



October 2021

# **Student Voting Rates for Michigan State University**

## 2020 NSLVE Campus Report

**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

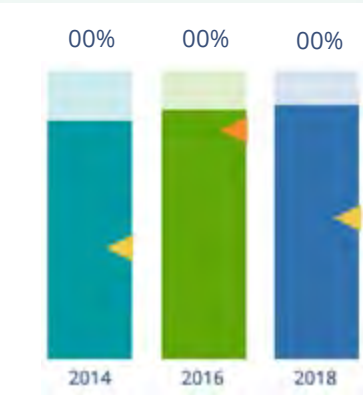


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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.



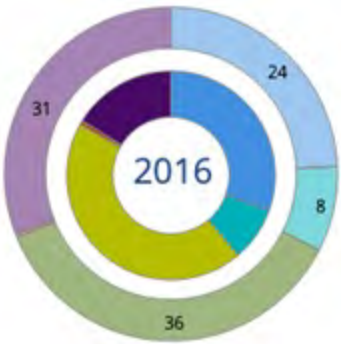
**Vessel Chart**

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.

	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.



**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

76.6%

2020 Voting Rate

+24.4

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Registration Rate
2016	80.3%
2018	76.6%
2020	91.3%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Voting Rate of Registered Students
2016	65.1%
2018	51.0%
2020	83.8%

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

Year	Voting Rate
2016	52.2%
2018	39.0%
2020	76.6%

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	49,257	49,293	48,801	↓ -456
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	6,498	5,800	4,412	↓ -2,086
(FERPA records blocked)	3,217	1,519	557	↓ -2,660
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	1,089	950	-
Total eligible voters	39,542	40,882	42,879	↑ 3,337
Number of students who registered	31,739	31,317	39,169	↑ 7,430
Number of students who voted	20,656	15,958	32,840	↑ 12,184
Registration Rate %	80	77	91	↑ 11
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	65	51	84	↑ 19
Voting Rate %	52	39	77	↑ 24

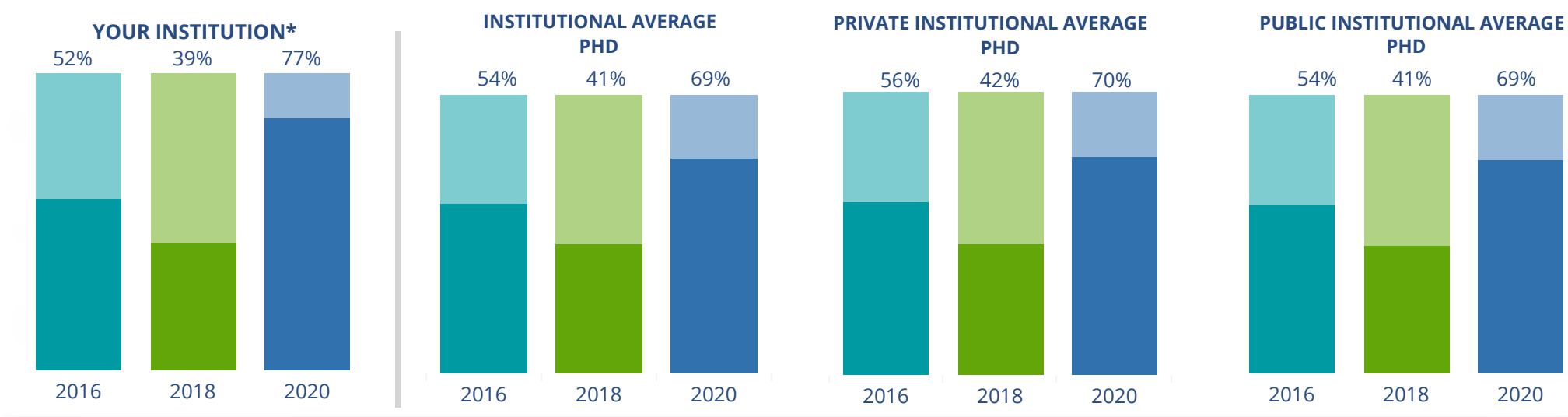
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.

We have removed non-resident aliens (international students) based on your institution's enrollment submission to the National Student Clearinghouse. This is indicated by "NSC reported non-resident aliens" on this page.

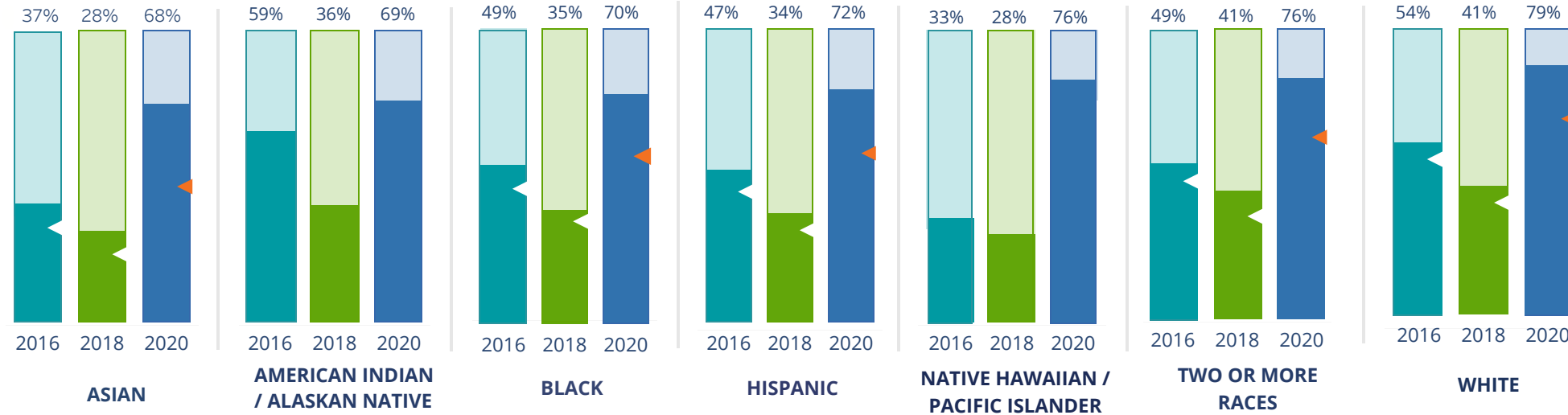
# By Institution Types



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

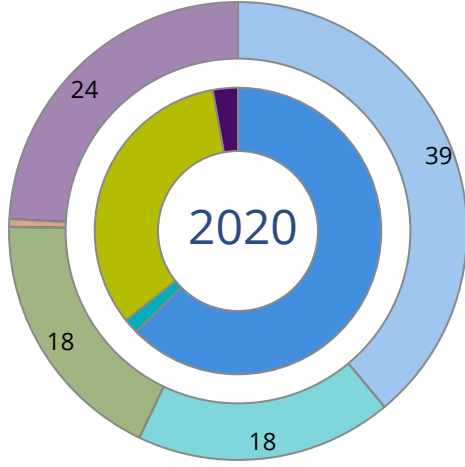
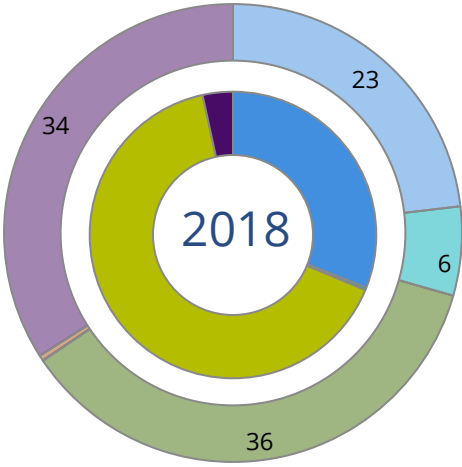
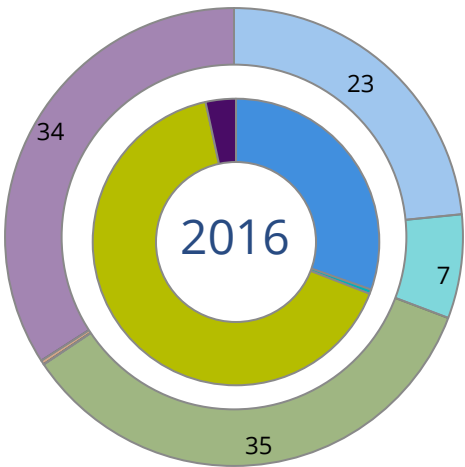
## By Race/Ethnicity

**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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Asian	2,172	801	37	2,593	734	28	3,086	2,082	67	↑ 31
American Indian/ Alaska Native	118	70	59	97	35	36	118	81	69	↑ 9
Black	2,916	1,425	49	3,149	1,106	35	3,309	2,323	70	↑ 21
Hispanic	1,864	878	47	2,200	738	34	2,626	1,880	72	↑ 24
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	49	16	33	47	13	28	25	19	76	↑ 43
2 or More Races	1,238	608	49	1,377	557	40	1,572	1,188	76	↑ 26
White	30,695	16,649	54	30,963	12,616	41	31,495	24,837	79	↑ 25
Race Unknown	490	209	43	456	159	35	648	430	66	↑ 24

# 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	93	1	45	0	568	2	1	↑
In-Person on Election Day	13,568	66	10,420	65	10,811	33	-33	↓
Not-In-Person	6,276	30	4,951	31	20,559	63	32	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	11	0	-	
Voting Method Unknown	718	3	539	3	891	3	-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	50%	36%	80%
22-24	51%	40%	73%
25-29	56%	46%	68%
30-39	61%	52%	63%
40-49	70%	67%	73%
50+	81%	74%	77%

**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	26,168	13,212	50	28,303	10,207	36	29,701	23,614	80	↑ 29
22-24	6,749	3,460	51	6,454	2,613	40	6,578	4,774	73	↑ 21
25-29	3,536	1,978	56	3,480	1,613	46	3,904	2,661	68	↑ 12
30-39	2,052	1,243	61	1,778	928	52	1,877	1,183	63	↑ 2
40-49	733	516	70	625	418	67	570	417	73	↑ 3
50+	304	247	81	242	179	74	249	191	77	↓ -5

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Female	20,529	11,605	57	21,510	9,091	42	22,959	18,210	79	↑	23
Male	19,013	9,051	48	19,372	6,867	35	19,920	14,630	73	↑	26

**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	31,181	15,589	50	33,338	12,142	36	34,326	26,742	78	↑	28
Graduate	7,141	4,331	61	7,336	3,713	51	8,324	5,932	71	↑	11
Class Unknown	1,220	736	60	208	103	50	229	166	72	↑	12
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	7,324	46	3,404	8,035	34	2,739	7,912	80	6,343	↑	34
Second Year	7,315	50	3,660	7,873	32	2,510	8,060	79	6,329	↑	28
Upper Level	16,575	52	8,546	17,472	40	6,919	18,471	77	14,175	↑	25
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	34,816	17,942	52	36,464	13,839	38	37,936	29,317	77	↑	26
Part-time	4,726	2,714	57	4,418	2,119	48	4,943	3,523	71	↑	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 RateChange (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	35	20	57	33	20	61	19	14	74	↑ 17
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,988	2,062	52	4,431	1,721	39	4,919	3,799	77	↑ 26
Business, Management, and Marketing	6,022	2,984	50	6,728	2,241	33	6,954	5,360	77	↑ 28
Communication and Journalism	2,930	1,459	50	3,036	1,106	36	3,029	2,297	76	↑ 26
Computer and Information Sciences	861	413	48	1,223	417	34	1,428	1,032	72	↑ 24
Construction Trades	42	23	55	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Education	1,903	1,177	62	1,404	707	50	1,429	1,117	78	↑ 16

**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	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	4,363	2,034	47	4,673	1,601	34	4,698	3,607	77	↑ 30
English Language and Literature	536	324	60	445	242	54	357	280	78	↑ 18
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	444	224	50	412	160	39	385	277	72	↑ 21
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	249	145	58	251	101	40	196	154	79	↑ 20
Health Professions	4,872	2,698	55	5,038	2,096	42	4,665	3,406	73	↑ 18
History	175	94	54	189	103	54	183	145	79	↑ 26
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	679	324	48	693	240	35	907	637	70	↑ 23
Legal Professions and Studies	288	149	52	362	165	46	1,087	867	80	↑ 28
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	709	315	44	652	208	32	560	443	79	↑ 35
Mathematics and Statistics	373	175	47	509	185	36	450	324	72	↑ 25
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,312	775	59	1,317	590	45	1,590	1,307	82	↑ 23
Natural Resources and Conservation	662	390	59	709	361	51	745	589	79	↑ 20
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	1,214	554	46	1,379	441	32	1,195	942	79	↑ 33
Philosophy and Religious Studies	65	34	52	57	25	44	55	39	71	↑ 19

## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Physical Sciences	815	438	54	838	370	44	891	641	72	↑ 18
Psychology	1,144	603	53	1,301	475	37	1,658	1,317	79	↑ 27
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	330	204	62	314	158	50	319	240	75	↑ 13
Social Sciences	2,583	1,419	55	2,440	1,191	49	2,557	2,054	80	↑ 25
Visual and Performing Arts	887	501	56	958	421	44	1,094	857	78	↑ 22
Unknown	431	275	64	207	102	49	253	178	70	↑ 7

# 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.

Michigan 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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