

June 2024



# Student Voting Rates for Virginia Commonwealth 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](mailto: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

	2014			2018			2014-2018 Change (p.p.)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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.



# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

## YOUR INSTITUTION

33.8%

2022 Voting Rate

-15.7

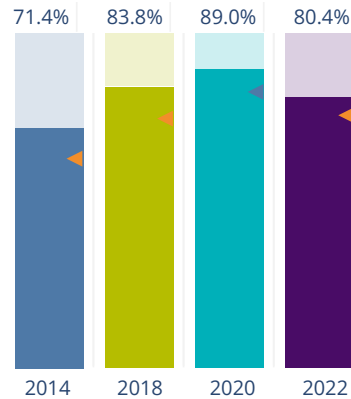
Change From 2018

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

30.6%

2022 Voting Rate

### REGISTRATION RATE



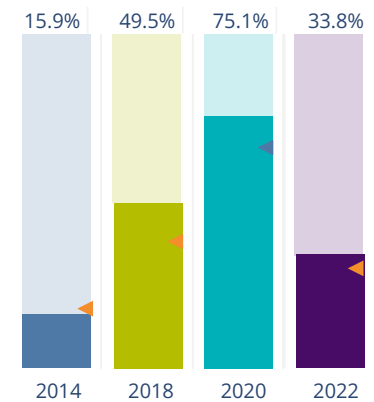
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

### VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



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



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	30,710	30,782	29,122	27,980	↓ -2,802
Age under 18/Unknown	365	467	351	219	↓ -248
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	1,525	1,168	928	984	↓ -184
Datasource	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	-
FERPA records blocked	39	26	21	-	-
Non-Degree Seeking Students	2,038	1,705	1,206	-	-
Total eligible voters	26,742	27,415	26,615	26,776	↓ -638
Number of students who registered	19,099	22,961	23,678	21,518	↓ -1,443
Number of students who voted	4,250	13,572	19,975	9,056	↓ -4,516
Registration Rate %	71	83	88	80	↓ -3
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	22	59	84	42	↓ -17
Voting Rate %	15	49	75	33	↓ -15

**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.

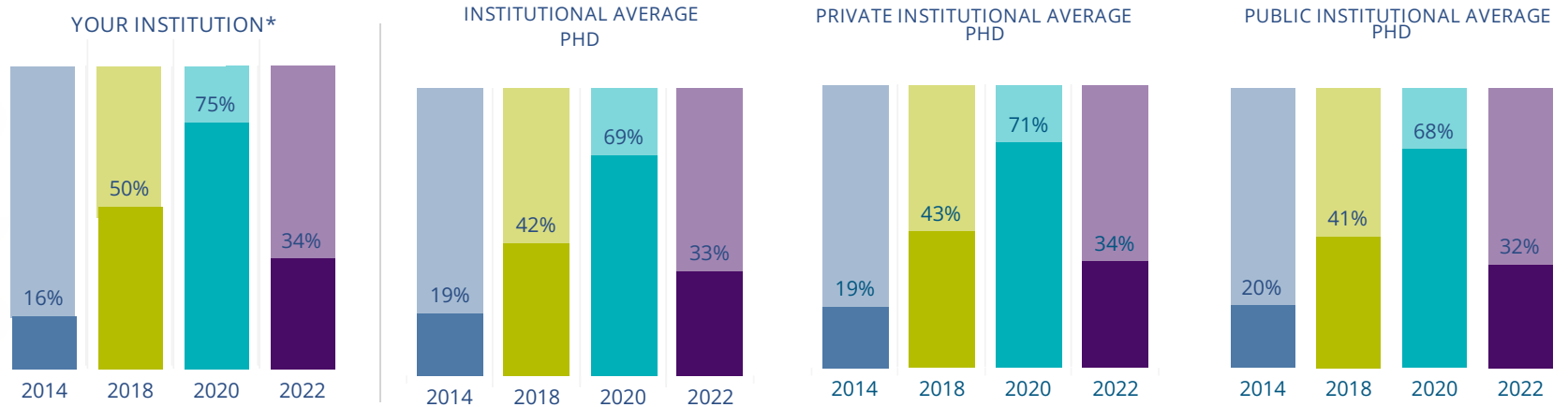
When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to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

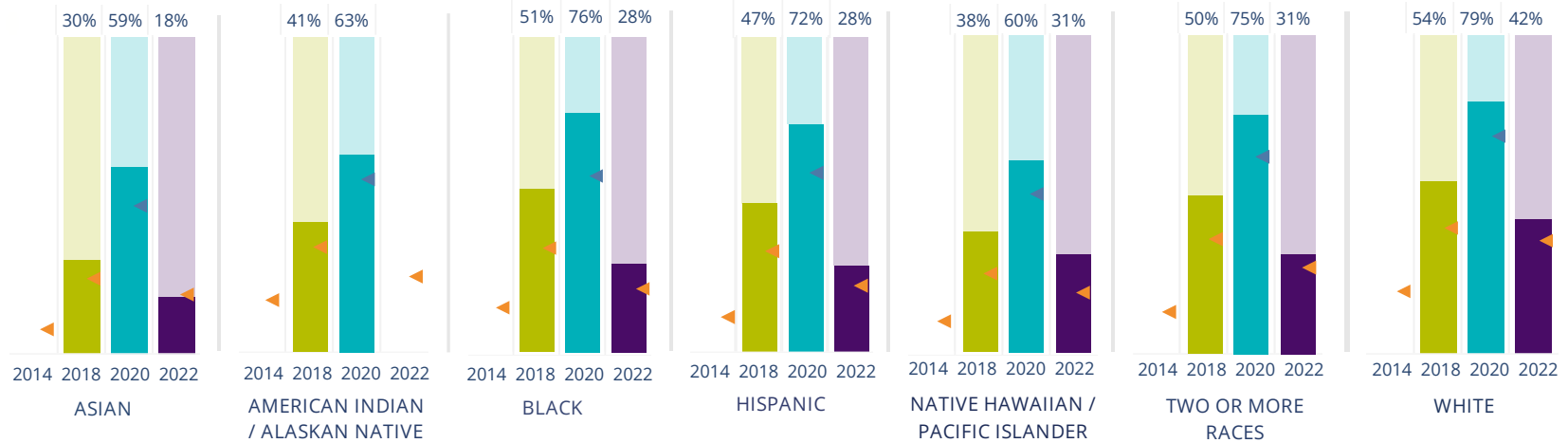
## By Institution Types



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.



## 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 : <https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nsive-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

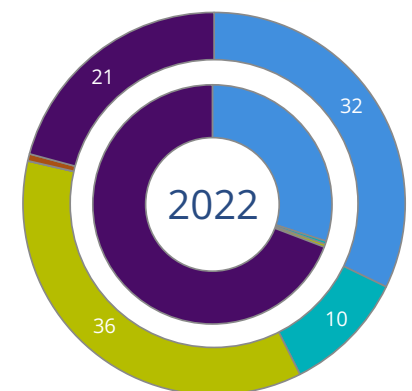
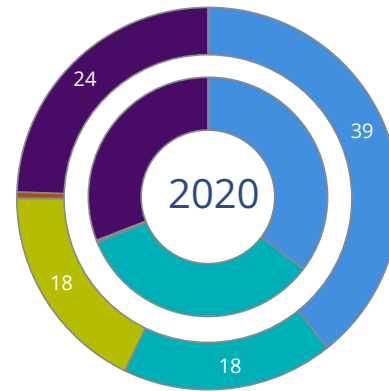
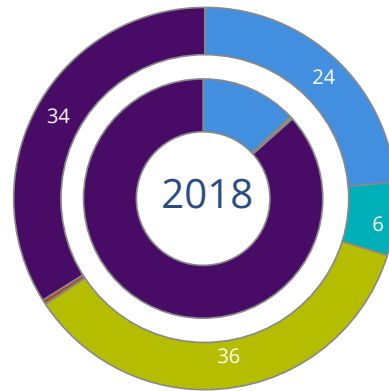
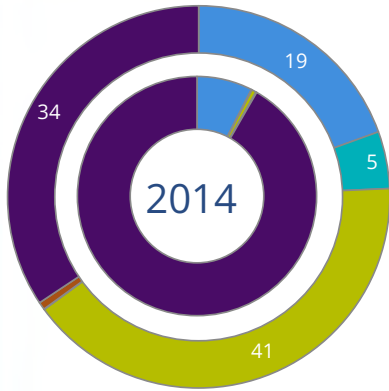
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates.** We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your 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			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Asian	-	-	-	4,288	1,267	29	4,175	2,457	58	4,129	744	18	↓-11
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	58	24	41	35	22	62	46	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	5,008	2,573	51	4,971	3,756	75	5,176	1,447	27	↓-23
Hispanic	-	-	-	2,536	1,192	47	2,723	1,966	72	2,795	770	27	↓-19
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	29	11	37	20	12	60	39	12	30	↓-7
2 or More Races	-	-	-	1,721	855	49	1,824	1,361	74	1,933	599	30	↓-18
White	-	-	-	13,457	7,234	53	12,298	9,668	78	12,078	5,087	42	↓-11
Race Unknown	28,143	4,250	15	1,403	416	29	1,449	733	50	1,565	390	24	↓-4



# By Voting Method

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



	2014		2018		2020		2022		2018-2022	
	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Voted	Rate (%)	Change	
Early Vote	-	-	16	0	6,685	33	35	0	→	0
In-Person	24	0	40	0	49	0	39	0	→	0
Not-In-Person	317	7	1,768	13	7,053	35	2,714	30	↑	17
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional	-	-	-	-	11	0	-	-	-	-
Voting Method Unknown	3,901	91	11,747	86	6,177	30	6,264	69	↓	-17

**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	8%	45%	73%	26%
22-24	14%	45%	72%	32%
25-29	19%	48%	71%	38%
30-39	32%	59%	71%	47%
40-49	51%	70%	76%	62%
50+	67%	77%	85%	73%

**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 Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
18-21	13,978	1,217	8	15,725	7,132	45	15,175	11,078	73	14,846	3,931	26	↓ -18
22-24	6,921	988	14	6,106	2,794	45	5,992	4,325	72	5,905	1,905	32	↓ -13
25-29	4,231	843	19	3,816	1,846	48	3,570	2,539	71	3,613	1,397	38	↓ -9
30-39	2,085	678	32	2,015	1,193	59	1,915	1,362	71	2,215	1,044	47	↓ -12
40-49	627	322	51	579	406	70	579	445	76	793	492	62	↓ -8
50+	301	202	67	259	201	77	264	226	85	389	287	73	↓ -3

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**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(%)	
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>													
Undergraduate	21,814	2,607	11	22,300	10,251	45	21,125	15,244	72	20,306	5,784	28	↓-17
Graduate	6,316	1,638	25	6,198	3,319	53	6,360	4,721	74	6,475	2,794	43	↓-10
Class Unknown	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	980	207	21	-
<b>CLASS YEAR</b>													
Freshman	3,486	141	4	4,284	1,746	40	3,533	2,374	67	4,108	780	18	↓-21
Sophomore	4,724	386	8	4,855	2,130	43	4,584	3,289	71	4,213	1,063	25	↓-18
Upperclassman	13,741	2,115	15	13,201	6,395	48	13,063	9,639	73	12,020	3,956	32	↓-15
<b>ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>													
Full-time	22,920	2,901	12	24,855	11,502	46	23,424	17,003	72	23,097	6,980	30	↓-16
Part-time	5,223	1,349	25	3,645	2,070	56	4,071	2,972	73	4,664	2,076	44	↓-12

**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	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	289	56	19	307	193	62	239	199	83	207	84	40	 -22
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,608	214	8	2,430	1,057	43	2,334	1,592	68	2,124	535	25	 -18
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,607	506	14	3,497	1,446	41	3,169	2,181	68	3,155	828	26	 -15
Communication and Journalism	1,220	173	14	898	502	55	793	637	80	679	259	38	 -17






**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-nsive-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	580	92	15	819	324	39	878	572	65	1,134	290	25	↓ -13
Education	1,527	367	24	2,056	1,040	50	2,252	1,737	77	2,178	778	35	↓ -14
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,570	191	12	1,573	596	37	1,468	973	66	1,447	452	31	↓ -6
English Language and Literature	411	95	23	404	254	62	399	300	75	350	151	43	↓ -19
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	26	11	42	23	18	78	18	15	83	24	18	75	↓ -3
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	123	28	22	96	51	53	69	59	85	52	25	48	↓ -5
Health Professions	3,775	754	19	4,325	2,000	46	4,254	3,201	75	4,453	1,549	34	↓ -11
History	354	126	35	244	166	68	235	192	81	230	103	44	↓ -23
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	1,447	207	14	1,313	590	44	1,276	958	75	1,156	352	30	↓ -14
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	72	-	-	81	18	22	81	57	70	69	22	31	↑ 9

## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,584	85	5	1,388	604	43	911	616	67	1,410	451	31	 -11
Mathematics and Statistics	253	47	18	292	151	51	258	173	67	160	56	35	 -16
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,217	215	17	987	492	49	876	641	73	833	291	34	 -14
Philosophy and Religious Studies	102	18	17	124	73	58	102	74	72	73	23	31	 -27
Social Sciences	929	236	25	1,106	683	61	1,075	867	80	970	429	44	 -17
Visual and Performing Arts	2,945	249	8	3,096	1,466	47	3,134	2,132	68	3,225	952	29	 -17
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	26	18	69	-



## 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

 [nslve@tufts.edu](mailto:nslve@tufts.edu)

 [nslve.tufts.edu](https://nslve.tufts.edu)

 The National Study for  
Learning Voting and  
Engagement

 TuftsNSLVE