October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Cornell University

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.

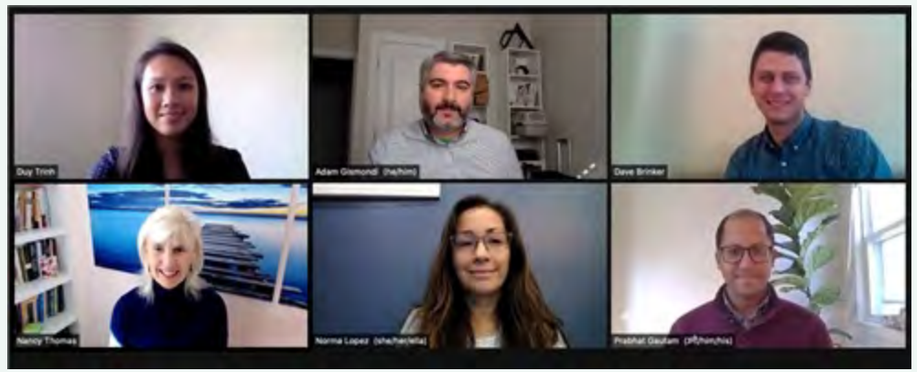
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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



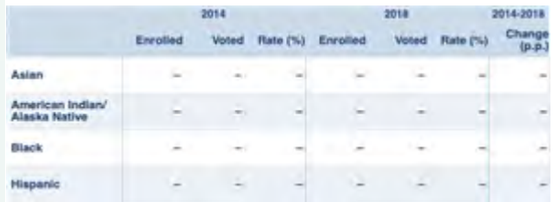
(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

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.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

In This Report

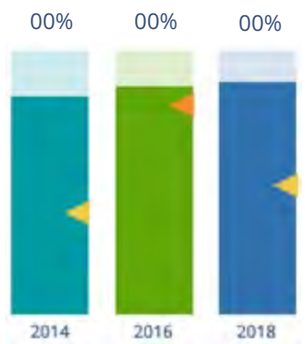
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut charts, and tables.



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

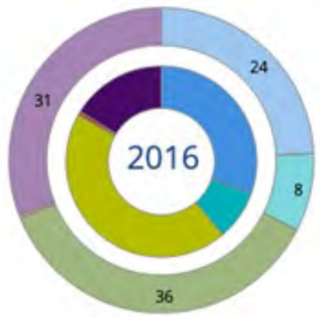
Tables

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.



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.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

66.1%

2020 Voting Rate

+18.7

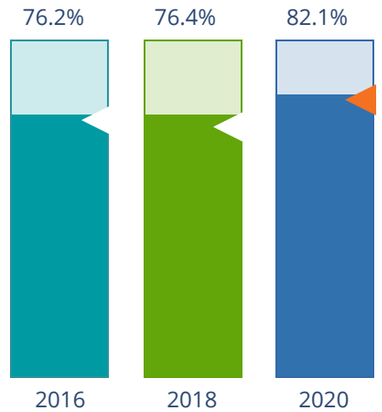
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

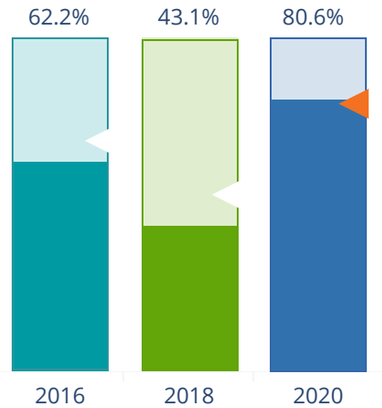
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



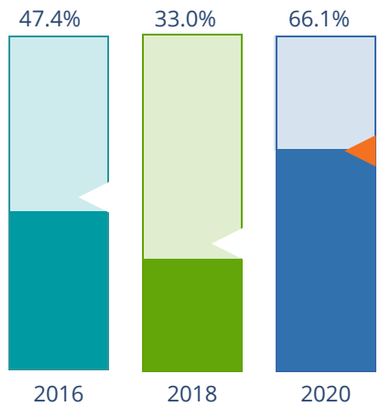
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

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.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	22,937	24,140	23,898	↑ 961
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	4,992	5,308	5,194	↑ 202
(FERPA records blocked)	116	83	203	↑ 87
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	679	726	–	–
Total eligible voters	17,149	18,022	18,498	↑ 1,349
Number of students who registered	13,069	13,773	15,182	↑ 2,113
Number of students who voted	8,124	5,943	12,232	↑ 4,108
Registration Rate %	76	76	82	↑ 6
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	62	43	81	↑ 18
Voting Rate %	47	33	66	↑ 19

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 have removed non-resident aliens (international students) based on your institution's enrollment submission to the National Student Clearinghouse. This is indicated by "NSC reported non-resident aliens" on this page.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH 82%

LOW 13%

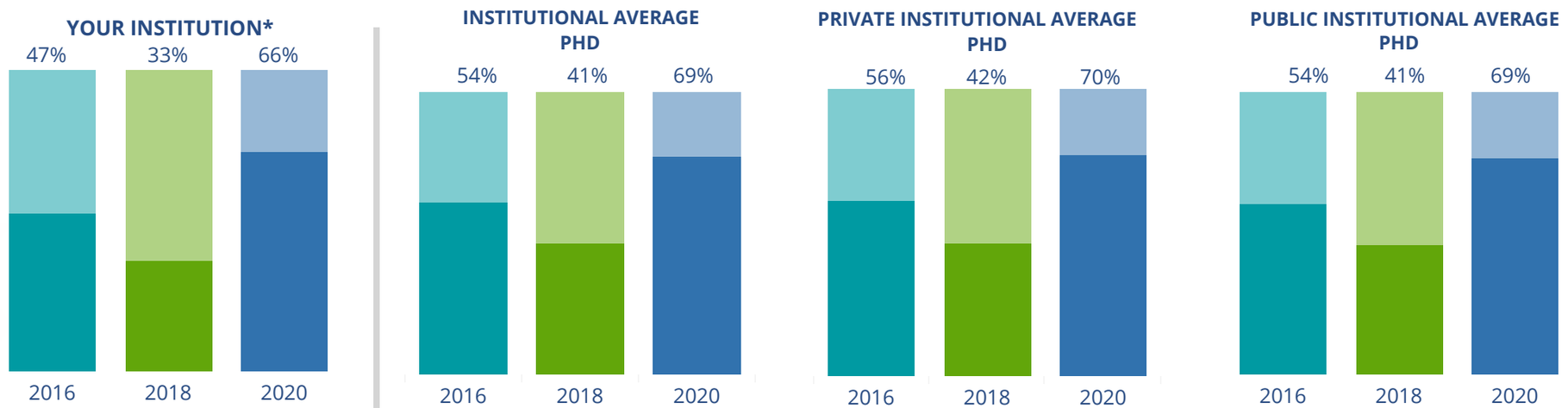
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

HIGH 89%

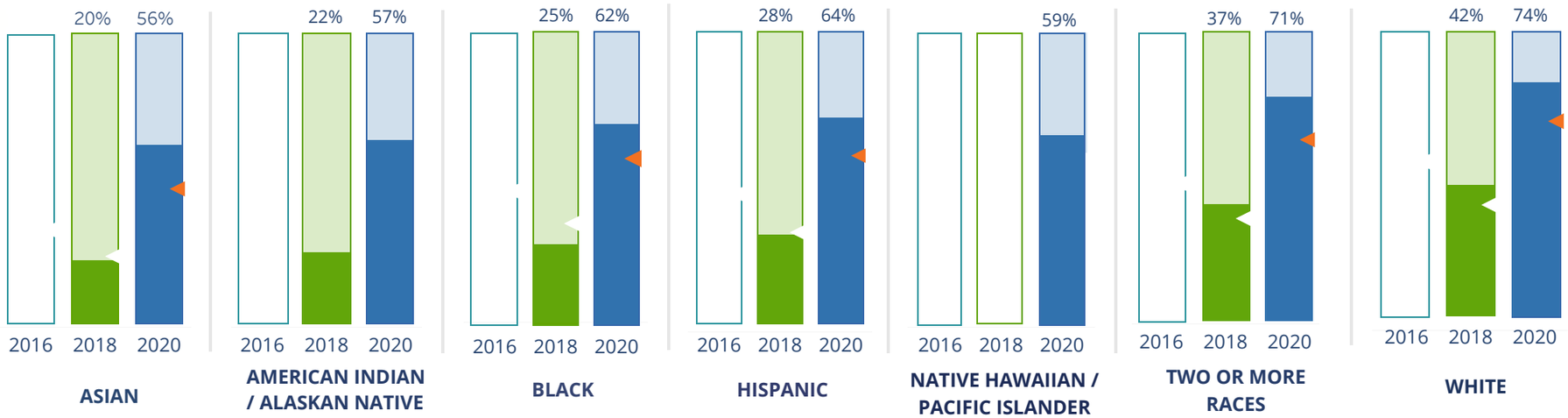
LOW 19%

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.



©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

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

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

Looking Closer

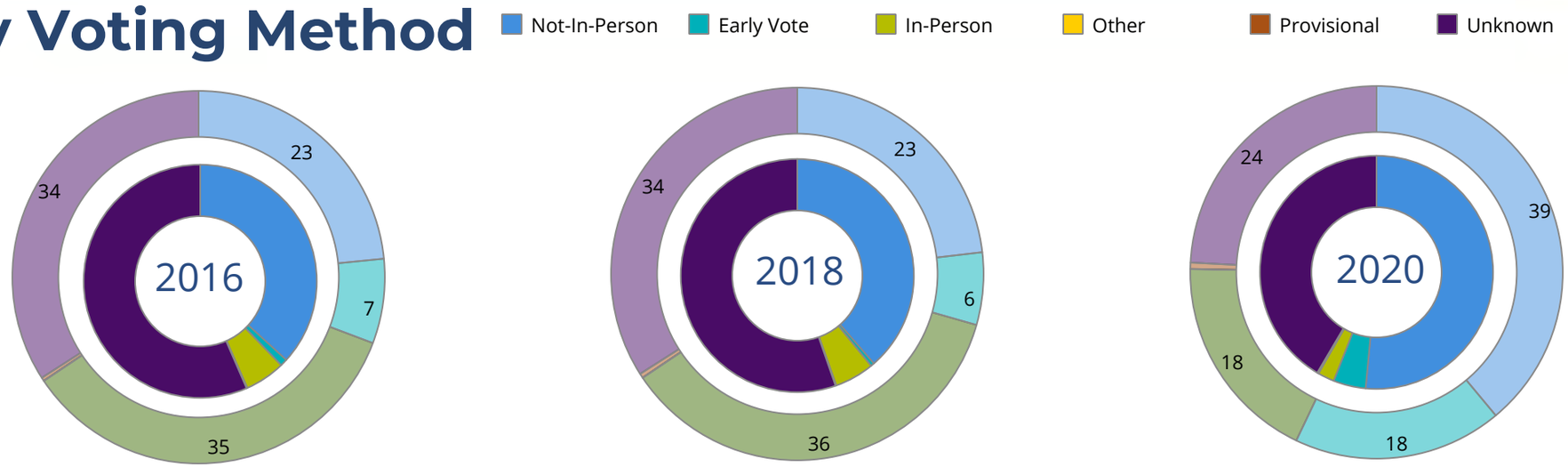
By Race/Ethnicity

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	–	–	–	3,446	694	20	3,869	2,153	56	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	67	15	22	56	32	57	–
Black	–	–	–	1,231	311	25	1,319	816	62	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	2,470	686	28	2,635	1,682	64	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	20	–	–	22	13	59	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	845	312	37	948	671	71	–
White	–	–	–	8,015	3,331	42	7,963	5,914	74	–
Race Unknown	21,953	8,124	37	1,928	588	30	1,686	951	56	↑ 19

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

By Voting Method



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)
Early Vote	80	1	31	1	555	5	4 ↑
In-Person on Election Day	455	6	324	6	281	2	-3 ↓
Not-In-Person	2,989	37	2,293	39	6,304	52	15 ↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provisional	–	–	–	–	29	0	–
Voting Method Unknown	4,592	57	3,292	55	5,062	42	-15 ↓

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

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	42%	30%	68%
22-24	26%	34%	64%
25-29	30%	41%	64%
30-39	31%	43%	58%
40-49	42%	56%	65%
50+	70%	63%	69%

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.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

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	13,215	5,558	42	12,411	3,731	30	12,235	8,296	68	↑ 26
22-24	3,617	952	26	2,344	806	34	2,493	1,593	64	↑ 38
25-29	3,262	991	30	2,041	841	41	2,173	1,381	64	↑ 33
30-39	1,574	489	31	1,001	435	43	1,214	709	58	↑ 27
40-49	232	97	42	174	98	56	284	185	65	↑ 23
50+	53	37	70	51	32	63	99	68	69	↓ -1

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	–	–	–	9,169	3,322	36	9,543	6,736	71	–
Male	–	–	–	8,823	2,611	30	8,938	5,488	61	–

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

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

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	14,274	5,838	41	13,244	3,936	30	12,967	8,781	68	↑ 27
Graduate	7,679	2,286	30	4,777	2,007	42	5,129	3,288	64	↑ 34
Class Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	402	163	41	–
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	3,178	41	1,312	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Second Year	3,646	42	1,520	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Upper Level	7,450	40	3,007	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	–	–	–	17,373	5,623	32	17,639	11,707	66	–
Part-time	–	–	–	649	320	49	859	525	61	–

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.

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Architecture	785	234	30	459	154	34	480	318	66	↑ 36
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	92	39	42	135	60	44	86	63	73	↑ 31
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,972	837	42	2,122	670	32	1,972	1,357	69	↑ 26
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,375	1,112	33	2,684	765	29	2,866	1,720	60	↑ 27
Communication and Journalism	296	121	41	263	79	30	243	166	68	↑ 27
Computer and Information Sciences	1,132	303	27	1,211	377	31	1,492	991	66	↑ 40
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	4,350	1,539	35	3,241	1,044	32	3,103	2,108	68	↑ 33

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

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

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	152	83	55	147	53	36	155	109	70	↑ 16
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	379	172	45	357	131	37	335	259	77	↑ 32
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	190	74	39	141	68	48	137	94	69	↑ 30
Health Professions	556	280	50	627	239	38	632	446	71	↑ 20
History	93	46	49	108	54	50	91	67	74	↑ 24
Legal Professions and Studies	703	246	35	496	186	38	492	320	65	↑ 30
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	2,607	1,099	42	1,753	503	29	1,560	1,035	66	↑ 24
Mathematics and Statistics	286	75	26	184	73	40	211	129	61	↑ 35
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	338	116	34	199	64	32	193	129	67	↑ 33
Natural Resources and Conservation	368	168	46	358	146	41	355	264	74	↑ 29
Philosophy and Religious Studies	66	25	38	62	23	37	52	35	67	↑ 29
Physical Sciences	530	219	41	430	187	43	428	316	74	↑ 33
Psychology	148	65	44	161	63	39	167	123	74	↑ 30
Public Administration and Social Service P..	425	157	37	292	110	38	307	210	68	↑ 31

©2021 Institute of Democracy & Higher Education

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Social Sciences	838	303	36	835	356	43	830	550	66	↑ 30
Visual and Performing Arts	245	85	35	188	72	38	206	128	62	↑ 27
Unknown	213	24	11	–	–	–	406	165	41	↑ 29

©2021 Institute for Democracy & Higher Education

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.

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

Barnum Hall
163 Packard Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

tischcollege@tufts.edu
617.627.3453

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
Barnum Hall, Medford, MA 02155

Follow Us on Twitter: @TuftsIDHE
NSLVE@tufts.edu
617.627.0620