



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for University Of San Francisco

2020 NSLVE Campus Report



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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](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

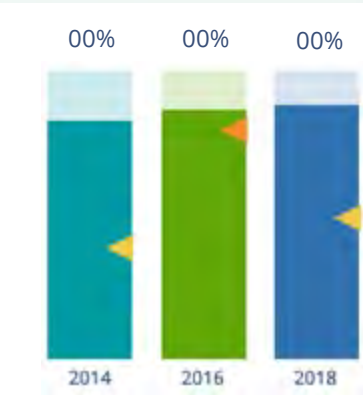


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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.



**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.

	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.



**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

75.1%

2020 Voting Rate

+19.9

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

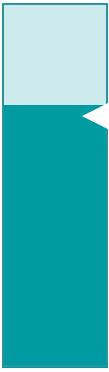


2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

77.4%	78.6%	85.2%
		
2016	2018	2020




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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

71.2%	61.2%	88.1%
		
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

55.2%	48.1%	75.1%
		
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

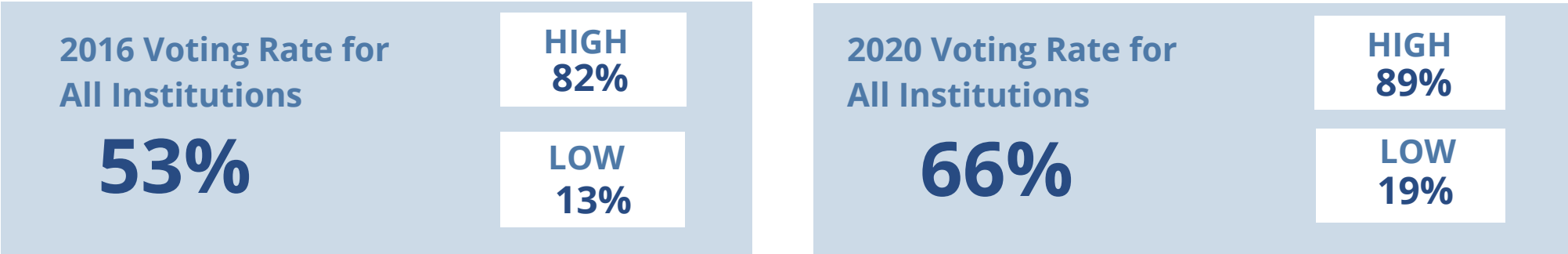
## Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	10,860	10,536	10,036	↓ -825
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	1,710	1,460	1,267	↓ -443
(FERPA records blocked)	169	126	101	↓ -68
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	118	52	76	↓ -42
Total eligible voters	8,863	8,897	8,592	↓ -271
Number of students who registered	6,863	6,991	7,323	↑ 460
Number of students who voted	4,889	4,276	6,450	↑ 1,561
Registration Rate %	77	79	85	↑ 8
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	71	61	88	↑ 17
Voting Rate %	55	48	75	↑ 20

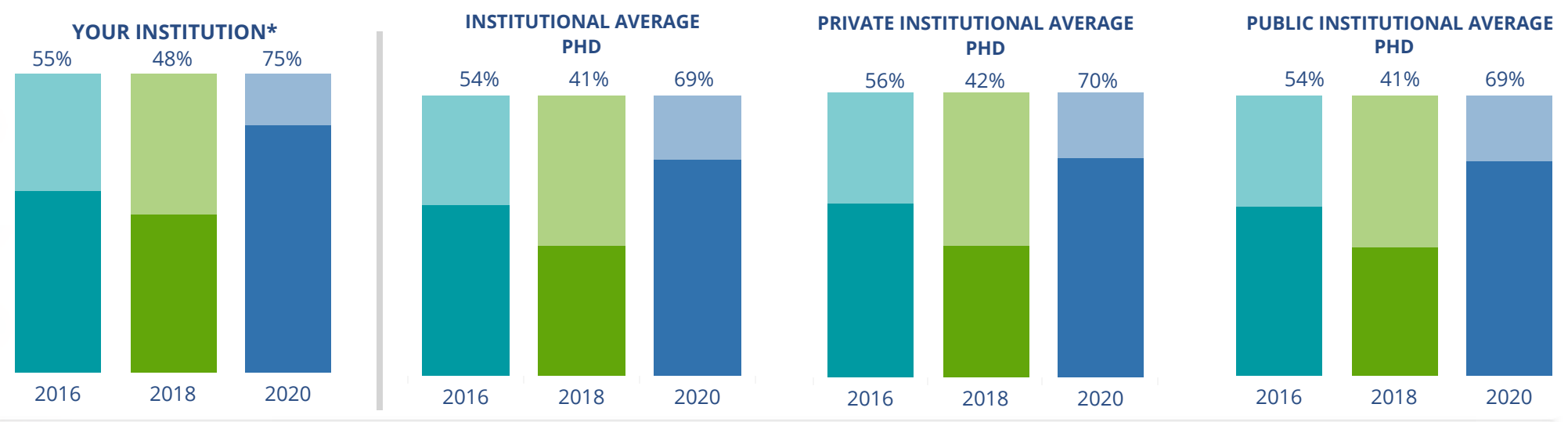
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

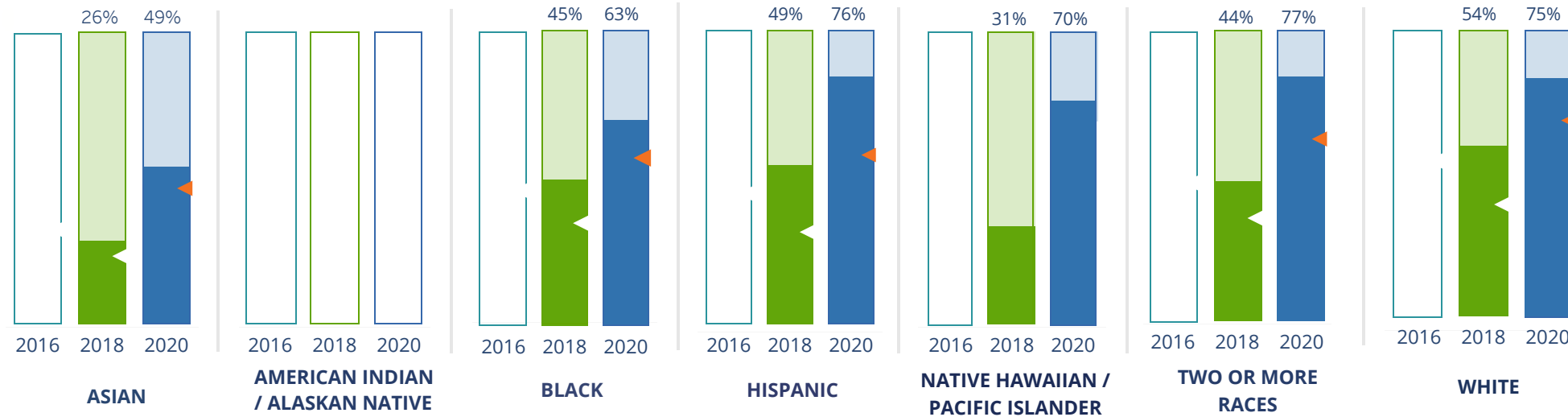
# By Institution Types



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

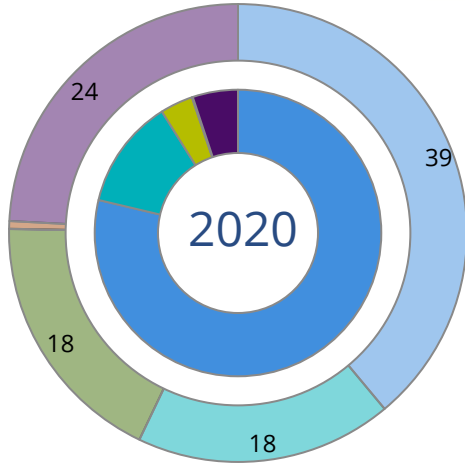
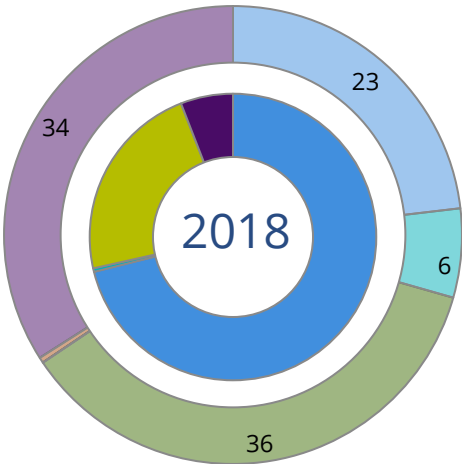
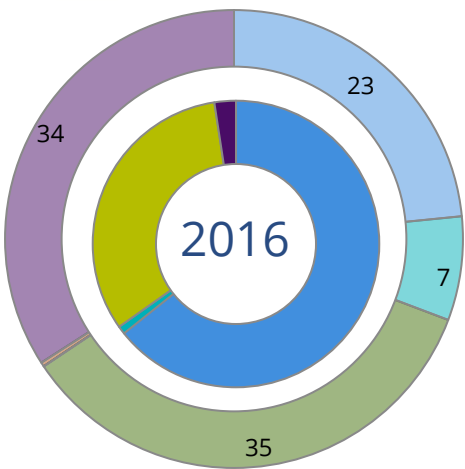
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates.** We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your 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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Asian	-	-	-	3,009	784	26	3,059	1,486	49	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	19	-	-	14	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	574	258	45	678	428	63	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	2,297	1,128	49	2,178	1,662	76	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	75	23	31	46	32	70	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	761	335	44	832	637	77	-
White	-	-	-	3,012	1,613	54	2,824	2,124	75	-
Race Unknown	10,542	4,889	46	591	130	22	209	72	34	↓ -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	46	1	17	0	798	12	12	↑
In-Person on Election Day	1,583	32	966	23	237	4	-29	↓
Not-In-Person	3,142	64	3,039	71	5,077	79	14	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Voting Method Unknown	117	2	254	6	334	5	3	↑

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	40%	36%	68%
22-24	38%	36%	61%
25-29	54%	48%	63%
30-39	59%	54%	64%
40-49	69%	56%	69%
50+	75%	76%	75%

**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	4,902	1,978	40	5,194	1,856	36	4,503	3,066	68	↑	28
22-24	1,897	714	38	1,699	620	36	1,821	1,107	61	↑	23
25-29	1,860	999	54	1,782	856	48	1,714	1,075	63	↑	9
30-39	1,199	711	59	1,069	574	54	1,126	722	64	↑	5
40-49	446	309	69	405	227	56	452	311	69	↓	0
50+	238	178	75	189	143	76	224	169	75	↑	1

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	-	-	-	5,885	2,711	46	6,358	4,423	70	-
Male	-	-	-	3,285	1,111	34	3,481	2,026	58	-

**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	6,407	2,571	40	6,392	2,239	35	5,677	3,723	66	↑ 25	
Graduate	4,134	2,318	56	3,946	2,037	52	4,162	2,727	66	↑ 9	
Class Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	1,703	35	588	1,680	33	561	1,182	63	747	↑ 29	
Second Year	1,430	37	534	1,522	34	512	1,245	66	823	↑ 29	
Upper Level	3,275	44	1,450	3,197	37	1,171	3,252	66	2,155	↑ 22	
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	-	-	-	9,624	3,929	41	9,021	5,937	66	-	
Part-time	-	-	-	714	347	49	819	513	63	-	

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	66	21	32	102	31	30	111	69	62	↑ 30
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	83	35	42	85	31	36	59	31	53	↑ 10
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	398	174	44	464	151	33	496	325	66	↑ 22
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,558	722	28	2,242	611	27	1,810	953	53	↑ 24
Communication and Journalism	612	287	47	523	232	44	428	292	68	↑ 21
Computer and Information Sciences	378	120	32	598	148	25	670	284	42	↑ 11
Education	709	481	68	660	403	61	708	525	74	↑ 6

**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	–	–	–	39	15	38	65	37	57	–
English Language and Literature	235	126	54	208	113	54	178	137	77	↑ 23
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	36	18	50	22	–	–	17	13	76	↑ 26
Health Professions	1,628	914	56	1,561	729	47	1,574	1,182	75	↑ 19
History	65	37	57	62	20	32	61	46	75	↑ 18
Legal Professions and Studies	582	332	57	487	263	54	487	352	72	↑ 15
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	85	37	44	61	22	36	74	50	68	↑ 24
Mathematics and Statistics	51	26	51	50	17	34	33	15	45	↓ -6
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	134	51	38	129	50	39	85	54	64	↑ 25
Natural Resources and Conservation	203	114	56	221	108	49	188	141	75	↑ 19
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	401	187	47	425	171	40	402	276	69	↑ 22
Philosophy and Religious Studies	80	42	53	89	37	42	63	46	73	↑ 21
Physical Sciences	192	68	35	225	70	31	185	111	60	↑ 25
Psychology	792	472	60	887	451	51	1,005	779	78	↑ 18



## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	243	171	70	154	107	69	138	97	70	↓	0
Social Sciences	728	350	48	772	373	48	764	476	62	↑	14
Visual and Performing Arts	216	98	45	234	103	44	218	146	67	↑	22
Unknown	58	-	-	21	-	-	14	-	-	-	-

# 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 San Francisco

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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