NSLVE
NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2019

2014 & 2018 CAMPUS REPORT

Student Voting Rates for Mercer University

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

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, 2016 and 2018 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has helped us build a robust database for research on more than 10 million de-identified student records for each election year.

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. IDHE is an applied research center focused on college and university student political learning and participation in democracy. IDHE researchers study voting, campus conditions for political learning and discussion, closing equity gaps in participation, and increasing student agency and participation. We accomplish our goals through research, resource development, assisting institutions and the higher education community, 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 voted in the 2014 and 2018 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files collected by Catalist. We exclude FERPA-blocked records. (For exceptions for campuses with disproportionately high numbers of FERPA blocked students, see our Campus Reports FAQ.)

The institutional voting rates reported on page 3 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 in subsequent pages of the report, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are ineligible to vote: non-resident aliens (international students), resident aliens (undocumented students), and students who have been disenfranchised due to a felony conviction. As a result, your institution's actual voting rate may be higher than we report. If you have access to more complete data for students who are ineligible to vote, you may recalculate your rates by using the Recalculation Tool - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve-recalculation-tool.**

To read more about NSLVE data, see our Campus Reports FAQ - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/frequently-asked-questions.**

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 and identify your challenges and opportunities. This report provides comparisons between subgroups of your students and with similar institutions. For more comparisons or to see national voter registration and voting rates, read our national report, Democracy Counts 2018. To access our data portals - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/public-data-portal-visualizations.**

❑ Share the report widely and strategically by sharing it with institutional leaders, faculty across disciplines, student government leaders, and other student groups.

❑ Read and implement *Election Imperatives*, ten recommendations for improving your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, equity, and participation - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/electionimperatives.**

❑ Work with us. IDHE can help via virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions, coaching, and in-person workshops.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: **https://idhe.tufts.edu.**

Follow us on Twitter **@TuftsIDHE.**

We appreciate hearing from you! Please email us at **NSLVE@tufts.edu.**
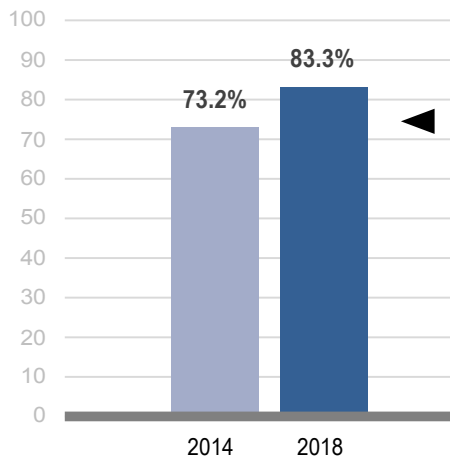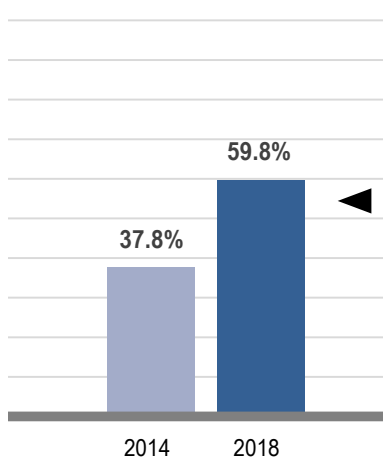
Warm regards,

IDHE Team

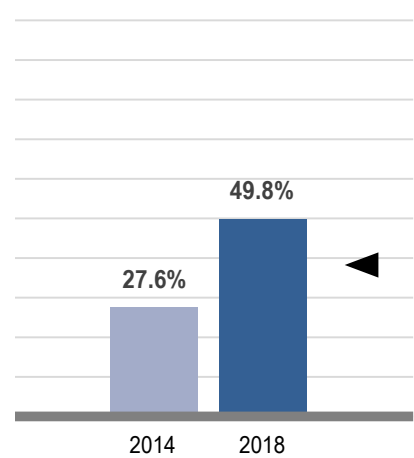## YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Voting and Registration Rates

2018 Voting Rate

49.8%

CHANGE FROM 2014

+22.2

2018 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS

39.1%

Registration Rate

73.2%   83.3%
2014   2018

Voting Rate of Registered Students

37.8%   59.8%
2014   2018

Voting Rate

27.6%   49.8%
2014   2018

◀ All Institutions, 2018

	2014	**2018**		Change
Total student enrollment	8,214	8,502	⬆	288
Age under 18/Unknown	(28)	(25)		
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(295)	(245)		
FERPA records blocked	(785)	(76)		
Total eligible voters	7,106	8,156	⬆	1,050
Number of students who registered	5,198	6,793	⬆	1,595
Number of students who voted	1,962	4,062	⬆	2,100
Registration rate	73.2%	83.3%	⬆	10.1
Voting rate of registered students	37.8%	59.8%	⬆	22.1
Voting rate	27.6%	49.8%	⬆	22.2
Difference from all institutions	+7.9	+10.7		

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By Carnegie Classification

2014 Voting Rate for All Institutions

19.7%

HIGH
54.0%

LOW
1.5%

Difference from All Institutions   **+7.9**

2018 Voting Rate for All Institutions

39.1%

HIGH
64.1%

LOW
11.5%

Difference from All Institutions   **+10.7**

	Your Institution	Master's Institutions	Public Master's Institutions	Private Master's Institutions
2014	27.6%	20.1%	19.9%	21.1%
2018	49.8%	39.7%	39.3%	40.3%
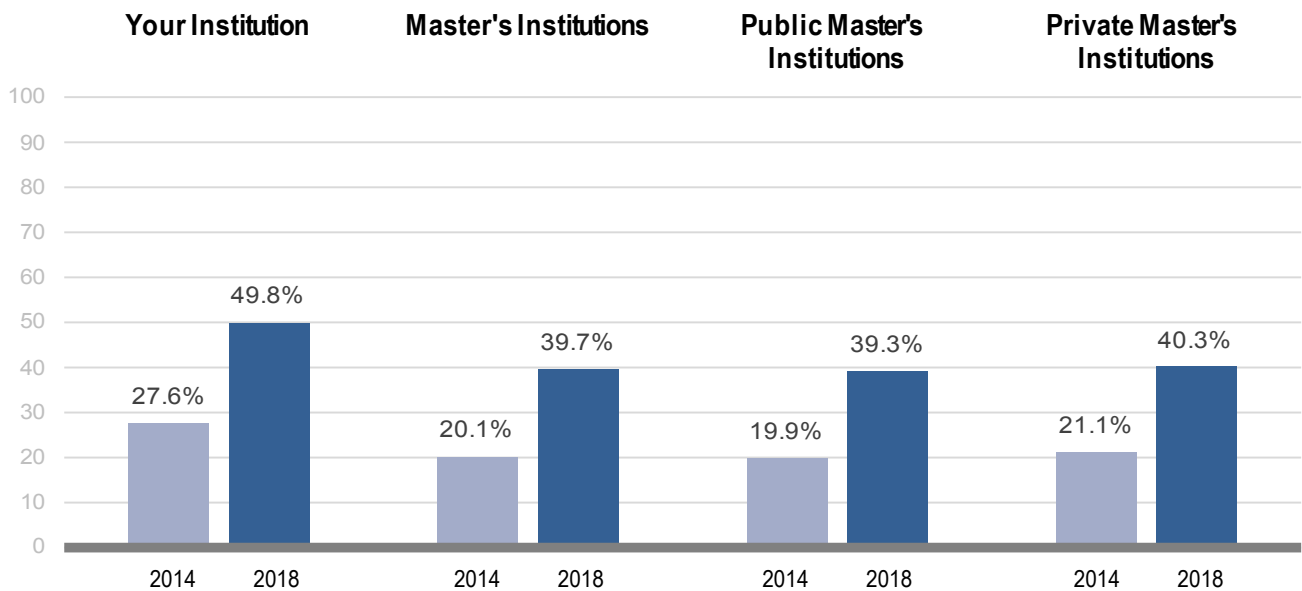
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By Voting Method*
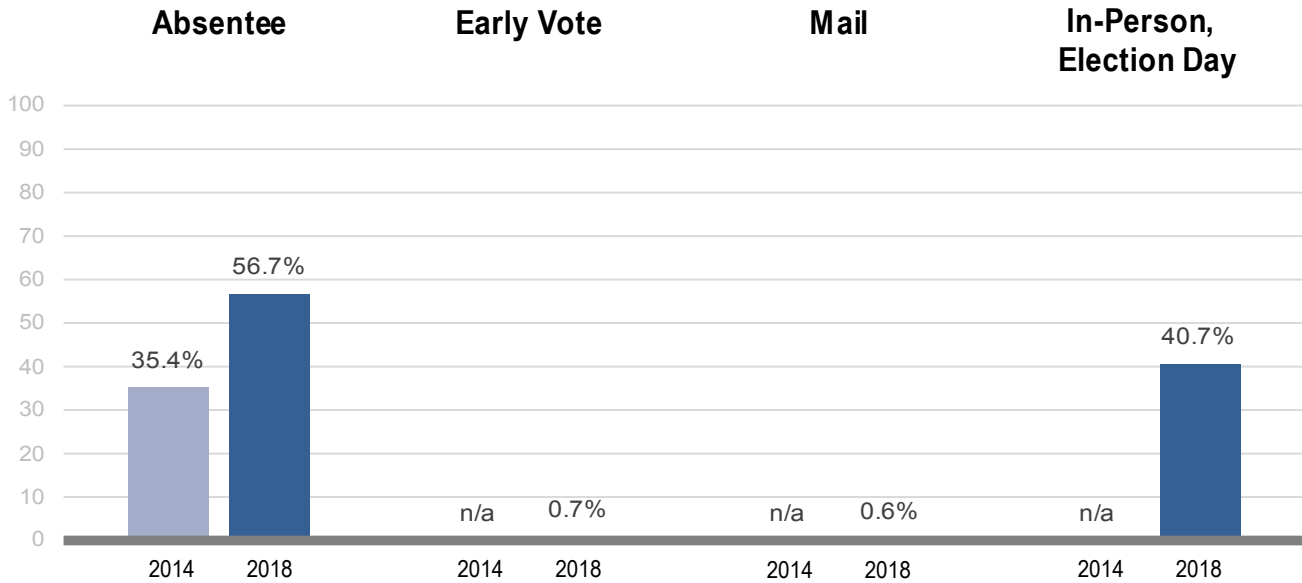
	2014			2018		
	Voted	Rate		Voted	Rate	Change
Absentee	695	**35.4%**		2,301	**56.7%**	⬆ **21.2**
Early Vote	*	**n/a**		30	**0.7%**	**n/a**
Mail	*	**n/a**		23	**0.6%**	**n/a**
In-Person, Election Day	*	**n/a**		1,651	**40.7%**	**n/a**
Unknown	1,251	**63.8%**		57	**1.4%**	
Total	**1,962**			**4,062**		

* 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 officals where your students voted.

By Age Group*
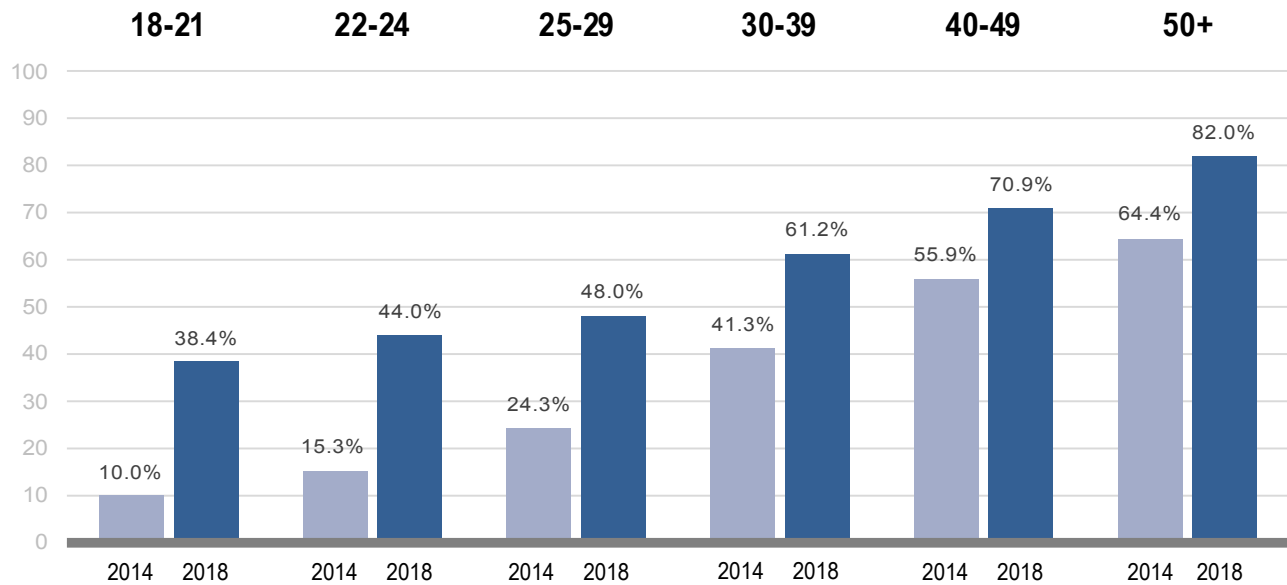
	2014				**2018**				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
18-21	2,193	220	**10.0%**		3,070	1,179	**38.4%**	⬆	**28.4**
22-24	1,363	208	**15.3%**		1,638	721	**44.0%**	⬆	**28.8**
25-29	1,479	359	**24.3%**		1,696	814	**48.0%**	⬆	**23.7**
30-39	1,241	512	**41.3%**		1,072	656	**61.2%**	⬆	**19.9**
40-49	726	406	**55.9%**		602	427	**70.9%**	⬆	**15.0**
50+	399	257	**64.4%**		323	265	**82.0%**	⬆	**17.6**
Unknown	0				0				

* 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 | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

By Education Level*

Undergraduate

Graduate

45.3%

51.9%
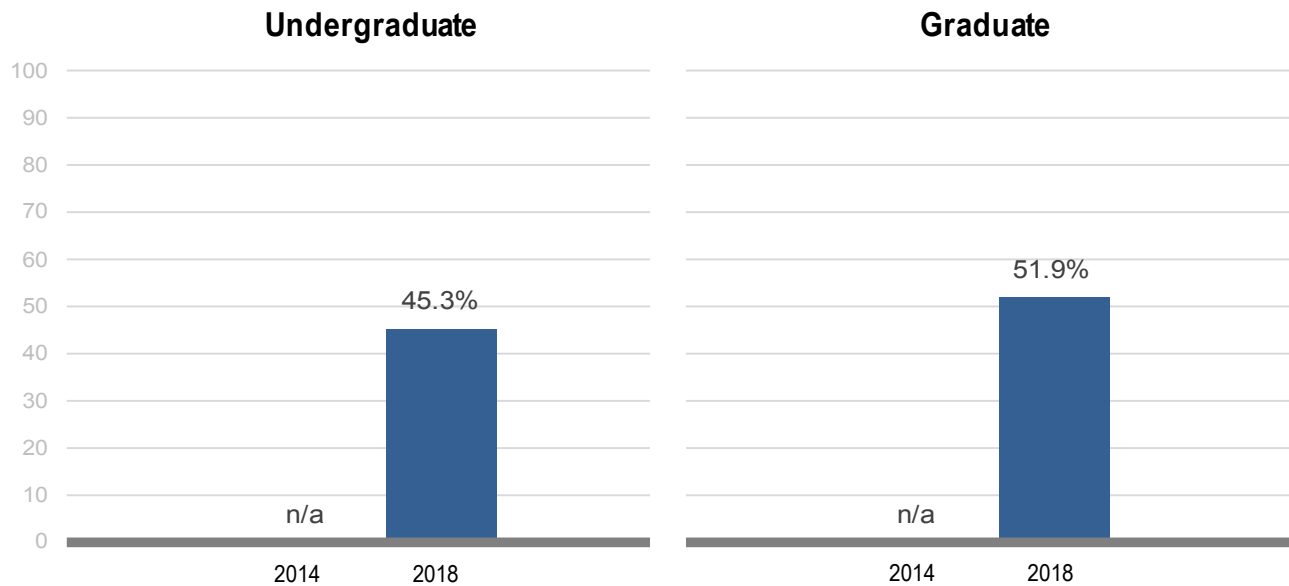
	2014			2018			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
Undergraduate	0	0	n/a	4,537	2,053	45.3%	n/a
Graduate	0	0	n/a	3,802	1,974	51.9%	n/a
Unknown	7,401			62			

* 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.

By Undergraduate Class Year*
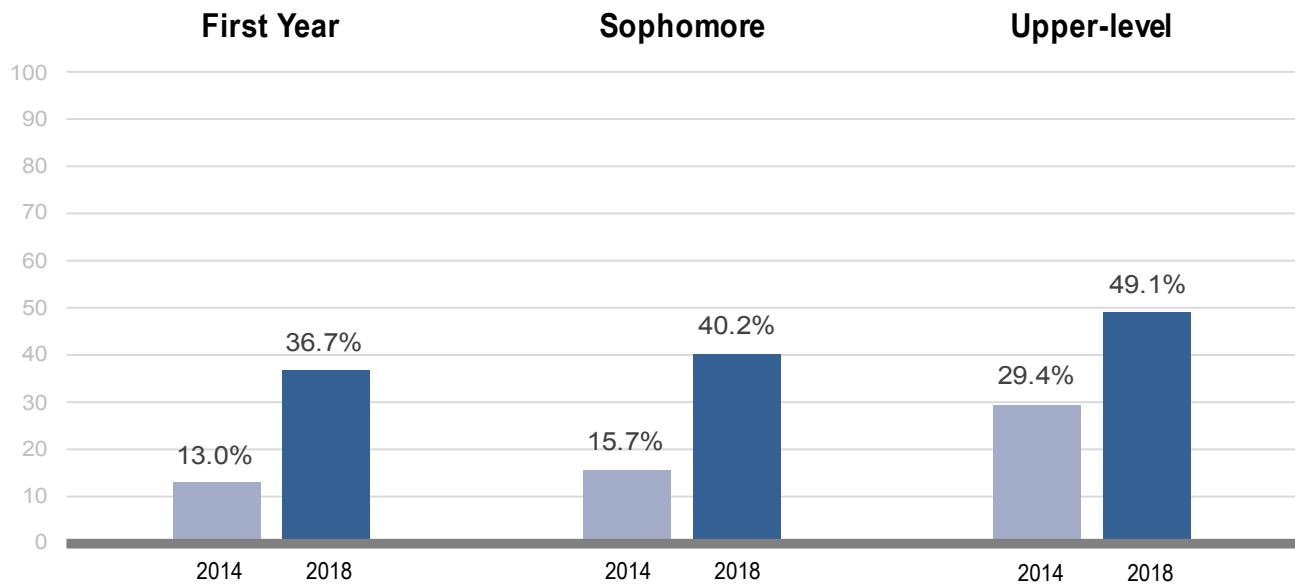
	2014				**2018**				
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Change
First Year	787	102	**13.0%**		746	274	**36.7%**	⬆	23.8
Sophomore	861	135	**15.7%**		1,002	403	**40.2%**	⬆	24.5
Upper-level	2,232	657	**29.4%**		2,828	1,387	**49.1%**	⬆	19.6

* 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.

By Enrollment Status*
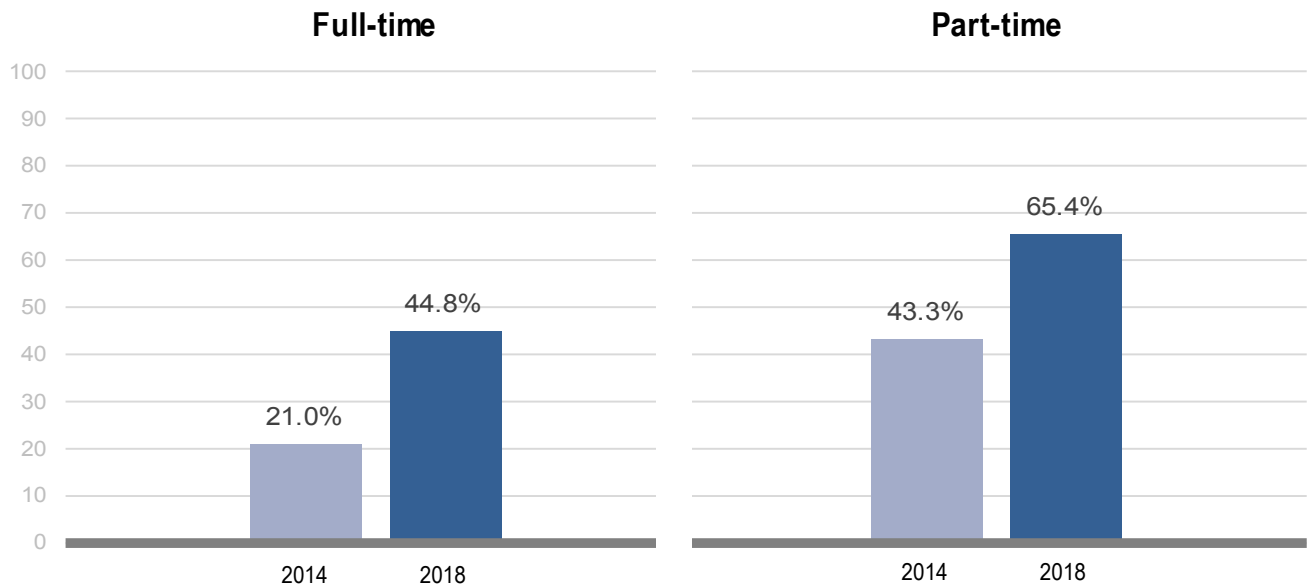
Full-time

Part-time

	2014			2018				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
Full-time	5,575	1,172	**21.0%**	6,956	3,119	**44.8%**	⬆	**23.8**
Part-time	1,823	789	**43.3%**	1,439	941	**65.4%**	⬆	**22.1**
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.

By Gender*

Women

Men
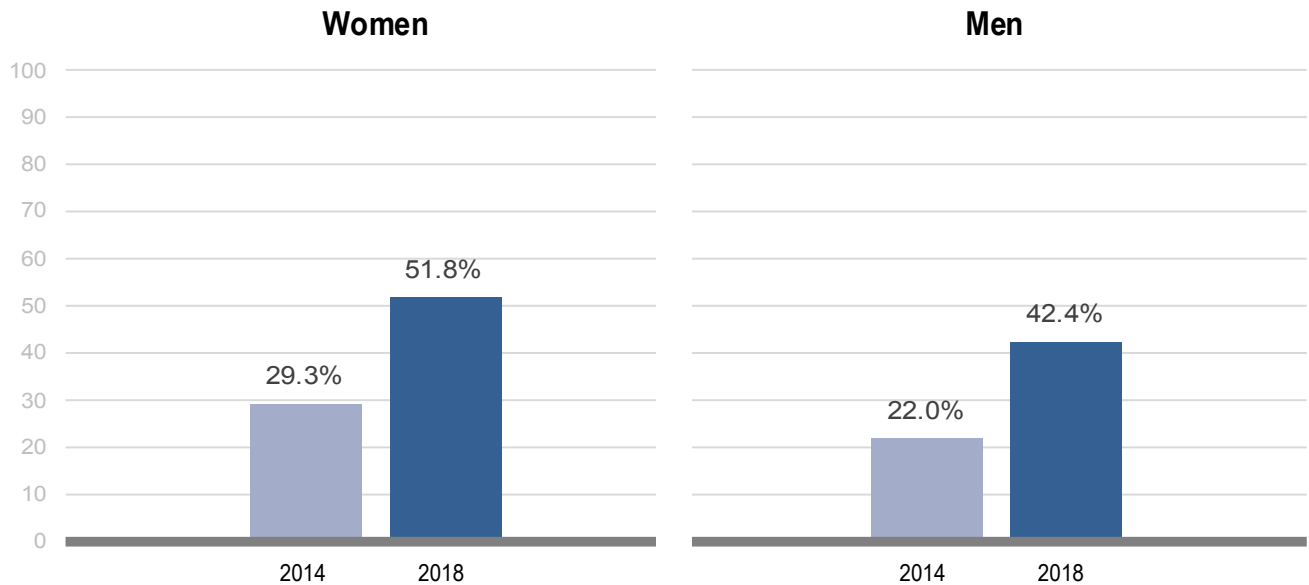
	2014			**2018**				
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Change
Women	4,609	1,348	**29.3%**	5,325	2,760	**51.8%**	⬆	**22.6**
Men	2,792	614	**22.0%**	3,073	1,302	**42.4%**	⬆	**20.4**
Unknown	0			*				

* 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.

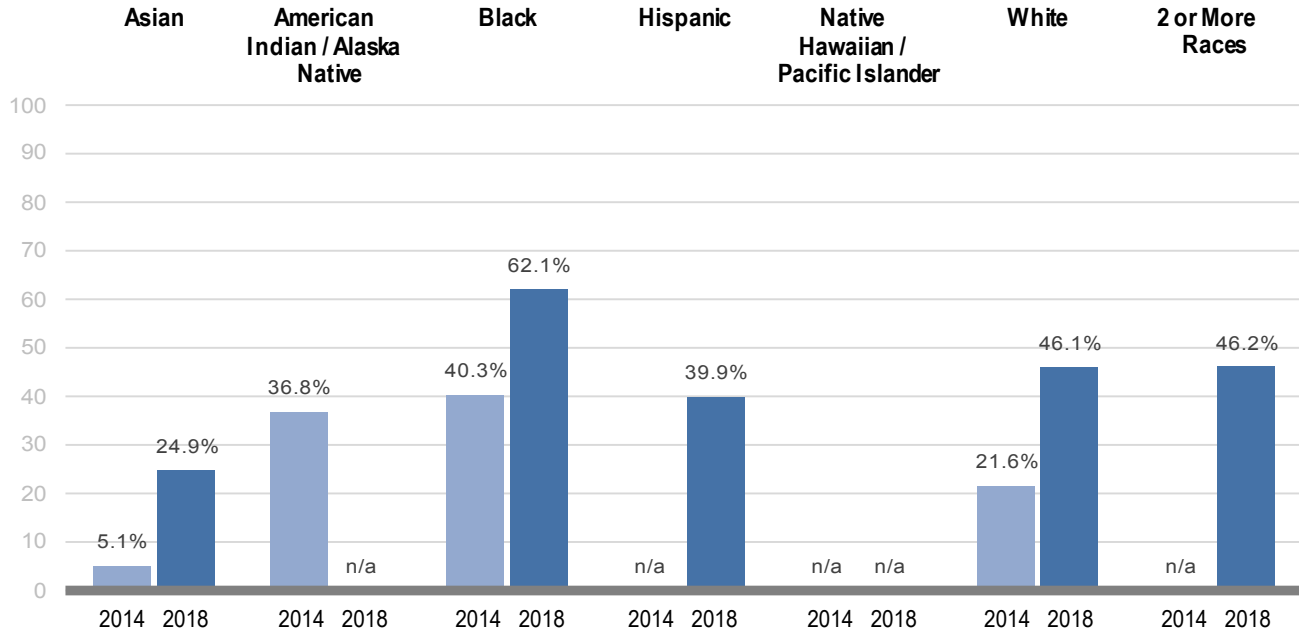**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

By Race/Ethnicity*

	2014			2018				
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Change
Asian	571	29	**5.1%**	851	212	**24.9%**	⬆	**19.8**
American Indian/ Alaska Native	38	14	**36.8%**	*	*	**n/a**		**n/a**
Black	2,326	938	**40.3%**	2,419	1,502	**62.1%**	⬆	**21.8**
Hispanic	0	0	**n/a**	471	188	**39.9%**		**n/a**
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	10	*	**n/a**	0	0	**n/a**		**n/a**
White	3,687	795	**21.6%**	3,981	1,837	**46.1%**	⬆	**24.6**
2 or More Races	0	0	**n/a**	197	91	**46.2%**		**n/a**
Unknown	769			474				

* 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. For this page, we consider international students of unknown race/ethnicity.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM 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.

	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	36	*	n/a	413	154	37.3%	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,008	267	26.5%	1,232	560	45.5% ⬆	19.0
Communication and Journalism	0	0	n/a	124	65	52.4%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	0	0	n/a	115	52	45.2%	n/a
Education	1,123	540	48.1%	951	639	67.2% ⬆	19.1
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	670	86	12.8%	686	268	39.1% ⬆	26.2
English Language and Literature	0	0	n/a	48	23	47.9%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	0	0	n/a	13	*	n/a	n/a
Health Professions	1,413	252	17.8%	2,139	1,005	47.0% ⬆	29.2
History	0	0	n/a	24	10	41.7%	n/a
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	0	0	n/a	78	38	48.7%	n/a
Legal Professions and Studies	391	89	22.8%	371	167	45.0% ⬆	22.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	2,053	472	23.0%	948	347	36.6% ⬆	13.6
Mathematics and Statistics	0	0	n/a	13	*	n/a	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	n/a	36	22	61.1%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0	0	n/a	20	*	n/a	n/a
Physical Sciences	0	0	n/a	54	18	33.3%	n/a
Psychology	63	26	41.3%	500	301	60.2% ⬆	18.9
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	0	0	n/a	95	61	64.2%	n/a
Social Sciences	397	155	39.0%	245	156	63.7% ⬆	24.6
Theology and Religious Vocations	170	62	36.5%	125	80	64.0% ⬆	27.5
Visual and Performing Arts	72	*	n/a	99	33	33.3%	n/a
Unknown	*	*	n/a	72	41	56.9%	n/a

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. (2019). *2014 and 2018 report for _____[name of institution]*. Medford, MA.

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