



October 2021

# Student Voting Rates for The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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

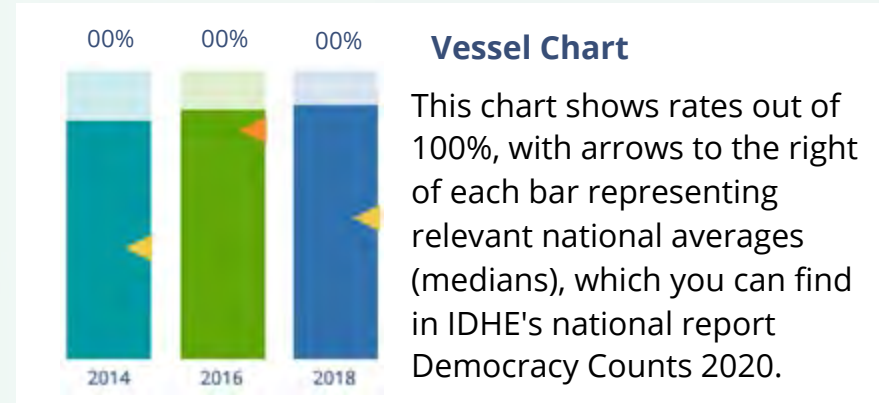


**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;**  
**(Bottom Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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

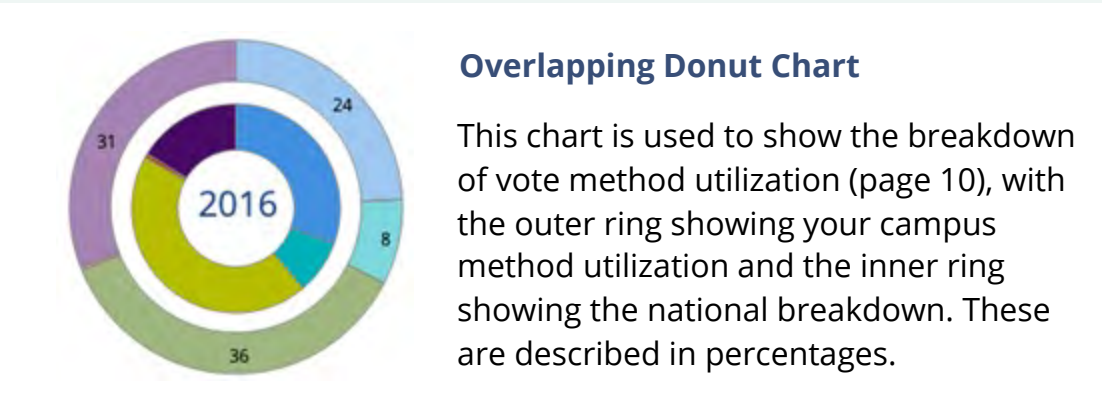
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut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



	2014			2018			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)
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

55.6%

2020 Voting Rate

+12.5

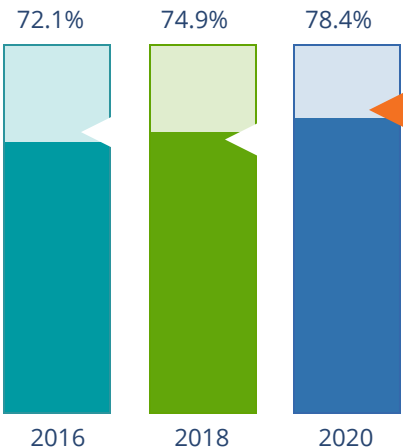
Change From 2016

## ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

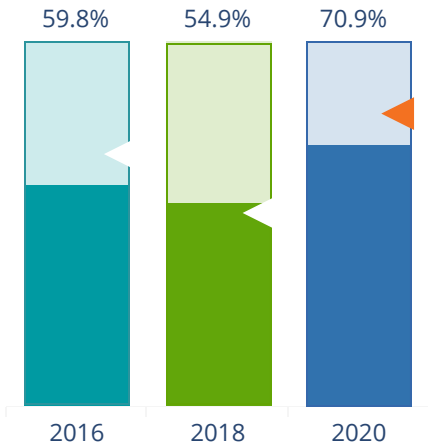
2020 Voting Rate

## REGISTRATION RATE



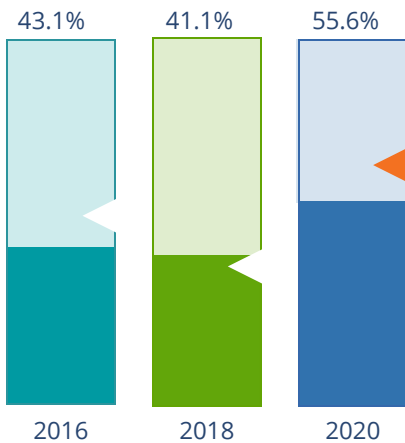
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

## 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	26,787	27,756	31,505	↑ 4,718
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	766	767	722	↓ -44
(FERPA records blocked)	168	170	196	↑ 28
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	269	398	424	↑ 155
Total eligible voters	25,583	26,420	30,162	↑ 4,579
Number of students who registered	18,457	19,795	23,637	↑ 5,180
Number of students who voted	11,030	10,862	16,765	↑ 5,735
Registration Rate %	72	75	78	↑ 6
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	60	55	71	↑ 11
Voting Rate %	43	41	56	↑ 12

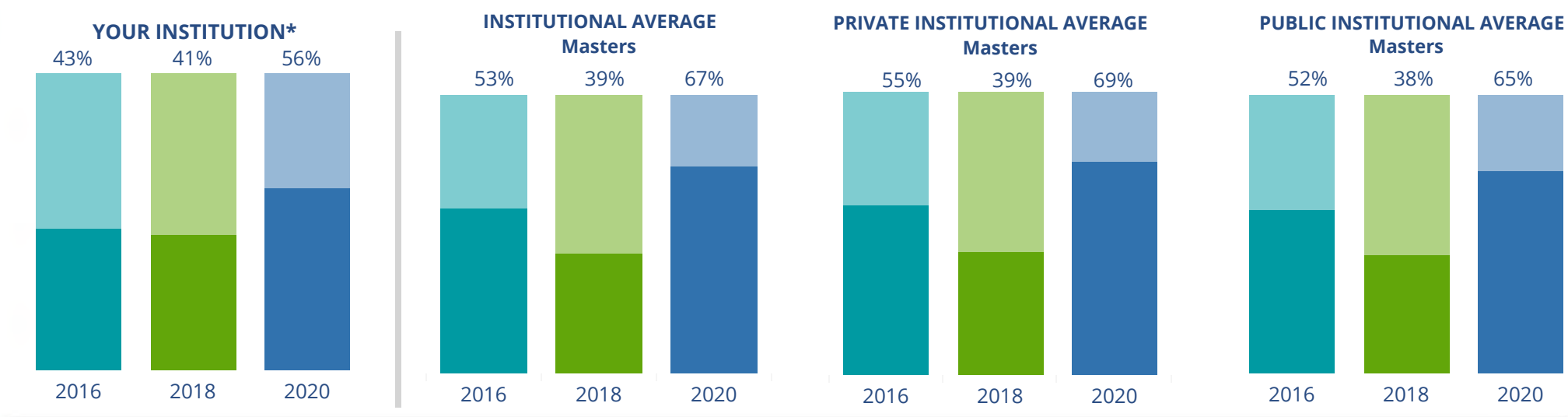
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

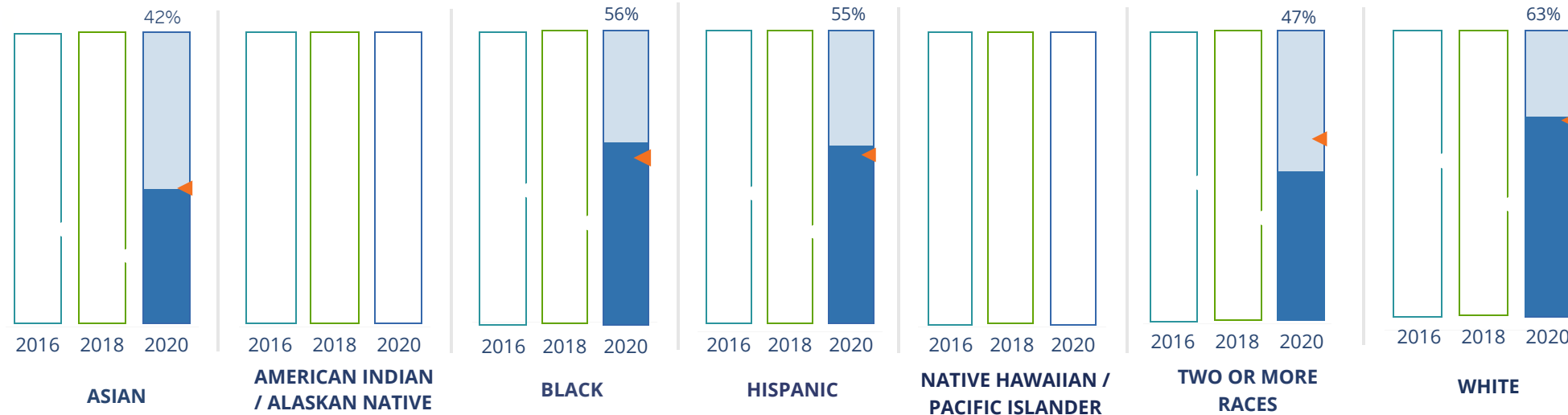
# By Institution Types



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

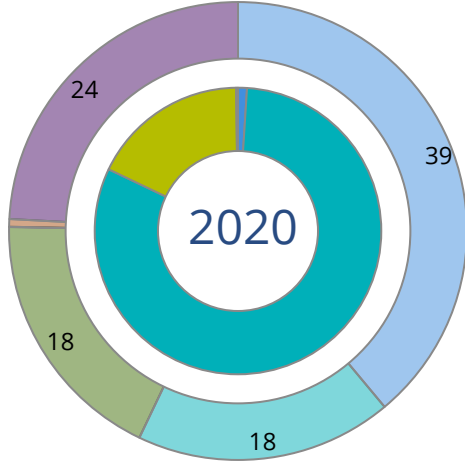
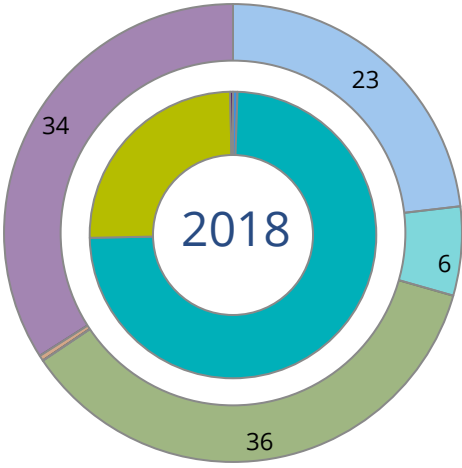
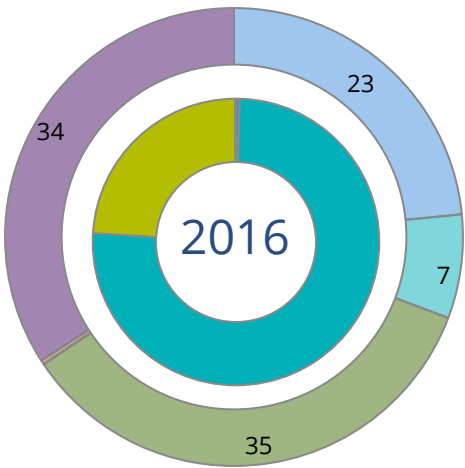
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (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	-	-	-	-	-	-	538	224	42	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	338	190	56	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,066	15,397	55	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	31	47	-
White	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,084	684	63	-
Race Unknown	26,327	11,030	42	27,159	10,862	40	752	233	31	↓ -11



# 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	8,335	76	8,065	74	13,591	81	6	↑
In-Person on Election Day	2,635	24	2,717	25	2,968	18	-6	↓
Not-In-Person	40	0	58	1	175	1	1	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Voting Method Unknown	20	0	22	0	30	0	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	39%	39%	51%
22-24	41%	38%	55%
25-29	43%	40%	55%
30-39	51%	42%	60%
40-49	59%	52%	71%
50+	73%	61%	76%

**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	13,306	5,182	39	14,005	5,520	39	15,837	8,151	51	↑ 13
22-24	6,291	2,558	41	6,377	2,434	38	6,843	3,766	55	↑ 14
25-29	3,335	1,438	43	3,493	1,397	40	4,129	2,253	55	↑ 11
30-39	2,237	1,130	51	2,176	913	42	2,660	1,597	60	↑ 10
40-49	877	518	59	824	426	52	1,034	729	71	↑ 11
50+	281	204	73	284	172	61	353	269	76	↑ 4

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Female	14,868	6,702	45	15,583	6,658	43	18,397	10,479	57	↑	12
Male	11,390	4,293	38	11,558	4,195	36	12,436	6,271	50	↑	13

**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	23,206	9,429	41	23,633	9,257	39	25,538	13,388	52	↑	12
Graduate	3,067	1,575	51	3,517	1,601	46	5,315	3,374	63	↑	12
Class Unknown	54	26	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	4,679	34	1,574	4,670	34	1,573	4,907	41	2,003	↑	7
Second Year	4,602	38	1,755	4,462	38	1,716	4,950	52	2,553	↑	13
Upper Level	13,976	44	6,124	14,666	41	6,048	15,703	56	8,848	↑	13
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	18,465	7,511	41	20,072	8,023	40	23,555	12,575	53	↑	13
Part-time	7,862	3,519	45	7,087	2,839	40	7,301	4,190	57	↑	13

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)
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	22	15	68	31	17	55	15	–	–	–
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,825	1,190	42	3,005	1,318	44	3,122	1,784	57	↑ 15
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,324	1,346	40	3,181	1,093	34	3,914	1,963	50	↑ 10
Communication and Journalism	525	282	54	530	277	52	545	365	67	↑ 13
Computer and Information Sciences	689	247	36	723	269	37	902	436	48	↑ 12
Education	856	515	60	912	475	52	1,372	939	68	↑ 8
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	2,299	753	33	2,340	704	30	2,706	1,235	46	↑ 13

**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	
English Language and Literature	605	282	47	588	318	54	663	416	63	↑ 16
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	29	18	62	173	66	38	305	144	47	↓ -15
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	275	109	40	249	81	33	231	113	49	↑ 9
Health Professions	3,826	1,564	41	3,842	1,532	40	3,873	2,146	55	↑ 15
History	294	165	56	321	169	53	326	215	66	↑ 10
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	1,711	706	41	1,854	693	37	2,198	1,095	50	↑ 9
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	599	232	39	648	220	34	581	256	44	↑ 5
Mathematics and Statistics	342	130	38	368	155	42	432	227	53	↑ 15
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,911	805	42	2,016	747	37	2,361	1,227	52	↑ 10
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	1,383	516	37	1,605	569	35	1,740	928	53	↑ 16
Philosophy and Religious Studies	56	24	43	62	36	58	71	47	66	↑ 23
Physical Sciences	532	202	38	469	176	38	359	199	55	↑ 17
Psychology	1,461	632	43	1,479	645	44	1,767	999	57	↑ 13
Public Administration and Social Service P..	823	440	53	935	447	48	1,340	815	61	↑ 7



## By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Social Sciences	631	330	52	549	308	56	655	424	65	↑ 12
Visual and Performing Arts	1,193	463	39	1,240	526	42	1,358	774	57	↑ 18
Unknown	29	11	38	23	–	–	20	–	–	–

# 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 Rio Grande Valley

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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