

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Michigan State University

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# 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



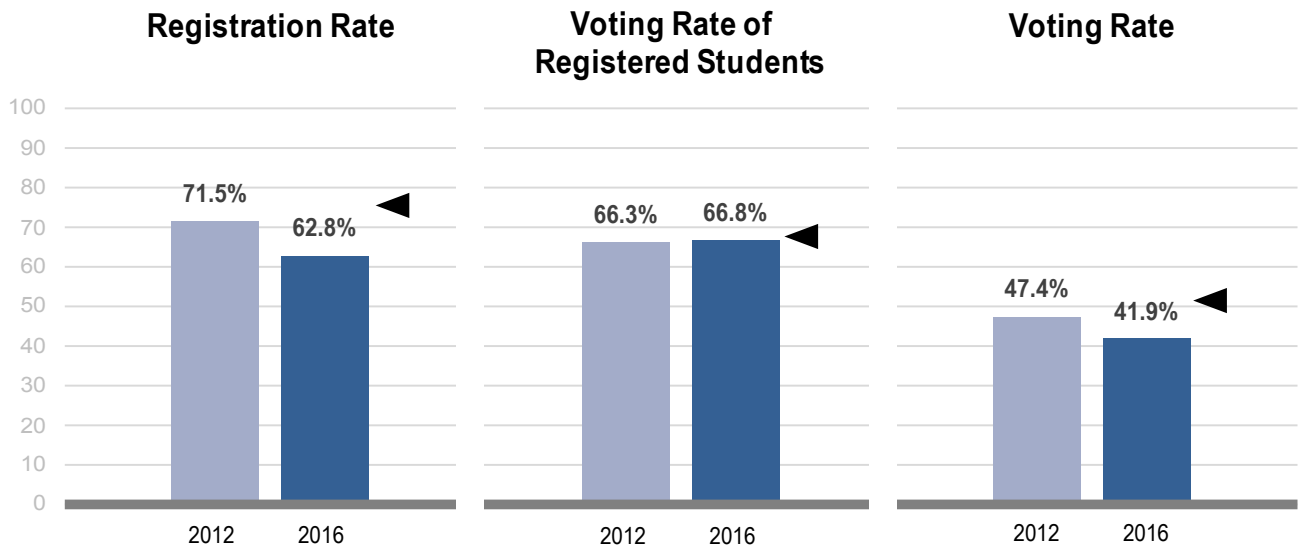
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**41.9%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**-5.5**

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



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	44,503	49,558	↑ 5,055
Age under 18/Unknown	(251)	(301)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(5,393)	(6,940)	
FERPA records blocked	(3,894)	(3,217)	
Total eligible voters	34,965	39,100	↑ 4,135
Number of students who registered	24,987	24,550	↓ -437
Number of students who voted	16,571	16,388	↓ -183
Registration rate	71.5%	62.8%	↓ -8.7
Voting rate of registered students	66.3%	66.8%	↑ 0.4
Voting rate	47.4%	41.9%	↓ -5.5
Difference from all institutions	+0.5	-8.5	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

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

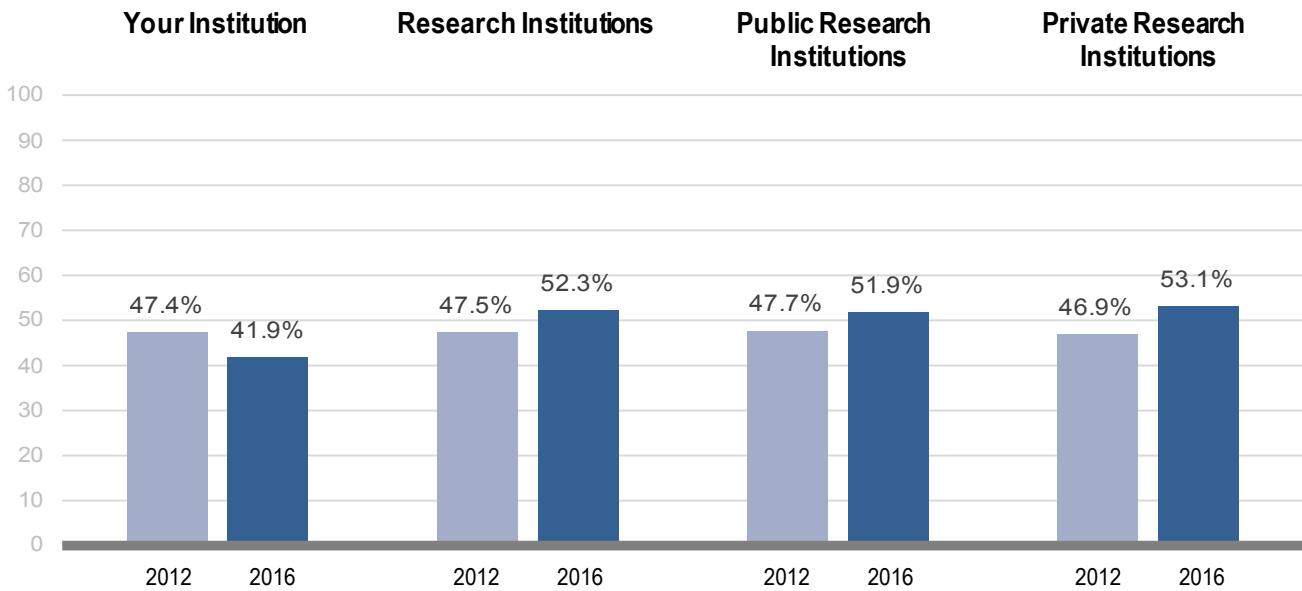
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

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

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

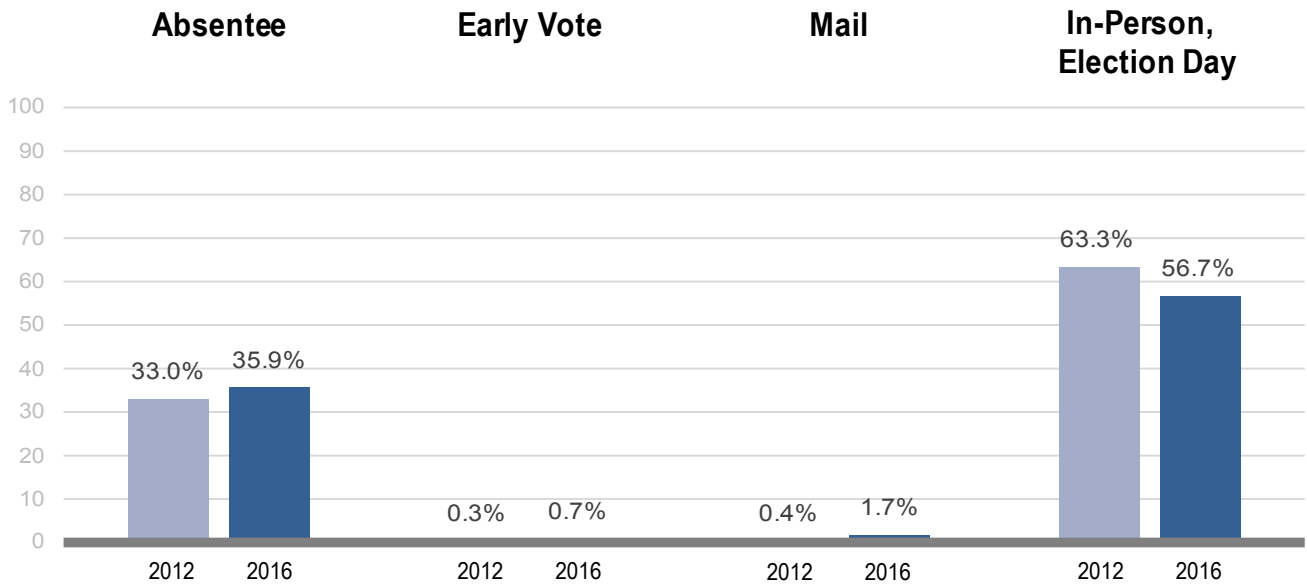
Difference from All Institutions **+0.5**

Difference from All Institutions **-8.5**



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

# By Voting Method\*

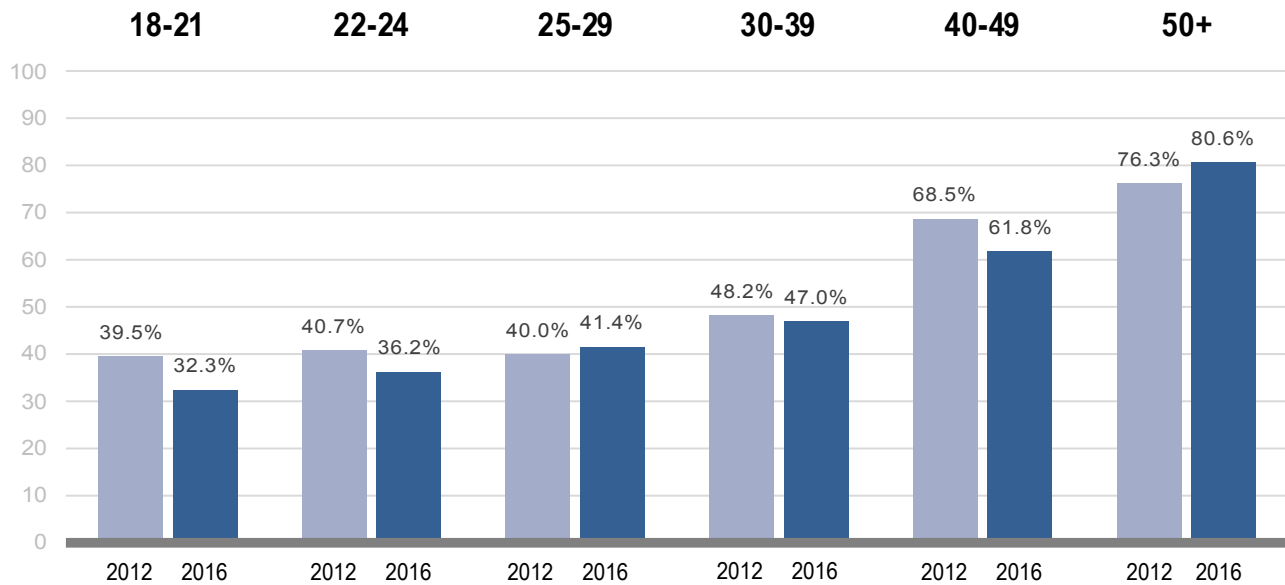


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	5,471	33.0%	5,880	35.9%	↑ 2.9
Early Vote	47	0.3%	109	0.7%	↑ 0.4
Mail	59	0.4%	283	1.7%	↑ 1.4
In-Person, Election Day	10,491	63.3%	9,285	56.7%	↓ -6.7
Unknown	503	3.0%	831	5.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,571</b>		<b>16,388</b>		

\* 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\*

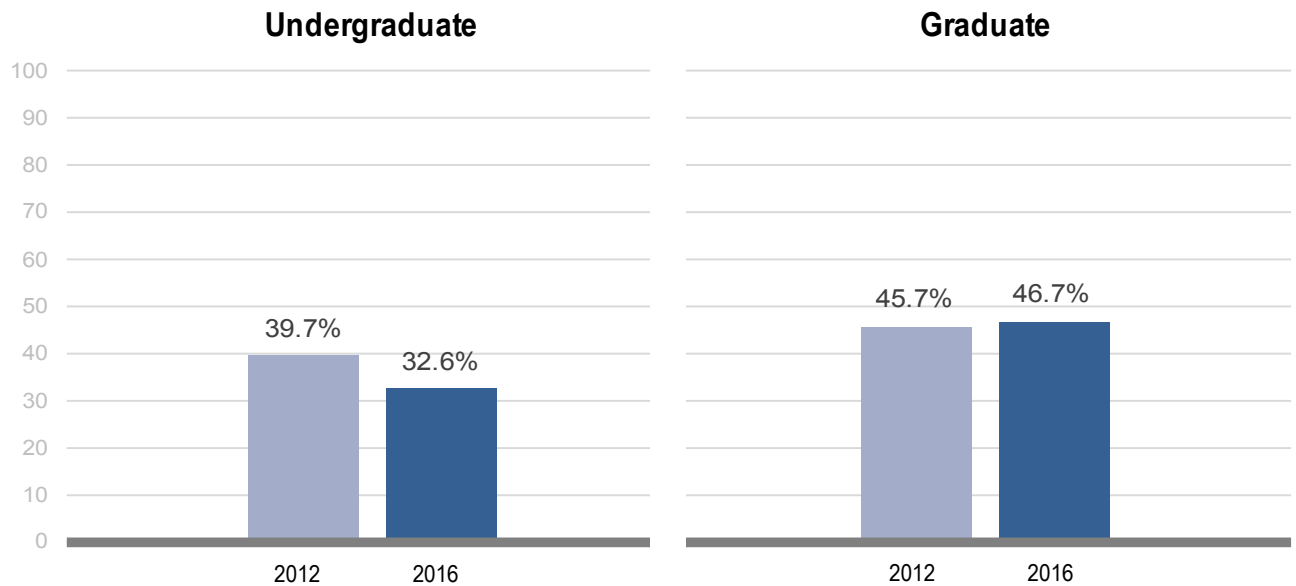


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	25,355	10,006	39.5%	29,531	9,542	32.3%	↓ -7.2
22-24	7,389	3,009	40.7%	8,306	3,007	36.2%	↓ -4.5
25-29	4,219	1,686	40.0%	4,414	1,826	41.4%	↑ 1.4
30-39	2,368	1,142	48.2%	2,620	1,231	47.0%	↓ -1.3
40-49	715	490	68.5%	854	528	61.8%	↓ -6.7
50+	312	238	76.3%	315	254	80.6%	↑ 4.3
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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Education Level\*

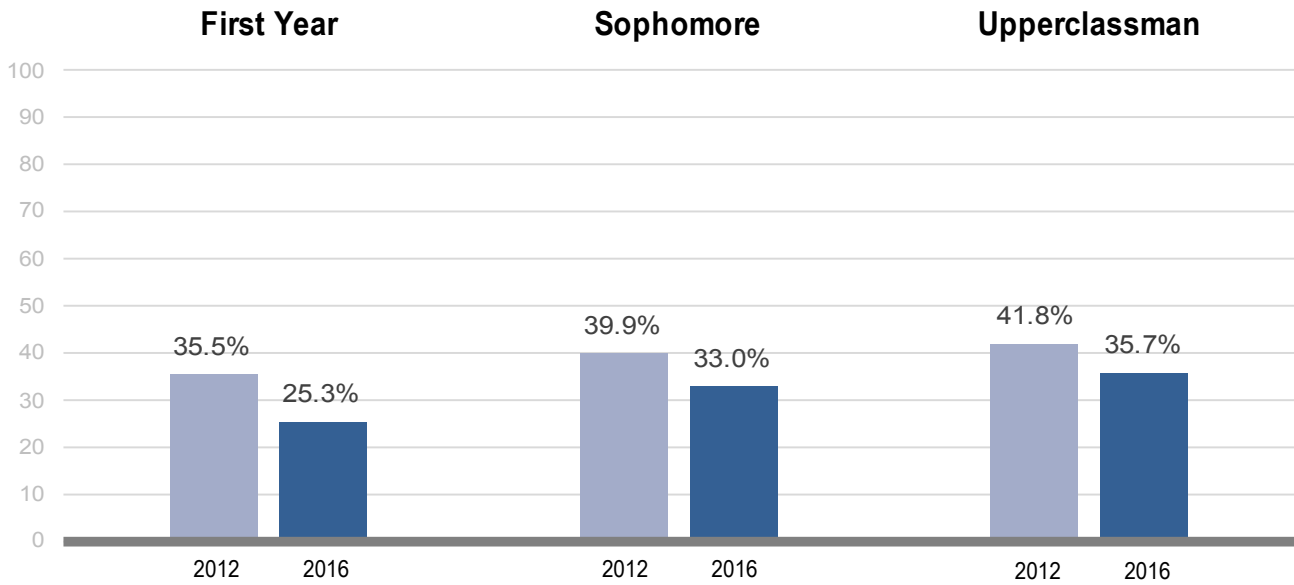


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	31,046	12,326	<b>39.7%</b>	36,267	11,821	<b>32.6%</b>	↓ -7.1
Graduate	9,021	4,118	<b>45.7%</b>	9,773	4,567	<b>46.7%</b>	↑ 1.1
Unknown	291			0			

\* 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\*



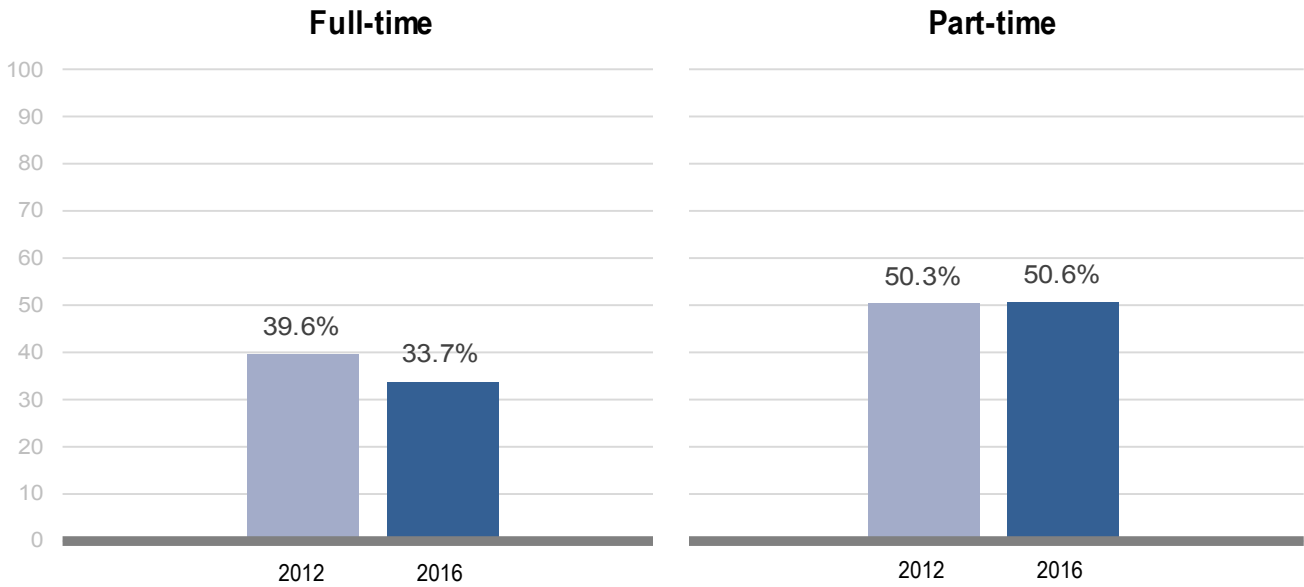
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	8,022	2,845	<b>35.5%</b>	8,647	2,190	<b>25.3%</b>	↓ <b>-10.1</b>
Sophomore	7,294	2,909	<b>39.9%</b>	8,183	2,696	<b>33.0%</b>	↓ <b>-6.9</b>
Upperclassman	15,703	6,564	<b>41.8%</b>	18,836	6,732	<b>35.7%</b>	↓ <b>-6.1</b>

\* 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\*

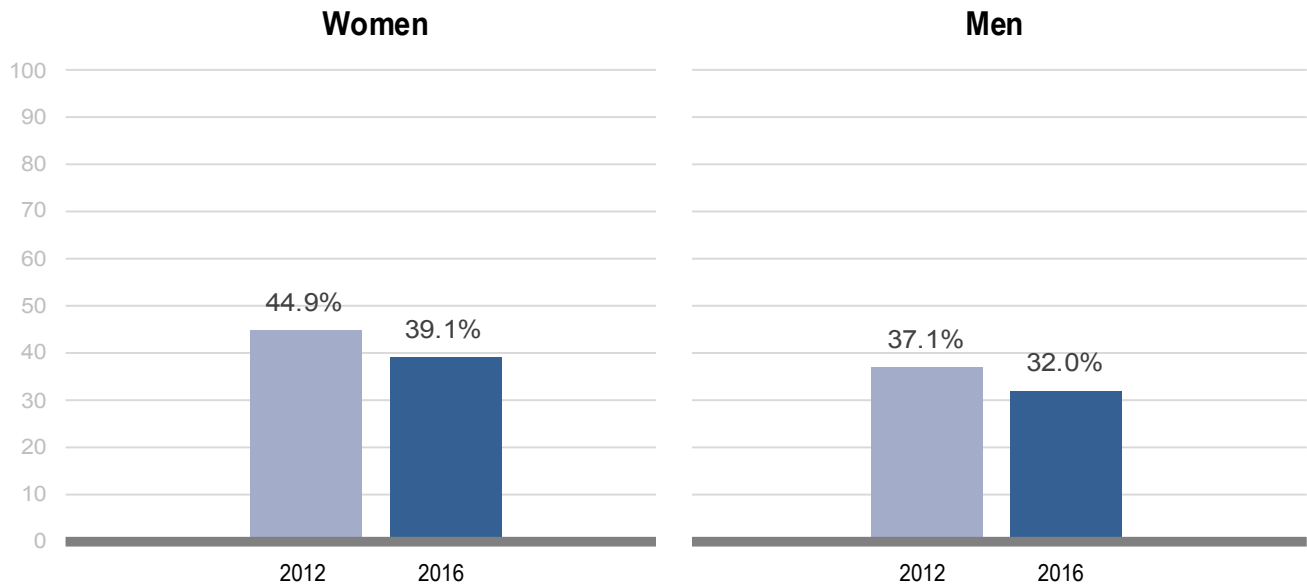


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	34,772	13,761	39.6%	40,885	13,778	33.7%	↓ -5.9
Part-time	5,586	2,810	50.3%	5,155	2,610	50.6%	↑ 0.3
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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\*

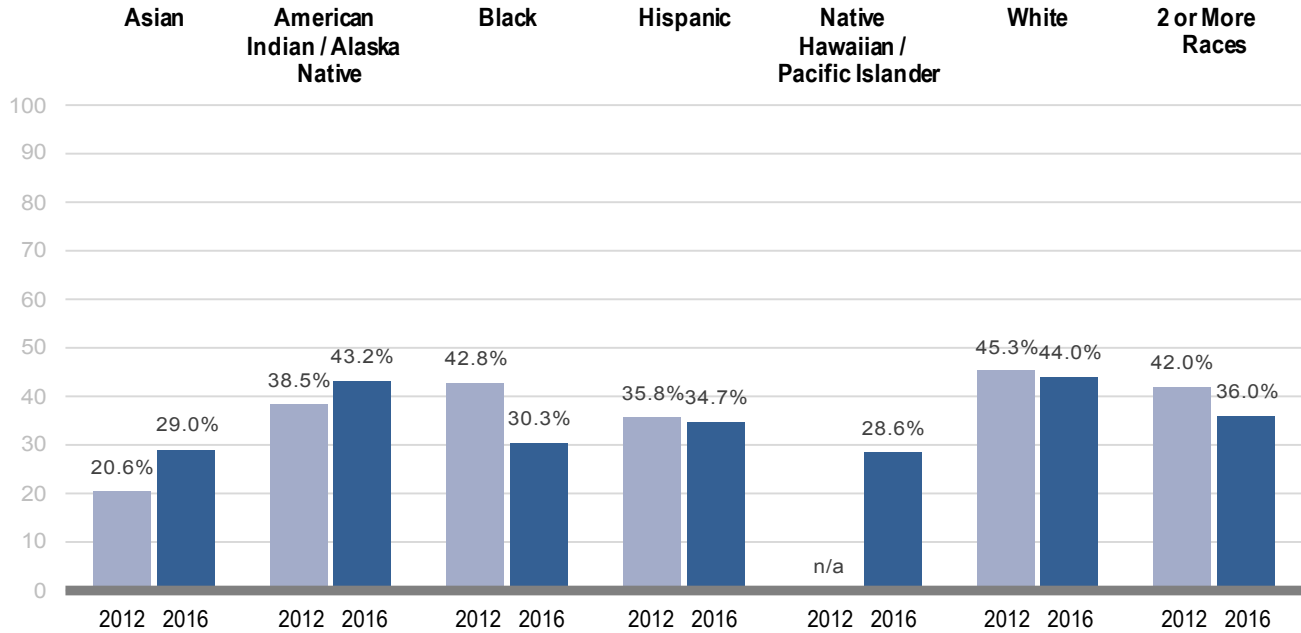


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Women	20,629	9,252	<b>44.9%</b>	23,390	9,139	<b>39.1%</b>	↓ <b>-5.8</b>
Men	19,729	7,319	<b>37.1%</b>	22,650	7,249	<b>32.0%</b>	↓ <b>-5.1</b>
Unknown	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	

\* 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	2,180	448	<b>20.6%</b>	2,172	630	<b>29.0%</b>	↑ 8.5
American Indian/ Alaska Native	122	47	<b>38.5%</b>	118	51	<b>43.2%</b>	↑ 4.7
Black	2,490	1,065	<b>42.8%</b>	2,916	884	<b>30.3%</b>	↓ -12.5
Hispanic	1,513	541	<b>35.8%</b>	1,864	646	<b>34.7%</b>	↓ -1.1
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	27	*	<b>n/a</b>	49	14	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
White	30,591	13,866	<b>45.3%</b>	30,695	13,516	<b>44.0%</b>	↓ -1.3
2 or More Races	766	322	<b>42.0%</b>	1,238	445	<b>36.0%</b>	↓ -6.1
Unknown	882			490			

\* 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	
Agriculture and Agriculture Operations	1,423	582	<b>40.9%</b>	1,698	703	<b>41.4%</b> ↑	<b>0.5</b>
Architecture	144	63	<b>43.8%</b>	103	30	<b>29.1%</b> ↓	<b>-14.6</b>
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	56	26	<b>46.4%</b>	43	17	<b>39.5%</b> ↓	<b>-6.9</b>
Basic Skills and Developmental Education	0	0	n/a	59	0	n/a	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,492	1,355	<b>38.8%</b>	4,236	1,508	<b>35.6%</b> ↓	<b>-3.2</b>
Business, Management, and Marketing	6,022	2,180	<b>36.2%</b>	7,996	2,387	<b>29.9%</b> ↓	<b>-6.4</b>
Communication and Journalism	2,757	1,113	<b>40.4%</b>	3,384	1,100	<b>32.5%</b> ↓	<b>-7.9</b>
Communications Technologies/Technicians	35	15	<b>42.9%</b>	0	0	n/a	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	519	154	<b>29.7%</b>	1,150	338	<b>29.4%</b> ↓	<b>-0.3</b>
Construction Trades	23	10	<b>43.5%</b>	42	22	<b>52.4%</b> ↑	<b>8.9</b>
Education	2,462	1,313	<b>53.3%</b>	2,051	1,033	<b>50.4%</b> ↓	<b>-3.0</b>
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	3,710	1,287	<b>34.7%</b>	5,379	1,603	<b>29.8%</b> ↓	<b>-4.9</b>
English Language and Literature	652	325	<b>49.9%</b>	557	237	<b>42.6%</b> ↓	<b>-7.3</b>
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	471	224	<b>47.6%</b>	472	176	<b>37.3%</b> ↓	<b>-10.3</b>
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	366	161	<b>44.0%</b>	289	107	<b>37.0%</b> ↓	<b>-7.0</b>
Health Professions	5,303	2,389	<b>45.1%</b>	5,032	2,368	<b>47.1%</b> ↑	<b>2.0</b>
History	276	126	<b>45.7%</b>	186	86	<b>46.2%</b> ↑	<b>0.6</b>
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	801	354	<b>44.2%</b>	691	267	<b>38.6%</b> ↓	<b>-5.5</b>
Legal Professions and Studies	317	135	<b>42.6%</b>	294	110	<b>37.4%</b> ↓	<b>-5.2</b>
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,301	575	<b>44.2%</b>	1,443	474	<b>32.9%</b> ↓	<b>-11.4</b>
Mathematics and Statistics	472	151	<b>32.0%</b>	653	146	<b>22.4%</b> ↓	<b>-9.6</b>
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,317	616	<b>46.8%</b>	1,345	546	<b>40.6%</b> ↓	<b>-6.2</b>
Natural Resources and Conservation	563	255	<b>45.3%</b>	722	310	<b>42.9%</b> ↓	<b>-2.4</b>

Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,043	388	37.2%	1,227	390	31.8% ↓	-5.4
Philosophy and Religious Studies	97	37	38.1%	71	30	42.3% ↑	4.1
Physical Sciences	937	324	34.6%	1,049	328	31.3% ↓	-3.3
Psychology	1,484	553	37.3%	1,230	436	35.5% ↓	-1.8
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	324	179	55.3%	350	162	46.3% ↓	-9.0
Social Sciences	2,927	1,268	43.3%	3,206	1,080	33.7% ↓	-9.6
Visual and Performing Arts	1,006	381	37.9%	1,051	382	36.4% ↓	-1.5
Unknown	58	32	55.2%	31	12	38.7% ↓	-16.5

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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