December 2021

Student Voting Rates for

2020 NSLVE Campus Report
Rutgers - The State University Of
NJ- Camden

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.
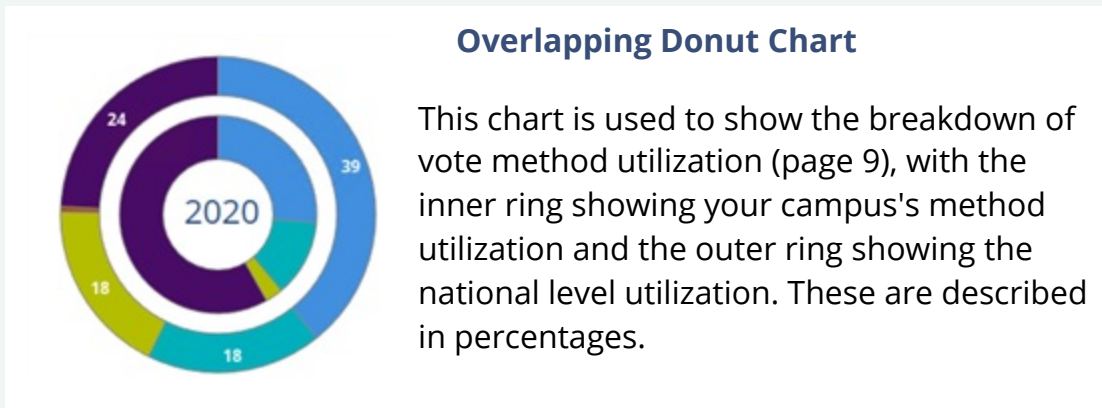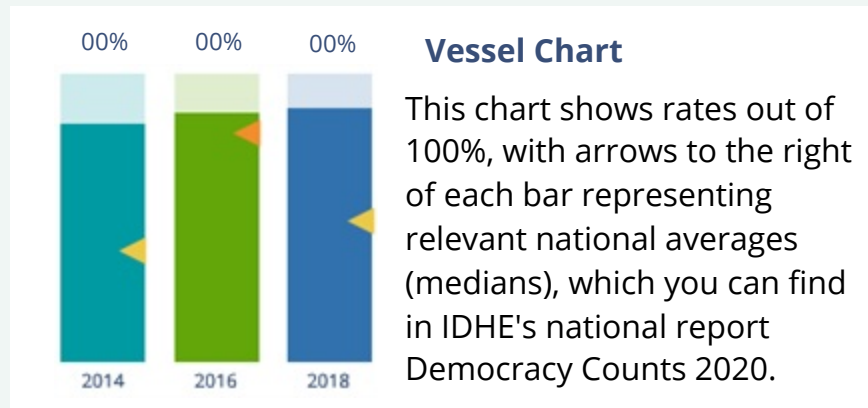
In This Report

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 9), with the inner ring showing your campus's method utilization and the outer ring showing the national level utilization. These are described in percentages.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

72.4%
2020 Voting Rate

+12.6
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
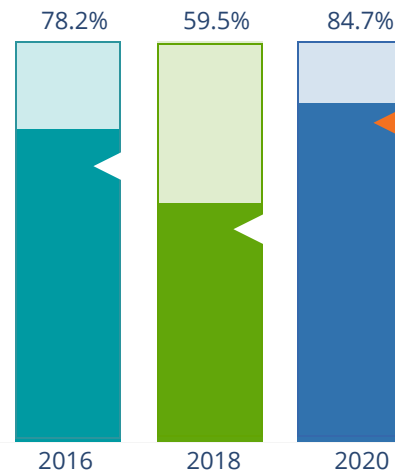2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

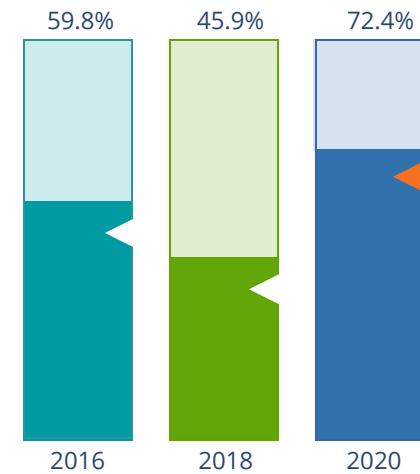|		
76.4%	77.2%	85.4%
2016	2018	2020
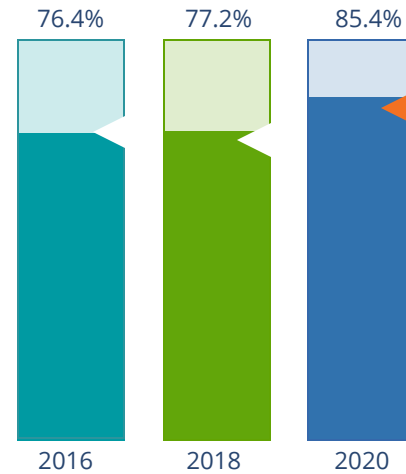
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

78.2%	59.5%	84.7%
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

59.8%	45.9%	72.4%
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	6,602	7,092	7,008	⬆ 406
(Age under 18/Unknown)	22	125	97	⬆ 75
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	123	177	197	⬆ 74
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Age Eligible Students)	–	–	–	–
Total eligible voters	6,451	6,785	6,711	⬆ 260
Number of students who registered	4,927	5,237	5,734	⬆ 807
Number of students who voted	3,855	3,115	4,859	⬆ 1,004
Registration Rate %	76	77	85	⬆ 9
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	78	59	85	⬆ 6
Voting Rate %	60	46	72	⬆ 13

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://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH 82%

LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

HIGH 89%

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*

60%   46%   72%

2016   2018   2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

53%   39%   67%

2016   2018   2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

54%   39%   69%

2016   2018   2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA

52%   38%   65%

2016   2018   2020

By Race / Ethnicity

| 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 | | 2016 | 2018 | 2020 |

ASIAN — **AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE** — **BLACK** — **HISPANIC** — **NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER** — **TWO OR MORE RACES** — **WHITE**

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**
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	6,574	3,855	59	6,962	3,115	45	6,908	4,859	70	⬆ 12

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ☐ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown
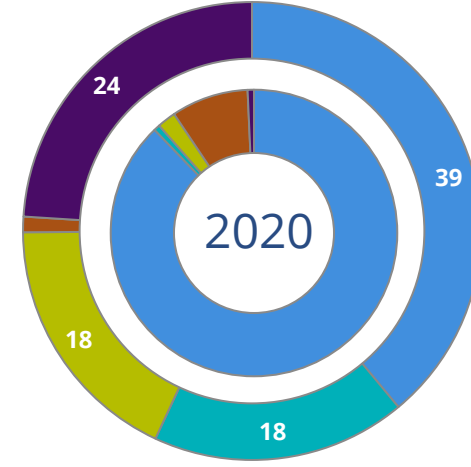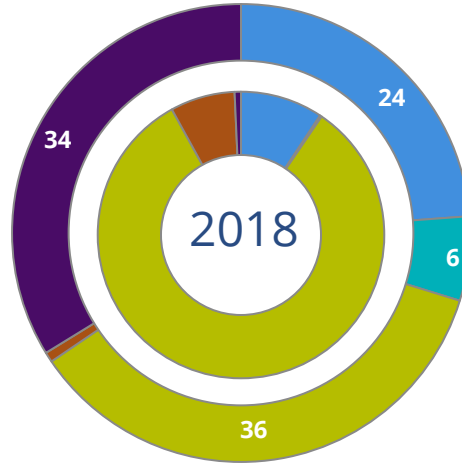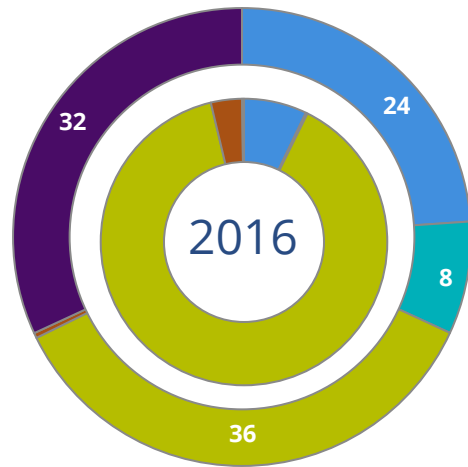
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate (%)**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	–	–	–	–	34	1	–	
In-Person	3,432	89	2,570	83	102	2	-87	↓
Not-In-Person	273	7	290	9	4,267	88	81	↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	136	4	226	7	423	9	5	↑
Voting Method Unknown	–	–	23	1	33	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/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	55%	38%	69%
22-24	59%	47%	72%
25-29	57%	46%	67%
30-39	61%	48%	69%
40-49	68%	61%	77%
50+	76%	68%	86%

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
18-21	2,124	1,164	55	2,915	1,119	38	2,824	1,957	69	⬆ 14
22-24	1,677	987	59	1,459	689	47	1,554	1,112	72	⬆ 13
25-29	1,229	699	57	1,140	524	46	1,104	745	67	⬆ 11
30-39	926	566	61	889	430	48	918	635	69	⬆ 8
40-49	406	277	68	383	234	61	324	251	77	⬆ 9
50+	212	162	76	176	119	68	184	159	86	⬆ 10

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Change**
Female	–	–	–	4,154	1,924	46	4,241	3,038	72	–
Male	–	–	–	2,804	1,190	42	2,655	1,818	68	–

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	4,992	2,838	57	5,526	2,310	42	5,293	3,674	69	⬆ 13
Graduate	1,522	976	64	1,334	756	57	1,542	1,137	74	⬆ 10
Class Unknown	60	41	68	102	49	48	73	48	66	⬇ -3
CLASS YEAR										
Freshman	811	429	53	1,028	346	34	717	442	62	⬆ 9
Sophomore	781	405	52	1,150	443	39	1,019	685	67	⬆ 15
Upper Level	3,400	2,003	59	3,343	1,521	45	3,557	2,547	72	⬆ 13
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	–	–	–	5,305	2,267	43	5,293	3,669	69	–
Part-time	–	–	–	1,657	848	51	1,615	1,190	74	–

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.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	385	180	47	387	159	41	359	218	61	⬆ 14
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,774	1,000	56	1,941	787	41	1,811	1,243	69	⬆ 12
Computer and Information Sciences	165	74	45	201	69	34	218	114	52	⬆ 7
Education	18	12	67	27	–	–	108	88	81	⬆ 15
English Language and Literature	156	102	65	181	102	56	172	129	75	⬆ 10
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	31	20	65	24	11	46	–	–	–	–
Health Professions	1,287	758	59	1,516	591	39	1,558	1,102	71	⬆ 12

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
History	102	67	66	93	64	69	79	64	81	⬆ 15
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	337	190	56	350	171	49	329	222	67	⬆ 11
Legal Professions and Studies	441	300	68	408	254	62	516	399	77	⬆ 9
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	318	201	63	307	124	40	278	186	67	⬆ 4
Mathematics and Statistics	60	32	53	45	21	47	27	18	67	⬆ 13
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	178	107	60	189	88	47	143	98	69	⬆ 8
Philosophy and Religious Studies	12	–	–	17	11	65	–	–	–	–
Physical Sciences	94	52	55	81	30	37	81	58	72	⬆ 16
Psychology	433	246	57	422	196	46	391	279	71	⬆ 15
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	329	213	65	269	169	63	301	236	78	⬆ 14
Social Sciences	245	160	65	239	138	58	246	187	76	⬆ 11

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change
Visual and Performing Arts	150	91	61	155	69	45	186	145	78	⬆ 17
Unknown	59	42	71	105	49	47	89	60	67	⬇ -4

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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