Student Voting Rates for Colorado State University-Fort Collins

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts | 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

76.4%
2020 Voting Rate

+7.3
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

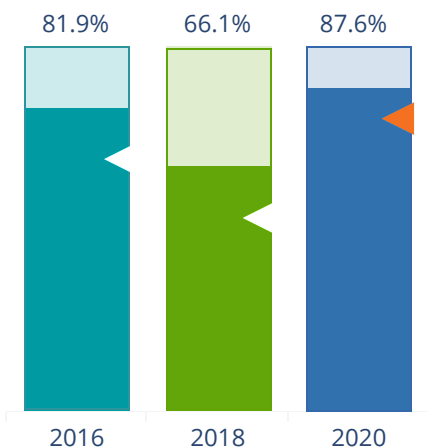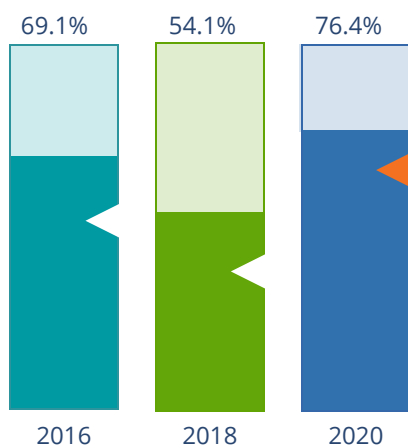|	84.4%	81.9%	87.2%
	2016	2018	2020
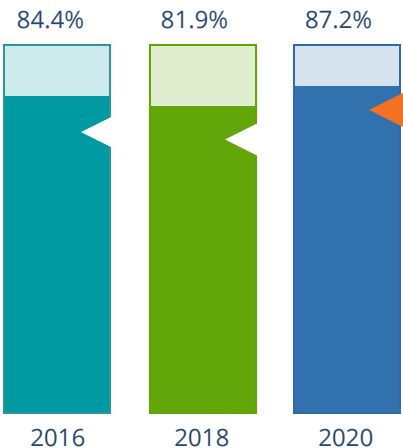
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

	81.9%	66.1%	87.6%
	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

	69.1%	54.1%	76.4%
	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

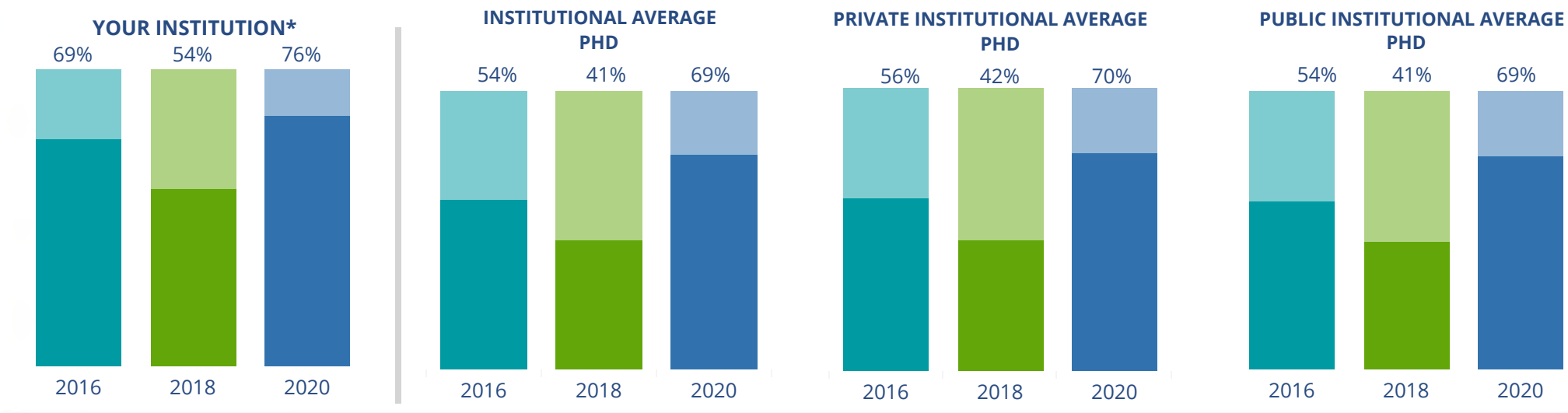|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)	
Total Student Enrollment	33,204	33,554	32,541	↓	-663
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–		–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	1,922	2,001	1,592	↓	-330
(FERPA records blocked)	13	18	17	↑	4
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	334	619	567	↑	233
Total eligible voters	30,934	30,916	30,365	↓	-569
Number of students who registered	26,106	25,314	26,483	↑	377
Number of students who voted	21,386	16,729	23,192	↑	1,806
Registration Rate %	84	82	87	↑	3
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	82	66	88	↑	6
Voting Rate %	69	54	76	↑	7

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*
- 2016: 69%
- 2018: 54%
- 2020: 76%

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
- 2016: 54%
- 2018: 41%
- 2020: 69%

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
- 2016: 56%
- 2018: 42%
- 2020: 70%

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
- 2016: 54%
- 2018: 41%
- 2020: 69%

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.
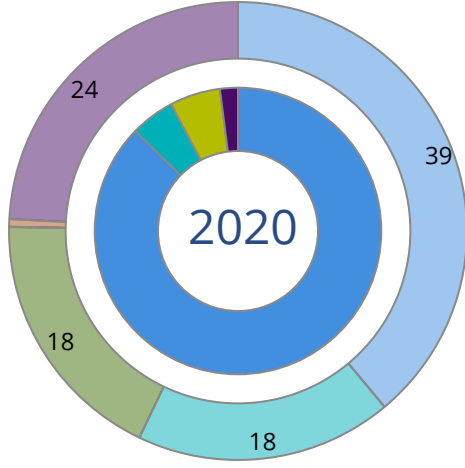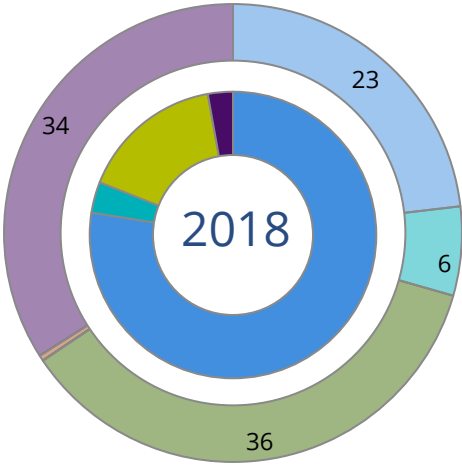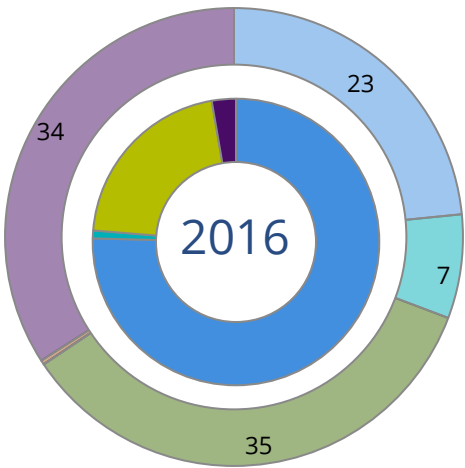
	2016			**2018**			**2020**			**2016-2020**
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	32,832	21,386	65	32,874	16,729	51	31,923	23,192	73	⬆ 8

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	185	1	590	4	1,150	5	4	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	4,486	21	2,712	16	1,323	6	-15	⬇
Not-In-Person	16,129	75	12,967	78	20,251	87	12	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	578	3	453	3	466	2	-1	⬇

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	64%	48%	74%
22-24	65%	51%	70%
25-29	64%	54%	71%
30-39	66%	58%	70%
40-49	71%	65%	74%
50+	79%	74%	80%

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	17,822	11,482	64	18,490	8,831	48	17,711	13,119	74	⬆ 10
22-24	6,188	4,023	65	5,970	3,035	51	5,733	4,026	70	⬆ 5
25-29	4,079	2,626	64	4,175	2,266	54	4,018	2,834	71	⬆ 6
30-39	3,082	2,026	66	2,883	1,675	58	3,031	2,123	70	⬆ 4
40-49	1,091	776	71	905	590	65	987	734	74	⬆ 3
50+	570	453	79	451	332	74	443	356	80	⬆ 1

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	24,588	16,141	66	25,424	12,473	49	24,330	17,905	74	↑ 8
Graduate	6,706	4,244	63	6,491	3,696	57	6,634	4,605	69	↑ 6
Class Unknown	1,538	1,001	65	959	560	58	959	682	71	↑ 6
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	6,624	62	4,125	6,745	43	2,889	5,774	69	3,976	↑ 7
Second Year	5,443	64	3,501	5,521	47	2,610	5,654	73	4,107	↑ 8
Upper Level	13,367	67	8,989	13,671	53	7,203	13,379	76	10,141	↑ 9
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	26,106	17,065	65	26,540	13,179	50	24,373	17,854	73	↑ 8
Part-time	6,726	4,321	64	6,334	3,550	56	7,550	5,338	71	↑ 6

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.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Architecture	129	80	62	289	145	50	391	301	77	⬆ 15
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	47	37	79	53	35	66	43	26	60	⬇ -18
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,949	2,735	69	4,336	2,322	54	4,345	3,214	74	⬆ 5
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,386	2,193	65	3,419	1,635	48	3,398	2,512	74	⬆ 9
Communication and Journalism	1,085	770	71	1,058	590	56	1,042	812	78	⬆ 7
Computer and Information Sciences	1,083	641	59	1,050	486	46	1,108	724	65	⬆ 6
Education	725	534	74	676	456	67	587	459	78	⬆ 5

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	4,339	2,578	59	4,349	2,031	47	4,114	2,837	69	⬆ 10
English Language and Literature	465	354	76	433	263	61	376	280	74	⬇ -2
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	1,652	1,151	70	1,438	751	52	1,391	1,097	79	⬆ 9
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	86	58	67	70	36	51	59	44	75	⬆ 7
Health Professions	919	636	69	893	501	56	815	629	77	⬆ 8
History	246	195	79	246	175	71	258	208	81	⬆ 1
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	72	54	75	64	47	73	47	38	81	⬆ 6
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	3,134	1,629	52	3,006	1,126	37	2,186	1,512	69	⬆ 17
Mathematics and Statistics	432	278	64	484	224	46	423	294	70	⬆ 5
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	337	247	73	626	331	53	611	439	72	⬇ -1
Natural Resources and Conservation	629	420	67	653	365	56	734	537	73	⬆ 6
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	1,712	1,144	67	1,536	760	49	1,428	1,052	74	⬆ 7
Philosophy and Religious Studies	84	56	67	93	47	51	77	62	81	⬆ 14
Physical Sciences	770	533	69	799	460	58	765	539	70	⬆ 1

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Psychology	1,268	833	66	1,351	686	51	1,461	1,026	70	⬆ 5
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	477	369	77	472	301	64	489	403	82	⬆ 5
Social Sciences	1,502	999	67	1,727	946	55	1,790	1,321	74	⬆ 7
Visual and Performing Arts	1,171	846	72	1,027	646	63	1,030	829	80	⬆ 8
Unknown	1,375	904	66	933	545	58	962	685	71	⬆ 5

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.

Colorado State University-Fort Collins

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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