports on campus.

Finally, we always encourage you to reach out to us for support and with any questions that you may have. Email NSLVE@tufts.edu to get in touch with our team, and as always, watch your inbox (or sign up!) for our periodic newsletter, announcements about upcoming releases, and new resources.

Remember, student political learning is a constant effort, requiring year-round strategic building. Elections may be episodic, but student engagement in democracy should not be.

All the Best,
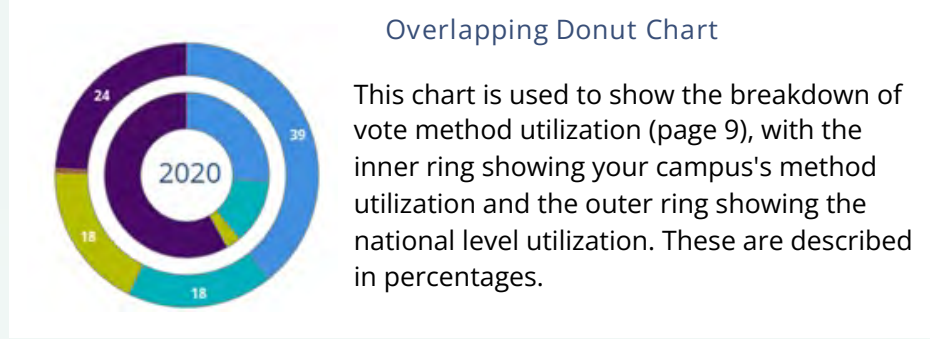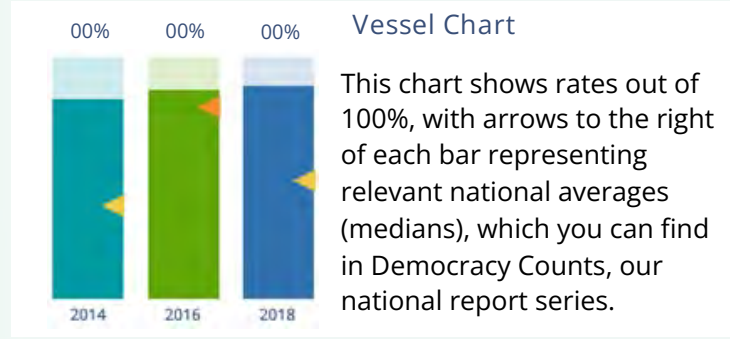Adam, Duy, Mari, and Victoria
The NSLVE Team

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 the numbers of students and the rates from 2014, 2018, 2020, and 2022,when available. The change column represents difference between comparable counts and rates. The change in rates are in terms of percentage points. 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 Democracy Counts, our national report series.

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

33.9%
2022 Voting Rate

-1.5
Change From 2018

ALL INSTITUTIONS

30.6%
2022 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

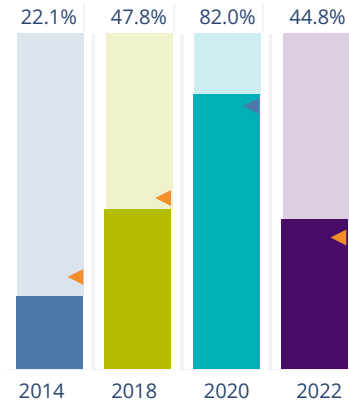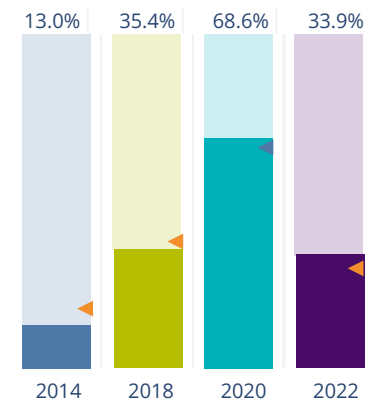| 58.8%	74.0%	83.6%	75.8%
2014	2018	2020	2022

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

22.1%	47.8%	82.0%	44.8%
2014	2018	2020	2022

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

13.0%	35.4%	68.6%	33.9%
2014	2018	2020	2022

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

	2014	2018	2020	2022	2018-2022 Change
Total Student Enrollment	91,526	91,477	89,776	87,028	⬇ -4,448
Age under 18/Unknown	971	804	762	430	⬇ -374
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	8,284	9,947	8,896	9,752	⬇ -195
Datasource	NSC	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	-
FERPA records blocked	52	32	131	-	-
Non-Degree Seeking Students	993	2,164	2,083	-	-
Total eligible voters	81,226	78,529	77,903	76,845	⬇ -1,683
Number of students who registered	47,740	58,117	65,104	58,248	⬆ 131
Number of students who voted	10,530	27,770	53,415	26,077	⬇ -1,693
Registration Rate %	58	74	83	75	⬆ 1
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	22	47	82	44	⬇ -3
Voting Rate %	12	35	68	33	⬇ -1

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.
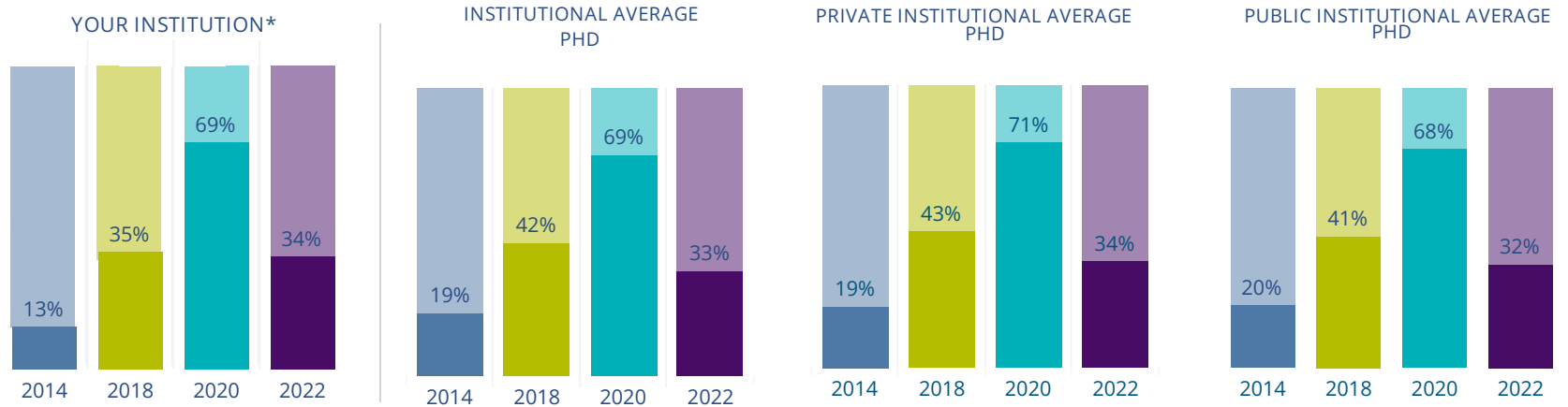
When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This is indicated by IPEDS in the data source.

In the following pages with tables, **Enrolled** represents the eligible voters when we have used NSC as the data source. When we have used IPEDS as the data source, **Enrolled** includes non-resident aliens who are ineligible to vote, and for whom we are unable to account due to the lack of data from your institution.
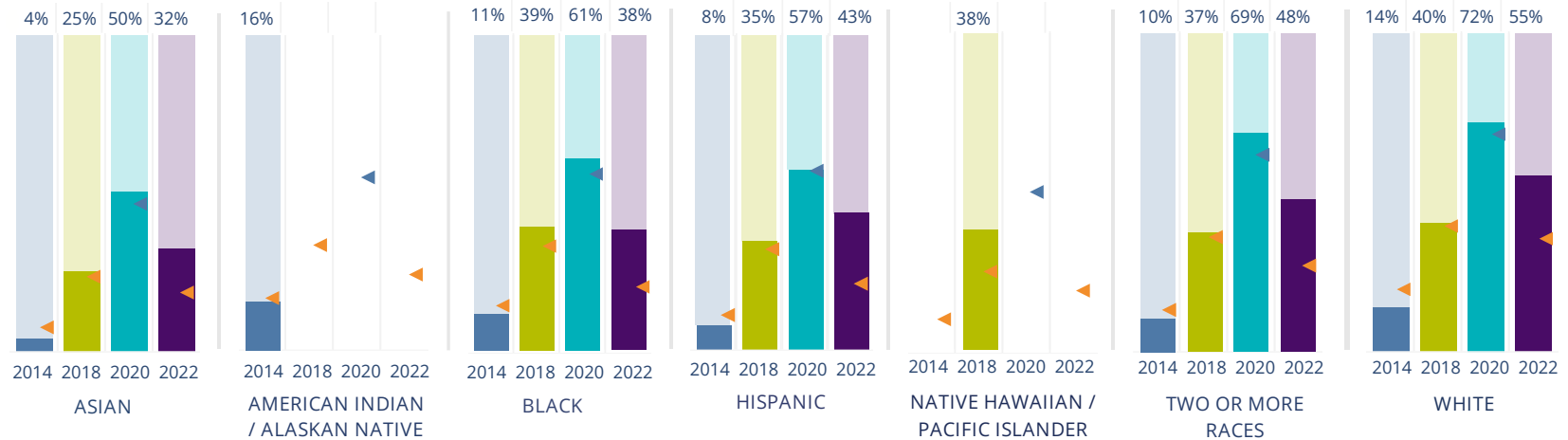
By Institution Types

2018 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 79%
39.1%	LOW 7%

2022 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 68%
30.6%	LOW 4%

These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. For Associate institutions, we only share public associate institutional averages due to sample size. *"Your Institution" chart is presented at a different scale.

YOUR INSTITUTION*

2014	2018	2020	2022
13%	35%	69%	34%

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

2014	2018	2020	2022
19%	42%	69%	33%

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

2014	2018	2020	2022
19%	43%	71%	34%

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

2014	2018	2020	2022
20%	41%	68%	32%

By Race / Ethnicity

	ASIAN				AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE				BLACK				HISPANIC				NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER				TWO OR MORE RACES				WHITE			
	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022	2014	2018	2020	2022
	4%	25%	50%	32%	16%				11%	39%	61%	38%	8%	35%	57%	43%		38%			10%	37%	69%	48%	14%	40%	72%	55%

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 : 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 or reports this data as unknown; (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
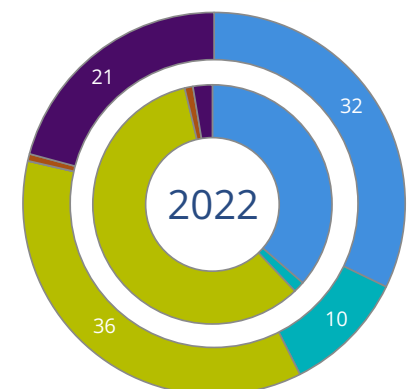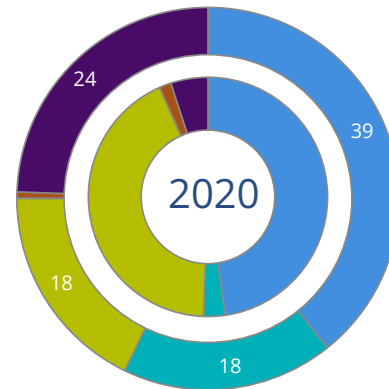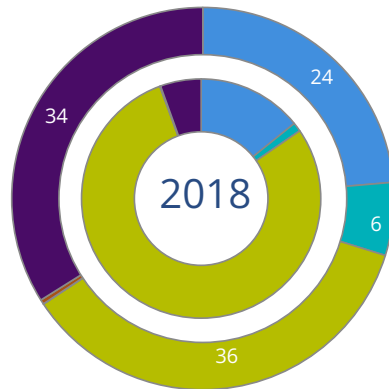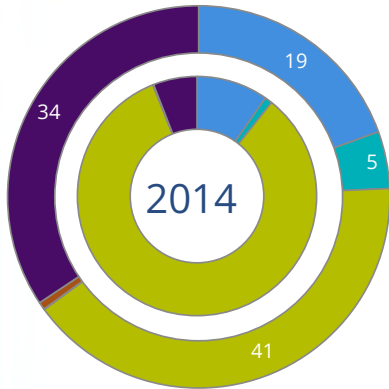
Looking Closer

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 or reports this data as unknown; (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.

	2014 Enrolled	2014 Voted	2014 Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	2018 Voted	2018 Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	2020 Voted	2020 Rate (%)	2022 Enrolled	2022 Voted	2022 Rate (%)	2018-2022 Change
Asian	4,931	203	4	1,649	415	25	392	197	50	145	47	32	⬆ 7
American Indian/ Alaska Native	95	15	15	33	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	5,424	616	11	1,602	622	38	431	261	60	191	73	38	➡ 0
Hispanic	5,331	424	7	1,871	647	34	452	258	57	198	86	43	⬆ 8
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	86	-	-	37	14	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	2,035	209	10	718	268	37	181	124	68	82	39	47	⬆10
White	61,211	8,640	14	18,923	7,557	39	4,240	3,039	71	1,953	1,072	54	⬆14
Race Unknown	2,113	417	19	63,399	18,238	28	80,867	49,524	61	84,017	24,754	29	➡ 0

By Voting Method

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

2014 — 19, 5, 41, 34

2018 — 24, 6, 36, 34

2020 — 39, 18, 18, 24

2022 — 32, 10, 36, 21

	2014		2018		2020		2022		2018-2022
	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Early Vote	101	1	341	1	1,564	2	386	1	⇨ 0
In-Person	8,776	83	21,947	79	22,845	42	15,222	58	⬇ -20
Not-In-Person	1,023	9	3,935	14	25,455	47	9,486	36	⬆ 22
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional	12	0	18	0	876	1	292	1	⬆ 1
Voting Method Unknown	614	5	1,528	5	2,671	5	691	2	⬇ -2

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. The inner ring in these charts show your campus's method utilization and the outer ring show the national level utilization.

By Age Group

	2014	2018	2020	2022
18-21	7%	27%	63%	26%
22-24	12%	30%	59%	29%
25-29	21%	37%	55%	34%
30-39	28%	43%	57%	40%
40-49	39%	55%	68%	55%
50+	57%	67%	78%	66%

Voting is habit-forming and young voters will often continue as voters in subsequent elections. Also, elected officials and public opinion polls solicit opinions from people they can locate - people in the voter files. Our 2020 data showed a surge among the youngest voters on college campuses, yet 2022 saw a return to past trends, with older students voting at higher rates than their younger counterparts. This change underscores the importance of continued need for institutionalized learning -- working with students to help them understand their political voice and power as they arrive on campus.

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.

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
18-21	50,986	3,702	7	54,122	14,784	27	53,266	33,616	63	53,985	14,120	26	⬇ -1
22-24	12,296	1,559	12	14,050	4,294	30	13,636	8,170	59	13,482	3,981	29	⬇ -1
25-29	7,434	1,600	21	9,110	3,401	37	8,885	4,903	55	8,400	2,907	34	⬇ -2
30-39	6,585	1,899	28	7,219	3,116	43	7,158	4,122	57	6,805	2,768	40	⬇ -2
40-49	2,630	1,029	39	2,759	1,523	55	2,649	1,822	68	2,814	1,557	55	➡ 0
50+	1,295	741	57	972	652	67	990	782	78	1,112	744	66	➡ 0

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2014 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2022 | | | 2018-2022 |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Female	37,832	4,905	12	12,479	4,970	39	2,728	1,738	63	1,232	610	49	⬆ 9
Male	43,328	5,620	12	15,437	4,853	31	3,953	2,333	59	1,675	776	46	⬆ 14

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

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022 Rate Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
EDUCATION LEVEL													
Undergraduate	68,937	7,017	10	73,654	21,746	29	71,761	44,727	62	70,253	19,660	27	⬇ -1
Graduate	9,416	2,650	28	14,446	5,961	41	14,693	8,591	58	14,385	5,446	37	⬇ -3
Class Unknown	2,873	863	30	132	63	47	130	97	74	1,960	632	32	⬇ -15
CLASS YEAR													
Freshman	16,829	1,111	6	15,393	3,894	25	17,429	10,417	59	18,350	4,213	22	⬇ -2
Sophomore	16,500	1,440	8	16,018	4,163	25	15,664	9,733	62	15,167	4,016	26	➡ 0
Upperclassman	35,564	4,448	12	40,575	13,063	32	37,295	23,811	63	35,736	11,030	30	⬇ -1
ENROLLMENT STATUS													
Full-time	66,222	6,321	9	73,899	21,234	28	72,141	44,175	61	73,220	19,951	27	⬇ -1
Part-time	15,004	4,209	28	14,326	6,533	45	14,442	9,240	63	13,375	6,125	45	➡ 0

These are estimated voting rates by Education Level (under-graduate/graduate), Class Year, and Enrollment Status (full-time/part-time), and the numbers we used to calculate these rates.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Agriculture	2,150	203	9	2,247	690	30	2,231	1,503	67	2,497	733	29	⬇ -1
Architecture	393	37	9	488	127	26	509	318	62	529	122	23	⬇ -2
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	154	75	48	143	86	60	133	99	74	131	69	52	⬇ -7
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,048	197	9	3,051	1,048	34	3,210	2,168	67	3,268	1,067	32	⬇ -1
Business, Management, and Marketing	12,696	1,767	13	14,257	4,717	33	14,384	8,798	61	14,304	4,416	30	⬇ -2
Communication and Journalism	3,639	358	9	3,662	1,227	33	3,583	2,354	65	3,488	1,012	29	⬇ -4

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	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Computer and Information Sciences	3,833	597	15	6,044	1,842	30	6,511	3,565	54	6,948	1,753	25	⬇ -5
Education	2,909	617	21	3,365	1,450	43	3,318	2,380	71	3,312	1,445	43	➡ 0
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	12,488	1,160	9	15,448	3,942	25	14,524	8,437	58	14,463	3,619	25	➡ 0
English Language and Literature	591	105	17	417	225	53	368	278	75	378	196	51	⬇ -2
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	1,609	239	14	995	387	38	871	578	66	721	269	37	⬇ -1
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	250	48	19	275	105	38	240	136	56	204	74	36	⬇ -1
Health Professions	5,949	889	14	5,531	1,907	34	5,337	3,746	70	4,613	1,710	37	⬆ 2
History	257	65	25	237	123	51	291	202	69	341	152	44	⬇ -7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	1,626	237	14	1,824	632	34	1,829	1,149	62	1,696	551	32	⬇ -2
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,250	88	7	1,192	282	23	1,194	798	66	1,296	295	22	➡ 0

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Legal Professions and Studies	651	173	26	871	338	38	787	469	59	929	335	36	⬇ -2
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	13,530	1,758	12	10,412	2,688	25	9,793	5,831	59	10,602	2,782	26	➡ 0
Mathematics and Statistics	502	89	17	991	240	24	1,007	414	41	919	233	25	⬆ 1
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	4,956	312	6	5,678	1,671	29	5,740	3,541	61	5,737	1,581	27	⬇ -1
Philosophy and Religious Studies	66	17	25	89	39	43	78	39	50	68	25	36	⬇ -7
Science Technologies/Technicians	46	-	-	60	17	28	61	31	50	71	19	26	⬇ -1
Social Sciences	3,212	523	16	4,197	1,397	33	4,055	2,251	55	3,708	1,285	34	⬆ 1
Visual and Performing Arts	980	111	11	1,002	415	41	1,037	733	70	1,014	335	33	⬇ -8
Unknown	91	-	-	163	74	45	177	120	67	78	33	42	⬇ -3

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, 2020, and 2022 federal elections.

Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database representing an average of well over 10 million students for each election year, that serves as a foundation for innovative research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE, "en-solve") is a service offered to colleges and universities that provides a tailored report on their students' voting rates and other metrics. Launched in 2013 at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, NSLVE represents more than 1,200 campuses in all 50 states + D.C. and now serves as a widely impactful resource for the work of understanding and fostering student political learning.

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 2014, 2018, 2020, and 2022 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://nslve.tufts.edu.

References: NSLVE 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: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2024). 2022 report for _____ [name of institution]. Medford, MA.

Contact us to get more info

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in The National Study for Learning Voting and Engagement

✕ TuftsNSLVE

NSLVE THE NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING AND ENGAGEMENT