

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
George Mason University

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**About This Report**

**Your Institution's Voting Data**

Voting and Registration Rates

How Your Institution's Numbers  
Compare

**Your Students' Voting Data**

By Voting Method

By Age Group

By Education Level

By Undergraduate Class Year

By Enrollment Status

By Gender

By Race/Ethnicity

By Field of Study

# About This Report

Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012, 2014 and 2016 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of nearly 30 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 2012 and 2016 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (FERPA-blocked records excluded) and publicly available voting files collected by Catalyst.

Institutional voting rates are adjusted by deducting an estimated number of students identified by each institution as non-resident aliens and reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For breakdowns by student characteristics, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are non-resident aliens, resident aliens, or undocumented students. This may result in your institution's actual voting rate being higher than we report. To calculate that percentage, and to read more about NSLVE data, see our [FAQ on Campus Reports](#). Please also see [Creating and Maintaining the NSLVE Database](#) paper for a more detailed study methodology.

## Reviewing the Data

Use the following key to interpret the charts:

- \* = number of students is less than 10
- n/a = no data was collected or calculated for this field.

## What to do next?

- ❑ Review the data. This report provides a baseline measure of your students' engagement in democracy in 2012 and 2016, and compares your institution's voting rates to similar institutions. Visit our website for more comparison data.
- ❑ Share the report widely and strategically, including posting it online.
- ❑ Put your data into practice. Use our IDHE Resources to guide you.
- ❑ Address your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, and participation. Start by bringing the IDHE team to your campus or using the IDHE self-assessment rubric available on our website.
- ❑ Partner with IDHE. We are available with virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions and in-person trainings.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

Follow us on Twitter [@TuftsIDHE](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE) or email us at [NSLVE@tufts.edu](mailto:NSLVE@tufts.edu).

Warm regards,  
IDHE Team



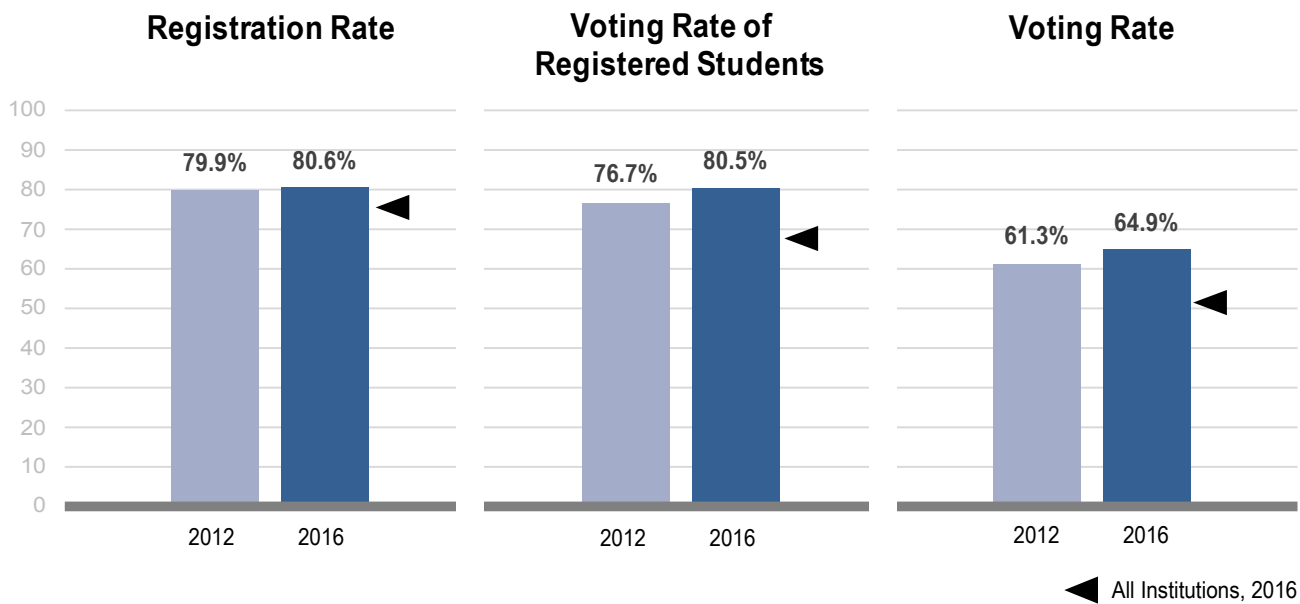
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**64.9%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**3.6**

2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**50.4%**



	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	33,034	35,339	↑ 2,305
Age under 18/Unknown	(126)	(113)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,840)	(2,563)	
FERPA records blocked	(12)	(17)	
Total eligible voters	31,056	32,646	↑ 1,590
Number of students who registered	24,807	26,305	↑ 1,498
Number of students who voted	19,037	21,174	↑ 2,137
Registration rate	79.9%	80.6%	↑ 0.7
Voting rate of registered students	76.7%	80.5%	↑ 3.8
Voting rate	61.3%	64.9%	↑ 3.6
Difference from all institutions	+14.4	+14.5	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

**2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**46.9%**

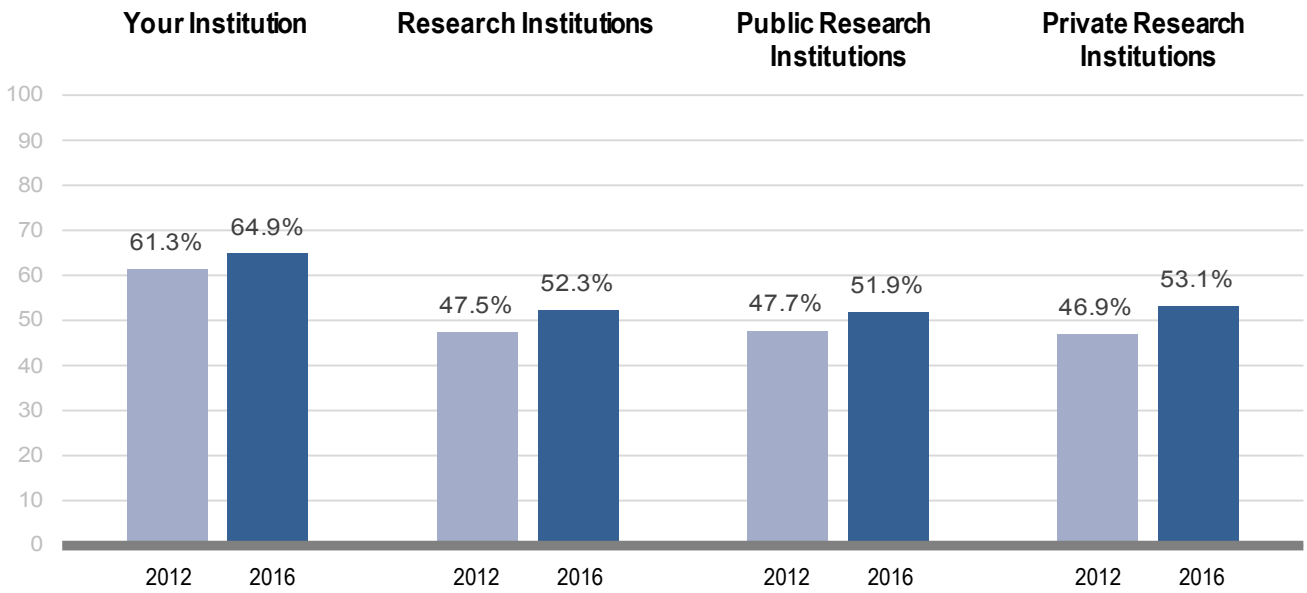
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

**2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**50.4%**

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

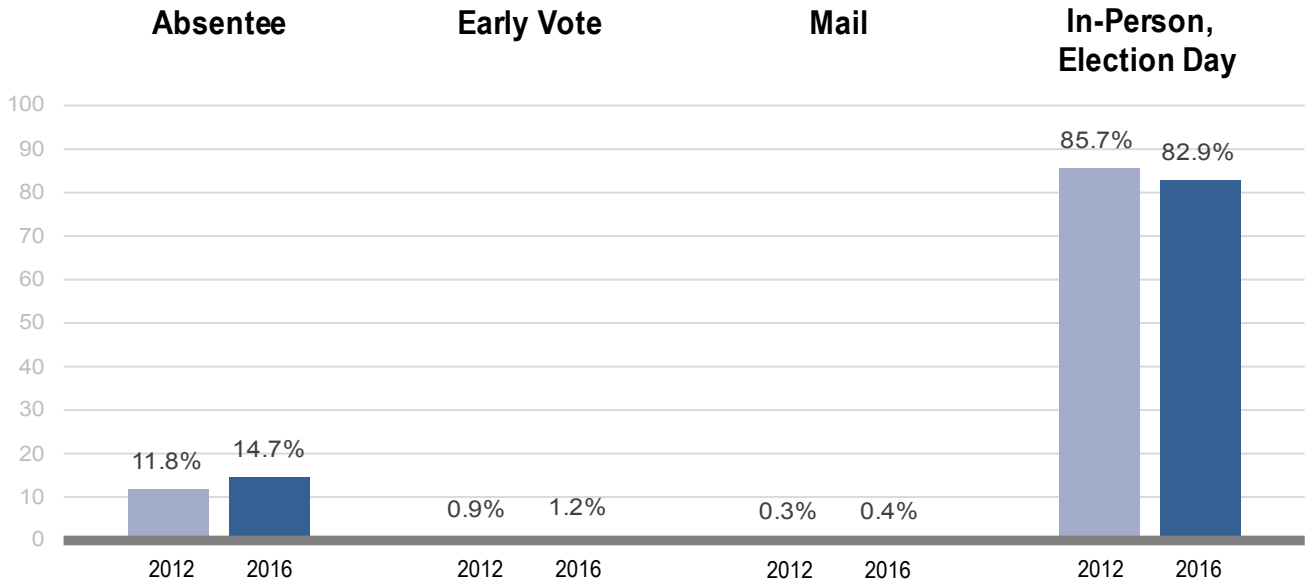
Difference from All Institutions **+14.4**

Difference from All Institutions **+14.5**



**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Voting Method\*

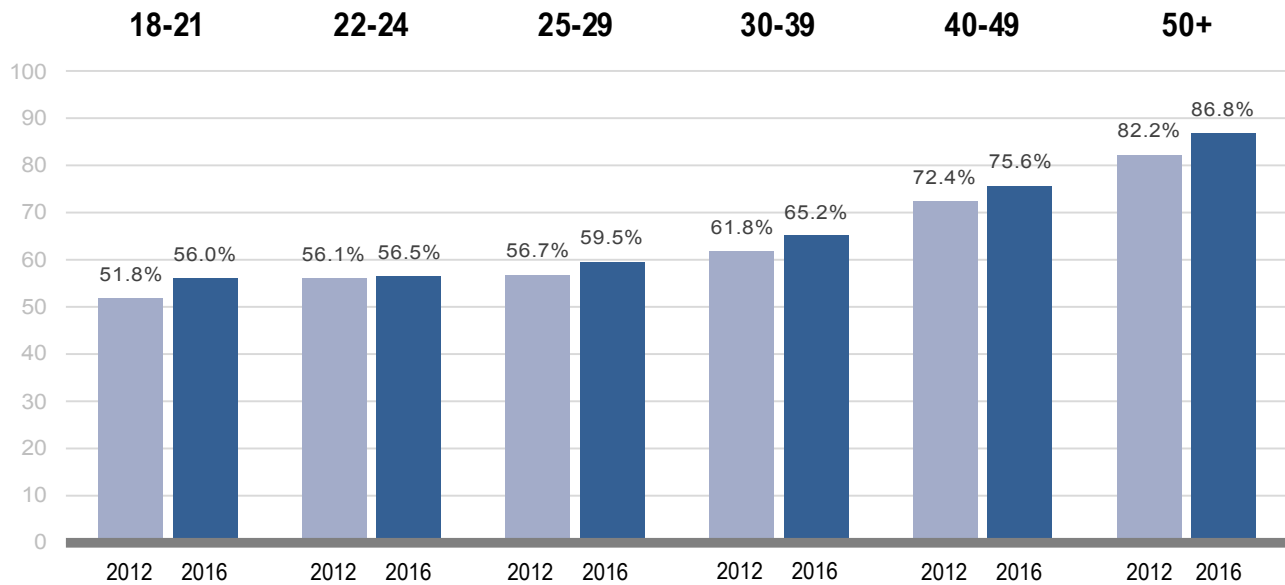


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	2,254	11.8%	3,102	14.7%	↑ 2.8
Early Vote	179	0.9%	245	1.2%	↑ 0.2
Mail	47	0.3%	76	0.4%	↑ 0.1
In-Person, Election Day	16,310	85.7%	17,544	82.9%	↓ -2.8
Unknown	247	1.3%	207	1.0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,037</b>		<b>21,174</b>		

\* Your students' data broken down by voting method. If your campus has a high number of voting method "Unknown", it means that this information was not reported by local officials where your students voted.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Age Group\*

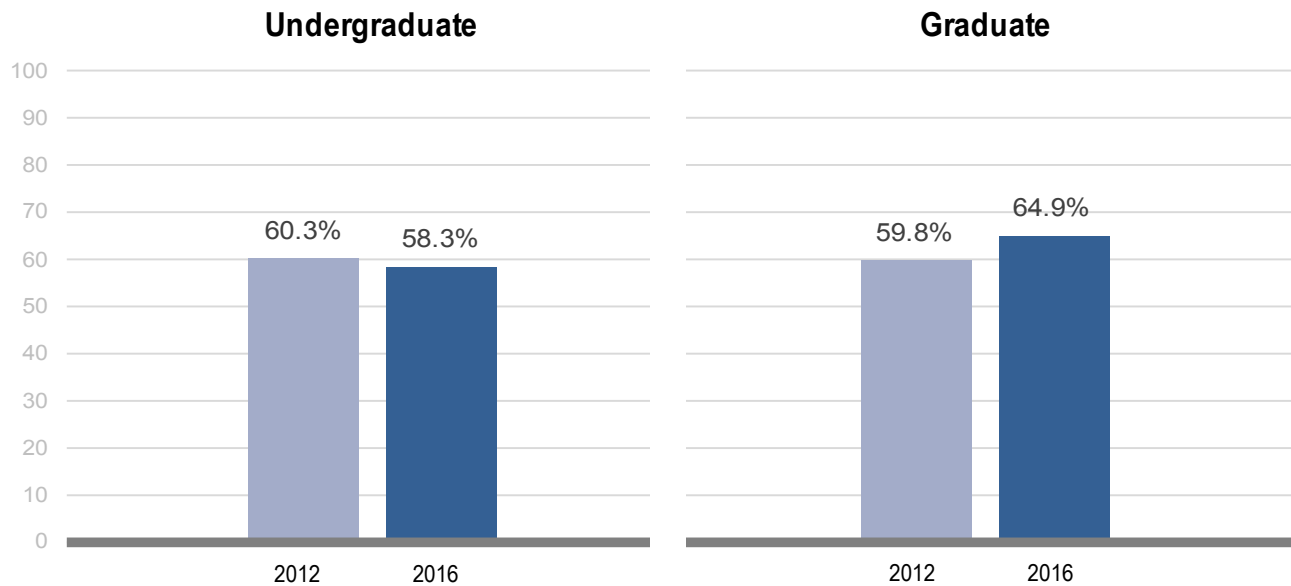


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	10,909	5,645	51.8%	13,553	7,586	56.0%	↑ 4.2
22-24	6,937	3,892	56.1%	7,542	4,259	56.5%	↑ 0.4
25-29	6,580	3,733	56.7%	6,215	3,700	59.5%	↑ 2.8
30-39	4,852	2,996	61.8%	4,719	3,075	65.2%	↑ 3.4
40-49	2,067	1,496	72.4%	1,832	1,384	75.6%	↑ 3.2
50+	1,551	1,275	82.2%	1,348	1,170	86.8%	↑ 4.6
Unknown	*			*			

\* Your students' data broken down by age at the time of the election. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Education Level\*

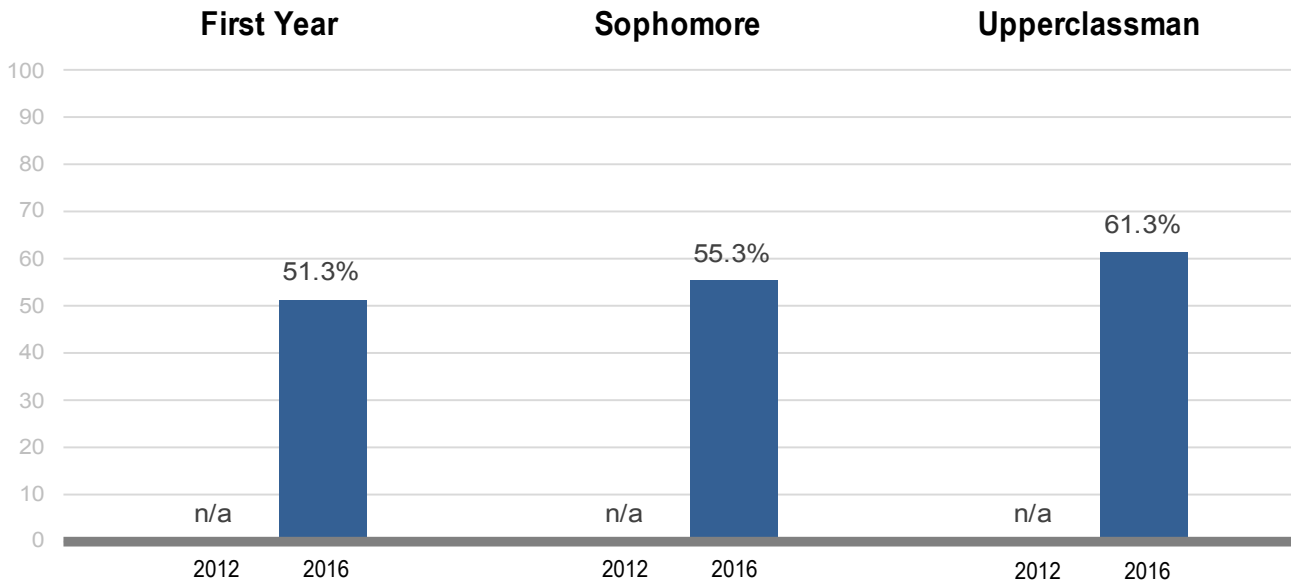


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	3,421	2,062	<b>60.3%</b>	25,399	14,808	<b>58.3%</b>	↓ <b>-2.0</b>
Graduate	2,170	1,298	<b>59.8%</b>	9,809	6,366	<b>64.9%</b>	↑ <b>5.1</b>
Unknown	27,305			*			

\* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate and graduate students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Undergraduate Class Year\*



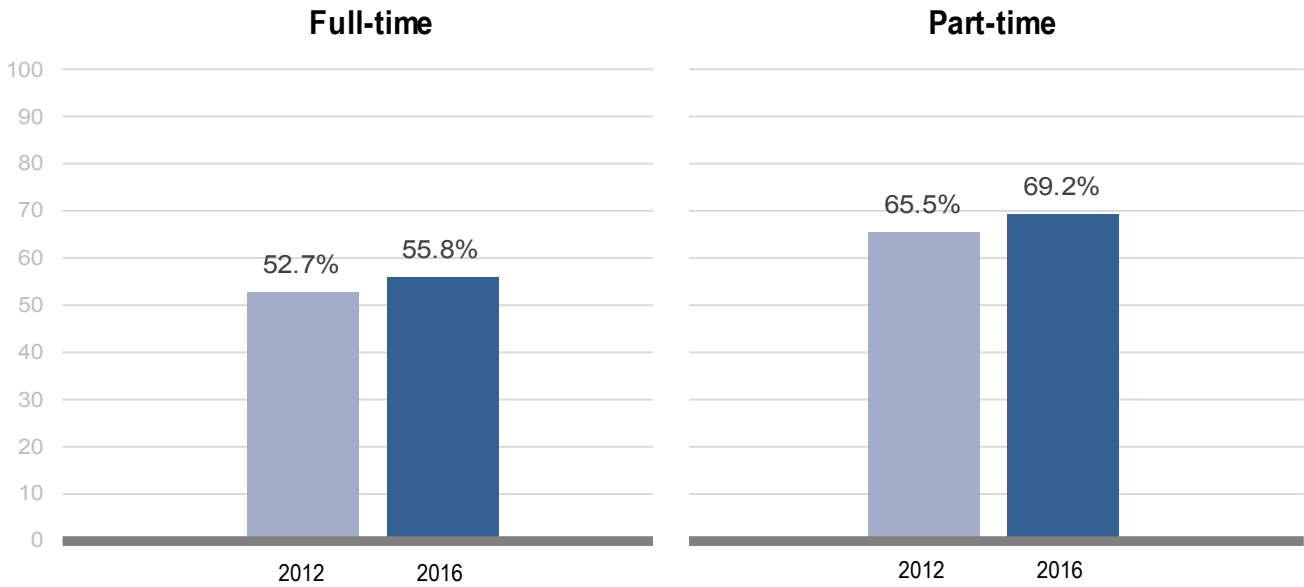
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	0	0	n/a	4,309	2,210	51.3%	n/a
Sophomore	0	0	n/a	4,384	2,426	55.3%	n/a
Upperclassman	0	0	n/a	14,620	8,968	61.3%	n/a

\* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate students' class level. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.



**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Enrollment Status\*

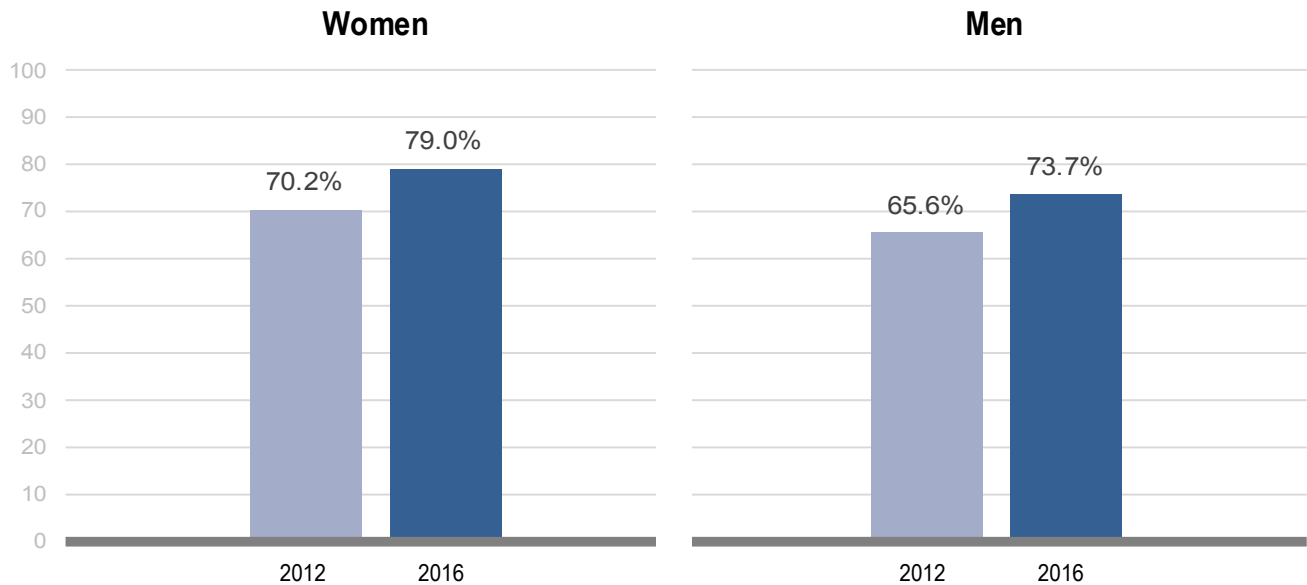


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	19,632	10,345	52.7%	23,794	13,275	55.8%	↑ 3.1
Part-time	13,264	8,692	65.5%	11,415	7,899	69.2%	↑ 3.7
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* Your students' data broken down by part-time and full-time students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Gender\*

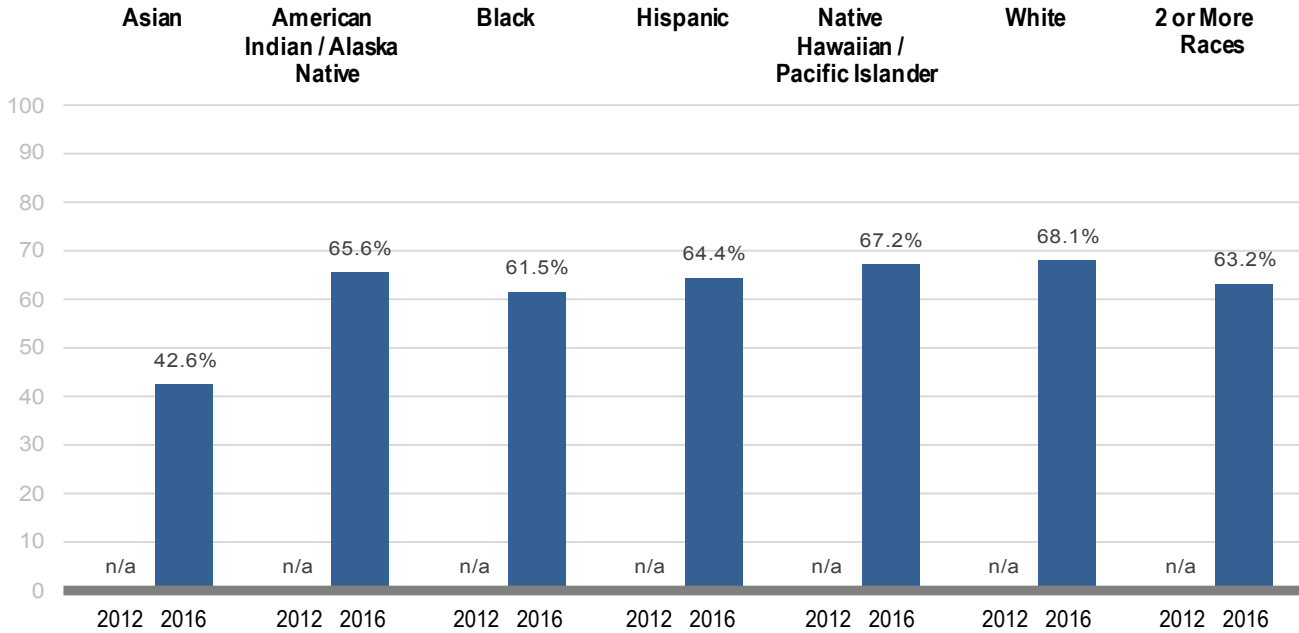


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Women	15,348	10,777	<b>70.2%</b>	14,994	11,845	<b>79.0%</b>	↑ 8.8
Men	12,564	8,243	<b>65.6%</b>	12,629	9,304	<b>73.7%</b>	↑ 8.1
Unknown	4,984	17	<b>0.3%</b>	7,586	25	<b>0.3%</b>	

\* Your students' data broken down by gender. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Race/Ethnicity\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	0	0	n/a	7,265	3,094	42.6%	n/a
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0	0	n/a	61	40	65.6%	n/a
Black	0	0	n/a	3,647	2,244	61.5%	n/a
Hispanic	0	0	n/a	4,196	2,700	64.4%	n/a
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	0	n/a	125	84	67.2%	n/a
White	0	0	n/a	16,724	11,380	68.1%	n/a
2 or More Races	0	0	n/a	1,338	845	63.2%	n/a
Unknown	32,896			1,602			

\* Your students' data broken down by race. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

## YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## By Field of Study\*

\* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	*	*	n/a	31	20	64.5%	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	281	147	52.3%	1,937	1,106	57.1% ↑	4.8
Business, Management, and Marketing	720	413	57.4%	4,784	2,484	51.9% ↓	-5.4
Communications Technologies/Technicians	15	*	n/a	277	170	61.4%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	521	257	49.3%	3,617	1,958	54.1% ↑	4.8
Education	609	403	66.2%	2,926	2,137	73.0% ↑	6.9
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	264	141	53.4%	2,057	1,021	49.6% ↓	-3.8
English Language and Literature	384	228	59.4%	1,413	966	68.4% ↑	9.0
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	0	0	n/a	35	22	62.9%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	33	20	60.6%	148	102	68.9% ↑	8.3
Health Professions	385	228	59.2%	2,313	1,453	62.8% ↑	3.6
History	137	101	73.7%	414	326	78.7% ↑	5.0
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	268	180	67.2%	1,763	1,090	61.8% ↓	-5.3
Legal Professions and Studies	*	*	n/a	538	349	64.9%	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	155	98	63.2%	3,912	2,462	62.9% ↓	-0.3
Mathematics and Statistics	50	32	64.0%	317	184	58.0% ↓	-6.0
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	174	95	54.6%	880	565	64.2% ↑	9.6
Natural Resources and Conservation	25	13	52.0%	261	172	65.9% ↑	13.9
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	*	*	n/a	290	158	54.5%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	24	13	54.2%	71	44	62.0% ↑	7.8
Physical Sciences	84	48	57.1%	590	332	56.3% ↓	-0.9
Psychology	359	219	61.0%	1,347	825	61.3% ↑	0.3
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	336	243	72.3%	1,123	821	73.1% ↑	0.8

Social Sciences	624	380	<b>60.9%</b>	2,813	1,543	<b>54.9%</b> ↓	<b>-6.1</b>
Visual and Performing Arts	258	157	<b>60.9%</b>	1,319	848	<b>64.3%</b> ↑	<b>3.4</b>
Unknown	27,170	15,599	<b>57.4%</b>	33	16	<b>48.5%</b> ↓	<b>-8.9</b>

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: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

**References:**

NSLVE encourages to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2016). *2012 & 2016 NSLVE Campus Report*. Medford, MA.

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