Student Voting Rates for Northeastern Illinois 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
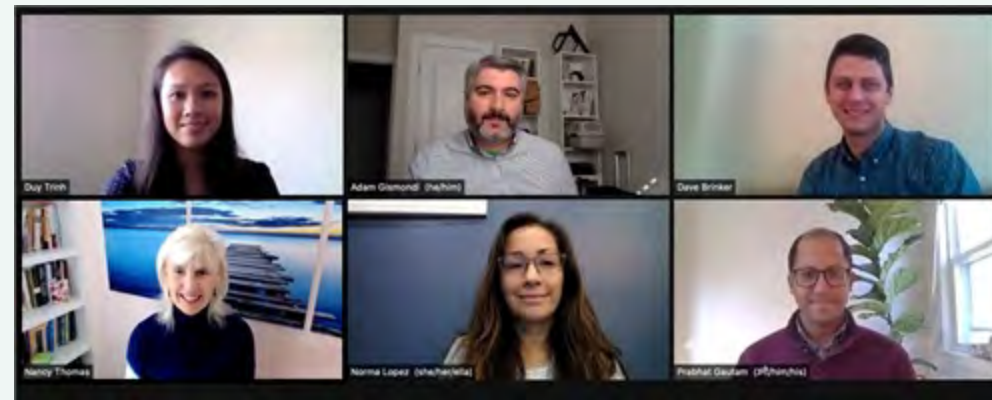
(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

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.
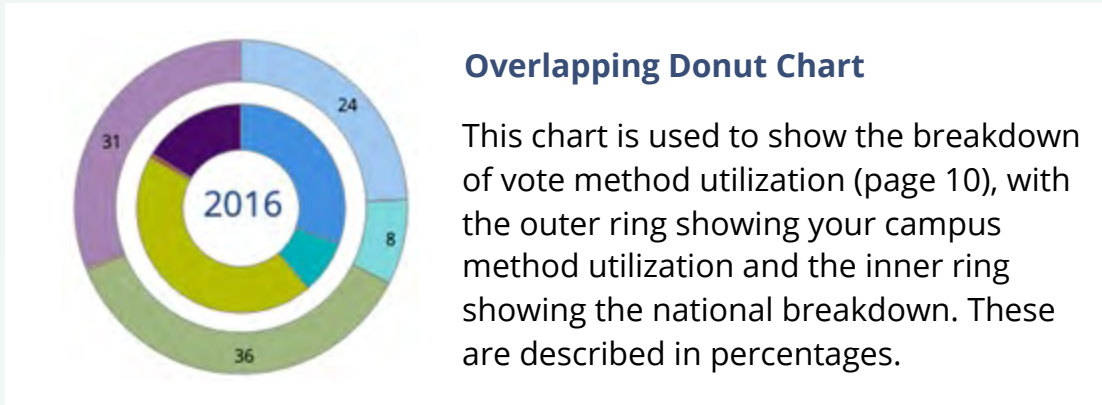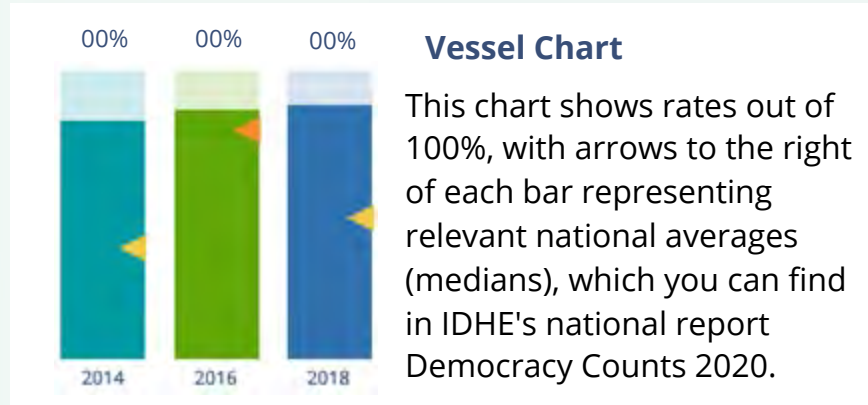
In This Report

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

63.9%
2020 Voting Rate

+5.6
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

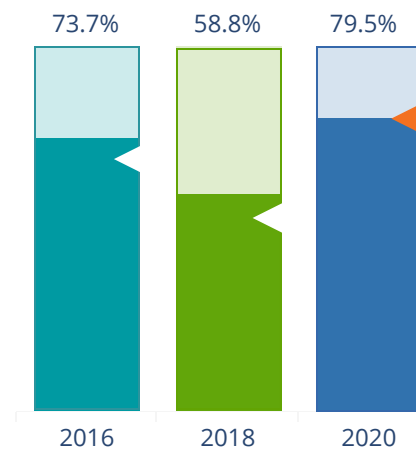**REGISTRATION RATE**

79.0%	75.6%	80.4%
2016	2018	2020
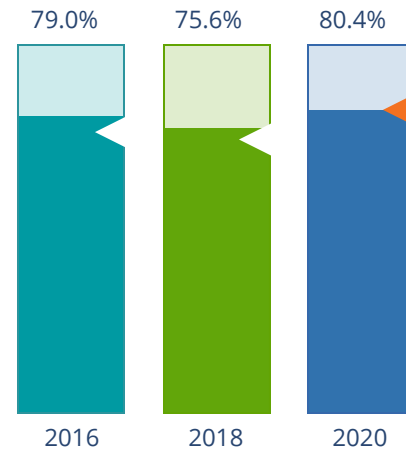
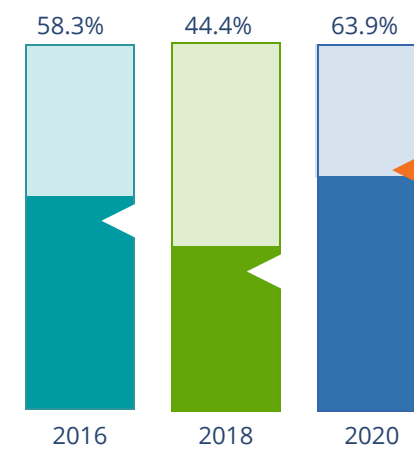The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

73.7%	58.8%	79.5%
2016	2018	2020

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

58.3%	44.4%	63.9%
2016	2018	2020

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.
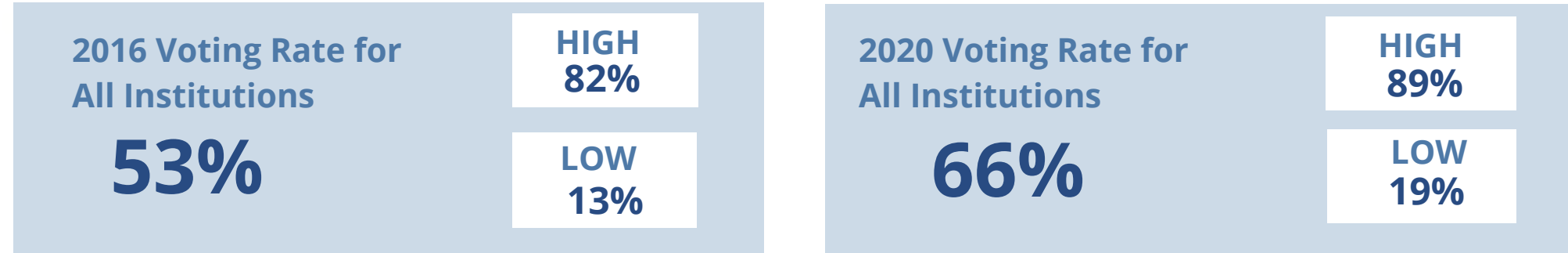
Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

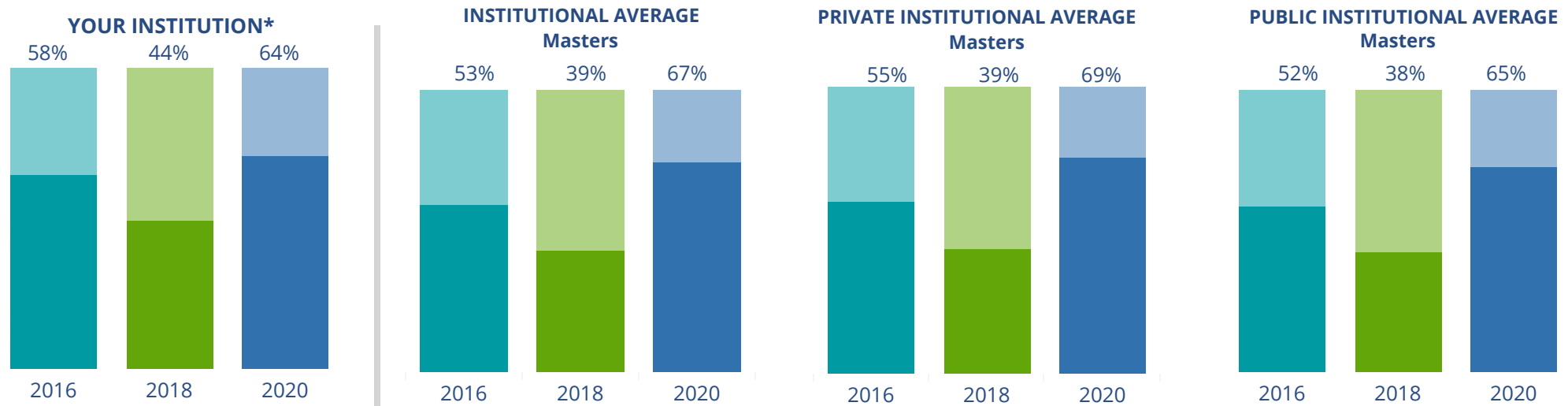|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	9,186	7,823	6,919	⬇ -2,267
(Age under 18/Unknown)	64	43	43	⬇ -21
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	526	244	136	⬇ -389
(FERPA records blocked)	–	27	16	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	91	80	132	⬆ 41
Total eligible voters	8,501	7,430	6,592	⬇ -1,909
Number of students who registered	6,719	5,616	5,301	⬇ -1,418
Number of students who voted	4,953	3,301	4,215	⬇ -738
Registration Rate %	79	76	80	⬆ 1
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	74	59	80	⬆ 6
Voting Rate %	58	44	64	⬆ 6

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	**HIGH**
	82%
53%	**LOW**
	13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	**HIGH**
	89%
66%	**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*

58% 44% 64%

2016 2018 2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

53% 39% 67%

2016 2018 2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

55% 39% 69%

2016 2018 2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

52% 38% 65%

2016 2018 2020

By Race / Ethnicity

ASIAN
2016: 33% | 2018: 24% | 2020: 41%

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE
2016: 52%

BLACK
2016: 60% | 2018: 46% | 2020: 62%

HISPANIC
2016: 57% | 2018: 42% | 2020: 64%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
2016: 44% | 2020: 69%

TWO OR MORE RACES
2016: 58% | 2018: 38% | 2020: 62%

WHITE
2016: 58% | 2018: 49% | 2020: 69%

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	926	302	33	737	177	24	651	264	41	⬆ 8
American Indian/ Alaska Native	21	11	52	20	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	923	551	60	803	369	46	674	415	62	⬆ 2
Hispanic	3,335	1,896	57	2,949	1,247	42	2,799	1,789	64	⬆ 7
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	25	11	44	17	–	–	16	11	69	⬆ 25
2 or More Races	160	92	58	137	52	38	112	69	62	⬆ 4
White	3,233	1,874	58	2,538	1,236	49	2,054	1,420	69	⬆ 11
Race Unknown	394	216	55	467	206	44	408	244	60	⬆ 5

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown

2016 chart: 23, 34, 35, 7

2018 chart: 23, 34, 36, 6

2020 chart: 24, 39, 18, 18
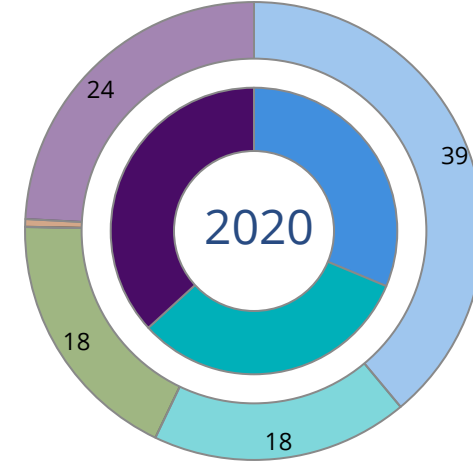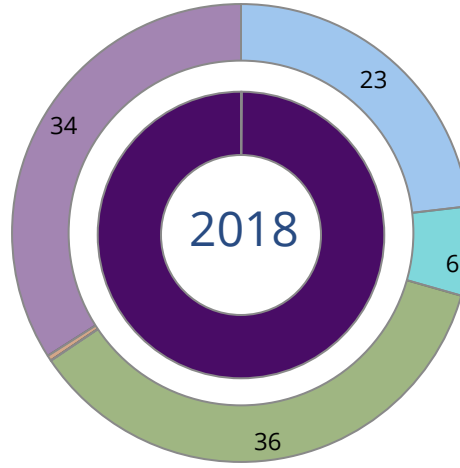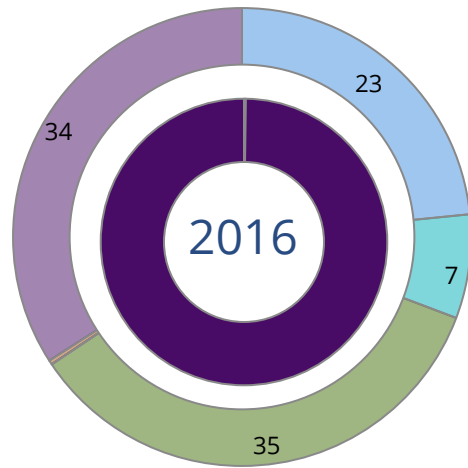
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**
Early Vote	–	–	–	–	1,346	32	–
In-Person on Election Day	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Not-In-Person	–	–	–	–	1,321	31	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Voting Method Unknown	4,943	100	3,298	100	1,547	37	-63 ↓

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	47%	33%	54%
22-24	51%	38%	60%
25-29	53%	42%	61%
30-39	64%	50%	68%
40-49	71%	64%	74%
50+	76%	72%	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
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
18-21	2,156	1,015	47	1,687	554	33	1,376	745	54	⬆ 7
22-24	2,278	1,160	51	1,953	740	38	1,602	966	60	⬆ 9
25-29	2,129	1,126	53	1,871	786	42	1,712	1,048	61	⬆ 8
30-39	1,516	969	64	1,317	658	50	1,232	833	68	⬆ 4
40-49	586	415	71	508	324	64	516	384	74	⬆ 4
50+	352	268	76	332	239	72	286	239	84	⬆ 7

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	5,151	2,987	58	4,406	1,987	45	4,073	2,639	65	⬆ 7
Male	3,761	1,910	51	3,128	1,262	40	2,522	1,502	60	⬆ 9

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	7,245	3,808	53	6,083	2,428	40	4,998	2,984	60	↑	7
Graduate	1,293	835	65	1,274	691	54	1,445	1,011	70	↑	5
Class Unknown	479	310	65	311	182	59	281	220	78	↑	14
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Second Year	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Upper Level	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	4,524	2,293	51	3,833	1,500	39	3,399	2,020	59	↑	9
Part-time	4,493	2,660	59	3,835	1,801	47	3,325	2,195	66	↑	7

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)
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	111	77	69	75	38	51	60	40	67	⬇ -3
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	425	216	51	357	140	39	236	135	57	⬆ 6
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,060	476	45	1,270	428	34	974	507	52	⬆ 7
Communication and Journalism	286	170	59	226	111	49	170	113	66	⬆ 7
Computer and Information Sciences	491	199	41	481	144	30	425	207	49	⬆ 8
Education	818	576	70	845	465	55	1,073	789	74	⬆ 3
English Language and Literature	199	134	67	190	128	67	130	88	68	⬆ 0

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)
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	113	57	50	89	42	47	63	37	59	⬆ 8
Health Professions	142	96	68	125	70	56	197	145	74	⬆ 6
History	158	117	74	114	74	65	97	72	74	⬆ 0
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	278	150	54	194	81	42	128	87	68	⬆ 14
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	2,426	1,188	49	1,726	642	37	1,445	822	57	⬆ 8
Mathematics and Statistics	130	70	54	112	40	36	109	62	57	⬆ 3
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	36	22	61	32	19	59	22	18	82	⬆ 21
Natural Resources and Conservation	54	34	63	51	29	57	33	25	76	⬆ 13
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	23	–	–	17	–	–	11	11	100	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	20	12	60	19	11	58	19	–	–	–
Physical Sciences	151	65	43	125	49	39	94	52	55	⬆ 12
Psychology	416	213	51	395	171	43	329	208	63	⬆ 12
Public Administration and Social Service P..	634	419	66	429	201	47	399	283	71	⬆ 5
Social Sciences	393	229	58	289	131	45	234	158	68	⬆ 9

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Visual and Performing Arts	191	126	66	199	97	49	189	122	65	⬇ -1
Unknown	462	297	64	308	183	59	287	226	79	⬆ 14

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.

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

Barnum Hall
163 Packard Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

tischcollege@tufts.edu
617.627.3453

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
Barnum Hall, Medford, MA 02155

Follow Us on Twitter: @TuftsIDHE
NSLVE@tufts.edu
617.627.0620