October 2021

Student Voting Rates for University of Colorado Denver

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts | Jonathan M. Tisch
UNIVERSITY | 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.
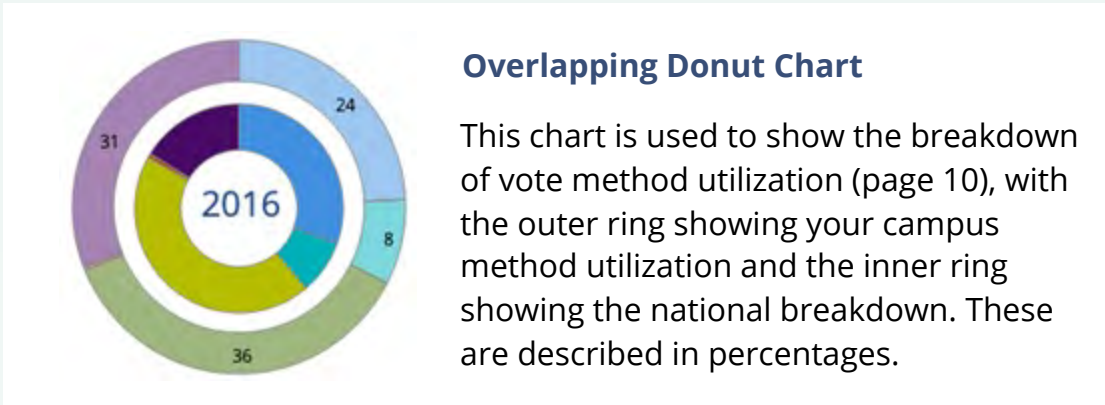
In This Report

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 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

77.7%
2020 Voting Rate

+8.5
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

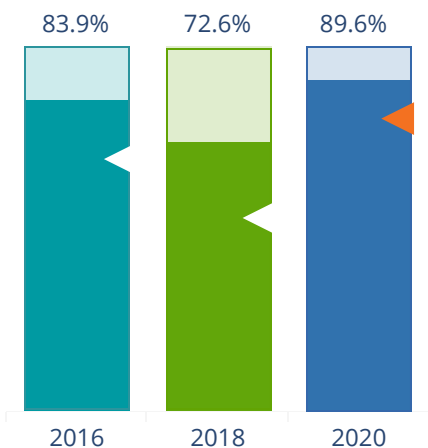## 66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

82.5% 80.6% 86.7%

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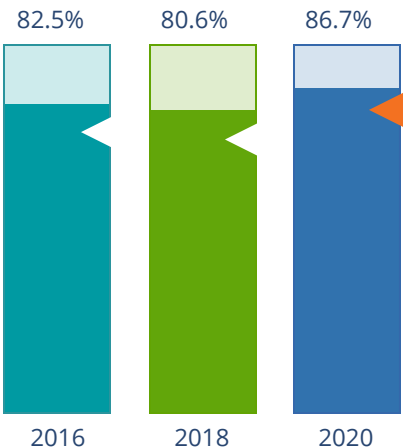
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

83.9% 72.6% 89.6%

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

69.2% 58.6% 77.7%
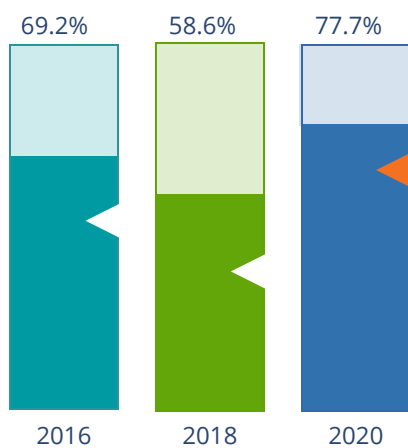
2016   2018   2020

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

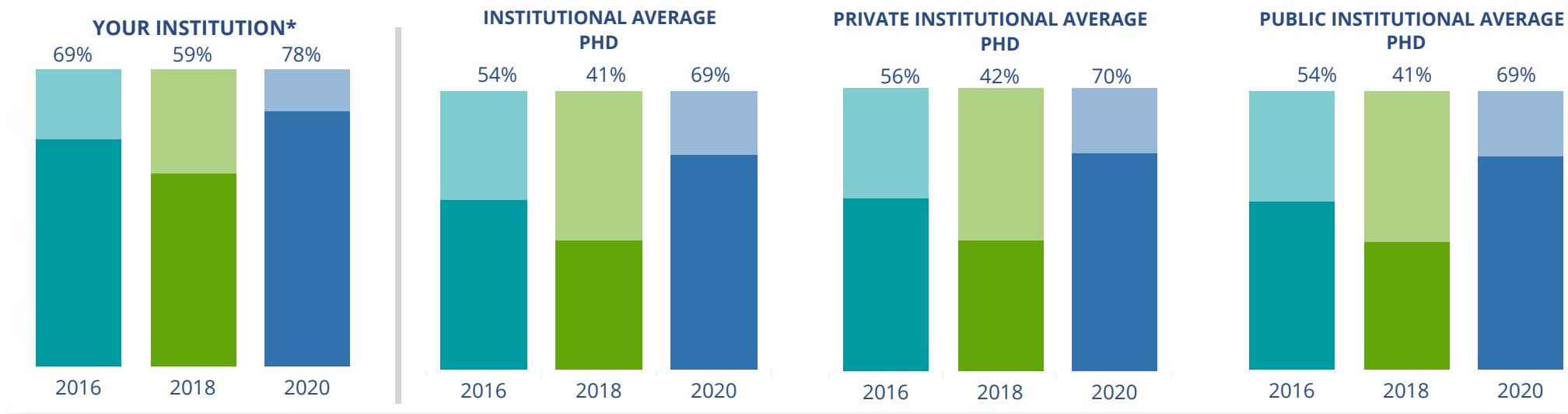|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	23,848	25,448	24,695	⬆ 848
(Age under 18/Unknown)	29	30	23	⬇ -6
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	1,460	1,527	1,518	⬆ 58
(FERPA records blocked)	23	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	4,808	5,825	4,821	⬆ 13
Total eligible voters	17,528	18,061	18,327	⬆ 799
Number of students who registered	14,461	14,557	15,898	⬆ 1,437
Number of students who voted	12,131	10,575	14,240	⬆ 2,109
Registration Rate %	83	81	87	⬆ 4
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	84	73	90	⬆ 6
Voting Rate %	69	59	78	⬆ 8

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

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 82%
53%	LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 89%
66%	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*

69%	59%	78%
2016	2018	2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

54%	41%	69%
2016	2018	2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

56%	42%	70%
2016	2018	2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

54%	41%	69%
2016	2018	2020

By Race / Ethnicity

	ASIAN	AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE	BLACK	HISPANIC	NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	TWO OR MORE RACES	WHITE
2020	57%	79%	68%	70%	54%	78%	82%
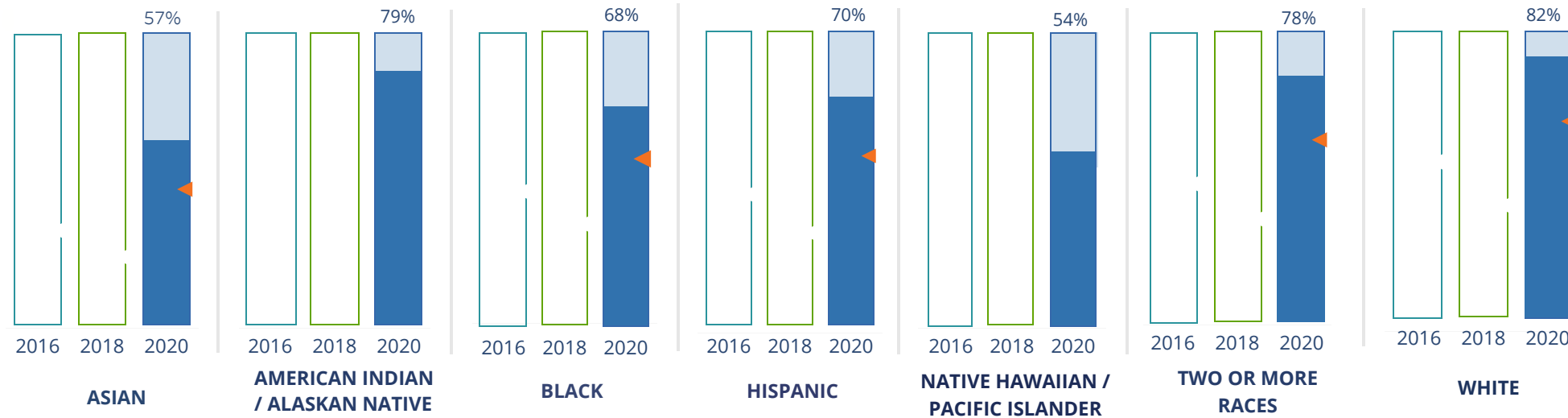
These are estimated voting rates for race / ethnicity groups. These classifications are provided by campuses and are obtained following race reporting procedures* defined by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Please see our FAQ for more detail on 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 (p.p)**
Asian	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,067	1,181	57	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	56	44	79	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	944	637	67	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	869	609	70	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	24	13	54	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,822	2,963	78	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,130	8,312	82	–
Race Unknown	18,687	12,131	65	19,232	10,575	55	1,632	481	29	⬇ -35

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown
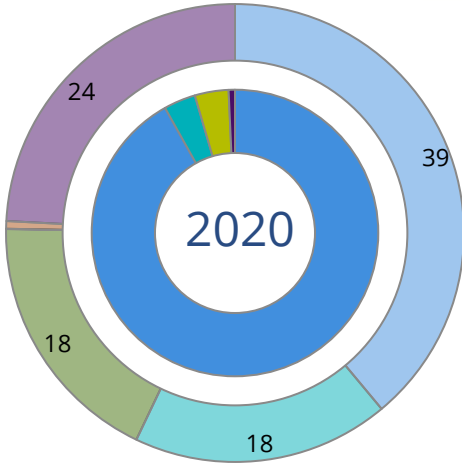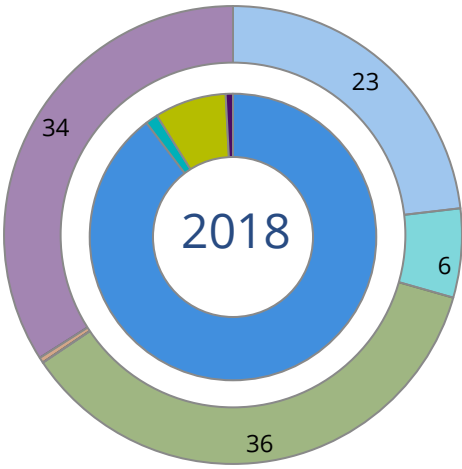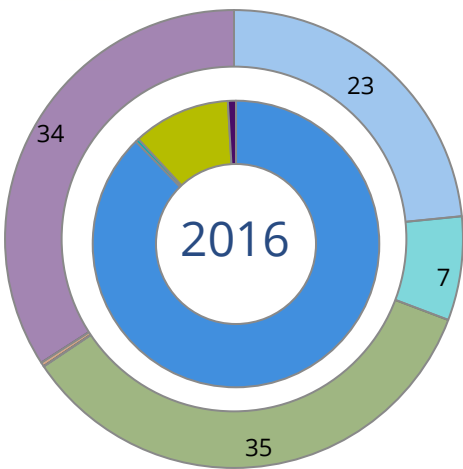
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	47	0	153	1	506	4	3	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	1,332	11	857	8	534	4	-7	⬇
Not-In-Person	10,642	88	9,490	90	13,080	92	4	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	108	1	75	1	117	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/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	59%	47%	67%
22-24	62%	52%	71%
25-29	66%	57%	76%
30-39	70%	62%	76%
40-49	77%	70%	80%
50+	84%	76%	87%

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 (p.p)
18-21	5,270	3,115	59	5,849	2,772	47	5,756	3,883	67	⬆ 8
22-24	3,873	2,410	62	4,079	2,138	52	3,992	2,833	71	⬆ 9
25-29	4,765	3,134	66	4,744	2,702	57	4,723	3,576	76	⬆ 10
30-39	3,395	2,381	70	3,220	2,005	62	3,545	2,699	76	⬆ 6
40-49	1,008	774	77	985	688	70	1,119	895	80	⬆ 3
50+	376	317	84	355	270	76	409	354	87	⬆ 2

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Female	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2016-2020 Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	11,000	6,794	62	11,664	5,910	51	11,169	7,735	69	↑	7
Graduate	7,686	5,337	69	7,566	4,665	62	8,374	6,505	78	↑	8
Class Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	2,338	55	1,287	2,413	42	1,018	2,023	63	1,282	↑	8
Second Year	2,189	61	1,340	2,286	49	1,119	2,191	67	1,463	↑	6
Upper Level	6,472	64	4,165	6,956	54	3,773	6,952	72	4,987	↑	7
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	15,309	9,877	65	15,671	8,459	54	15,761	11,370	72	↑	8
Part-time	3,378	2,254	67	3,561	2,116	59	3,783	2,870	76	↑	9

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)**
Architecture	696	436	63	807	427	53	768	544	71	⬆ 8
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	25	18	72	28	18	64	–	–	–	–
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,528	1,019	67	1,545	860	56	1,813	1,346	74	⬆ 8
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,888	1,813	63	2,716	1,412	52	3,061	2,196	72	⬆ 9
Communication and Journalism	451	234	52	483	181	37	511	196	38	⬇ -14
Computer and Information Sciences	413	194	47	521	195	37	685	406	59	⬆ 12
Education	960	746	78	862	613	71	990	821	83	⬆ 5

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 (p.p)
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,394	777	56	1,443	702	49	1,216	776	64	⬆ 8
English Language and Literature	303	227	75	284	179	63	271	222	82	⬆ 7
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	–	–	–	82	44	54	198	153	77	–
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	47	42	89	40	26	65	25	20	80	⬇ -9
Health Professions	4,799	3,323	69	5,012	2,875	57	4,447	3,511	79	⬆ 10
History	142	103	73	124	88	71	116	105	91	⬆ 18
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	321	201	63	381	191	50	376	283	75	⬆ 13
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	407	265	65	458	230	50	546	409	75	⬆ 10
Mathematics and Statistics	174	113	65	170	91	54	174	130	75	⬆ 10
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	179	129	72	238	152	64	199	159	80	⬆ 8
Natural Resources and Conservation	34	28	82	44	31	70	45	42	93	⬆ 11
Philosophy and Religious Studies	43	30	70	39	26	67	41	35	85	⬆ 16
Physical Sciences	229	153	67	221	115	52	155	105	68	⬆ 1

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Psychology	755	512	68	763	440	58	940	720	77	⬆ 9
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	377	282	75	392	277	71	441	361	82	⬆ 7
Social Sciences	1,202	564	47	1,194	558	47	1,143	587	51	⬆ 4
Visual and Performing Arts	1,220	852	70	1,314	792	60	1,275	1,030	81	⬆ 11
Unknown	23	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	–	–

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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