



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for Grand Valley State University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report



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College of Civic Life



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](mailto: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

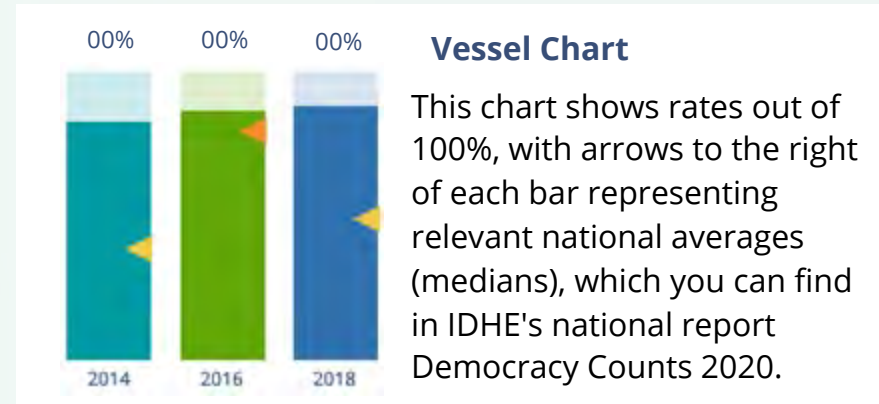


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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

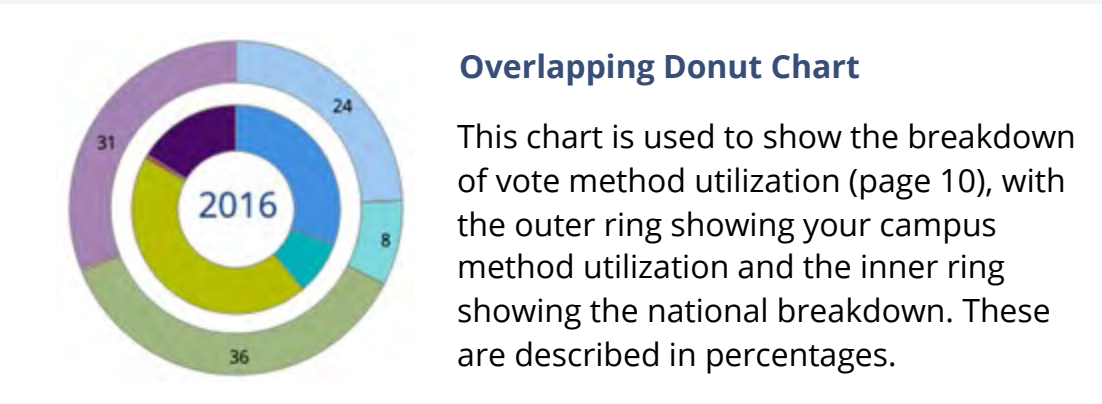
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut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



	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.



# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

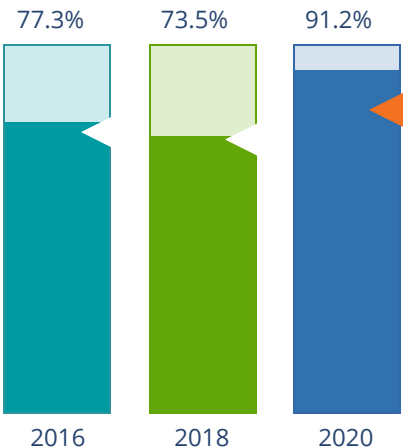
## YOUR INSTITUTION

**72.1%**  
2020 Voting Rate  
  
**+21.6**  
Change From 2016

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

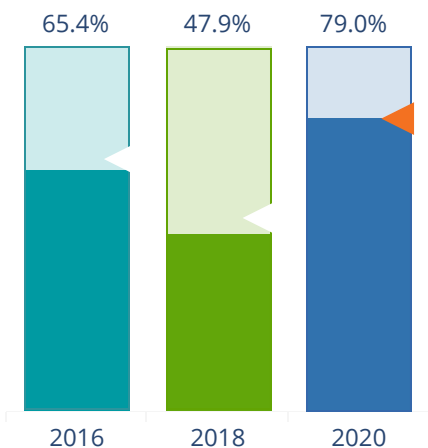
**66%**  
2020 Voting Rate

## REGISTRATION RATE



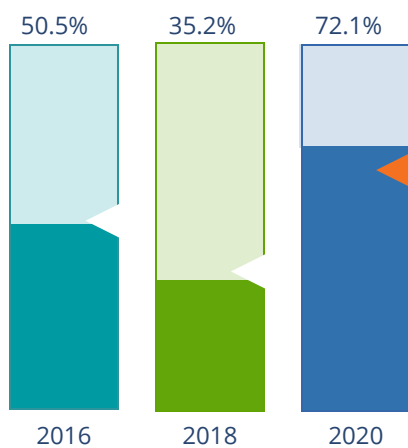
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

## 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.

# Looking Closer

## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	24,663	23,818	22,477	↓ -2,186
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	416	383	302	↓ -115
(FERPA records blocked)	159	93	54	↓ -105
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	22	20	11	↓ -11
Total eligible voters	24,062	23,320	22,109	↓ -1,953
Number of students who registered	18,592	17,131	20,167	↑ 1,575
Number of students who voted	12,161	8,210	15,938	↑ 3,777
Registration Rate %	77	73	91	↑ 14
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	65	48	79	↑ 14
Voting Rate %	51	35	72	↑ 22

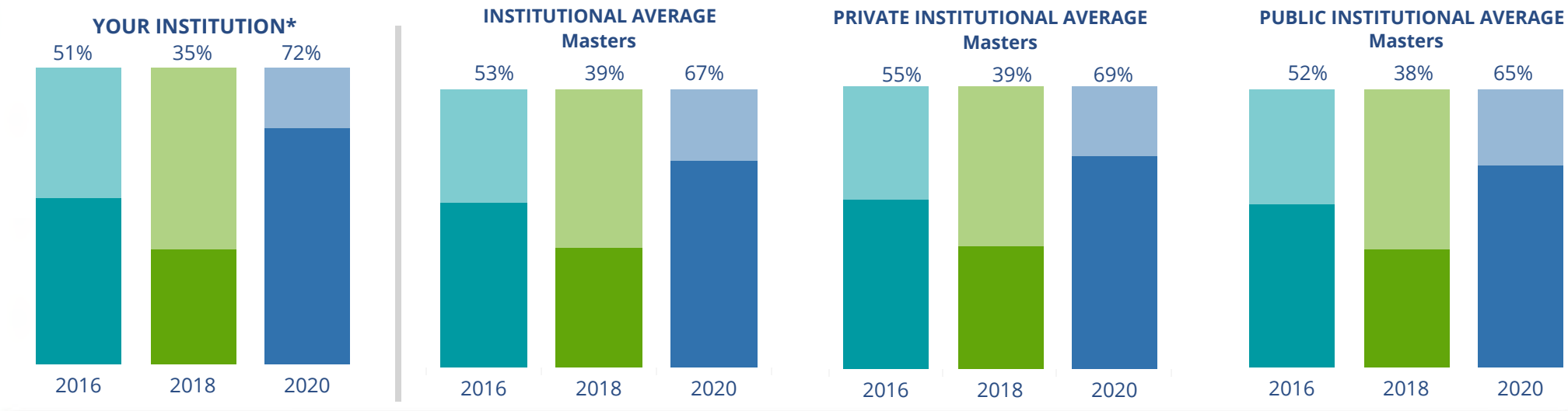
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, 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/nsive/nsive-recalculation-tool>.

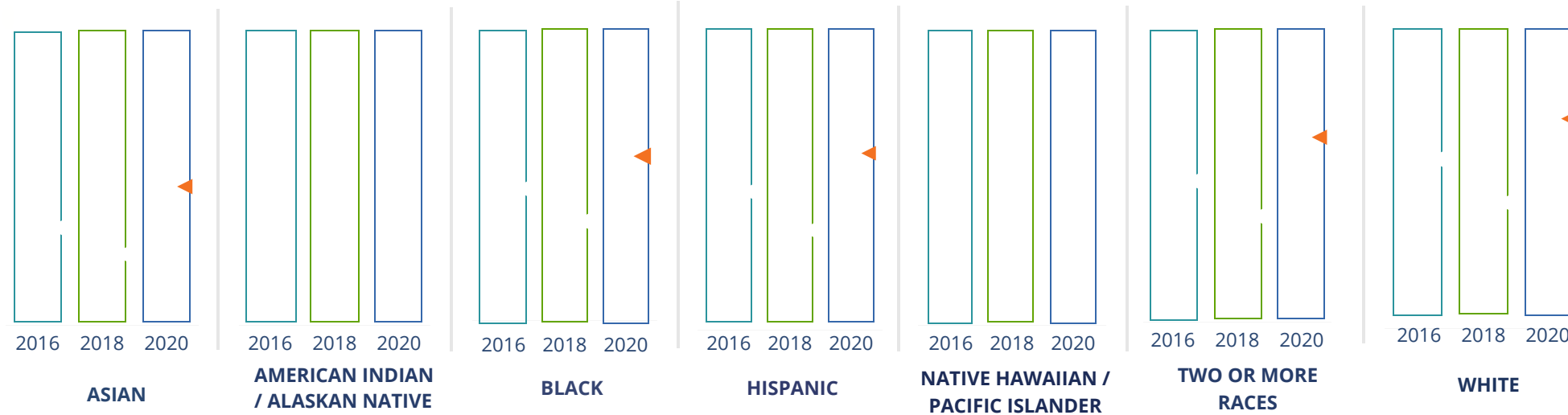
# By Institution Types



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.



## 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-nsive-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

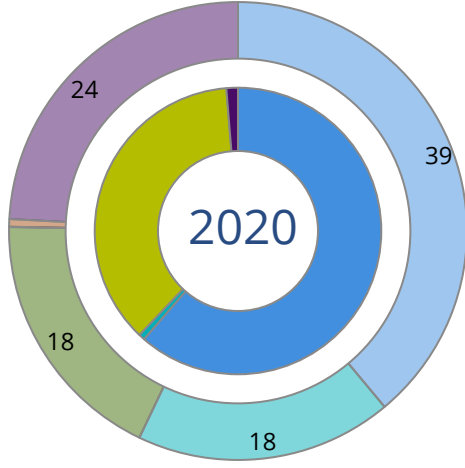
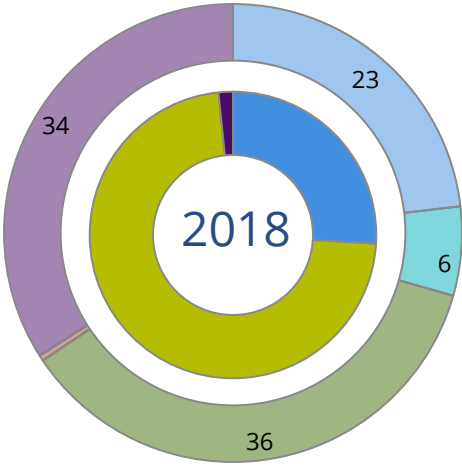
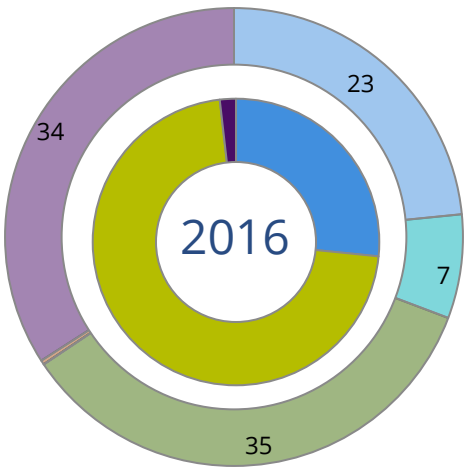
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	24,475	12,161	50	23,700	8,210	35	22,408	15,938	71	 21



# 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	–	–	–	–	109	1	–	
In-Person on Election Day	8,712	72	5,948	72	5,837	37	-35	↓
Not-In-Person	3,236	27	2,133	26	9,779	61	35	↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	211	2	128	2	213	1	-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/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

# By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	48%	30%	74%
22-24	48%	37%	69%
25-29	52%	45%	58%
30-39	61%	54%	58%
40-49	73%	69%	76%
50+	82%	71%	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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	15,319	7,355	48	15,121	4,558	30	14,463	10,721	74	↑ 26
22-24	5,255	2,523	48	5,109	1,875	37	4,722	3,257	69	↑ 21
25-29	2,094	1,093	52	1,874	839	45	1,709	986	58	↑ 5
30-39	1,242	762	61	1,107	599	54	1,046	609	58	↓ -3
40-49	401	293	73	350	240	69	333	252	76	↑ 3
50+	164	135	82	139	99	71	135	113	84	↑ 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			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	21,355	10,366	49	20,788	6,826	33	19,570	14,058	72	↑	23
Graduate	3,097	1,783	58	2,911	1,384	48	2,835	1,877	66	↑	9
Class Unknown	23	12	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	4,352	46	1,999	4,168	24	1,021	3,695	72	2,645	↑	26
Second Year	4,778	46	2,219	4,621	27	1,269	4,256	73	3,112	↑	27
Upper Level	12,241	50	6,156	12,034	38	4,552	11,656	71	8,325	↑	21
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	-	-	-	20,097	6,506	32	18,893	13,667	72	-	-
Part-time	-	-	-	3,603	1,704	47	3,515	2,271	65	-	-

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 RateChange (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	47	32	68	32	25	78	23	15	65	↓ -3
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	993	472	48	1,011	360	36	2,019	1,450	72	↑ 24
Business, Management, and Marketing	4,401	1,993	45	4,622	1,384	30	4,136	2,864	69	↑ 24
Communication and Journalism	1,144	577	50	1,025	353	34	877	628	72	↑ 21
Computer and Information Sciences	810	340	42	797	273	34	776	498	64	↑ 22
Education	2,510	1,301	52	1,199	551	46	1,332	915	69	↑ 17
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,196	508	42	1,173	362	31	1,091	724	66	↑ 24

**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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
English Language and Literature	735	419	57	709	308	43	609	466	77	↑ 20
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	143	75	52	131	52	40	84	62	74	↑ 21
Health Professions	5,170	2,559	49	5,221	1,616	31	3,885	2,794	72	↑ 22
History	131	87	66	143	78	55	119	91	76	↑ 10
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	616	275	45	538	170	32	524	346	66	↑ 21
Legal Professions and Studies	103	55	53	95	31	33	118	87	74	↑ 20
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,626	783	48	1,334	441	33	1,096	769	70	↑ 22
Mathematics and Statistics	407	206	51	410	156	38	400	290	73	↑ 22
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	132	79	60	155	65	42	202	134	66	↑ 6
Natural Resources and Conservation	220	107	49	199	82	41	279	212	76	↑ 27
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	–	–	–	1,147	268	23	1,164	805	69	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	31	16	52	30	15	50	27	20	74	↑ 22
Physical Sciences	244	123	50	221	87	39	164	120	73	↑ 23
Psychology	968	490	51	898	304	34	1,008	756	75	↑ 24



## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	1,101	651	59	971	489	50	956	700	73	↑ 14
Social Sciences	866	520	60	819	393	48	714	569	80	↑ 20
Visual and Performing Arts	863	482	56	814	346	43	790	613	78	↑ 22
Unknown	18	11	61	-	-	-	15	-	-	-

# 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.

Grand Valley State University

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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