Student Voting Rates for California State University-Chico

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

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.
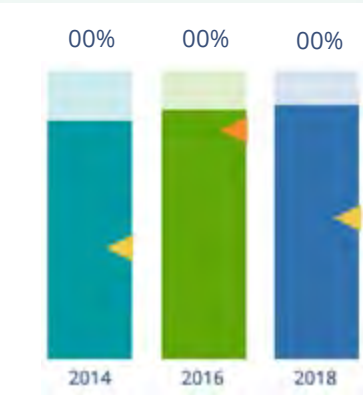
All the Best,
IDHE Team

(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton 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.

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.
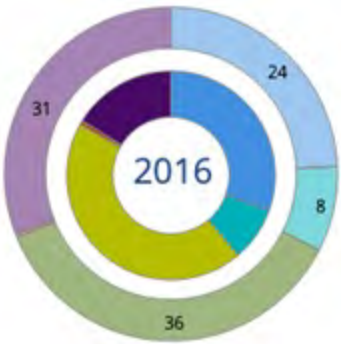

Vessel Chart

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 IDHE's national report Democracy Counts 2020.

Overlapping Donut Chart

This chart is used to show the breakdown of vote method utilization (page 10), with the outer ring showing your campus method utilization and the inner ring showing the national breakdown. These are described in percentages.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

72.1%
2020 Voting Rate

+26.6
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

77.3%	77.9%	87.2%
2016	2018	2020
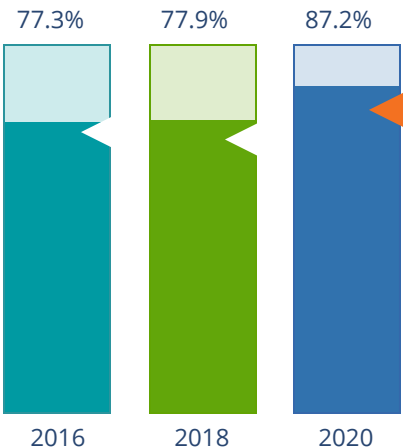
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

58.8%	49.6%	82.7%
2016	2018	2020
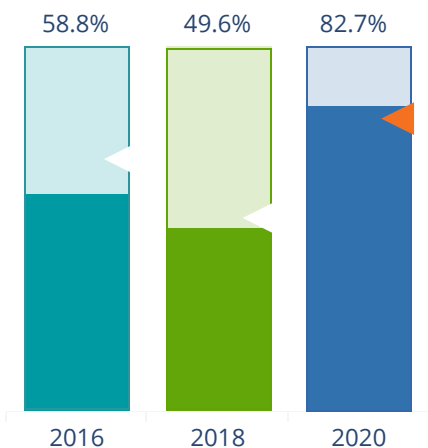
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE

45.5%	38.6%	72.1%
2016	2018	2020
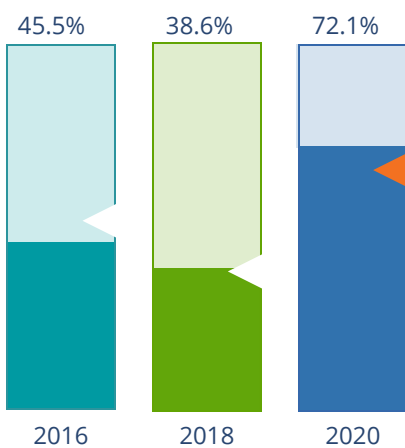
The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

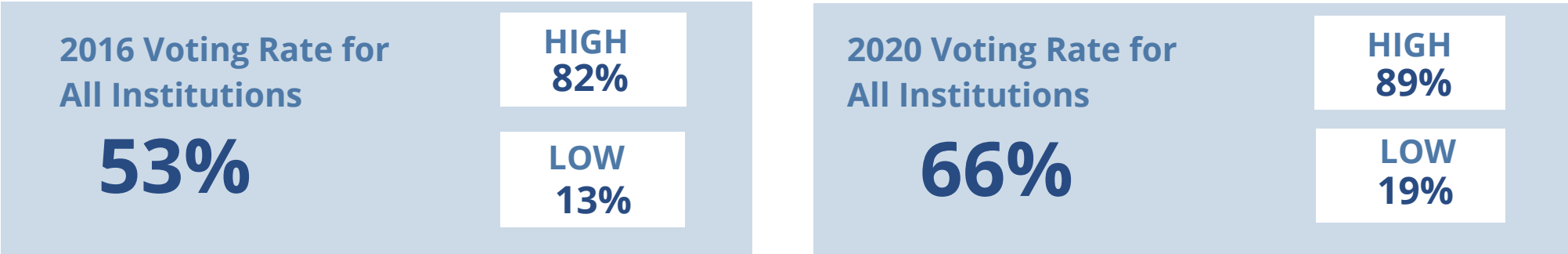|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	17,960	18,017	17,007	↓ -954
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	704	570	436	↓ -268
(FERPA records blocked)	202	169	141	↓ -61
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	320	172	304	↓ -16
Total eligible voters	16,733	17,103	16,125	↓ -608
Number of students who registered	12,938	13,326	14,063	↑ 1,125
Number of students who voted	7,608	6,604	11,627	↑ 4,019
Registration Rate %	77	78	87	↑ 10
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	59	50	83	↑ 24
Voting Rate %	45	39	72	↑ 27

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	HIGH 82%
53%	LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 89%
66%	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.

YOUR INSTITUTION*

46% 39% 72%

2016 2018 2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

53% 39% 67%

2016 2018 2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

55% 39% 69%

2016 2018 2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

52% 38% 65%

2016 2018 2020

By Race / Ethnicity

2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020
ASIAN	**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE**	**BLACK**	**HISPANIC**	**NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER**	**TWO OR MORE RACES**	**WHITE**

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
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	17,419	7,608	44	17,663	6,604	37	16,550	11,627	70	⬆ 27

By Voting Method

■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person □ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown
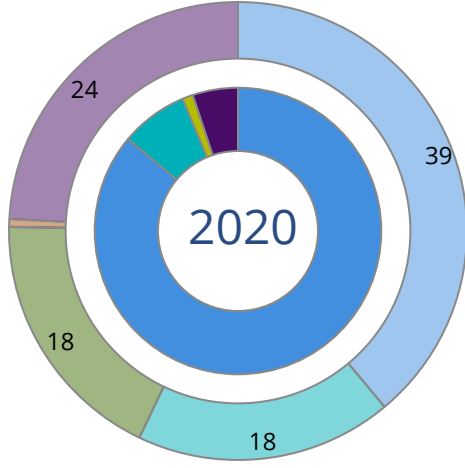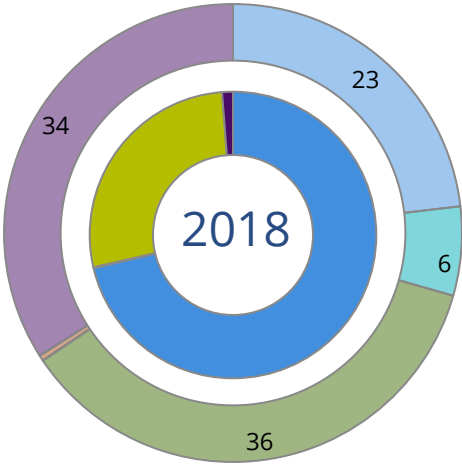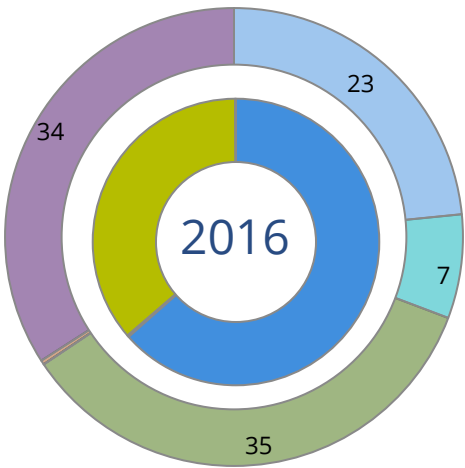
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	12	0	–	–	879	8	7	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	2,757	36	1,809	27	143	1	-35	⬇
Not-In-Person	4,830	64	4,708	71	10,009	86	23	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	–	–	83	1	596	5	–	

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

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	40%	34%	71%
22-24	42%	37%	67%
25-29	49%	41%	66%
30-39	60%	56%	73%
40-49	71%	63%	76%
50+	73%	69%	84%

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
18-21	9,859	3,986	40	9,953	3,356	34	9,357	6,690	71	⬆ 31
22-24	4,525	1,918	42	4,458	1,638	37	4,073	2,736	67	⬆ 25
25-29	1,668	825	49	1,766	722	41	1,611	1,067	66	⬆ 17
30-39	888	535	60	912	515	56	910	662	73	⬆ 12
40-49	304	217	71	385	242	63	412	314	76	⬆ 5
50+	175	127	73	189	131	69	187	158	84	⬆ 12

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 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2016-2020 Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	16,121	6,894	43	16,344	5,870	36	15,314	10,714	70	▲	27
Graduate	818	457	56	783	440	56	799	596	75	▲	19
Class Unknown	480	257	54	536	294	55	437	317	73	▲	19
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	3,580	37	1,317	3,624	29	1,040	2,811	68	1,898	▲	31
Second Year	2,553	39	985	2,418	32	771	2,513	70	1,752	▲	31
Upper Level	9,615	46	4,390	9,793	39	3,822	9,690	70	6,823	▲	25
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	–	–	–	15,909	5,707	36	14,671	10,297	70		–
Part-time	–	–	–	1,754	897	51	1,879	1,330	71		–

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	62	27	44	55	18	33	54	34	63	⬆ 19
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,219	532	44	1,110	393	35	1,030	748	73	⬆ 29
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,015	1,105	37	2,919	864	30	2,277	1,517	67	⬆ 30
Communication and Journalism	902	411	46	808	355	44	665	502	75	⬆ 30
Computer and Information Sciences	615	215	35	625	205	33	655	422	64	⬆ 29
Education	242	147	61	502	268	53	318	225	71	⬆ 10
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,380	532	39	1,395	393	28	1,707	1,043	61	⬆ 23

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)**
English Language and Literature	260	141	54	249	133	53	224	175	78	⬆ 24
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	512	214	42	490	179	37	437	323	74	⬆ 32
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	52	22	42	53	24	45	36	20	56	⬆ 13
Health Professions	1,407	659	47	1,481	556	38	1,408	1,028	73	⬆ 26
History	106	60	57	106	56	53	101	78	77	⬆ 21
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	654	274	42	658	209	32	606	426	70	⬆ 28
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	949	424	45	940	378	40	964	667	69	⬆ 25
Mathematics and Statistics	101	43	43	130	51	39	123	86	70	⬆ 27
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	169	88	52	172	86	50	113	84	74	⬆ 22
Natural Resources and Conservation	134	67	50	141	60	43	139	115	83	⬆ 33
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	779	293	38	739	219	30	614	435	71	⬆ 33
Philosophy and Religious Studies	35	20	57	40	22	55	53	36	68	⬆ 11
Physical Sciences	146	66	45	150	65	43	99	75	76	⬆ 31

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Psychology	997	448	45	1,023	412	40	1,130	796	70	⬆ 26
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	471	266	56	408	206	50	366	283	77	⬆ 21
Social Sciences	1,205	620	51	1,204	554	46	1,208	899	74	⬆ 23
Visual and Performing Arts	695	306	44	758	264	35	828	603	73	⬆ 29
Unknown	442	241	55	531	289	54	446	325	73	⬆ 18

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.

California State University-Chico

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.

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION