



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for The University of Texas at Austin

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.



	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

75.8%

2020 Voting Rate

+17.7

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

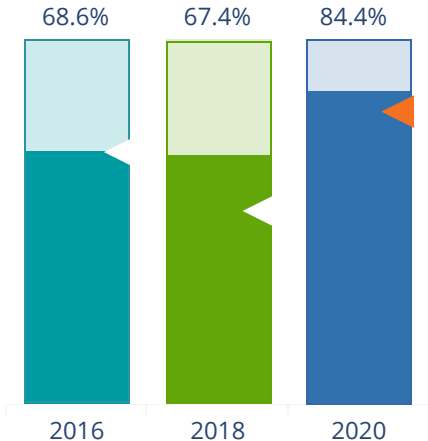
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



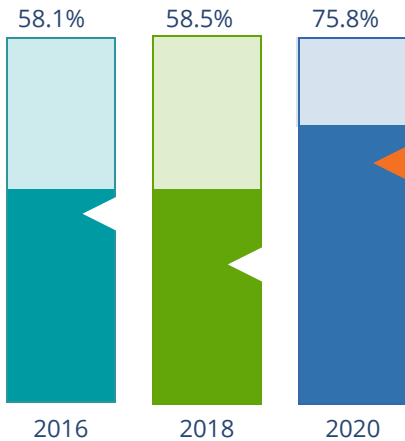
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



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



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	52,224	52,707	51,842	↓ -382
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	4,492	4,890	4,115	↓ -376
(FERPA records blocked)	7,781	4,641	2,260	↓ -5,521
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	-	28	-
Total eligible voters	39,951	43,175	45,439	↑ 5,488
Number of students who registered	33,835	37,493	40,820	↑ 6,985
Number of students who voted	23,203	25,261	34,444	↑ 11,241
Registration Rate %	85	87	90	↑ 5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	69	67	84	↑ 16
Voting Rate %	58	59	76	↑ 18

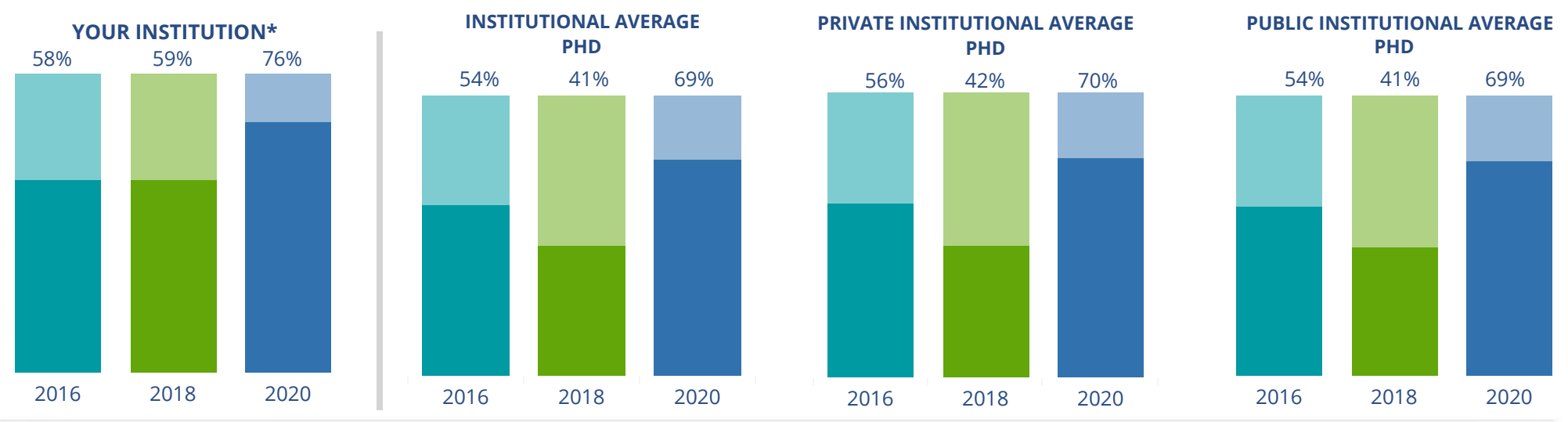
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

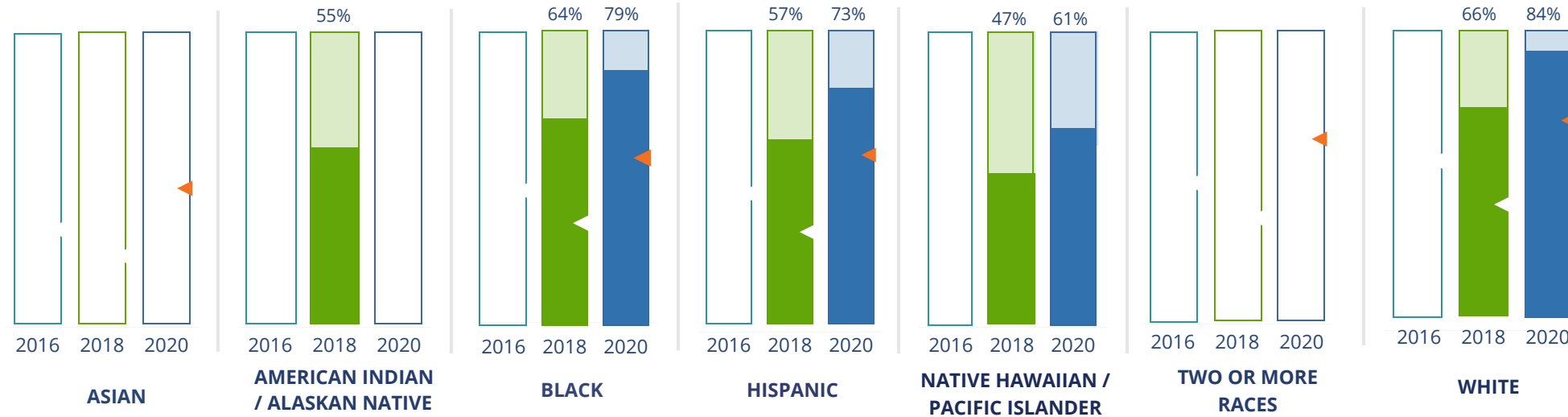
By Institution Types



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-nsive-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

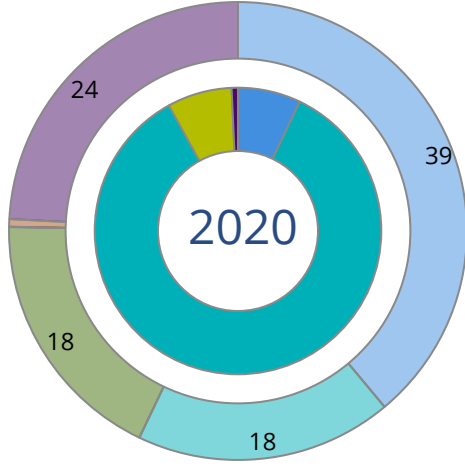
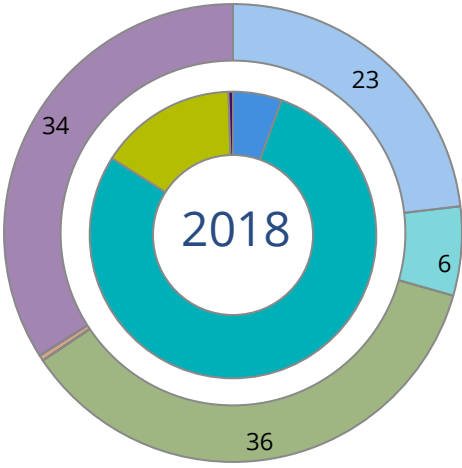
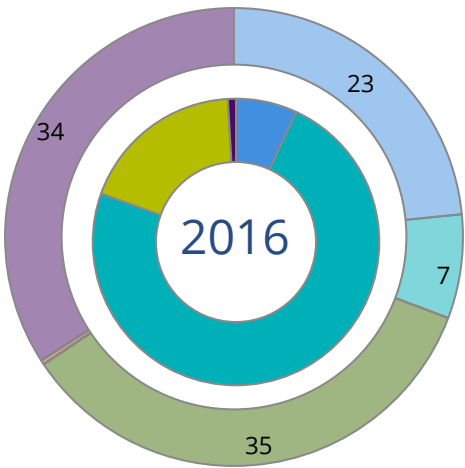
By Race/Ethnicity

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	51	28	55	13	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	572	364	64	149	117	79	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	2,733	1,549	57	653	475	73	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	3,079	1,448	47	599	368	61	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	5,586	3,693	66	1,412	1,181	84	-
Race Unknown	44,423	23,203	52	36,022	18,179	50	46,708	32,293	69	↑ 17

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	17,077	74	19,836	79	29,239	85	11	↑
In-Person on Election Day	4,307	19	3,904	16	2,509	7	-11	↓
Not-In-Person	1,597	7	1,384	6	2,457	7	0	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Voting Method Unknown	220	1	132	1	231	1	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	54%	54%	73%
22-24	48%	49%	65%
25-29	48%	50%	59%
30-39	49%	50%	56%
40-49	66%	64%	76%
50+	76%	77%	82%

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	28,023	15,199	54	31,649	17,070	54	33,004	24,129	73	↑ 19
22-24	8,215	3,912	48	8,108	3,944	49	7,959	5,209	65	↑ 18
25-29	4,690	2,246	48	4,849	2,407	50	4,932	2,905	59	↑ 11
30-39	2,841	1,400	49	2,757	1,383	50	2,869	1,604	56	↑ 7
40-49	501	330	66	518	332	64	542	411	76	↑ 10
50+	153	116	76	162	125	77	228	186	82	↑ 6

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	–	–	–	24,987	14,699	59	26,621	19,761	74	–
Male	–	–	–	23,056	10,562	46	22,913	14,683	64	–

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	34,699	18,533	53	37,636	20,142	54	38,530	27,786	72	↑	19
Graduate	9,622	4,602	48	10,313	5,051	49	10,929	6,598	60	↑	13
Class Unknown	102	57	56	94	56	60	75	60	80	↑	24
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	7,285	55	3,982	8,031	51	4,064	7,132	72	5,110	↑	17
Second Year	7,561	52	3,944	8,152	53	4,361	8,244	72	5,934	↑	20
Upper Level	19,858	53	10,609	21,457	55	11,716	23,156	72	16,744	↑	19
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	-	-	-	44,806	23,545	53	45,824	32,038	70	-	-
Part-time	-	-	-	3,237	1,716	53	3,710	2,406	65	-	-

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	
Architecture	493	285	58	544	296	54	553	397	72	↑ 14
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	341	181	53	340	191	56	314	201	64	↑ 11
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	4,305	2,213	51	4,997	2,651	53	5,351	3,878	72	↑ 21
Business, Management, and Marketing	5,601	2,766	49	5,865	2,855	49	5,744	3,989	69	↑ 20
Communication and Journalism	2,900	1,772	61	3,370	2,049	61	3,427	2,617	76	↑ 15
Computer and Information Sciences	1,465	669	46	1,730	820	47	2,588	1,516	59	↑ 13
Education	608	397	65	567	370	65	513	383	75	↑ 9

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	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	6,718	3,006	45	7,154	3,140	44	7,407	4,637	63	↑ 18
English Language and Literature	1,552	969	62	1,555	918	59	1,307	988	76	↑ 13
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	1,106	607	55	1,077	581	54	1,120	825	74	↑ 19
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	575	327	57	512	283	55	472	326	69	↑ 12
Health Professions	2,164	1,198	55	2,886	1,592	55	3,204	2,376	74	↑ 19
History	489	311	64	501	314	63	399	272	68	↑ 5
Legal Professions and Studies	893	526	59	1,025	622	61	914	729	80	↑ 21
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	2,297	1,141	50	2,109	1,049	50	1,930	1,376	71	↑ 22
Mathematics and Statistics	962	448	47	1,000	419	42	1,017	612	60	↑ 14
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,716	970	57	1,878	1,129	60	2,118	1,541	73	↑ 16
Natural Resources and Conservation	–	–	–	–	–	–	36	20	56	–
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	655	274	42	911	360	40	1,141	769	67	↑ 26
Philosophy and Religious Studies	231	122	53	236	132	56	240	161	67	↑ 14
Physical Sciences	1,620	789	49	1,494	748	50	1,488	936	63	↑ 14

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Psychology	1,549	859	55	1,834	1,069	58	1,988	1,420	71	↑ 16
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	646	473	73	744	556	75	730	596	82	↑ 8
Social Sciences	3,668	1,857	51	3,496	1,829	52	3,392	2,309	68	↑ 17
Visual and Performing Arts	1,589	897	56	1,919	1,115	58	2,058	1,502	73	↑ 17
Unknown	121	72	60	74	58	78	83	68	82	↑ 22

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.

The University of Texas at Austin

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