



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for University Of Pennsylvania

## 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](mailto: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

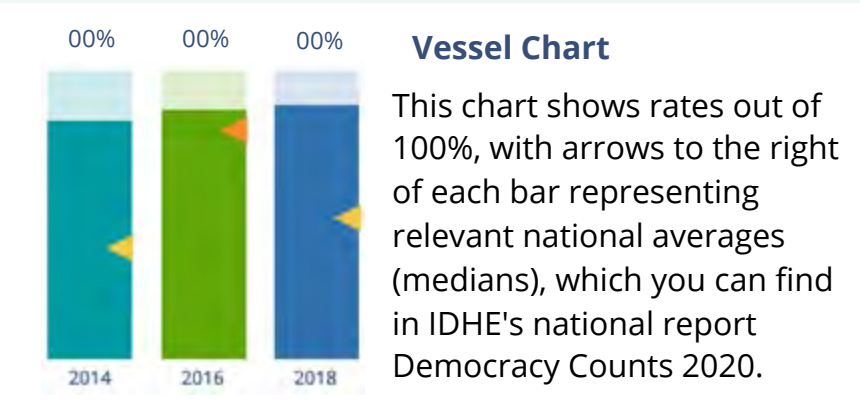


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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

76.7%

2020 Voting Rate

+9.2

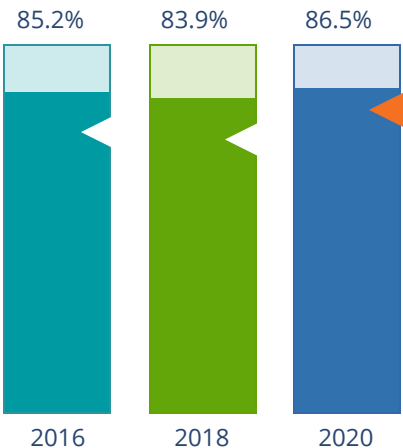
Change From 2016

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

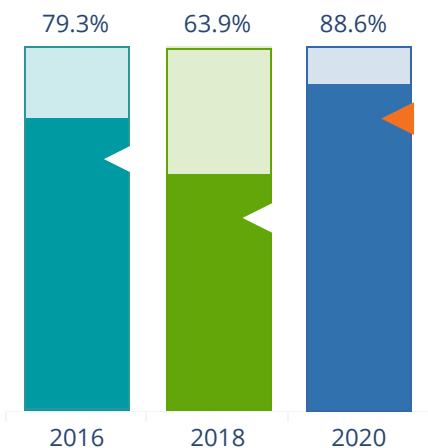
2020 Voting Rate

## REGISTRATION RATE



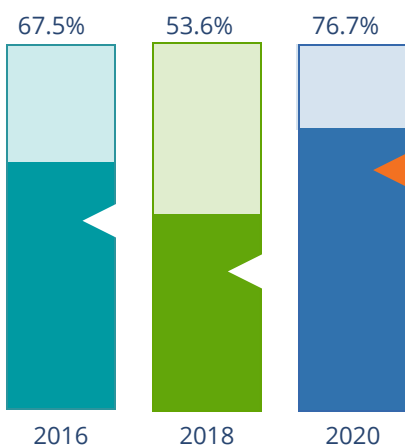
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

## 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

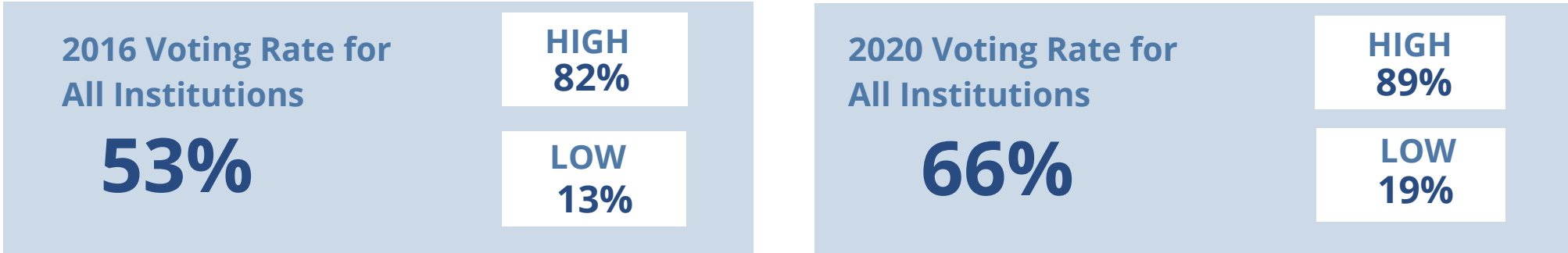
## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	24,804	25,512	26,539	↑ 1,735
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	4,832	5,262	5,157	↑ 325
(FERPA records blocked)	-	-	269	-
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	712	752	-	-
Total eligible voters	19,260	19,498	21,113	↑ 1,853
Number of students who registered	16,404	16,353	18,267	↑ 1,863
Number of students who voted	13,009	10,449	16,189	↑ 3,180
Registration Rate %	85	84	87	↑ 1
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	79	64	89	↑ 9
Voting Rate %	68	54	77	↑ 9

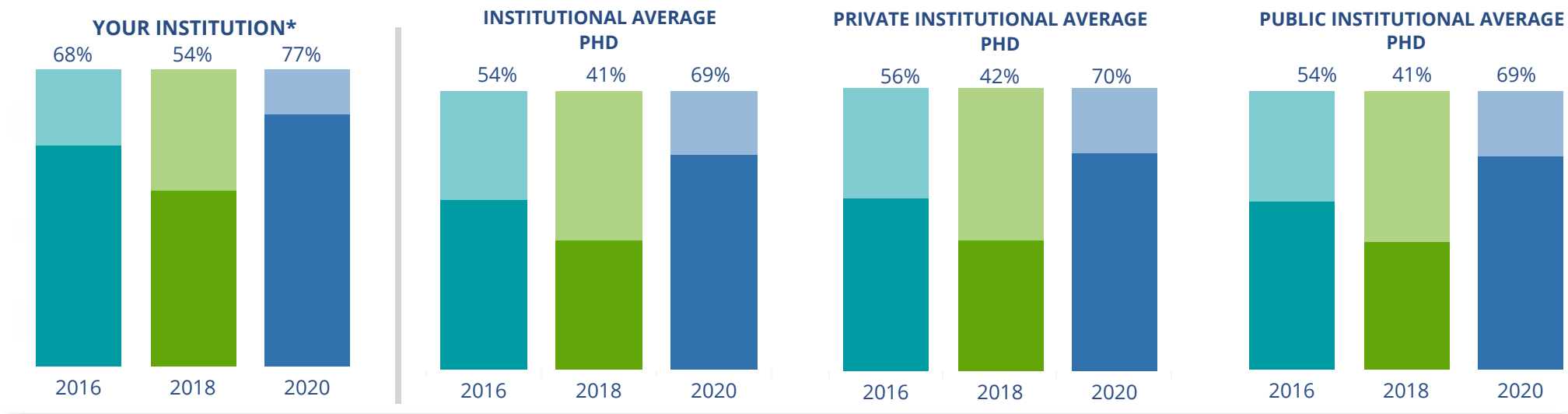
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

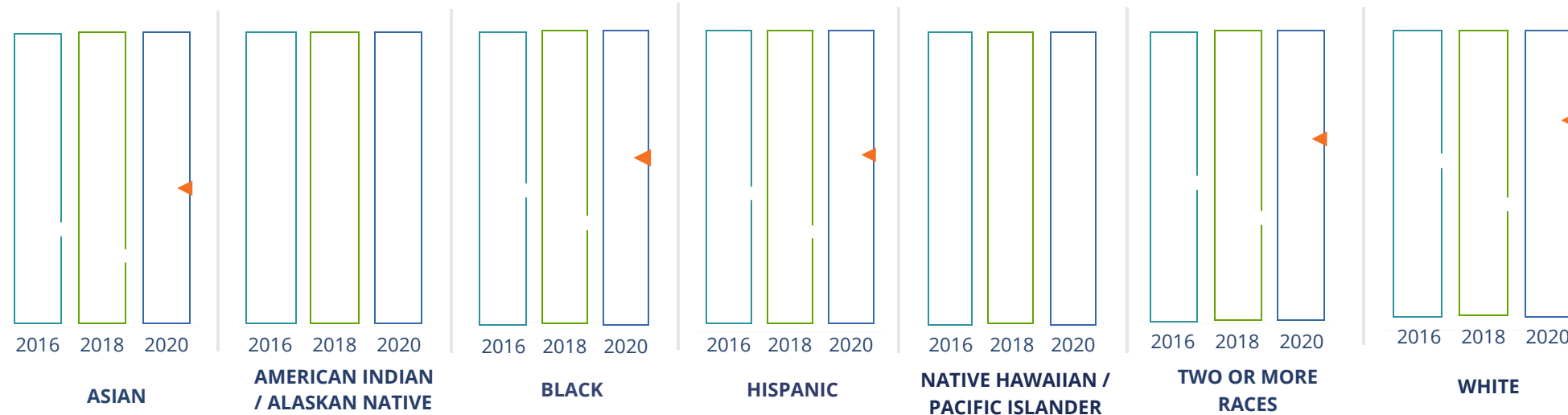
# By Institution Types



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

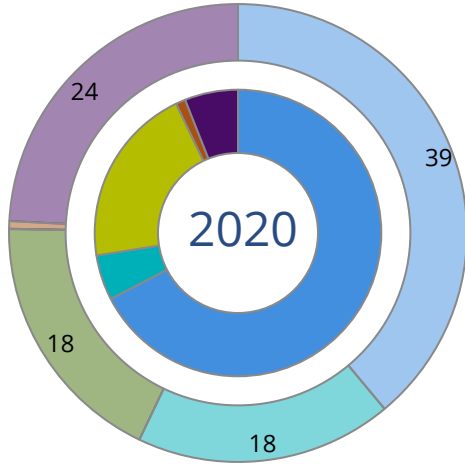
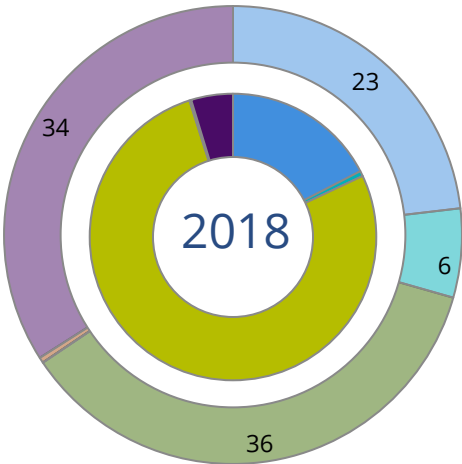
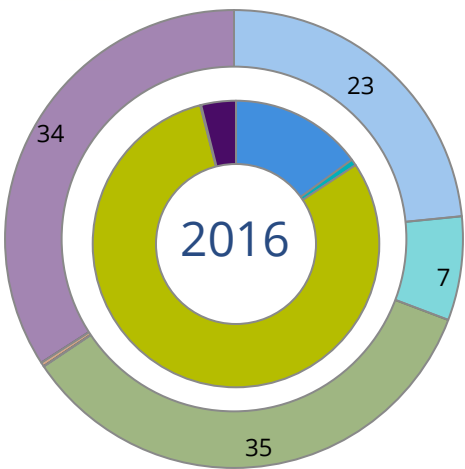
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Race Unknown	23,916	13,009	54	24,564	10,449	43	26,234	16,189	62	 7



# 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	90	1	58	1	819	5	4	↑
In-Person on Election Day	10,444	80	8,053	77	3,300	20	-60	↓
Not-In-Person	1,951	15	1,822	17	10,914	67	52	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	17	0	177	1	-	
Voting Method Unknown	512	4	499	5	979	6	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	59%	43%	69%
22-24	47%	36%	51%
25-29	53%	43%	61%
30-39	50%	44%	56%
40-49	66%	59%	70%
50+	80%	76%	79%

**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	9,441	5,554	59	9,509	4,072	43	9,071	6,255	69	↑	10
22-24	4,817	2,267	47	5,162	1,882	36	5,304	2,718	51	↑	4
25-29	6,120	3,228	53	6,183	2,650	43	6,799	4,131	61	↑	8
30-39	2,679	1,350	50	2,770	1,228	44	3,695	2,087	56	↑	6
40-49	531	348	66	569	334	59	877	611	70	↑	4
50+	328	262	80	371	283	76	488	387	79	↓	-1

# 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			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	10,546	6,212	59	10,535	4,579	43	9,610	6,599	69	↑	10
Graduate	12,520	6,274	50	13,154	5,397	41	14,922	8,367	56	↑	6
Class Unknown	850	523	62	875	473	54	1,702	748	44	↓	-18
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	2,201	57	1,250	2,235	40	901	1,983	71	1,401	↑	14
Second Year	2,100	60	1,263	2,132	37	796	1,787	68	1,214	↑	8
Upper Level	6,335	59	3,722	6,292	46	2,918	6,301	68	4,304	↑	10
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	21,340	11,334	53	21,906	8,952	41	21,836	13,374	61	↑	8
Part-time	2,576	1,675	65	2,658	1,497	56	4,398	2,815	64	↓	-1

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	678	211	31	472	93	20	421	116	28	↓ -4
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	68	29	43	65	27	42	61	25	41	↓ -2
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,550	942	61	1,612	803	50	1,703	1,241	73	↑ 12
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,885	1,842	47	4,165	1,347	32	4,034	2,368	59	↑ 11
Communication and Journalism	222	126	57	218	113	52	191	123	64	↑ 8
Computer and Information Sciences	1,001	398	40	1,238	383	31	2,433	938	39	↓ -1
Education	1,147	620	54	1,116	541	48	1,590	925	58	↑ 4

**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	2,032	935	46	2,128	695	33	1,976	977	49	↑ 3
English Language and Literature	239	159	67	187	106	57	243	181	74	↑ 8
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	359	156	43	336	128	38	299	132	44	↑ 1
Health Professions	3,480	2,247	65	3,524	1,764	50	4,032	3,095	77	↑ 12
History	273	158	58	234	125	53	197	124	63	↑ 5
Legal Professions and Studies	891	522	59	921	496	54	895	667	75	↑ 16
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	3,098	1,887	61	3,077	1,323	43	2,950	2,107	71	↑ 11
Mathematics and Statistics	231	79	34	247	74	30	286	120	42	↑ 8
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	384	166	43	463	159	34	454	240	53	↑ 10
Natural Resources and Conservation	75	48	64	201	74	37	276	145	53	↓ -11
Philosophy and Religious Studies	372	203	55	394	192	49	460	308	67	↑ 12
Physical Sciences	454	232	51	489	222	45	545	301	55	↑ 4
Psychology	424	241	57	441	198	45	532	298	56	↓ -1
Public Administration and Social Service P..	599	406	68	539	350	65	475	351	74	↑ 6



# By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Social Sciences	1,279	710	56	1,348	644	48	1,264	764	60	↑	5
Visual and Performing Arts	308	173	56	267	121	45	246	169	69	↑	13
Unknown	867	519	60	882	471	53	671	474	71	↑	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.

University Of Pennsylvania

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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