



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Oakland University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



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;
(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.



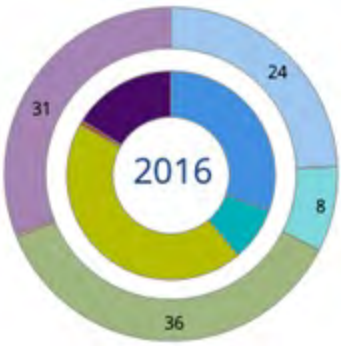
Vessel Chart

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 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.



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

73.4%

2020 Voting Rate

+16.1

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Registration Rate
2016	76.3%
2018	73.8%
2020	89.6%

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	75.1%
2018	62.2%
2020	81.9%

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	Voting Rate
2016	57.3%
2018	45.9%
2020	73.4%

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	19,082	18,834	18,155	↓ -928
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	776	884	805	↑ 29
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	124	146	132	↑ 8
Total eligible voters	18,178	17,798	17,208	↓ -970
Number of students who registered	13,870	13,130	15,421	↑ 1,551
Number of students who voted	10,411	8,168	12,634	↑ 2,223
Registration Rate %	76	74	90	↑ 13
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	75	62	82	↑ 7
Voting Rate %	57	46	73	↑ 16

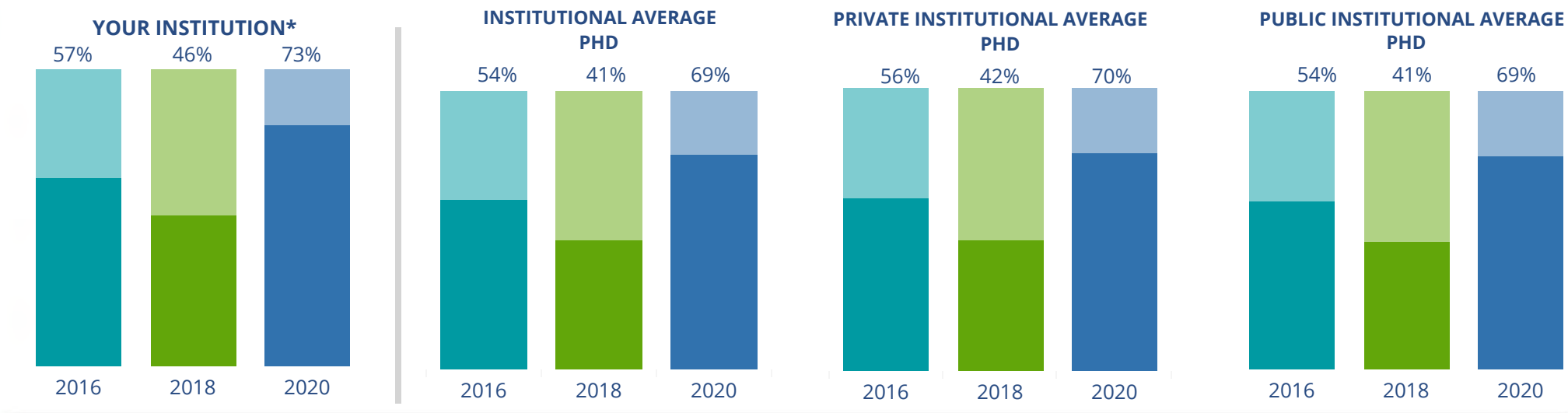
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged, 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/nsive/nsive-recalculation-tool>.

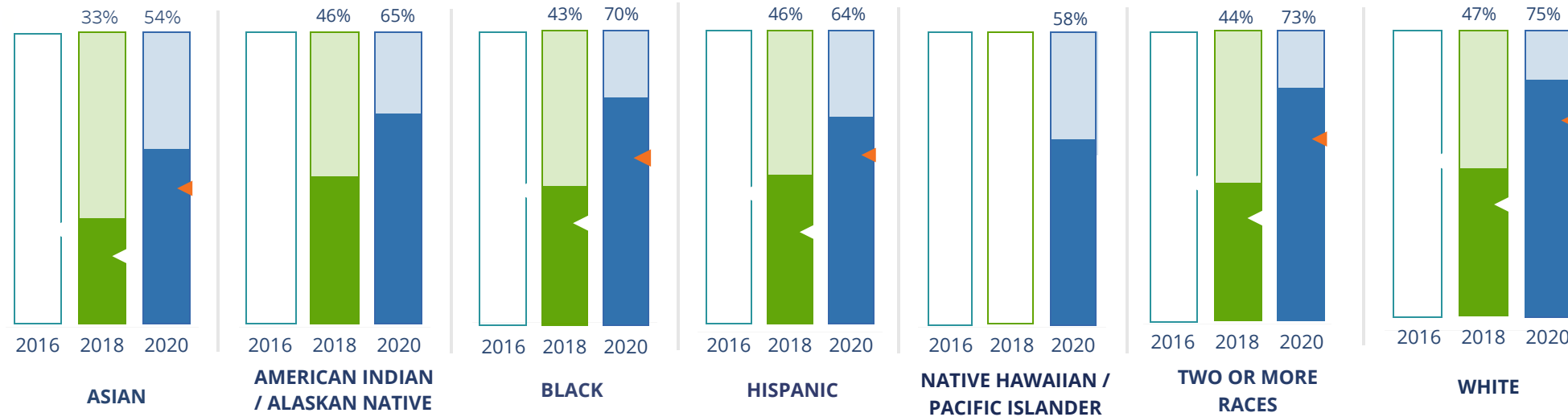
By Institution Types



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-nsve-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

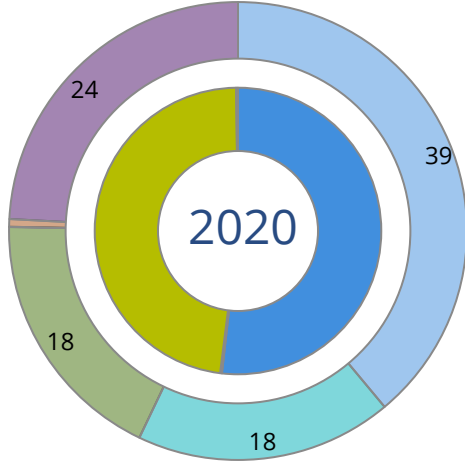
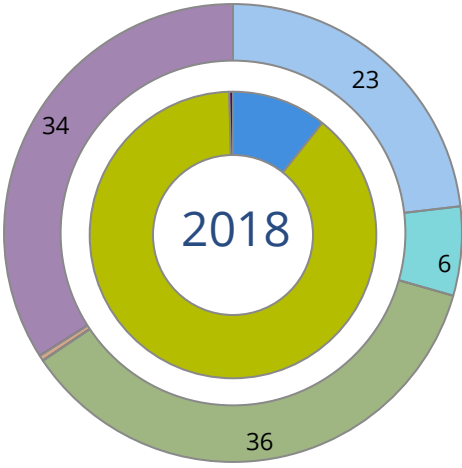
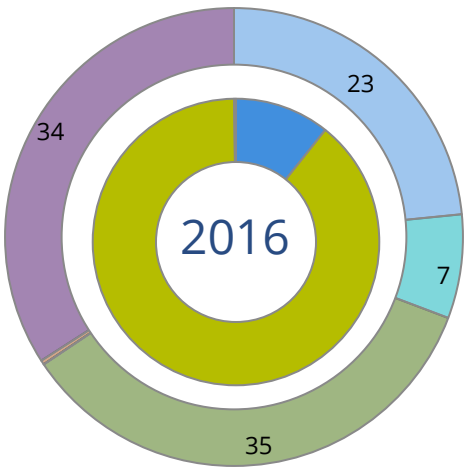
By Race/Ethnicity

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	-	-	-	990	327	33	1,073	583	54	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	57	26	46	40	26	65	-
Black	-	-	-	1,352	582	43	1,390	973	70	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	680	312	46	759	484	64	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	16	-	-	19	11	58	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	539	235	44	550	403	73	-
White	-	-	-	13,206	6,173	47	12,409	9,270	75	-
Race Unknown	18,945	10,411	55	1,830	505	28	1,762	884	50	↓ -5

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	–	–	–	–	19	0	–	
In-Person on Election Day	9,274	89	7,263	89	6,038	48	-41	↓
Not-In-Person	1,119	11	872	11	6,539	52	41	↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	17	0	31	0	36	0	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/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	55%	43%	76%
22-24	54%	45%	70%
25-29	51%	41%	60%
30-39	52%	42%	52%
40-49	68%	59%	68%
50+	79%	75%	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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	9,233	5,106	55	9,147	3,893	43	8,854	6,756	76	↑ 21
22-24	4,511	2,458	54	4,389	1,986	45	4,214	2,958	70	↑ 16
25-29	2,800	1,417	51	2,905	1,186	41	2,765	1,647	60	↑ 9
30-39	1,477	768	52	1,450	605	42	1,417	736	52	↓ 0
40-49	637	434	68	524	308	59	499	337	68	↓ -1
50+	287	228	79	255	190	75	253	200	79	↓ 0

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	–	–	–	8,830	3,985	45	9,998	7,261	73	–
Male	–	–	–	6,792	2,910	43	7,506	5,022	67	–

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	15,718	8,655	55	15,020	6,585	44	14,452	10,484	73	↑	17
Graduate	2,737	1,457	53	3,262	1,396	43	3,280	1,956	60	↑	6
Class Unknown	490	299	61	388	187	48	270	194	72	↑	11
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Second Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upper Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	13,987	7,646	55	14,261	6,088	43	13,778	9,936	72	↑	17
Part-time	4,958	2,765	56	4,409	2,080	47	4,224	2,698	64	↑	8

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	27	17	63	23	11	48	16	12	75	↑ 12
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,218	674	55	1,087	458	42	955	688	72	↑ 17
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,308	1,748	53	3,156	1,361	43	2,982	2,103	71	↑ 18
Communication and Journalism	646	405	63	590	306	52	467	371	79	↑ 17
Computer and Information Sciences	758	351	46	907	373	41	925	544	59	↑ 13
Education	1,574	992	63	1,301	677	52	1,326	1,003	76	↑ 13
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	2,289	1,048	46	2,594	902	35	2,436	1,429	59	↑ 13

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	
English Language and Literature	386	251	65	340	184	54	304	249	82	↑ 17
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	199	132	66	177	102	58	148	117	79	↑ 13
Health Professions	4,011	2,165	54	4,367	1,766	40	3,972	2,850	72	↑ 18
History	228	152	67	196	119	61	187	159	85	↑ 18
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	348	183	53	370	170	46	349	246	70	↑ 18
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	565	317	56	590	263	45	609	431	71	↑ 15
Mathematics and Statistics	121	69	57	110	52	47	119	76	64	↑ 7
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	–	–	–	–	–	–	31	21	68	–
Natural Resources and Conservation	107	72	67	104	61	59	121	96	79	↑ 12
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	45	15	33	–	–	–	288	213	74	↑ 41
Philosophy and Religious Studies	34	25	74	31	12	39	18	11	61	↓ -12
Physical Sciences	153	87	57	143	68	48	122	85	70	↑ 13
Psychology	783	419	54	714	302	42	844	587	70	↑ 16
Public Administration and Social Service P..	455	264	58	365	199	55	370	272	74	↑ 15

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Social Sciences	398	247	62	370	232	63	387	295	76	↑ 14
Visual and Performing Arts	693	429	62	718	350	49	722	562	78	↑ 16
Unknown	524	315	60	397	192	48	304	214	70	↑ 10

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.

Oakland 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.



Barnum Hall
163 Packard Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

tischcollege@tufts.edu
617.627.3453



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