



March 2022

# **Student Voting Rates for Northeastern 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.

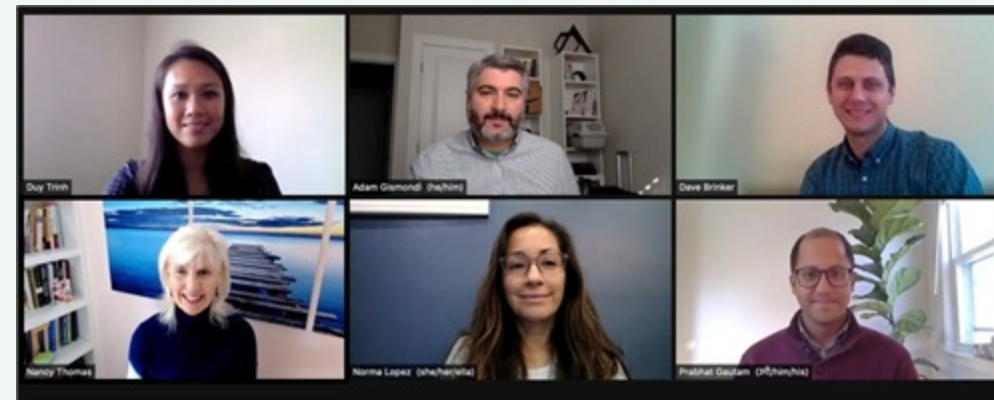
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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

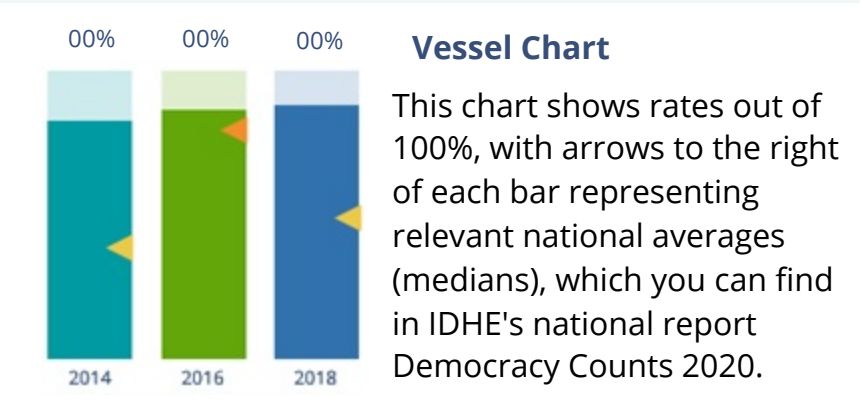


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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

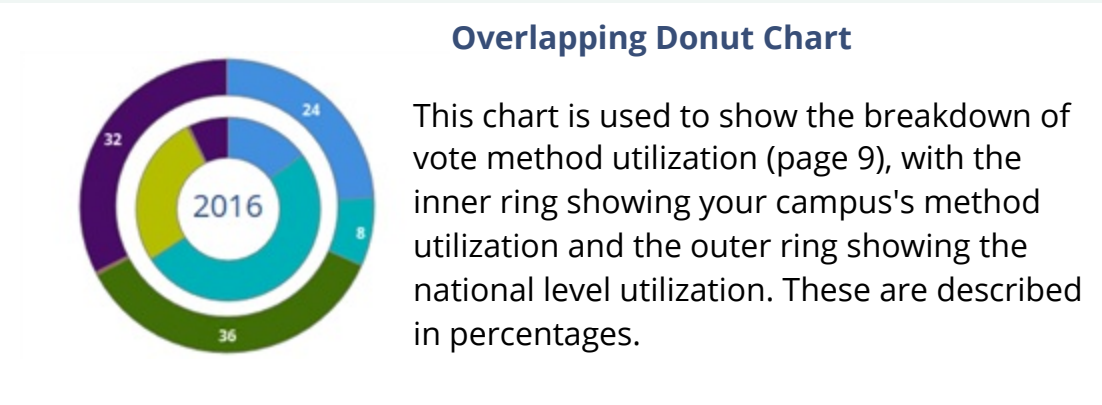
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut charts, and tables.



	2014			2018			2014-2018 Change (p.p.)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	
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.



# Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

68.7%

2020 Voting Rate

+11.1

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Rate
2016	79.7%
2018	76.2%
2020	80.9%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Rate
2016	72.4%
2018	54.8%
2020	84.9%

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	Rate
2016	57.7%
2018	41.8%
2020	68.7%

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

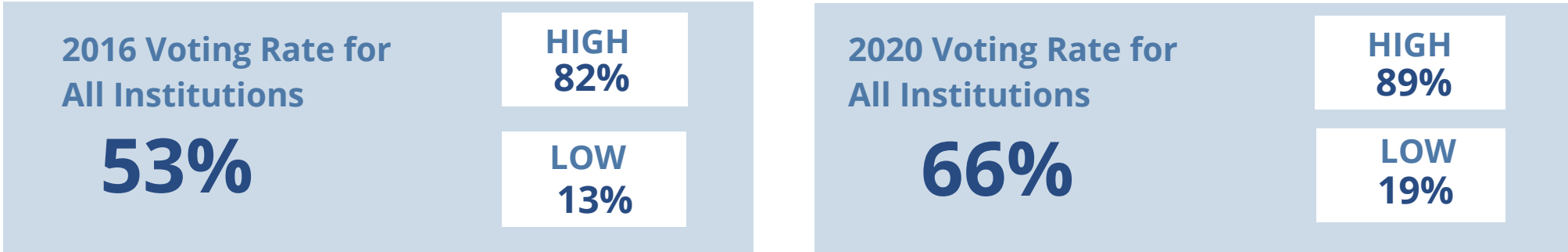
## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Records per NSC	22,900	24,177	25,495	↑ 2,595
(Age under 18/Unknown)	116	106	139	↑ 23
(FERPA records blocked)	1,500	1,564	6,285	↑ 4,785
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	0	0	0	→ 0
Total eligible voters	21,284	22,507	19,071	↓ -2,213
Number of students who registered	16,953	17,148	15,426	↓ -1,527
Number of students who voted	12,271	9,400	13,103	↑ 832
Registration Rate %	80	76	81	↑ 1
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	72	55	85	↑ 13
Voting Rate %	58	42	69	↑ 11

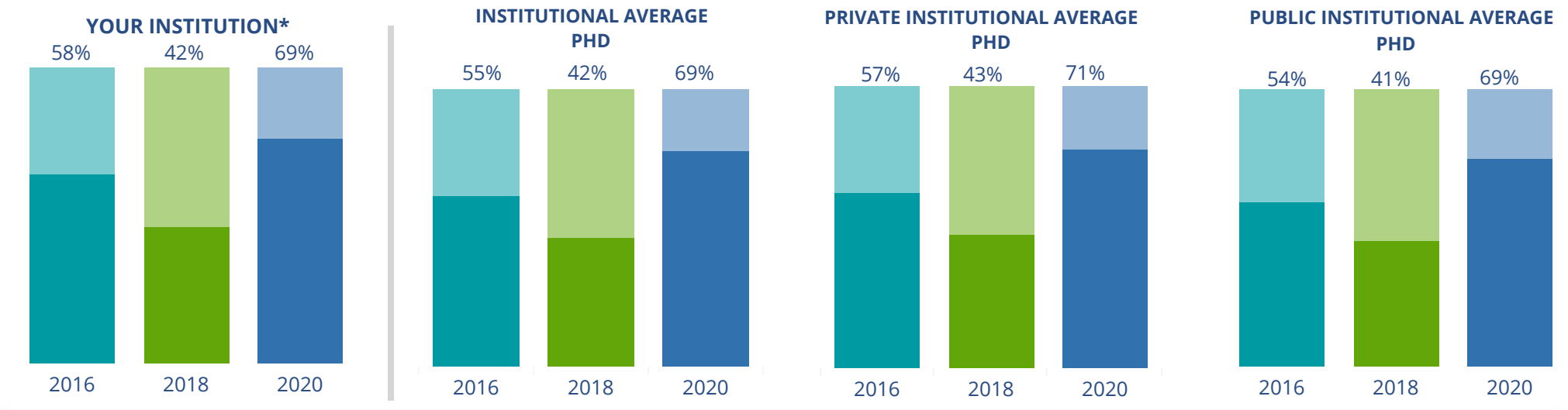
We looked at (1) whether you flagged for us your nonresident aliens/international students (NRAs) who would not be eligible to vote (2) whether your enrollment numbers, including NRAs come close to those reported by your institution to IPEDS. We need this information because we remove the number of NRAs from the total number of students, to determine the number of students eligible to vote.

When we see a large discrepancy in enrollment data (IPEDS vs. Clearinghouse), we cannot verify the number of NRAs your institution flagged or accurately estimate the number of NRAs based on IPEDS, whom we presume to be ineligible to vote. Your institution was one of such institutions. **After follow-up, your institution confirmed with us that voting ineligible NRAs are not included in the enrollment submissions to the Clearinghouse across all three years being reported.** For this reason we do not remove NRAs to estimate total eligible voters.

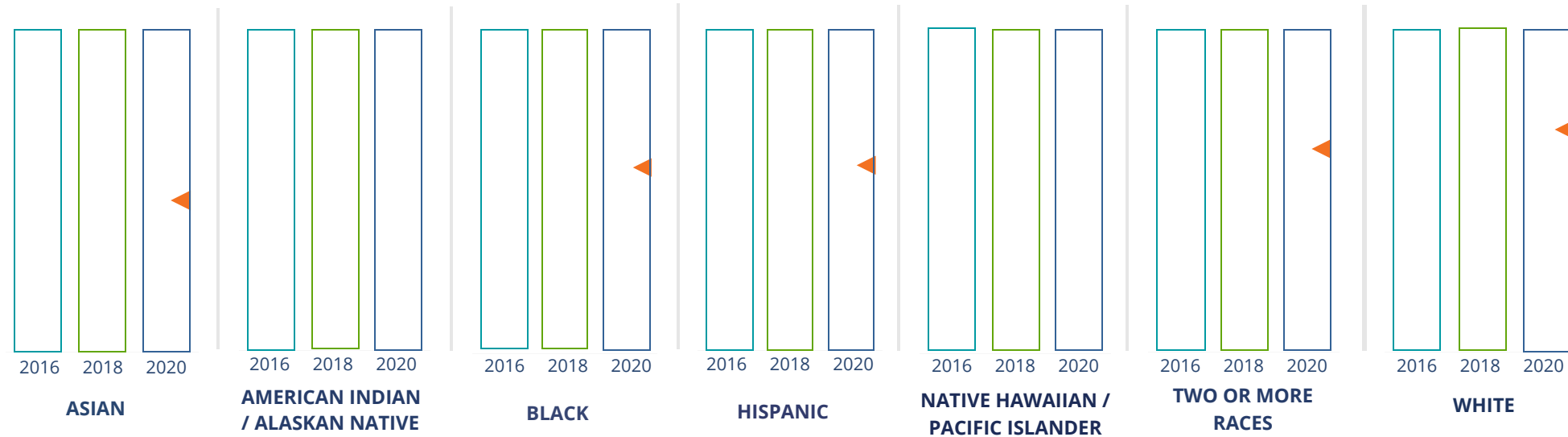
# By Institution Types



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-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

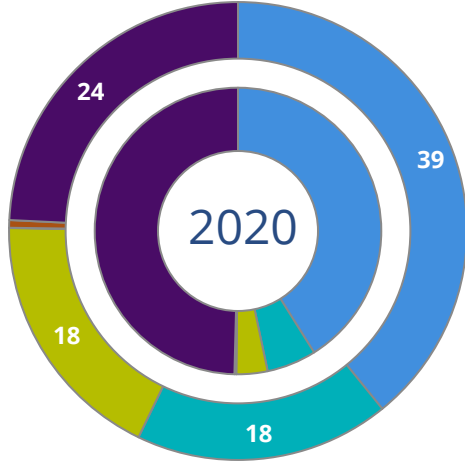
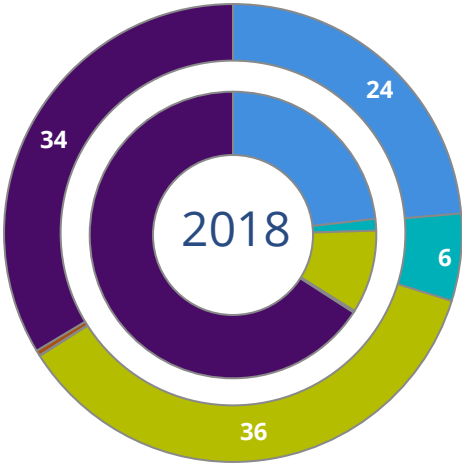
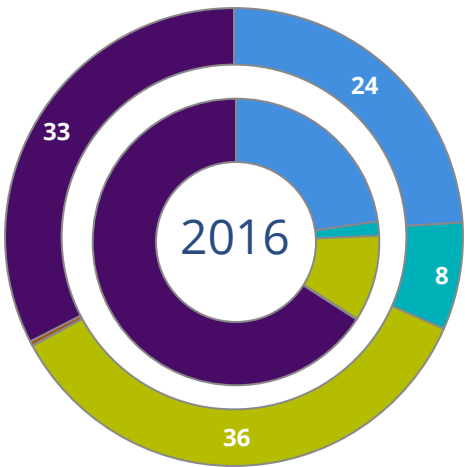
## By Race/Ethnicity

**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	Voting_R..	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_R..	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_R..	Change
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	21,284	12,271	58	22,507	9,400	42	19,071	13,103	69	 11

# By Voting Method

Not-In-Person Early Vote In-Person Other Provisional Unknown



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020
	Voted	Voting_Rate	Voted	Voting_Rate	Voted	Voting_Rate	Change (p.p.)
Early Vote	194	2	125	1	735	6	4 ↑
In-Person	1,192	10	887	9	462	4	-6 ↓
Not-In-Person	2,791	23	2,185	23	5,379	41	18 ↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisional	-	-	17	0	27	0	-
Unknown	8,086	66	6,186	66	6,498	50	-16 ↓

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	52%	34%	70%
22-24	56%	40%	67%
25-29	62%	50%	64%
30-39	64%	53%	63%
40-49	72%	60%	75%
50+	80%	71%	79%

**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	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Change
18-21	9,689	5,063	52	10,406	3,516	34	11,653	8,191	70	↑ 18
22-24	4,216	2,344	56	4,665	1,864	40	3,921	2,614	67	↑ 11
25-29	3,019	1,878	62	3,172	1,577	50	1,968	1,269	64	↑ 2
30-39	2,540	1,628	64	2,586	1,374	53	1,051	664	63	↓ -1
40-49	1,196	857	72	1,095	654	60	322	242	75	↑ 3
50+	624	501	80	583	415	71	156	123	79	↓ -1

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Change
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**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			Change (2016-2020)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	

### EDUCATION LEVEL

Undergraduate	12,944	7,068	55	13,301	4,988	38	13,461	9,535	71	↑ 16
Graduate	7,273	4,636	64	7,634	3,857	51	4,326	2,792	65	↑ 1
Class Unknown	1,067	291	27	1,572	338	22	1,284	255	20	↓ -7

### CLASS YEAR

Freshman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sophomore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upperclassman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### ENROLLMENT STATUS

Full-time	16,316	8,933	55	17,320	6,581	38	16,653	11,432	69	↑ 14
Part-time	4,968	3,338	67	5,187	2,819	54	2,415	1,669	69	↑ 2

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	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Change
Architecture	200	114	57	162	65	40	171	117	68	↑ 11
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,352	728	54	1,565	624	40	1,667	1,227	74	↑ 20
Business, Management, and Marketing	4,174	2,316	55	3,937	1,527	39	3,092	1,973	64	↑ 8
Communication and Journalism	749	458	61	658	314	48	495	348	70	↑ 9
Communications Technologies/Technicians	–	–	–	18	–	–	–	–	–	–
Unknown	107	64	60	88	52	59	126	78	62	↑ 2

**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	Voting_Ra..	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Ra..	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Ra..	Change	
Education	1,491	1,082	73	1,467	919	63	426	321	75	↑	3
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	3,031	1,685	56	3,370	1,252	37	3,403	2,463	72	↑	17
English Language and Literature	191	120	63	145	76	52	89	57	64	↑	1
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	55	35	64	60	29	48	61	48	79	↑	15
Health Professions	3,218	1,823	57	3,232	1,304	40	2,332	1,578	68	↑	11
History	101	69	68	85	52	61	65	49	75	↑	7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	332	200	60	384	178	46	308	211	69	↑	8
Legal Professions and Studies	564	322	57	703	335	48	409	246	60	↑	3
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	980	430	44	1,355	357	26	1,299	804	62	↑	18
Mathematics and Statistics	172	90	52	219	88	40	212	157	74	↑	22
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	318	179	56	251	131	52	114	68	60	↑	3
Natural Resources and Conservation	187	135	72	201	115	57	260	207	80	↑	7
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	144	90	63	122	47	39	47	30	64	↑	1
Computer and Information Sciences	1,203	660	55	1,974	737	37	2,373	1,603	68	↑	13

## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Voting_Rate	
Philosophy and Religious Studies	16	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physical Sciences	350	204	58	295	126	43	231	158	68	↑ 10
Psychology	542	326	60	544	237	44	454	327	72	↑ 12
Public Administration and Social Service Profe..	229	165	72	153	89	58	90	73	81	↑ 9
Social Sciences	1,135	708	62	1,086	545	50	981	698	71	↑ 9
Visual and Performing Arts	421	247	59	377	168	45	339	244	72	↑ 13

# 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.

Northeastern 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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