



Student Voter and Civic Engagement Campus Plan 2019-2020



Student Voter and Civic Engagement Committee

Ronnie Genee, Residence Life
Kiana Gourdine, Student Association
Joel Lefkowitz, Political Science
Brian Obach, UUP
Michael Patterson, Student Activities and Union Services, Chair
Kat Raynor, Sociology
Valerie Tremblay, Center for Student Media
Erica Wagner, Career Resource Center
Eve Waltermaurer, Benjamin Center
River Wasserman, Student
Eric Wood, NYPIRG
Ronnie Genee, Residence Life

Community Partners

Ashley Dittus, Ulster County Board of Elections (Democratic Commissioner) Thomas Turco, Ulster County Board of Elections (Republican Commissioner)



This action plan is the collaborative work between student affairs, academic affairs, and student governance with the goal of developing an ongoing partnership that promotes civic engagement throughout the campus community. This action plan is intended to be a living document that is amended, as appropriate through feedback, collaboration, and as new partnerships are formed.

Student Voter and Civic Engagement Committee Mission

The Student Voter and Civic Engagement committee is designed to connect and promote collaboration between college, student, and local partners in the promotion and education of voter registration, engagement, and participation at SUNY New Paltz. The primary goal is to develop student learning in the area of civic engagement. The work of this committee shall remain non-partisan. The committee will meet monthly during the academic year with the potential of meeting more regularly, as needed.

About SUNY New Paltz

Located in the Village of New Paltz and Ulster County, New York, SUNY New Paltz is part of the 64-campus State University of New York system of higher education. Founded in 1828 as the New Paltz Classical School, SUNY New Paltz now sits on 216 acres half way between New York City and the state capital, Albany. Annual enrollment is approximately 6,700 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students. The student body includes 34% students of color, 61% female, and 40% of the students reside in campus housing. With six academic colleges and a Graduate School, SUNY New Paltz boasts nearly 100 undergraduate and 50 graduate degree programs.

SUNY New Paltz Mission

In the proud tradition of SUNY, the State University of New York at New Paltz is committed to providing high quality, affordable education to students from all social and economic backgrounds. We are a faculty and campus community dedicated to the construction of a vibrant intellectual/creative public forum which reflects and celebrates the diversity of our society and encourages and supports active participation in scholarly and artistic activity. SUNY New Paltz is an active contributor to the schools, community institutions and economic/cultural life of our region. We are selective in admitting students who show promise of thriving in a learning environment which is challenging, student-centered, and personalized. Our goal is for students to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to contribute as productive members of their communities and professions and active citizens in a democratic nation and a global society.

We are the only residential public university in the mid-Hudson region. We offer undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences which serve as a core for professional programs in the fine and performing arts, education, health care, business, and engineering. Our location in the scenic Hudson Valley midway between the State Capital of Albany and metropolitan New York City provides unique opportunities for enriching our academic programs. We are a diverse faculty of distinguished scholars and artists who collaborate across the disciplines and professional areas to inspire our students to a love of learning, a meaningful engagement with the life of the mind, and an involvement in public service.

SUNY New Paltz Student Learning & Educational Outcomes

Intellectual: Students are prepared to go on to graduate study or to enter their professional field of specialization through developing:

- Critical thinking, writing, analytical, mathematical, technological, and oral communication skills;
- In-depth exploration of at least one discipline;
- Experience using scientific methods and learning technologies appropriately and critically;
- Knowledge of and participation in the aesthetic experience and the creative process;
- Greater understanding and appreciation for the histories, races and cultures, religions, languages, and customs of our country and those of other nations;
- Knowledge of the rapidly changing political, economic, environmental, and social forces in our world.

Civic/Personal: Students develop the confidence and personal qualities necessary to take their place as citizens in our democracy through cultivating:

- High personal standards of honesty, integrity, and personal ethics;
- The capacity for self-reflection and empathy for others;
- Appreciation for the value of active citizenship and community service;
- Knowledge, interests, and activities that promote health, well-being, and personal responsibility.

Student Affairs Mission and Priorities

Student Affairs provides a variety of services and programs that support and advance access and opportunity for the educational, research and public service mission of the college. The Student Affairs Division is committed to the holistic development of our students - intellectual, personal, and social - and to providing a safe community that celebrates human differences and promotes civic responsibility and a sense of local and global citizenship. We work to achieve these goals through inter-departmental communication and on-going collaboration with the divisions of Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Administration and Development.

Motto: Engaging Today's Students for Tomorrow's Success

Values:

- Collaboration
- Holistic Student Development
- Advocacy/Inclusion/Belongingness
- Responsive to Individual Student Needs
- Growth/Learning

 Excellence/Continuous Improvement

Service

Sample Timeline of Voter Registration and Civic Engagement Activities

Summer

- Host County Board of Election Polling Sites
- Evaluate Proposed Voter Reform Policies in New York State (early voting, same day registration)
- Invitations to non-partisan, non-profit organizations to schedule voter registration days in September (current limit of 2 per organization)

August

- Orientation Part II Welcome to all New Students
- Welcome week New Paltz Fair Tabling
- All-Student E-mail 1st Week of Classes
- Voter Registration Training and Education Workshop for Clubs, Students, and Service Volunteers (New Initiative)
 - Candidate Forum and Political Campaigning Guidelines

September

- Volunteer Fair Tabling
- Constitution and Citizenship Day Event
 - Political Science
 - Student Union Pocket Constitutions and/or Citizenship Oath (New Initiative)
- National Voter Registration Day
- Launch #HawktheVote Campaign

October

- Last Call for Voter Registration Rally
- Voter Registration Deadline
- Promote #SUNYVotes (TurboVote Candidate Information Pages)
- Social Media Trivia Tuesday's (Through Election Day) (New Initiative)

November

- Do You Know Your Polling Place Is Tabling (Commuter Parking Areas with Coffee) (New Initiative)
- Coordinate with Residence Life for Walk Over/ #VoteTogether
- Pre-Election "How to Vote" All-Student E-mail and Tabling
- Host Board of Election Polling Site
- Election Day Voter Appreciation Booth Outside Polling Site

December

Student Association Elections – Promote Engagement and Importance of Participation

January

• Host Inauguration Day Programming on Presidential Years (New Initiative)

February

 Design Contest for future year #HawktheVote Campaign with Public Exhibition and Voting (New Initiative)

March

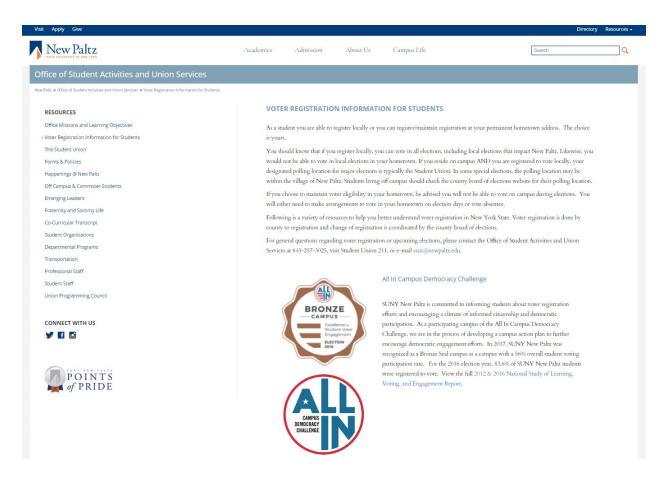
- Housing Renewal Changing Your Voter Registration Address Reminder (for either on campus location change or move to off-campus address. (New Initiative)
 - o Targeted e-mail to those that did not renew on-campus housing

April

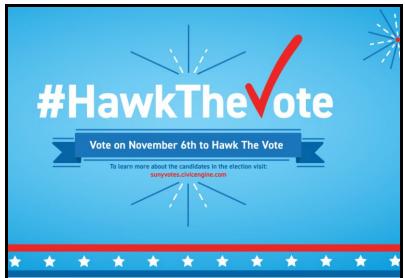
- Host Federal Primary Board of Election Polling Site, presidential election cycles and other local elections, as needed.
- Promotion of local town/village elections

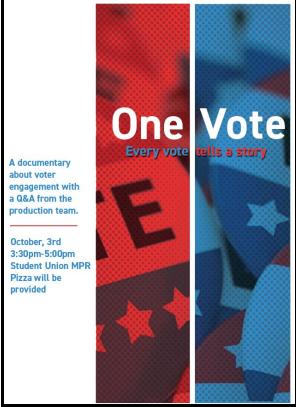
May

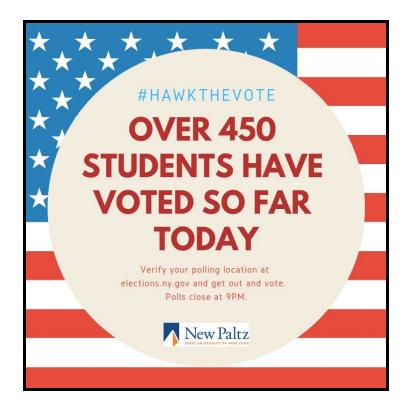
- Student Association Elections Promote Engagement and Importance of Participation
- Develop Marketing Efforts for Following Year



Marketing Samples from Previous Years







Voter Information Session



Wednesday, September 28, 3:30 PM SUNY New Paltz Student Union 62/63



Join the Ulster County Board of Elections and election officials in understanding voter registration, election procedures, and other answers to your voting questions. Attendees may also register to vote. This session will not endorse candidates, parties, or political opinion. FREE refreshments!

Hosted by the SUNY New Paltz Office of Student Activities and Union Services. Questions regarding this program can be answered by visiting Student Union 211, by phone at 845-257-3025, or e-mail at saus@newpaltz.edu







- Identification of and Coordination with a college-wide process such as my.newpaltz.edu, Records and Registration, or Parking Permit Distribution to automate messaging to remind students to complete or renew Voter Registration Form. This should be completed at least once a year. This is a SUNY System best practice which we are not currently doing.
- Develop a plan for coordinating with outside non-partisan, non-profit organizations that seek to conduct voter registration tabling efforts on campus. This may include a policy for time, place, and manner, but may also relate to distribution and collection rates, and signage the campus asks to be located on the table.
- Identify funding to support #HawktheVote Campaign symbols of support and commitment to voter participation (shirts, buttons, etc.).
- Identify and consider potential partners and grant opportunities to support Student Voter and Civic Engagement priorities (i.e. Andrew Goodman Foundation).
- Explore with County Board of Election Officials a Student Poll Workers Training Program.
- Develop strategic marketing and education efforts to sub-populations of the campus with the assistance of the NSLVE Reports.
- Development of Voter Engagement Internship Team (NYPIRG already does some). Partnership with a class or academic department for students.
- Develop a Programming Fund Grant to support student voter and civic engagement activities on campus. Eligible for student clubs and academic departments.
- Develop plans, or partner with other department(s), to coordinate for August 26, 2020 centennial of Women's Suffrage Movement.

SUNY STUDENT ASSEMBLY

GUIDE TO CAMPAIGN SEASON

STUDENT GROUPS ARE PERMITTED TO INVITE A POLITICAL CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES FOR A CAMPUS EVENT:

- The student group may reserve facilities at the rate that any other student group would pay for the use of space (or for free, if that is the standard rate).
- Candidates must cover their own travel expenses, and any other additional or associated costs
 of the event (extra security, etc.).
- No admission fee may be charged, and no compensation may be provided to the candidate.

HOW CAN STUDENT FEES BE USED?

- Student organizations MAY NOT use student fees to make direct or in-kind gifts, contributions, or donations to a political campaign.
- Student organizations MAY use student fees to urge students to vote; to help educate and
 inform about upcoming elections; and to support the organization's own freedom of expression
 on public policy issues and other interests.

WHAT IS AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION?

- An in-kind contribution is a non-monetary contribution, such as goods or services, offered to a campaign for free or at less than the usual charge.
- DO NOT provide college mailing lists, use of office space, telephones, photocopying, or other institutional supports to a candidate free of charge.
- To avoid any contribution issues, it is safest for a student group organizing an event with a
 political campaign to charge all expenses of the event back to the campaign.

Remember – when acting in their <u>personal</u> capacity, students always maintain full First Amendment rights to advocate for the political party or candidate of their choosing. These limitations exist when acting in an official capacity or when using student fees or College resources.

Political Campaigning Policy

As an academic institution, we recognize and welcome the educational benefits of exposing students to political debate and information, including partisan political speech. We have made some of our facilities available to a wide range of outside speakers and expressive activities and, therefore, have legal obligations to open such facilities to political speech, as well. In handling requests for permission to use campus facilities, we must be guided by the principle of viewpoint neutrality and evenhanded treatment as to terms and conditions of use (i.e. rental charges, security costs, insurance, etc.).

With regards to political speech and speakers, the State University has placed certain limits on access to its facilities. It has been longstanding State University policy – going back to at least the 1970s – to prohibit use of State University property for partisan political candidate fundraisers. This policy is consistent with our legal obligations, the educational mission of the State University, and other strong interests, such as avoidance of the inevitable impression of endorsing particular candidates.

The policies that address the most commonly asked questions are the New York State Public Officer's Law and SUNY policies on facilities usage for non-commercial purposes. The applicable provisions are:

Public Officer's Law:

No state employee may use his/her official title, position or authority in any campaign activities, including untargeted mass mailings. No state resources of any type may be used in furtherance of these activities, including, but not limited to, telephone, office supplies, postage, photocopying machines, computers (including e-mail) and support staff (see Advisory Opinion No. 93-9) nor may campaign activities be conducted from a state office or during state business hours unless leave is taken. Finally, no state employee may solicit from subordinates, as this practice is strictly forbidden by Civil Service law §107. (See also Election Law §17-158.)

Use of Facilities by Non-Commercial Organizations and Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech:

Political organizations are included in SUNY's definition of non-commercial organizations that are permitted use of campus facilities and in the College's policy on Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech. All non-commercial organizations are required to obtain a revocable permit for each use of campus facilities. These permits, obtained through Student Activities and Union Services for use of the Student Union Building (SUB), Conference Services and University Police for other campus locations, establish the terms and conditions for use of facilities, including reimbursement for any associated costs. If a political candidate wishes to speak in one of the free speech zones identified in the Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech policy during non-blackout dates outlined in the policy, they should contact the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech policy may be found at this link: Use of Facilities by Third Parties for Free Speech.

The SUNY policy on Use of Facilities by Non-Commercial Organizations imposes the following additional conditions for use of facilities by partisan political organizations:

That the proposed meeting gives promise of contributing to the educational purposes of the institution.

That the institution sees a reasonable possibility of making the facilities available for other viewpoints to be presented.

Distribution of Campaign Materials:

Individuals campaigning for office shall have access to students and employees in parking lots, entrances to buildings and other areas to which members of the public are admitted, provided that such activities do not inhibit the movement of people or vehicles, impair the safe and efficient conduct of the operation or interfere with work duties or work performance. Individuals are not allowed to campaign in residence halls.

Individual campaign posters are not permitted in public spaces on campus. Meeting notices and other organizational materials shall not be hung upon, posted or otherwise affixed to the walls, doors, windows, trees or other appurtenances of facilities and buildings owned or leased by the state.

More information on State University policies regarding use of facilities by non-commercial organizations can be found at this website (scroll down under Policy I to Section K: Use of university facilities for political purposes).

Campus and SUNY Resources

- New Paltz Campus Guidelines for Political Campaigning, Distribution of Campaign Materials and Activity (http://www.newpaltz.edu/current/politicalpolicy.html)
- New Paltz Voter Registration Information for Students
 (https://www.newpaltz.edu/saus/voter-registration-information-for-students)
- SUNY Voter Engagement Task Force / Best Practices (https://system.suny.edu/university-life/voter-registration/)

County and State Resources

- NYS Board of Elections (http://www.elections.ny.gov/INDEX.html)
- NYS State Voter Registration (http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html)
- Instructions for Voting Absentee (http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html)
- Ulster County Board of Elections (http://ulstercountyny.gov/elections)
- State of New York Election Law (2008)
 (http://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/university-life/2008NY
 ElectionLaw.pdf)

Voter Engagement Resources

- Campus Compact (https://compact.org/initiatives/campus-vote-home/)
- Campus Democracy Challenge (https://www.allinchallenge.org/)
- Campus Election Engagement Project (https://campuselect.org/)
- Campus Vote Project (http://campusvoteproject.org/)
- Non Profit Vote (https://www.nonprofitvote.org/)
- Rock the Vote (https://www.rockthevote.org/)
- Student Government Resource Center (https://studentgovresources.org/voter-engagement/)
- Students Learn, Students Vote (https://www.studentslearnstudentsvote.org)
- Vote Everywhere, The Andrew Goodman Foundation (https://andrewgoodman.org/vote-everywhere/)
- Voter Friendly Campus Designation Campus Vote Project & NASPA (https://www.voterfriendlycampus.org)
- #Vote Together (https://votetogetherusa.org/)

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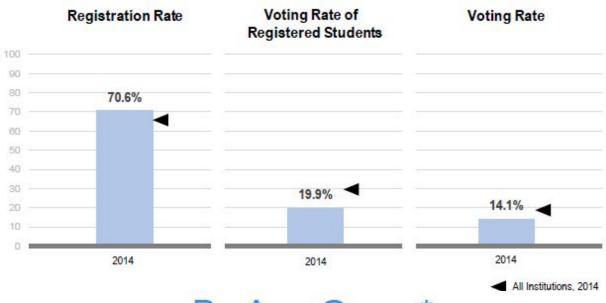
Voting and Registration Rates

2014 Voting Rate

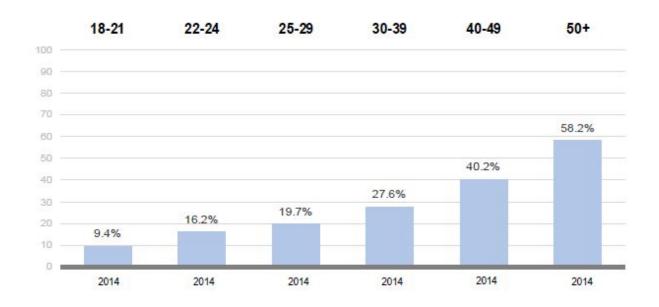
14.1%

2014 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS

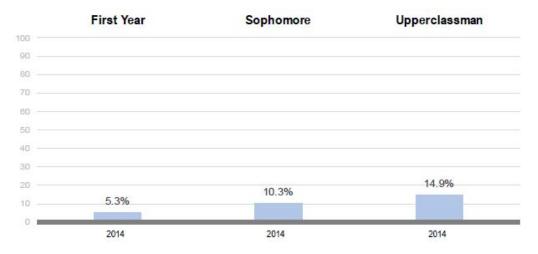
19.1%







By Undergraduate Class Year*



By Field of Study*

^{*} Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students inelligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

		2014		
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	59	12	20.3%	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	216	17	7.9%	
Business, Management, and Marketing	613	56	9.1%	
Communication and Journalism	417	52	12.5%	
Computer and Information Sciences	102	15	14.7%	
Education	686	160	23.3%	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	245	13	5.3%	
English Language and Literature	201	30	14.9%	
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	44	*	n/a	
Health Professions	298	38	12.8%	
History	90	26	28.9%	
Leisure and Recreational Activities	*	0	n/a	
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,021	95	9.3%	
Mathematics and Statistics	50	10	20.0%	
Philosophy and Religious Studies	16	*	n/a	
Physical Sciences	111	19	17.1%	
Psychology	297	34	11.5%	
Social Sciences	417	86	20.6%	
Visual and Performing Arts	525	52	9.9%	
Unknown	43	*	n/a	

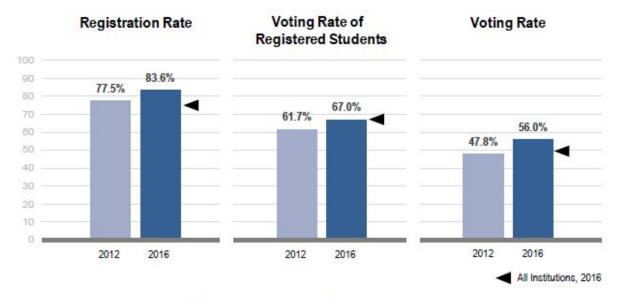
Voting and Registration Rates

2016 Voting Rate **56.0%**

CHANGE FROM 2012

8 2

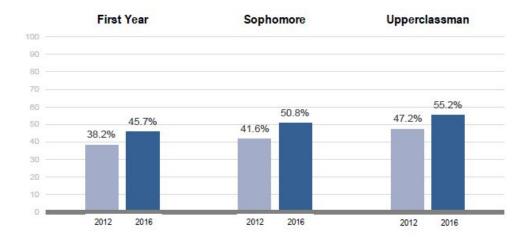
2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS 50.4%



By Age Group*



By Undergraduate Class Year*



By Field of Study*

* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

	2012			2016			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	0	0	n/a	46	30	65.2%	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	10		n/a	268	120	44.8%	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	50	23	46.0%	738	312	42.3%	-3.7
Communication and Journalism	37	17	46.0%	482	260	53.9% 🛖	8.0
Computer and Information Sciences	0	0	n/a	169	57	33.7%	n/a
Education	144	85	59.0%	726	457	63.0%	3.9
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	*	*	n/a	261	94	36.0%	n/a
English Language and Literature	19	14	73.7%	187	116	62.0% 🕹	-11.7
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	0	0	n/a	34	20	58.8%	n/a
Health Professions	0	0	n/a	319	185	58.0%	n/a
History	10	*	n/a	98	62	63.3%	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	0	0	n/a	1,003	488	48.7%	n/a
Mathemat <mark>i</mark> cs and Sta <mark>t</mark> istics	0	0	n/a	49	28	57.1%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0	0	n/a	24	10	41.7%	n/a
Physical Sciences	0	0	n/a	114	66	57.9%	n/a
Psychology	23	*	n/a	345	209	60.6%	n/a
Social Sciences	21	11	52.4%	433	256	59.1% 🛖	6.7
Visual and Performing Arts	30	13	43.3%	573	323	56.4% 🛖	13.0
Unknown	7,163	3,263	45.6%	40	21	52.5%	7.0

Additional Data and Assessment

• Counting at the SUNY Poll By Class Time Block (11/6/18)

Before 8:00 AM: 24
8:00-9:30 AM: 31
9:30-11:00 AM: 57
11:00-12:30 PM: 64
12:30-2:00 PM: 134
2:00-3:30 PM: 177

3:30-5:00 PM: 155
5:00-6:30 PM: 183
6:30-8:00 PM: 102
After 8:00 PM: 27

- Voter Registration Forms Distributed and Collected
 - NYPIRG Collected and Submitted forms to the County Board of Elections in Fall
 2018
 - Additional forms were collected by the following outside non-partisan groups in Fall 2018
 - Food and Water Action (2 dates)
 - New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (2 dates)
 - Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson (2 dates)
- County Reporting of Total Voters at SUNY Polling Site (New Paltz District 9)
 - o General Elections (Presidential Years in **Bold**)

November 2018: 954
November 2017: 179
November 2016: 1,259
November 2015: 55
November 2014: 143
November 2013: 34
November 2012: 908
November 2011: 116
November 2010: 237
November 2009: 115
State/Local Primary Election

November 2008: 1,494
November 2007: 654
November 2006: 413
November 2005: 300
November 2004: 1,594
November 2003: 294
November 2002: 479
November 2001: 174
November 2000: 976
November 1999: 84

September 2013: n/a

September 2012: n/a

September 2011: n/a

September 2010: 19

- September 2018: 116
- September 2017: 2September 2016: 10
- September 2015: n/a
- September 2014: 4
- Federal Primary Election
 - June 2018: 16
 - June 2016: 6
 - June 2012: 4
- Presidential Primary Election
 - April 2016: 429 (Democratic); 20 (Republican)
 - February 2008: 303 (Democratic); 15 (Republican)