October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Mississippi State University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe 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** 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;
(Botton 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.

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.

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.

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
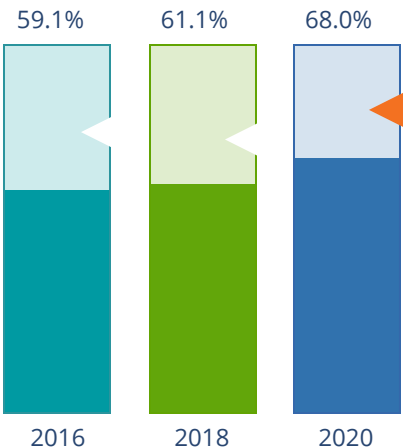
48.7%
2020 Voting Rate

+16.0
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

2016	2018	2020
59.1%	61.1%	68.0%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

2016	2018	2020
55.3%	27.6%	71.5%
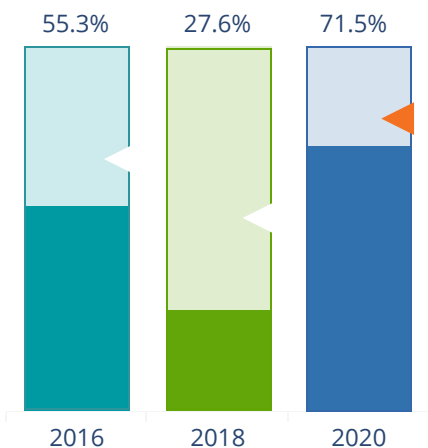
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE

2016	2018	2020
32.7%	16.8%	48.7%
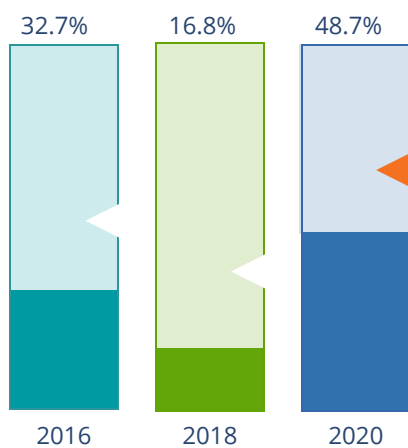
The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	21,201	21,745	22,807	⬆ 1,606
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	763	776	736	⬇ -27
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	1,211	762	740	⬇ -471
Total eligible voters	19,225	20,205	21,329	⬆ 2,103
Number of students who registered	11,358	12,338	14,508	⬆ 3,150
Number of students who voted	6,284	3,403	10,378	⬆ 4,094
Registration Rate %	59	61	68	⬆ 9
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	55	28	72	⬆ 16
Voting Rate %	33	17	49	⬆ 16

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/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool.

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions **53%**	HIGH **82%**		2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions **66%**	HIGH **89%**
	LOW **13%**			LOW **19%**

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.

YOUR INSTITUTION*
33% (2016) 17% (2018) 49% (2020)

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
54% (2016) 41% (2018) 69% (2020)

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
56% (2016) 42% (2018) 70% (2020)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD
54% (2016) 41% (2018) 69% (2020)

By Race / Ethnicity

	ASIAN			AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE			BLACK			HISPANIC			TWO OR MORE RACES			WHITE		
2016	12%			22%			31%			24%			29%			34%		
2018		6%			12%			18%			15%			15%			17%	
2020			24%			38%			50%			35%			43%			50%
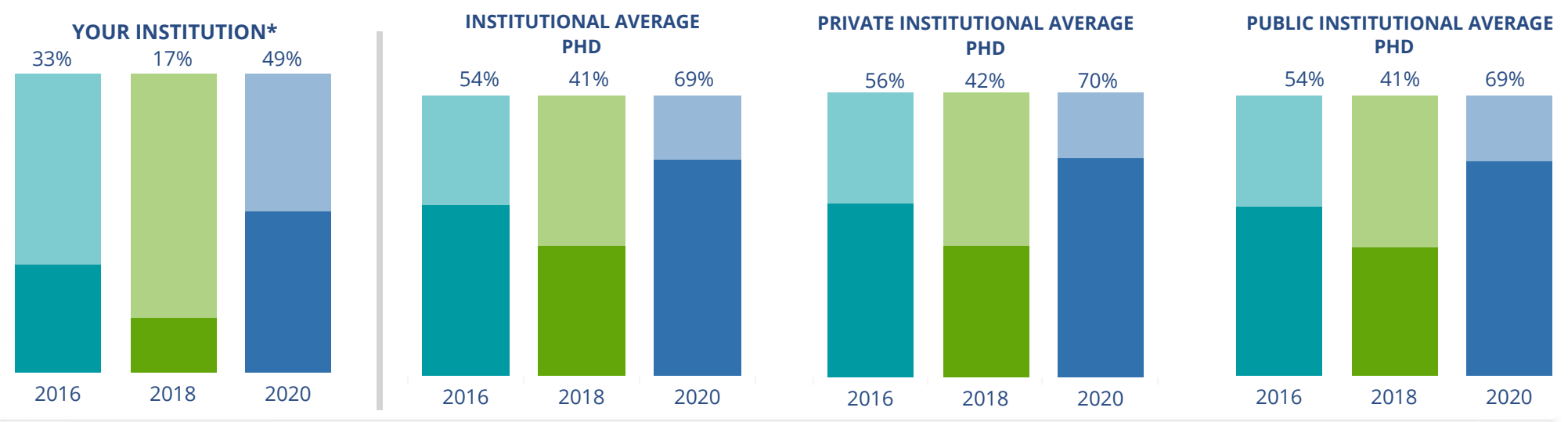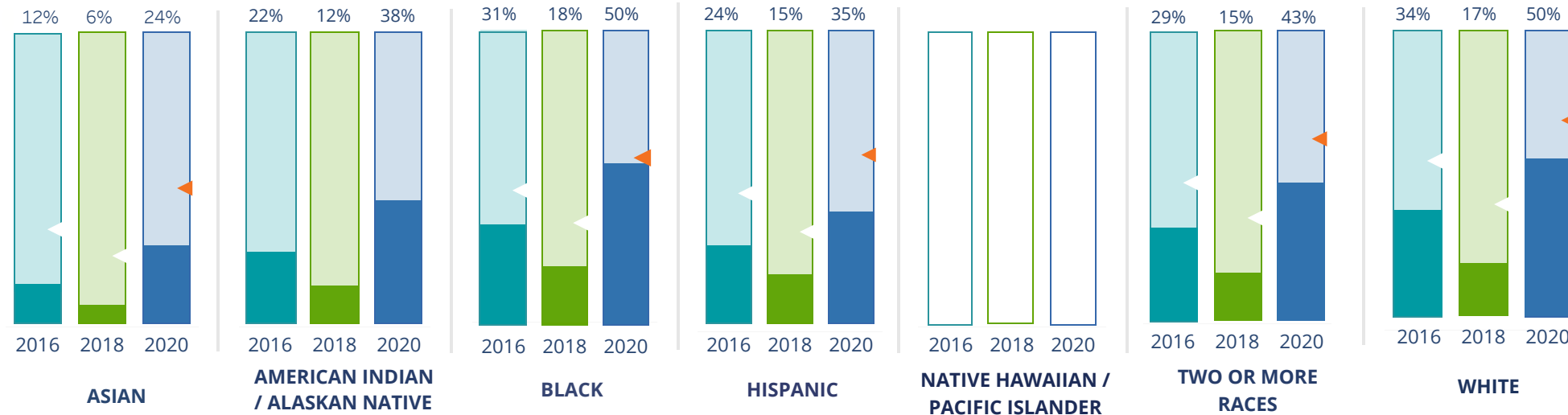
These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail on why we cannot report national benchmark for some of the demographic groups: https://tufts.app.box.com/v/idhe-nslve-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	361	44	12	375	22	6	421	102	24	⬆ 12
American Indian/ Alaska Native	81	18	22	116	14	12	128	49	38	⬆ 16
Black	3,650	1,123	31	3,703	678	18	3,717	1,850	50	⬆ 19
Hispanic	555	134	24	642	99	15	759	264	35	⬆ 11
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	18	–	–	16	–	–	17	–	–	–
2 or More Races	313	91	29	379	57	15	466	202	43	⬆ 14
White	14,374	4,847	34	15,055	2,507	17	15,781	7,841	50	⬆ 16
Race Unknown	591	22	4	667	24	4	750	66	9	⬆ 5

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown
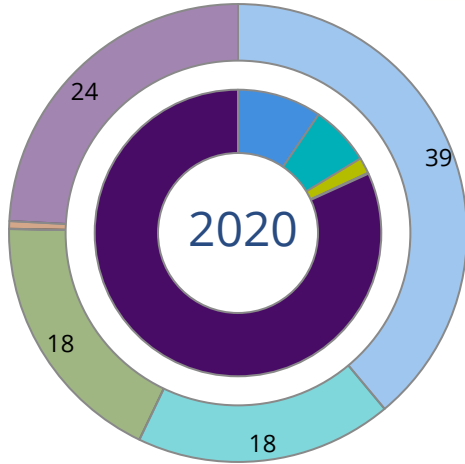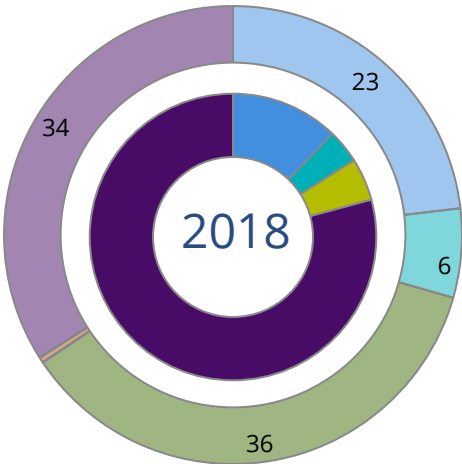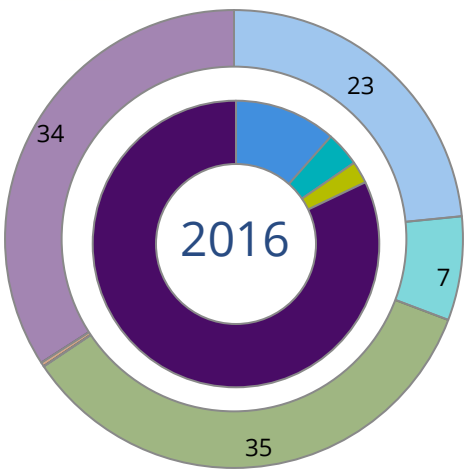
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	242	4	131	4	708	7	3	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	158	3	165	5	189	2	-1	⬇
Not-In-Person	720	12	414	12	981	10	-2	⬇
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	5,163	82	2,693	79	8,493	82	0	⬇

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/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	29%	13%	48%
22-24	31%	14%	46%
25-29	31%	22%	40%
30-39	39%	29%	42%
40-49	55%	48%	61%
50+	63%	59%	68%

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
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
18-21	11,643	3,425	29	12,533	1,610	13	12,811	6,163	48	⬆ 19
22-24	4,544	1,416	31	4,594	656	14	4,803	2,191	46	⬆ 14
25-29	1,778	552	31	1,810	390	22	1,862	744	40	⬆ 9
30-39	1,296	499	39	1,282	370	29	1,560	648	42	⬆ 3
40-49	481	265	55	507	242	48	704	428	61	⬆ 6
50+	201	127	63	227	135	59	299	204	68	⬆ 5

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Female	9,976	3,576	36	10,515	1,873	18	11,252	5,809	52	⬆ 16
Male	9,967	2,708	27	10,438	1,530	15	10,770	4,562	42	⬆ 15

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 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2016-2020 Change (p.p)
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	16,582	5,036	30	17,609	2,520	14	17,921	8,454	47	↑ 17
Graduate	3,361	1,248	37	3,344	883	26	4,096	1,914	47	↑ 10
Class Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	–	–	–
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Second Year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Upper Level	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	17,552	5,208	30	18,134	2,488	14	18,701	8,719	47	↑ 17
Part-time	2,391	1,076	45	2,819	915	32	3,338	1,659	50	↑ 5

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Architecture	377	112	30	419	59	14	454	213	47	⬆ 17
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,612	489	30	1,760	200	11	1,679	803	48	⬆ 17
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,783	850	31	3,074	458	15	3,560	1,705	48	⬆ 17
Communication and Journalism	582	206	35	561	104	19	545	315	58	⬆ 22
Computer and Information Sciences	342	69	20	424	67	16	513	199	39	⬆ 19
Education	1,834	729	40	1,885	430	23	2,286	1,203	53	⬆ 13
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	4,153	1,144	28	4,436	608	14	4,555	1,953	43	⬆ 15

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
English Language and Literature	128	34	27	138	29	21	123	67	54	⬆ 28
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	440	152	35	367	57	16	371	191	51	⬆ 17
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	237	86	36	211	43	20	182	95	52	⬆ 16
Health Professions	586	192	33	555	89	16	551	287	52	⬆ 19
History	153	59	39	144	41	28	151	81	54	⬆ 15
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	–	–	–	301	50	17	111	48	43	–
Mathematics and Statistics	134	30	22	140	16	11	139	58	42	⬆ 19
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	463	188	41	585	154	26	544	251	46	⬆ 6
Natural Resources and Conservation	576	171	30	609	83	14	608	267	44	⬆ 14
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	1,372	389	28	1,297	151	12	1,252	570	46	⬆ 17
Personal and Culinary Services	11	–	–	20	–	–	12	–	–	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	42	–	–	27	–	–	30	16	53	–
Physical Sciences	926	369	40	941	275	29	900	393	44	⬆ 4
Psychology	765	224	29	787	122	16	1,052	511	49	⬆ 19

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	259	117	45	211	51	24	190	110	58	⬆ 13
Social Sciences	697	216	31	691	130	19	732	366	50	⬆ 19
Visual and Performing Arts	305	74	24	266	45	17	257	118	46	⬆ 22
Unknown	28	–	–	–	–	–	28	13	46	–

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.

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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