


June 2024



# Student Voting Rates for Western Kentucky 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

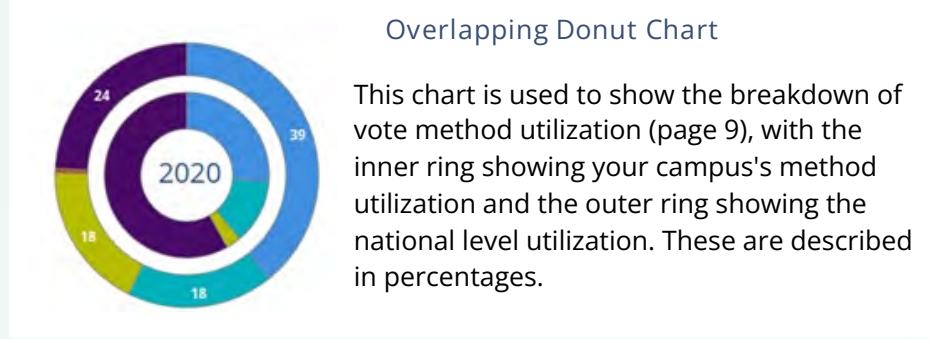
# In This Report

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

23.5%

2022 Voting Rate

-6.7

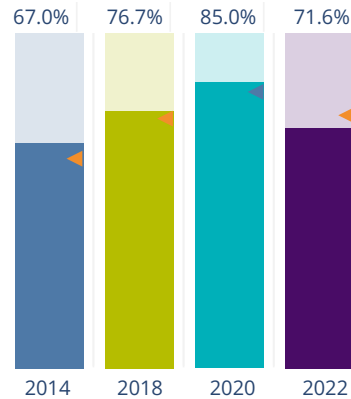
Change From 2018

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

30.6%

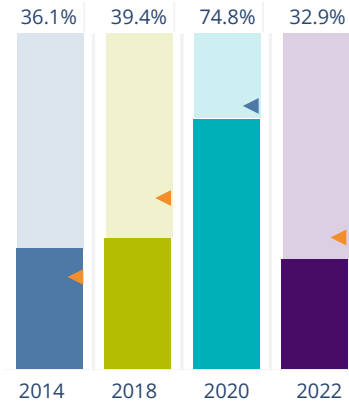
2022 Voting Rate

### REGISTRATION RATE



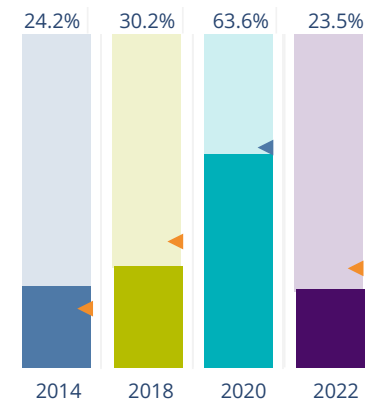
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

### 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	18,187	16,399	15,226	14,169	↓ -2,229
Age under 18/Unknown	163	205	210	198	↓ -7
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	1,254	479	214	141	↓ -338
Datasource	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	IPEDS	-
FERPA records blocked	27	18	-	-	-
Non-Degree Seeking Students	325	455	435	-	-
Total eligible voters	16,417	15,241	14,356	13,829	↓ -1,411
Number of students who registered	11,001	11,689	12,199	9,907	↓ -1,782
Number of students who voted	3,969	4,610	9,129	3,255	↓ -1,355
Registration Rate %	67	76	84	71	↓ -5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	36	39	74	32	↓ -6
Voting Rate %	24	30	63	23	↓ -6

**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.

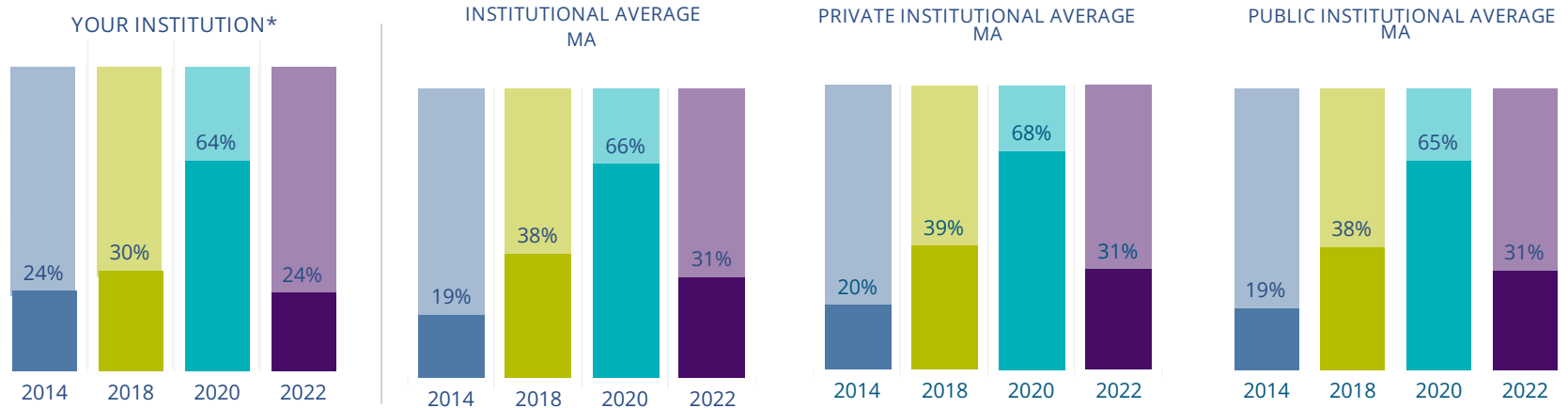
When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to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

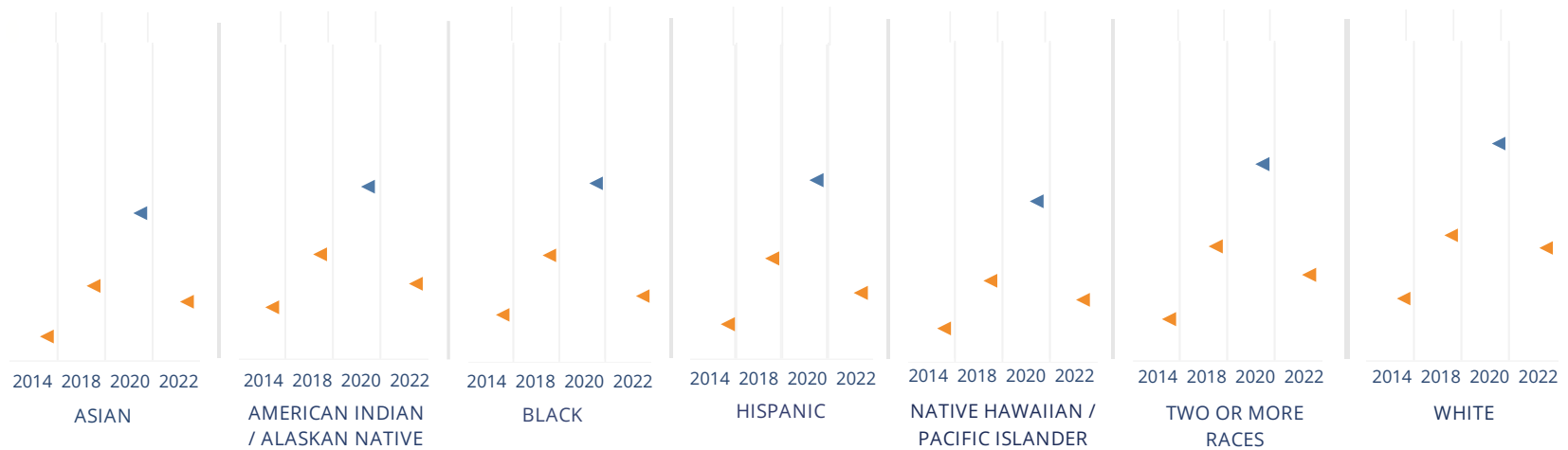
## By Institution Types



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

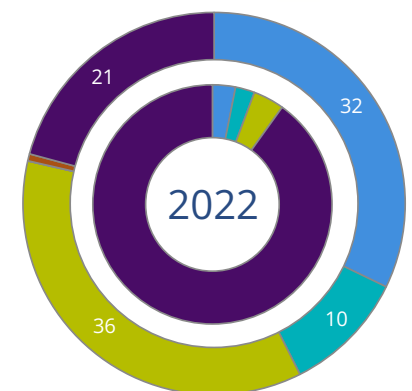
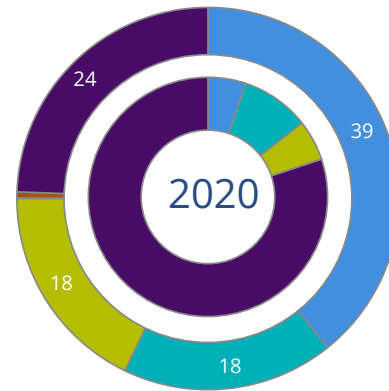
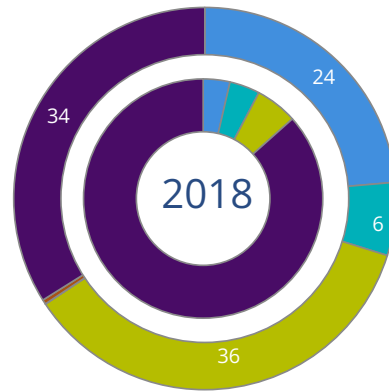
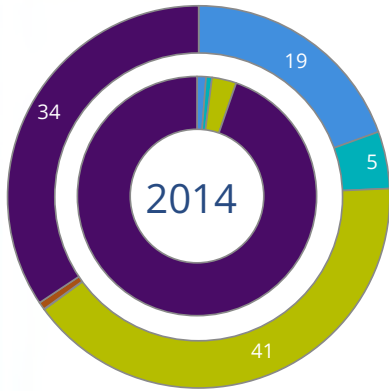
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates.** We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	17,649	3,969	22	15,707	4,610	29	14,565	9,129	62	13,971	3,255	23	↓ -6



# 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	30	0	191	4	846	9	84	2	↓	-1
In-Person	130	3	261	5	502	5	137	4	↓	-1
Not-In-Person	46	1	165	3	464	5	100	3	→	0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Voting Method Unknown	3,762	94	3,993	86	7,317	80	2,933	90	↑	3

**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	15%	23%	64%	20%
22-24	19%	29%	57%	19%
25-29	26%	35%	54%	27%
30-39	40%	47%	58%	34%
40-49	54%	54%	69%	48%
50+	65%	72%	78%	65%

**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	9,475	1,484	15	9,346	2,214	23	9,290	6,036	64	8,924	1,797	20	↓ -3
22-24	3,599	709	19	2,976	873	29	2,570	1,468	57	2,373	471	19	↓ -9
25-29	1,948	522	26	1,470	528	35	1,067	578	54	968	270	27	↓ -8
30-39	1,537	627	40	1,202	573	47	1,028	606	58	1,014	351	34	↓ -13
40-49	763	413	54	542	298	54	443	310	69	520	254	48	↓ -6
50+	327	214	65	171	124	72	167	131	78	172	112	65	↓ -7

# 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	15,304	3,118	20	13,755	3,760	27	12,835	8,024	62	11,947	2,502	20	↓ -6
Graduate	2,217	837	37	1,919	844	43	1,715	1,093	63	1,642	581	35	↓ -8
Class Unknown	128	14	10	33	-	-	15	12	80	382	172	45	-
<b>CLASS YEAR</b>													
Freshman	4,416	530	12	3,449	661	19	3,312	1,883	56	3,077	450	14	↓ -4
Sophomore	3,112	500	16	2,727	604	22	2,472	1,624	65	2,510	507	20	↓ -1
Upperclassman	7,626	1,997	26	7,358	2,381	32	6,858	4,391	64	6,203	1,489	24	↓ -8
<b>ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>													
Full-time	14,014	2,535	18	12,940	3,363	25	12,265	7,719	62	11,615	2,393	20	↓ -5
Part-time	3,635	1,434	39	2,767	1,247	45	2,300	1,410	61	2,356	862	36	↓ -8

**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
Agriculture	424	119	28	380	113	29	310	214	69	265	75	28	↓ -1
Architecture	122	14	11	115	19	16	108	71	65	98	15	15	↓ -1
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	35	-	-	49	21	42	25	21	84	11	-	-	-
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	824	137	16	709	203	28	663	435	65	576	123	21	↓ -7
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,406	495	20	2,593	675	26	2,481	1,453	58	2,443	437	17	↓ -8
Communication and Journalism	1,049	162	15	876	256	29	706	468	66	560	118	21	↓ -8

**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	402	75	18	445	143	32	431	254	58	382	96	25	↓ -7
Education	1,814	628	34	1,298	517	39	1,155	799	69	1,435	518	36	↓ -3
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,025	149	14	858	175	20	770	442	57	532	102	19	↓ -1
English Language and Literature	283	73	25	252	96	38	221	169	76	198	63	31	↓ -6
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	17	-	-	200	56	28	237	139	58	254	49	19	↓ -8
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	74	19	25	130	43	33	109	86	78	67	18	26	↓ -6
Health Professions	2,809	693	24	2,669	796	29	2,513	1,610	64	2,294	497	21	↓ -8
History	198	90	45	140	66	47	113	89	78	116	57	49	↑ 1
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-
Library Science	50	30	60	53	36	67	45	38	84	51	35	68	→ 0
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,120	166	14	798	155	19	743	442	59	721	107	14	↓ -4

## 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	30	11	36	44	12	27	41	22	53	53	18	33	6
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,646	312	18	1,102	275	24	821	406	49	792	145	18	-6
Mathematics and Statistics	188	65	34	99	32	32	79	44	55	83	21	25	-7
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	31	-	-	20	-	-	14	-	-	172	46	26	-
Philosophy and Religious Studies	42	16	38	22	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Sciences	864	258	29	918	289	31	910	582	63	733	175	23	-7
Visual and Performing Arts	568	77	13	522	143	27	550	385	70	585	133	22	-4
Unknown	19	-	-	56	15	26	45	32	71	93	37	39	12



## 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

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