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.
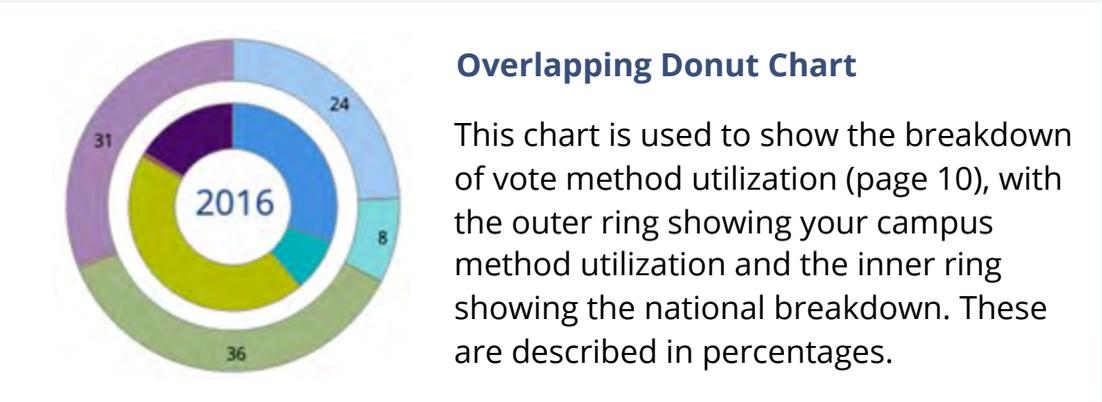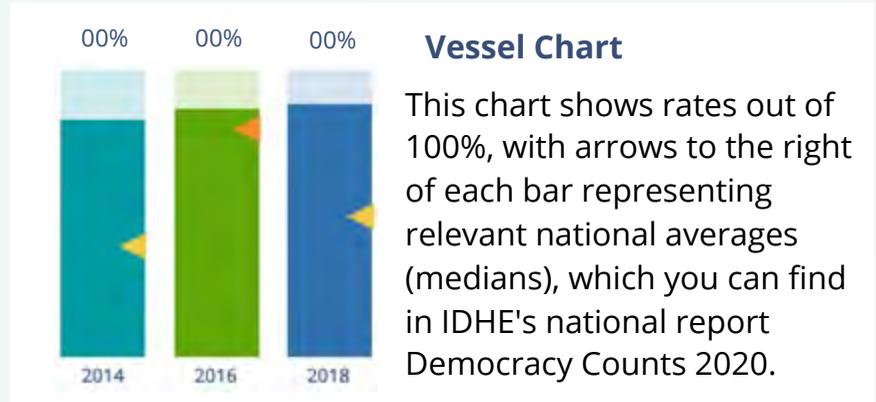
In This Report

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

74.0%
2020 Voting Rate

+25.2
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

78.8%   76.4%   89.9%

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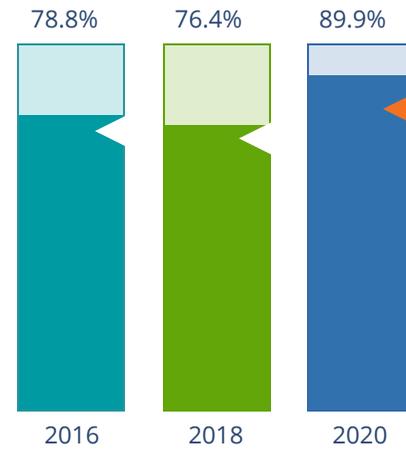
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

61.9%   37.1%   82.3%

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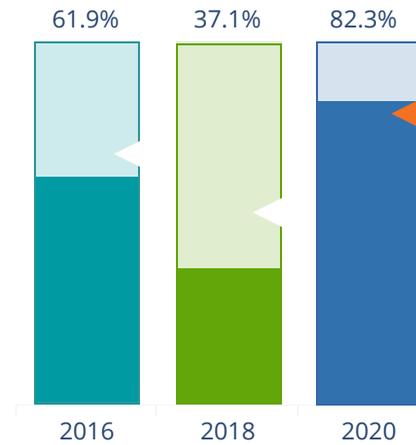
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE

48.8%   28.3%   74.0%
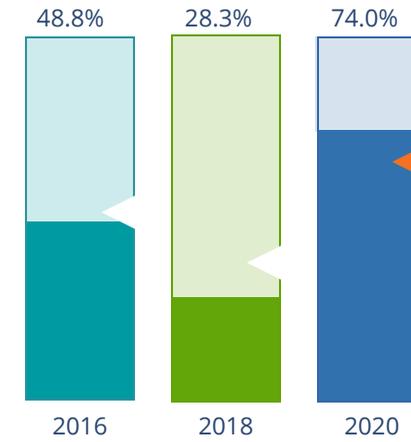
2016   2018   2020

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	6,594	6,831	6,963	⬆ 369
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	129	155	126	⬇ -2
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	75	91	89	⬆ 14
Total eligible voters	6,386	6,579	6,744	⬆ 357
Number of students who registered	5,033	5,028	6,061	⬆ 1,028
Number of students who voted	3,115	1,865	4,990	⬆ 1,875
Registration Rate %	79	76	90	⬆ 11
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	62	37	82	⬆ 20
Voting Rate %	49	28	74	⬆ 25

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.

YOUR INSTITUTION*

2016	2018	2020
49%	28%	74%

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE Masters

2016	2018	2020
53%	39%	67%

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE Masters

2016	2018	2020
55%	39%	69%

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE Masters

2016	2018	2020
52%	38%	65%

By Race / Ethnicity

ASIAN
- 2016: 43%
- 2018: 25%
- 2020: 67%

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE
- 2016
- 2018
- 2020

BLACK
- 2016: 55%
- 2018: 34%
- 2020: 79%

HISPANIC
- 2016: 36%
- 2018: 22%
- 2020: 65%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
- 2016
- 2018
- 2020

TWO OR MORE RACES
- 2016: 50%
- 2018: 28%
- 2020: 76%

WHITE
- 2016: 48%
- 2018: 28%
- 2020: 73%

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	176	75	43	175	43	25	156	104	67	⬆ 24
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	391	216	55	430	145	34	466	367	79	⬆ 24
Hispanic	400	145	36	451	99	22	445	289	65	⬆ 29
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	157	79	50	195	55	28	187	142	76	⬆ 26
White	5,291	2,553	48	5,362	1,481	28	5,454	3,992	73	⬆ 25
Race Unknown	88	39	44	106	36	34	152	92	61	⬆ 16

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown
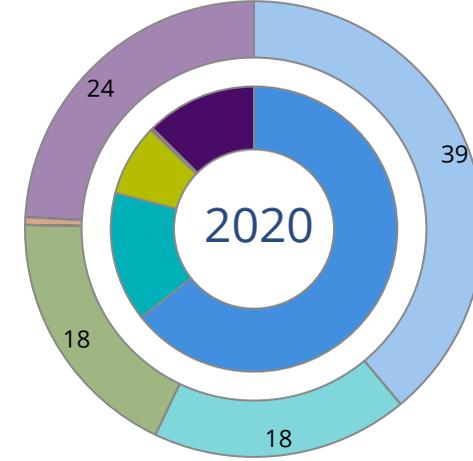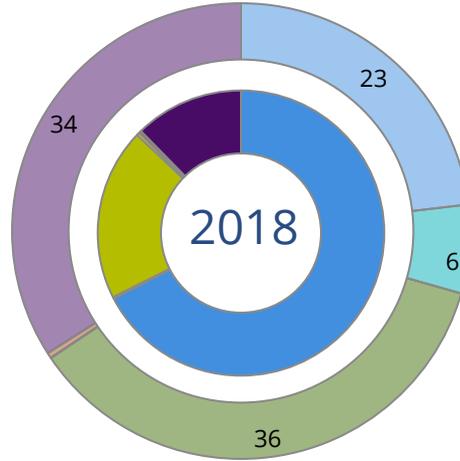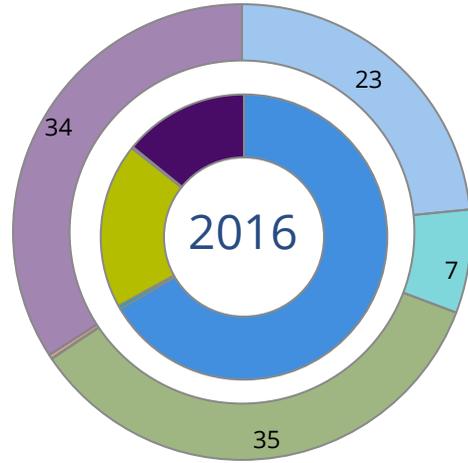
	2016		**2018**		**2020**		**2016-2020**	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	11	0	–	–	735	15	14	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	583	19	364	20	403	8	-11	⬇
Not-In-Person	2,074	67	1,257	67	3,216	64	-2	⬇
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	14	0	–	
Voting Method Unknown	439	14	231	12	621	13	-2	⬇

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	47%	26%	73%
22-24	50%	28%	68%
25-29	55%	40%	74%
30-39	64%	48%	77%
40-49	82%	77%	81%
50+	–	–	–

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	5,415	2,526	47	5,623	1,485	26	5,665	4,139	73	⬆ 26
22-24	708	356	50	699	194	28	804	549	68	⬆ 18
25-29	244	134	55	261	104	40	270	201	74	⬆ 20
30-39	101	65	64	108	52	48	92	71	77	⬆ 13
40-49	38	31	82	31	24	77	27	22	81	⬇ 0
50+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	3,835	2,058	54	4,033	1,323	33	4,108	3,263	79	⬆ 26
Male	2,678	1,057	39	2,694	541	20	2,721	1,704	63	⬆ 23

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	5,838	2,725	47	6,013	1,575	26	6,107	4,418	72	↑ 26
Graduate	670	389	58	714	289	40	725	551	76	↑ 18
Class Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	36	21	58	–
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	1,538	46	700	1,576	23	369	1,363	70	956	↑ 25
Second Year	1,445	46	665	1,398	25	348	1,293	71	918	↑ 25
Upper Level	2,855	48	1,360	3,038	28	858	3,447	74	2,541	↑ 26
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	6,329	2,997	47	6,410	1,726	27	6,525	4,722	72	↑ 25
Part-time	181	116	64	317	138	44	343	268	78	↑ 14

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)
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	288	147	51	277	70	25	293	221	75	⬆ 24
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,622	644	40	1,818	341	19	1,752	1,126	64	⬆ 25
Communication and Journalism	1,016	549	54	994	323	32	1,088	836	77	⬆ 23
Communications Technologies/Technicians	49	24	49	42	13	31	38	30	79	⬆ 30
Computer and Information Sciences	103	42	41	129	30	23	114	69	61	⬆ 20
Education	219	119	54	249	70	28	243	204	84	⬆ 30
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	45	16	36	60	–	–	93	59	63	⬆ 28

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	76	44	58	78	31	40	72	64	89	⬆ 31
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	12	–	–	16	–	–	11	–	–	–
Health Professions	278	152	55	321	89	28	262	214	82	⬆ 27
History	39	20	51	45	23	51	47	38	81	⬆ 30
Legal Professions and Studies	335	176	53	359	152	42	410	313	76	⬆ 24
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	753	303	40	540	118	22	478	328	69	⬆ 28
Mathematics and Statistics	77	38	49	81	18	22	70	48	69	⬆ 19
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	–	–	–	–	–	–	98	78	80	–
Natural Resources and Conservation	75	40	53	80	28	35	83	68	82	⬆ 29
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	393	163	41	352	57	16	382	257	67	⬆ 26
Philosophy and Religious Studies	23	12	52	26	–	–	18	14	78	⬆ 26
Physical Sciences	34	17	50	26	–	–	31	24	77	⬆ 27
Psychology	278	144	52	342	98	29	394	297	75	⬆ 24
Public Administration and Social Service P..	89	54	61	73	28	38	82	67	82	⬆ 21

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Social Sciences	379	224	59	464	220	47	410	318	78	⬆ 18
Visual and Performing Arts	293	170	58	342	121	35	347	275	79	⬆ 21
Unknown	37	11	30	17	–	–	52	33	63	⬆ 34

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.

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