



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Boston University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

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.

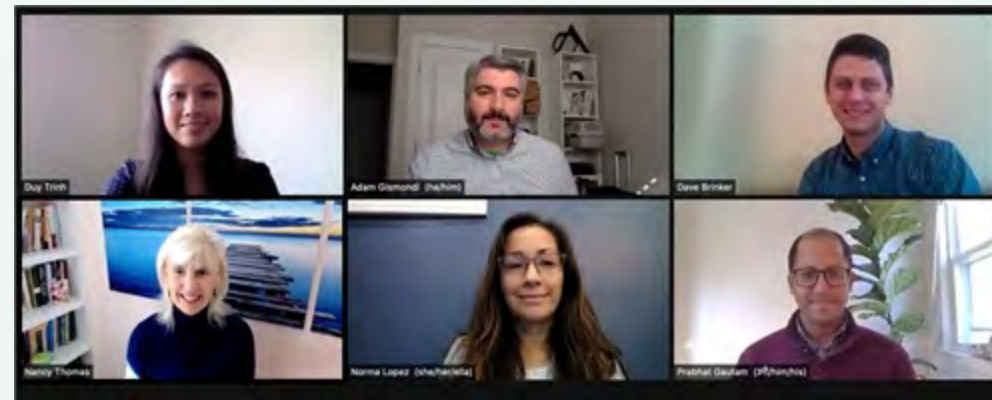
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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;
(Bottom 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.

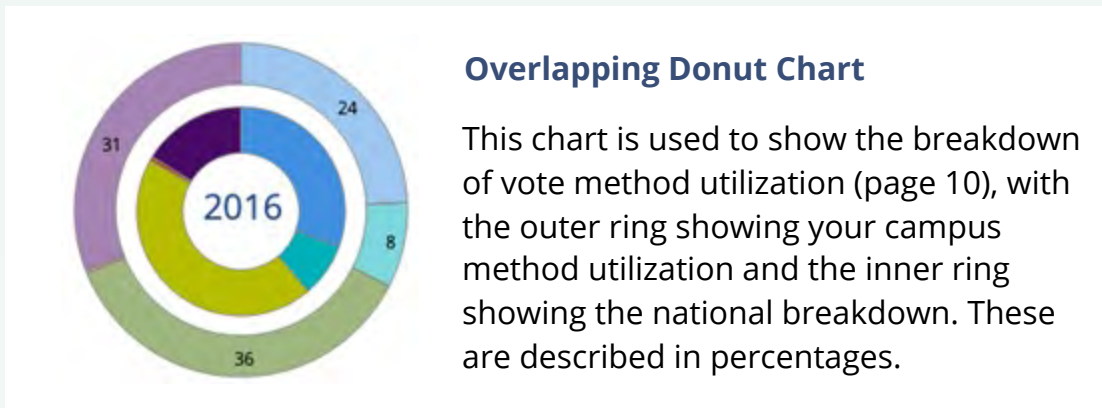
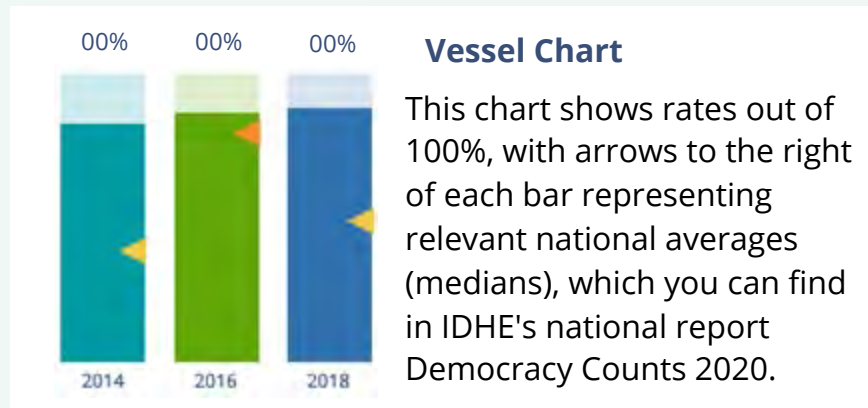
In This Report

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.

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

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.



Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

70.5%

2020 Voting Rate

+14.3

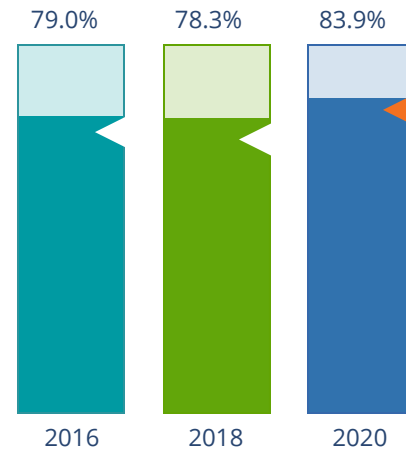
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

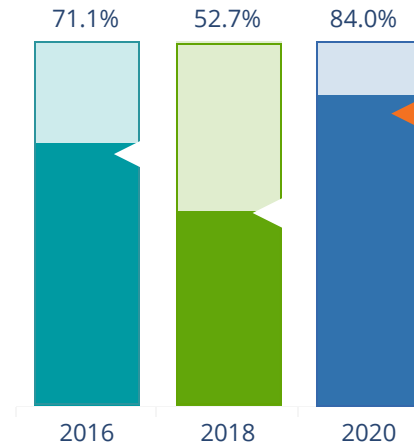
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



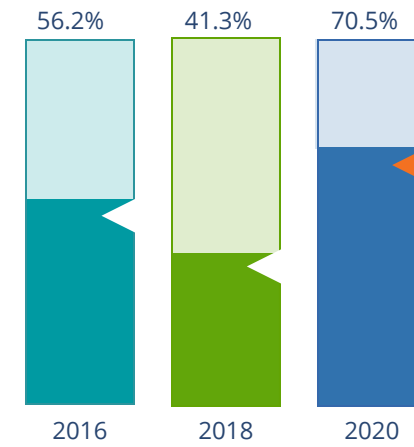
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

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

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	32,246	34,838	33,668	↑ 1,421
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	42	43	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	7,067	8,328	7,988	↑ 921
(FERPA records blocked)	1,390	1,336	1,296	↓ -94
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	508	309	-
Total eligible voters	23,784	24,624	24,032	↑ 248
Number of students who registered	18,796	19,276	20,163	↑ 1,367
Number of students who voted	13,359	10,159	16,944	↑ 3,585
Registration Rate %	79	78	84	↑ 5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	71	53	84	↑ 13
Voting Rate %	56	41	71	↑ 14

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 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 estimate is given by "IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens" on this page. If you believe the number of international students reported on this report is incorrect, you can manually adjust your institution's voting rates by using our recalculation tool. <https://id-he.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool>.

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

**HIGH
82%**

**LOW
13%**

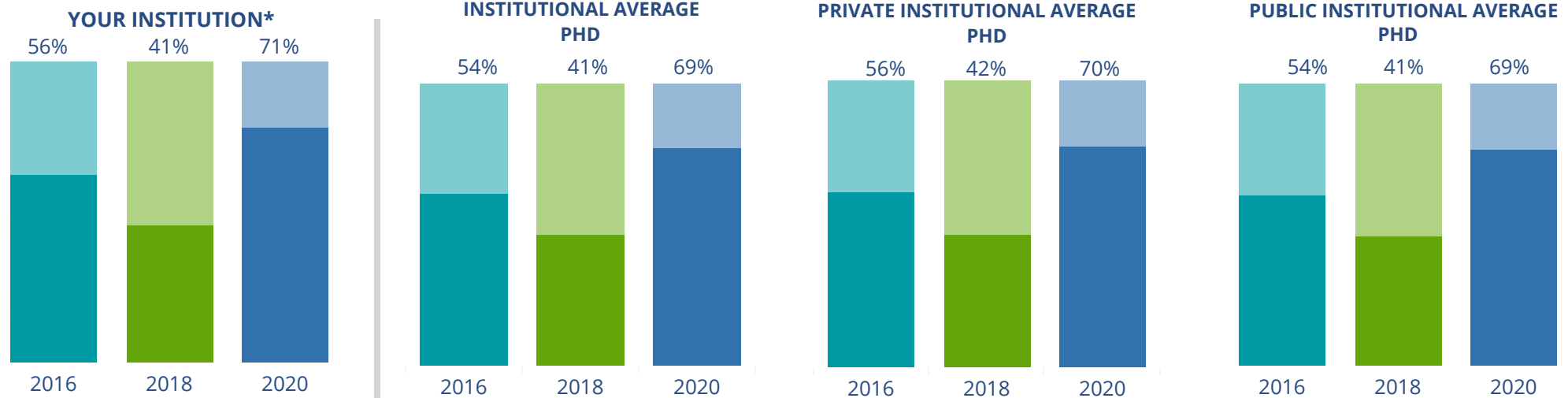
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

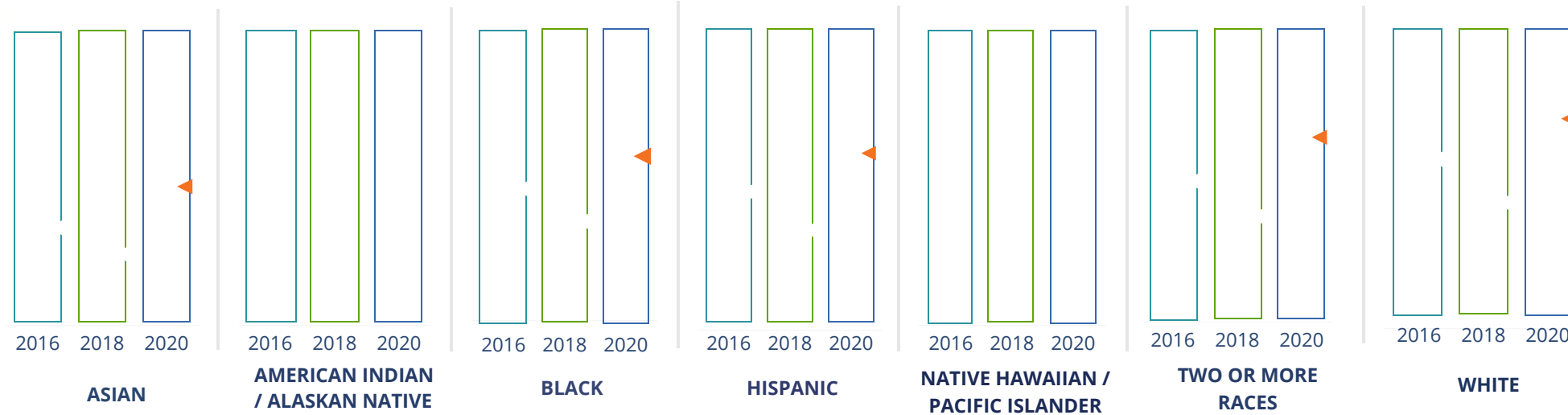
**HIGH
89%**

**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.



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

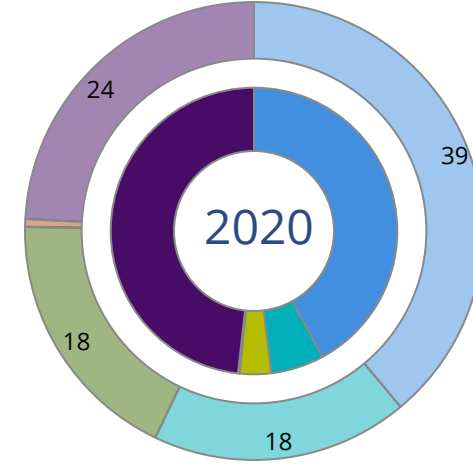
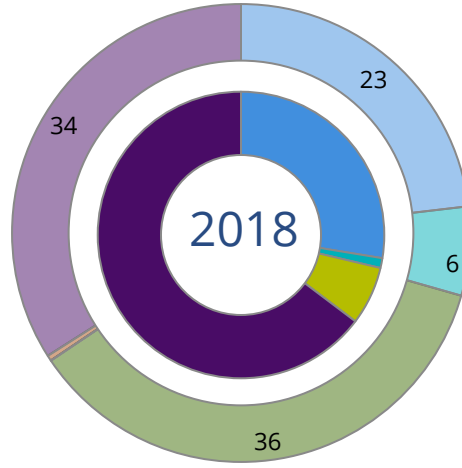
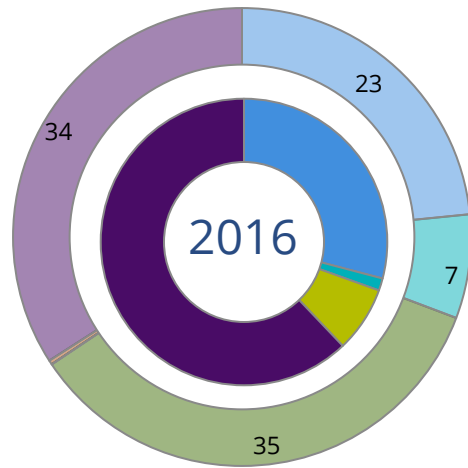
By Race/Ethnicity

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	30,789	13,359	43	32,747	10,159	31	31,864	16,944	53	↑ 10

By Voting Method

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



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)	
Early Vote	189	1	115	1	1,021	6	5	↑
In-Person on Election Day	994	7	669	7	586	4	-4	↓
Not-In-Person	3,894	29	2,800	28	7,132	42	13	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	35	0	-	
Voting Method Unknown	8,277	62	6,571	65	8,170	48	-14	↓

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/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	39%	25%	55%
22-24	37%	26%	46%
25-29	49%	40%	55%
30-39	53%	42%	53%
40-49	63%	52%	62%
50+	79%	73%	74%

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	14,629	5,707	39	15,228	3,811	25	14,400	7,901	55	↑ 16
22-24	6,091	2,273	37	7,113	1,844	26	7,151	3,298	46	↑ 9
25-29	5,463	2,698	49	5,863	2,316	40	5,650	3,102	55	↑ 6
30-39	3,066	1,612	53	3,091	1,308	42	3,266	1,728	53	↑ 0
40-49	901	567	63	858	449	52	986	610	62	↓ -1
50+	639	502	79	594	431	73	411	305	74	↓ -4

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
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

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	15,668	6,112	39	16,488	4,158	25	15,859	8,536	54	↑	15
Graduate	12,982	6,363	49	14,657	5,351	37	15,004	7,824	52	↑	3
Class Unknown	2,139	864	40	1,602	650	41	1,001	584	58	↑	18
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	3,236	36	1,175	3,341	24	791	2,748	54	1,475	↑	17
Second Year	3,977	36	1,440	4,187	23	975	3,902	53	2,050	↑	16
Upper Level	8,112	41	3,343	8,612	26	2,279	8,975	55	4,907	↑	13
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	24,843	9,832	40	26,636	7,235	27	25,325	13,091	52	↑	12
Part-time	5,946	3,527	59	6,111	2,924	48	6,539	3,853	59	↓	0

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 RateChange (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Architecture	66	26	39	81	34	42	67	39	58	↑ 19
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	47	36	77	68	36	53	63	42	67	↓ -10
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,514	1,144	46	3,173	1,003	32	3,337	2,024	61	↑ 15
Business, Management, and Marketing	4,411	1,480	34	4,508	873	19	4,837	1,960	41	↑ 7
Communication and Journalism	2,360	1,037	44	2,540	769	30	2,427	1,277	53	↑ 9
Computer and Information Sciences	1,629	616	38	2,053	511	25	2,230	777	35	↓ -3
Education	1,225	788	64	1,575	741	47	1,249	903	72	↑ 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-nslve-report-faq>

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	2,413	842	35	2,656	572	22	2,504	1,166	47	↑	12
English Language and Literature	241	133	55	225	93	41	213	149	70	↑	15
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	-	-	-	38	20	53	27	25	93		-
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	120	54	45	127	51	40	164	88	54	↑	9
Health Professions	3,359	1,761	52	3,498	1,283	37	3,418	2,261	66	↑	14
History	155	90	58	129	52	40	141	101	72	↑	14
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	437	258	59	300	119	40	239	157	66	↑	7
Legal Professions and Studies	978	500	51	1,038	457	44	880	621	71	↑	19
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	532	201	38	452	115	25	476	238	50	↑	12
Mathematics and Statistics	570	74	13	718	56	8	747	142	19	↑	6
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,414	527	37	1,356	290	21	1,036	504	49	↑	11
Natural Resources and Conservation	16	-	-	69	29	42	72	54	75		-
Personal and Culinary Services	64	39	61	49	31	63	55	39	71	↑	10
Philosophy and Religious Studies	200	91	46	177	68	38	195	111	57	↑	11

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Physical Sciences	474	207	44	530	146	28	533	267	50	↑	6
Psychology	787	354	45	845	280	33	1,019	608	60	↑	15
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	813	595	73	1,003	601	60	960	720	75	↑	2
Social Sciences	2,330	910	39	2,467	715	29	2,501	1,212	48	↑	9
Visual and Performing Arts	1,185	565	48	1,131	409	36	1,065	615	58	↑	10
Unknown	1,889	881	47	1,650	664	40	1,077	637	59	↑	13

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.

Boston University

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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