Student Voting Rates for Western Carolina 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,
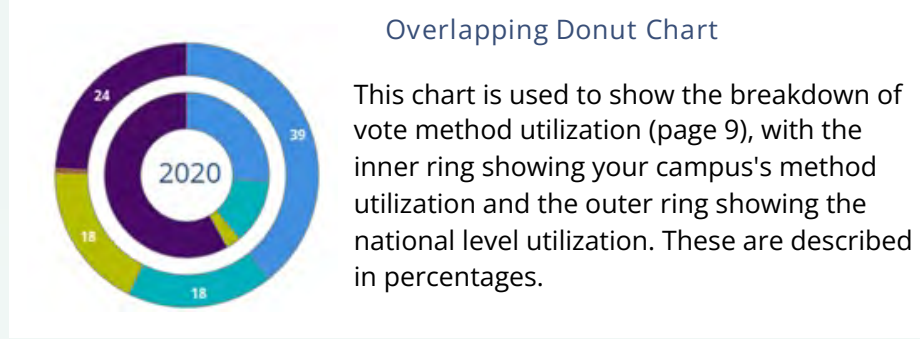Adam, Duy, Mari, and Victoria
The NSLVE Team

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

32.3%
2022 Voting Rate

-0.5
Change From 2018

ALL INSTITUTIONS

30.6%
2022 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

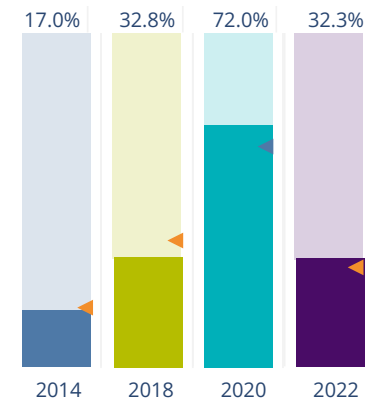| 2014	2018	2020	2022
67.3%	81.2%	91.2%	89.7%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

2014	2018	2020	2022
25.3%	40.4%	78.9%	36.0%

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

2014	2018	2020	2022
17.0%	32.8%	72.0%	32.3%

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	10,341	11,511	12,082	11,403	⬇ -108
Age under 18/Unknown	60	28	26	35	⬆ 7
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	269	179	199	290	⬆ 110
Datasource	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	-
FERPA records blocked	-	15	14	-	-
Non-Degree Seeking Students	249	212	156	-	-
Total eligible voters	9,753	11,076	11,686	11,077	⬆ 1
Number of students who registered	6,560	8,994	10,659	9,942	⬆ 948
Number of students who voted	1,660	3,635	8,411	3,582	⬇ -53
Registration Rate %	67	81	91	89	⬆ 8
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	25	40	78	36	⬇ -4
Voting Rate %	17	32	71	32	➡ 0

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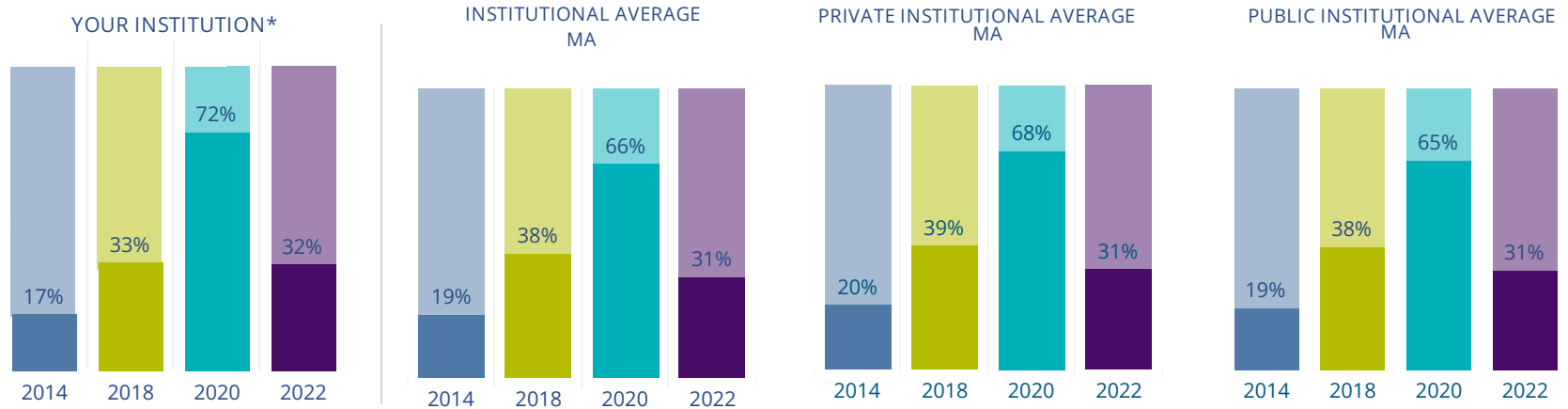
When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to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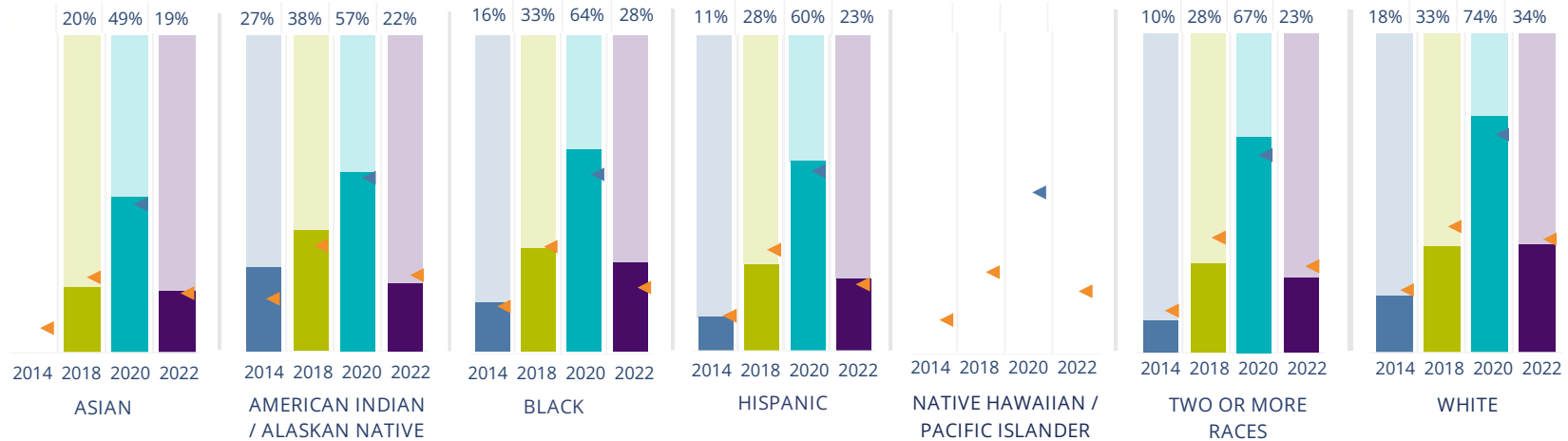
By Institution Types

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

2022 Voting Rate for All Institutions **30.6%**	HIGH 68%	
	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
17%	33%	72%	32%

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

2014	2018	2020	2022
19%	38%	66%	31%

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

2014	2018	2020	2022
20%	39%	68%	31%

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

2014	2018	2020	2022
19%	38%	65%	31%

By Race / Ethnicity

ASIAN: 2014 20%, 2018 49%, 2020 19%, 2022 _
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE: 2014 27%, 2018 38%, 2020 57%, 2022 22%
BLACK: 2014 16%, 2018 33%, 2020 64%, 2022 28%
HISPANIC: 2014 11%, 2018 28%, 2020 60%, 2022 23%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER: 2014 _, 2018 _, 2020 _, 2022 _
TWO OR MORE RACES: 2014 10%, 2018 28%, 2020 67%, 2022 23%
WHITE: 2014 18%, 2018 33%, 2020 74%, 2022 34%

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
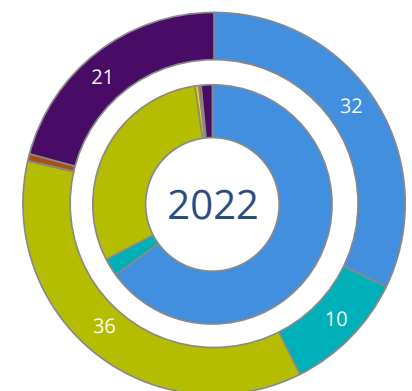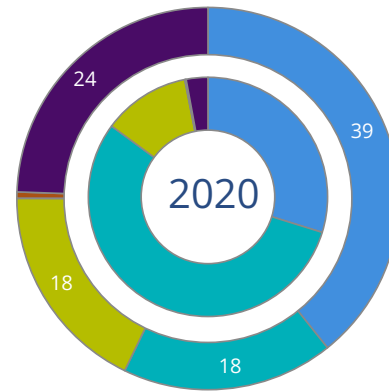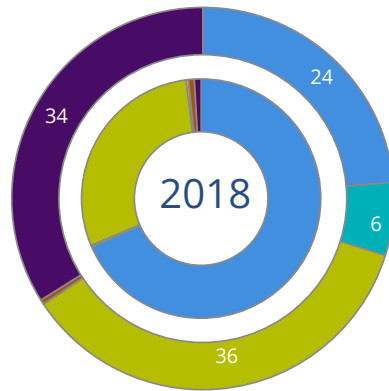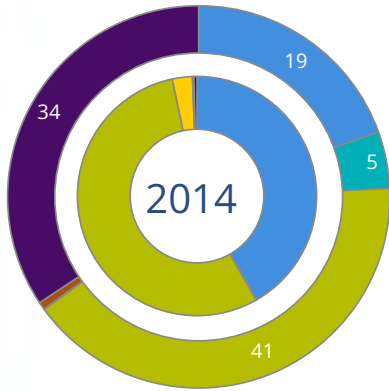
Looking Closer

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 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2022 | | | 2018-2022 |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Asian	146	-	-	138	28	20	166	81	48	181	35	19	0
American Indian/ Alaska Native	82	22	26	89	34	38	107	61	57	102	22	21	-16
Black	713	111	15	693	225	32	698	444	63	780	217	27	-4
Hispanic	501	54	10	797	219	27	943	566	60	943	215	22	-4
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
2 or More Races	306	31	10	443	122	27	406	273	67	399	93	23	-4
White	8,017	1,423	17	8,899	2,967	33	9,336	6,888	73	8,783	2,961	33	0
Race Unknown	237	12	5	186	39	20	219	92	42	165	35	21	0

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ 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	-	-	-	-	4,648	55	85	2	-
In-Person	912	54	1,069	29	996	11	1,085	30	➡ 0
Not-In-Person	692	41	2,485	68	2,503	29	2,330	65	⬇ -3
Other	44	2	12	0	-	-	18	0	➡ 0
Provisional	-	-	28	0	12	0	-	-	-
Voting Method Unknown	-	-	35	0	242	2	54	1	➡ 0

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%	24%	69%	24%
22-24	13%	31%	67%	26%
25-29	23%	41%	68%	38%
30-39	35%	53%	74%	47%
40-49	50%	61%	81%	54%
50+	63%	66%	81%	63%

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	5,691	451	7	6,681	1,618	24	6,829	4,761	69	6,153	1,491	24	➡ 0
22-24	1,537	200	13	1,760	553	31	1,857	1,260	67	1,926	509	26	⬇ -4
25-29	977	229	23	976	404	41	1,011	695	68	977	381	38	⬇ -2
30-39	1,077	384	35	1,049	566	53	1,246	930	74	1,237	589	47	⬇ -6
40-49	542	274	50	578	355	61	684	556	81	771	418	54	⬇ -7
50+	191	122	63	209	139	66	256	209	81	304	194	63	⬇ -2

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2014			2018			2020			2022			2018-2022
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Female	5,589	982	17	6,338	2,159	34	6,751	4,947	73	6,656	2,138	32	⬇ -1
Male	4,424	678	15	4,908	1,473	30	5,129	3,462	67	4,700	1,440	30	➡ 0

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	8,402	1,090	12	9,678	2,784	28	10,188	7,108	69	9,578	2,737	28	➡ 0
Graduate	1,496	569	38	1,570	849	54	1,695	1,303	76	1,618	792	48	⬇ -5
Class Unknown	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172	-	-	-
CLASS YEAR													
Freshman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sophomore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upperclassman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENROLLMENT STATUS													
Full-time	7,933	894	11	9,226	2,652	28	9,513	6,662	70	8,792	2,426	27	⬇ -1
Part-time	2,082	766	36	2,027	983	48	2,370	1,749	73	2,576	1,156	44	⬇ -3

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.

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
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	376	36	9	453	117	25	404	277	68	353	96	27	⬆ 1
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,607	308	19	2,100	688	32	2,256	1,571	69	2,179	732	33	➡ 0
Communication and Journalism	237	19	8	244	81	33	254	188	74	214	63	29	⬇ -3

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	107	-	-	143	27	18	166	95	57	190	31	16	🔻 -2
Education	1,123	276	24	1,254	473	37	1,305	947	72	1,208	459	37	➡ 0
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	682	106	15	864	233	26	882	578	65	771	223	28	🔼 1
English Language and Literature	183	35	19	179	82	45	170	116	68	178	62	34	🔻 -10
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	12	-	-	53	15	28	45	30	66	26	-	-	-
Health Professions	2,019	398	19	2,150	695	32	2,259	1,669	73	1,840	586	31	➡ 0
History	121	20	16	112	56	50	132	108	81	154	66	42	🔻 -7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	564	86	15	495	158	31	541	391	72	506	136	26	🔻 -5
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	240	17	7	321	74	23	303	215	70	345	105	30	🔼 7

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	469	36	7	507	97	19	576	384	66	816	169	20	⬆ 1
Mathematics and Statistics	58	11	18	80	25	31	71	44	61	69	19	27	⬇ -3
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	41	-	-	42	11	26	39	28	71	30	13	43	⬆ 17
Philosophy and Religious Studies	29	-	-	32	11	34	25	14	56	30	13	43	⬆ 8
Social Sciences	326	38	11	356	140	39	336	244	72	296	102	34	⬇ -4
Visual and Performing Arts	477	42	8	507	160	31	548	402	73	570	143	25	⬇ -6
Unknown	126	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

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