



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Southwestern 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.

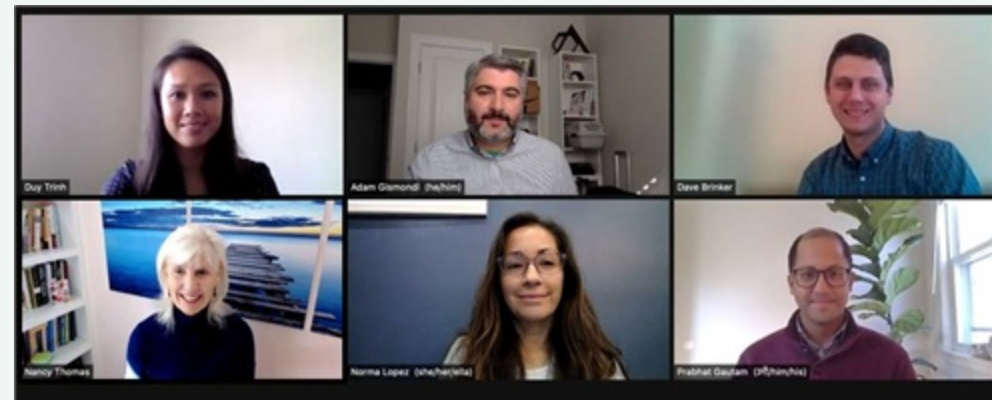
College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. This year, it jumped to 66%. We encourage you to review Democracy Counts 2020, our most recent national report.

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 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

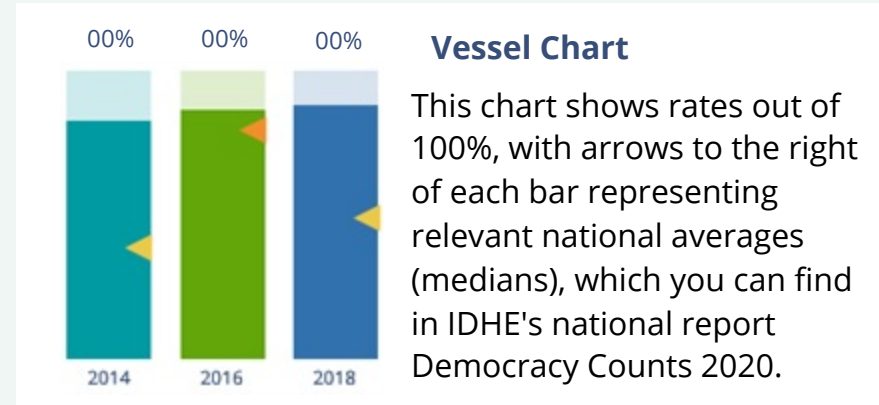


(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

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

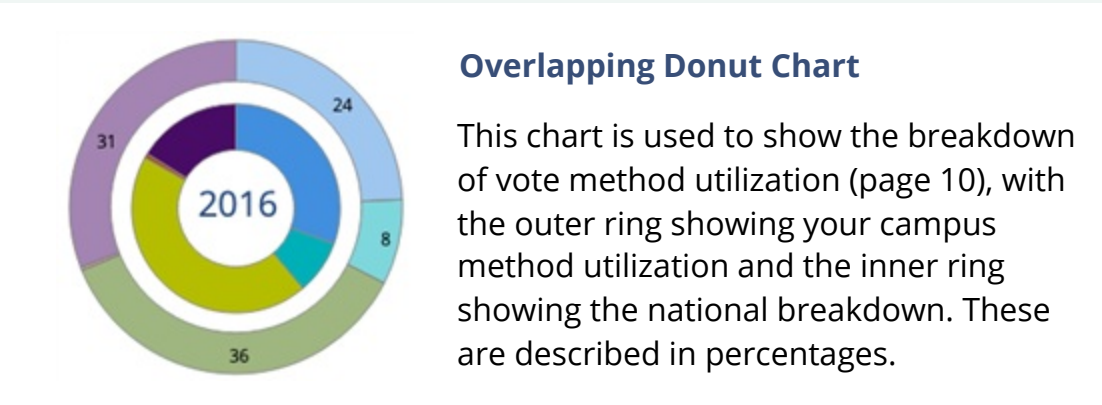
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut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

70.8%

2020 Voting Rate

+19.7

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Registration Rate
2016	84.2%
2018	89.0%
2020	90.5%

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	60.7%
2018	58.7%
2020	78.2%

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	51.1%
2018	52.3%
2020	70.8%

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

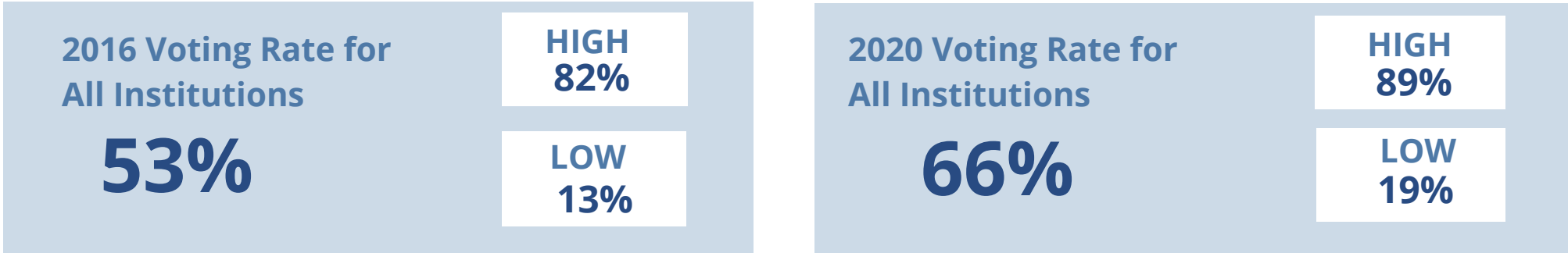
Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)	
Total Student Enrollment	1,482	1,420	1,495	↑	13
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–		–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	33	15	12	↓	-21
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–		–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	–	–	–		–
Total eligible voters	1,448	1,402	1,479	↑	31
Number of students who registered	1,219	1,248	1,339	↑	120
Number of students who voted	740	733	1,047	↑	307
Registration Rate %	84	89	91	↑	6
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	61	59	78	↑	17
Voting Rate %	51	52	71	↑	20

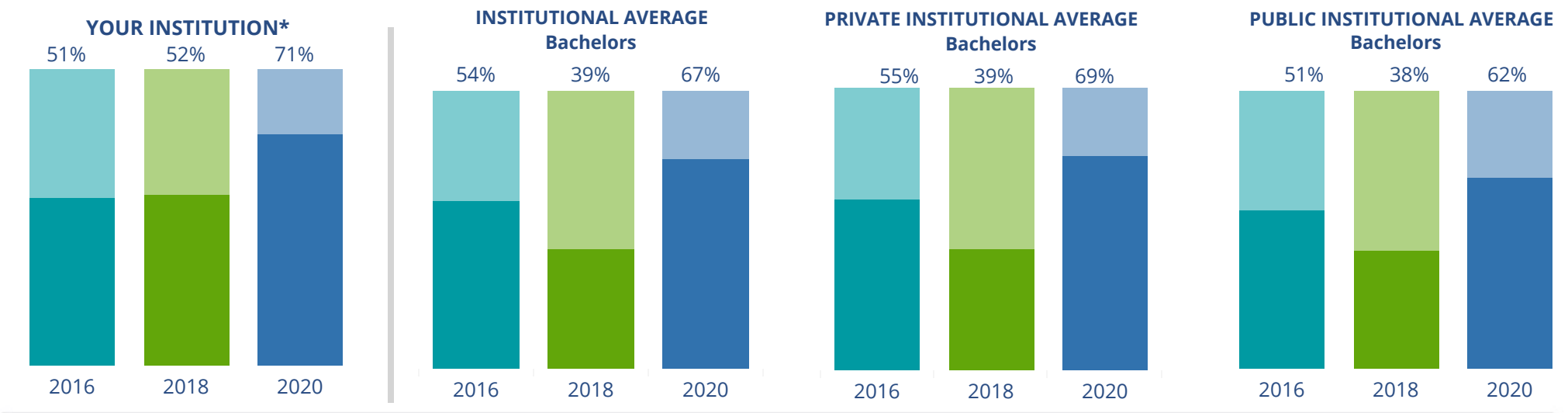
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

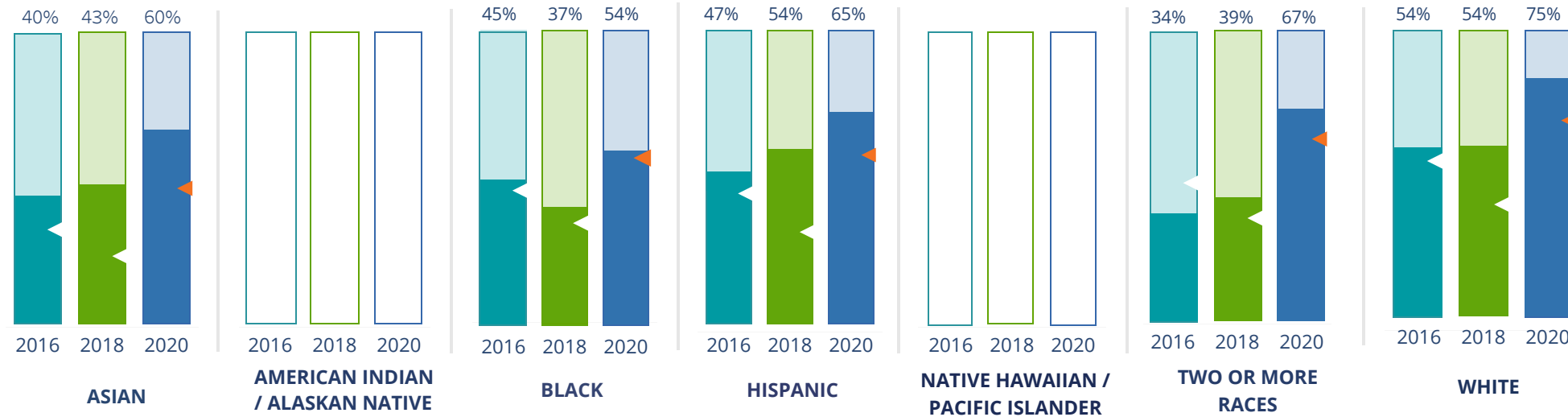
By Institution Types



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

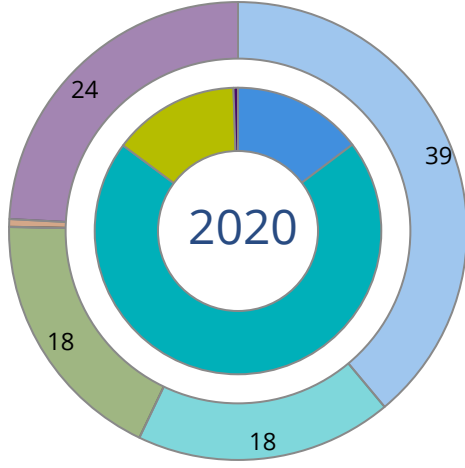
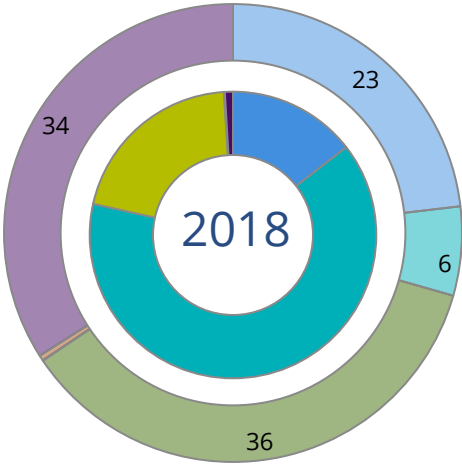
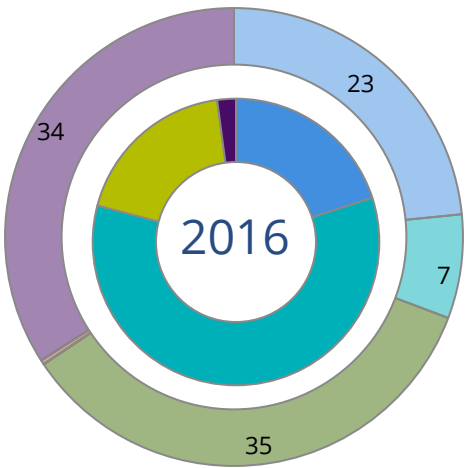
By Race/Ethnicity

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	70	28	40	51	22	43	70	42	60	↑ 20
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	83	37	45	74	27	36	80	43	54	↑ 9
Hispanic	320	150	47	342	185	54	378	247	65	↑ 18
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	50	17	34	59	23	39	66	44	67	↑ 33
White	924	494	53	872	467	54	885	665	75	↑ 22
Race Unknown	28	11	39	19	-	-	12	-	-	-

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	437	59	469	64	738	71	11	↑
In-Person on Election Day	139	19	150	21	150	14	-5	↓
Not-In-Person	148	20	106	15	154	15	-5	↓
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Voting Method Unknown	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	

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	49%	51%	70%
22-24	50%	54%	71%
25-29	57%	—	70%
30-39	73%	—	—
40-49	—	—	—
50+	—	—	—

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	1,265	626	49	1,252	642	51	1,298	910	70	↑ 21
22-24	163	81	50	126	68	54	149	106	71	↑ 21
25-29	30	17	57	17	-	-	30	21	70	↑ 13
30-39	15	11	73	15	-	-	11	-	-	-
40-49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Female	852	477	56	783	450	57	820	620	76	↑	20
Male	629	263	42	634	283	45	671	427	64	↑	22

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	1,477	737	50	1,416	733	52	1,491	1,047	70	↑ 20	
Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Class Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	397	49	195	453	47	214	402	64	257	↑ 15	
Second Year	311	48	150	310	47	147	390	70	274	↑ 22	
Upper Level	766	52	395	653	57	372	699	74	516	↑ 22	
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	1,463	732	50	1,405	725	52	1,475	1,035	70	↑ 20	
Part-time	18	-	-	12	-	-	16	12	75	-	

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)
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	109	60	55	76	39	51	118	77	65	↑ 10
Business, Management, and Marketing	117	55	47	106	50	47	144	91	63	↑ 16
Communication and Journalism	64	31	48	50	27	54	59	43	73	↑ 24
Computer and Information Sciences	19	–	–	26	19	73	43	33	77	–
Education	108	49	45	65	37	57	68	42	62	↑ 16
English Language and Literature	29	22	76	26	16	62	26	23	88	↑ 13
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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	
History	12	–	–	13	–	–	30	22	73	–
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	696	327	47	740	337	46	438	294	67	↑ 20
Mathematics and Statistics	14	–	–	15	–	–	27	21	78	–
Natural Resources and Conservation	22	11	50	23	16	70	28	21	75	↑ 25
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	–	–	–	–	–	–	70	40	57	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	13	100	–
Physical Sciences	41	23	56	25	17	68	34	25	74	↑ 17
Psychology	74	37	50	55	35	64	120	87	73	↑ 23
Social Sciences	99	64	65	93	66	71	124	102	82	↑ 18
Visual and Performing Arts	39	23	59	60	33	55	123	90	73	↑ 14
Unknown	25	11	44	26	13	50	21	19	90	↑ 46

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.

Southwestern 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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