

**CAMPUS REPORT**  
Student Voting  
Rates for  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

003895.00

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# About This Report

Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), housed at the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University. Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, more than 750 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012 and 2014 elections. Participating colleges and universities are located in 48 states and represent all Carnegie classifications as well as socially and economically diverse students. With others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of over 6.7 million college student records that is already serving as a foundation for innovative research on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

## Looking Ahead

In response to our survey, many of you requested resources as well as stories about what other campuses are doing. Over the coming months, NSLVE will be releasing tools and resources that you and others can use to enhance political learning and engagement in democracy on your campus. Here is a sneak peek into some of this work.

- ❑ *Campus Discussion Guide*: A tool for conversations on your campus regarding how to use the NSLVE report to spark change.
- ❑ *National Data*: We'll be sharing data about the national landscape for college student voting.
- ❑ *Comparison Data*: We know campuses are interested in learning more about how their voting compares to other similar institutions. We'll be rolling out aggregate comparison data for groups of participating campuses.
- ❑ *Case Studies*: We've been on the road, visiting campuses with unpredicted, high voting rates. We will be sharing the findings from our studies of campus climates for student political learning and engagement in democracy.
- ❑ *Diversity & Democracy*: In December, in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), we will publish a special issue on college student political learning and engagement in democracy.

If you or someone else on your campus would like to receive more information about our research and resources, please [sign up here](#).

## 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 2012 and 2014 elections. These data are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") and publicly available voting records collected by Catalyst.

Using enrollment records submitted on a date closest to the election, we removed students under 18 on Election Day. We also deducted an estimated number of students identified by your institution as non-resident aliens. This is based on the percentage of non-resident aliens reported by your institution to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and is more reliable than the demographic data campuses provide to the Clearinghouse at this time. Please note that students who blocked the use of their information under FERPA were also removed from the enrollment lists by the Clearinghouse.

When combining two datasets, matching errors can occur. That said, for each record, we receive a "confidence score." The average confidence score for the student records in our database is 96.6%. Nonetheless, some errors are still possible:

- On page three, we indicate the number of students who blocked their records from being used for any purpose, including research. If those students voted at a much lower or higher rate than your other students, it might affect the voting rate.
- Students not found in the voting database are considered non-voters, but we have no way to remove individual noncitizens (resident aliens and non-resident aliens). We use an estimate based on IPEDS data to account for your international students. We cannot adjust for undocumented students. This may result in your actual voting rate being higher than we report. To recalculate that percentage, see our [FAQ on campus reports](#).

## Reviewing the Data

Please use the following key to interpret the charts below:

- \* = number of students is less than 10
- = zero results in this field

For some colleges and universities, this report will contain some categories for which data is "unknown." These likely reflect the amount or quality of the data the institution provides, a problem that can be corrected by more comprehensive reporting to the Clearinghouse.

# Your Students' Voting and Registration Rates

2012 Voting Rate

**53%**

2014 Voting Rate

**36%**

## 2012 Presidential Election

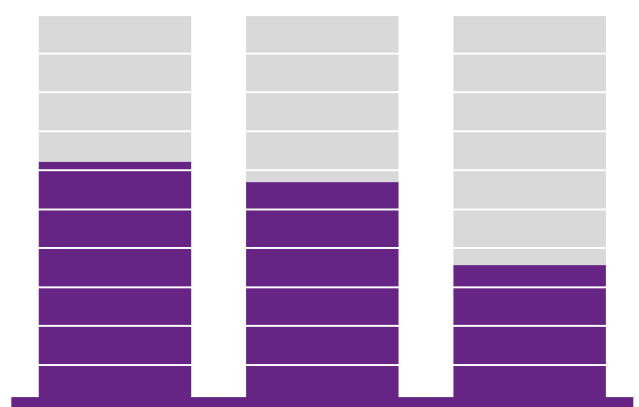


**69.8%**  
Registration Rate

**76.0%**  
Rate of Registered Students who Voted

**53.1%**  
Voting Rate

## 2014 Midterm Election



**62.3%**  
Registration Rate

**57.0%**  
Rate of Registered Students who Voted

**35.5%**  
Voting Rate

Total student enrollment	<b>39,753</b>
Ineligible to vote because too young	<b>160</b>
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	<b>4,348</b>
FERPA records blocked	<b>1,054</b>
Number of students who registered	<b>23,869</b>
Number of students who voted	<b>18,151</b>

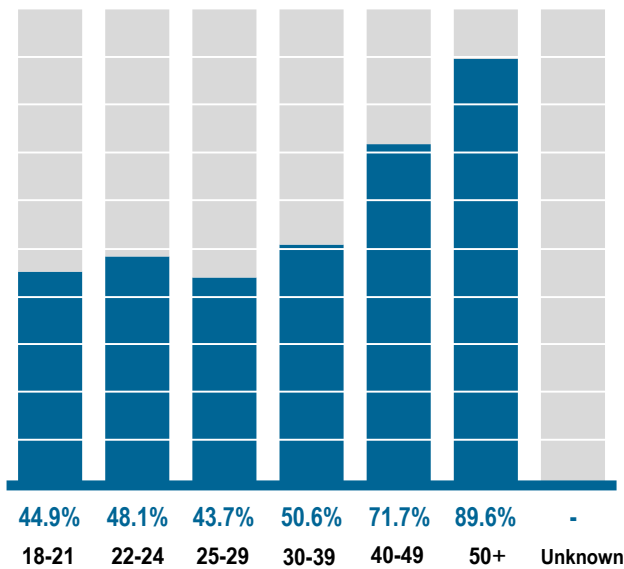
Total student enrollment	<b>40,522</b>
Ineligible to vote because too young	<b>170</b>
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	<b>4,814</b>
FERPA records blocked	<b>790</b>
Number of students who registered	<b>21,654</b>
Number of students who voted	<b>12,333</b>

# Your Students' Voting Rate Breakdown

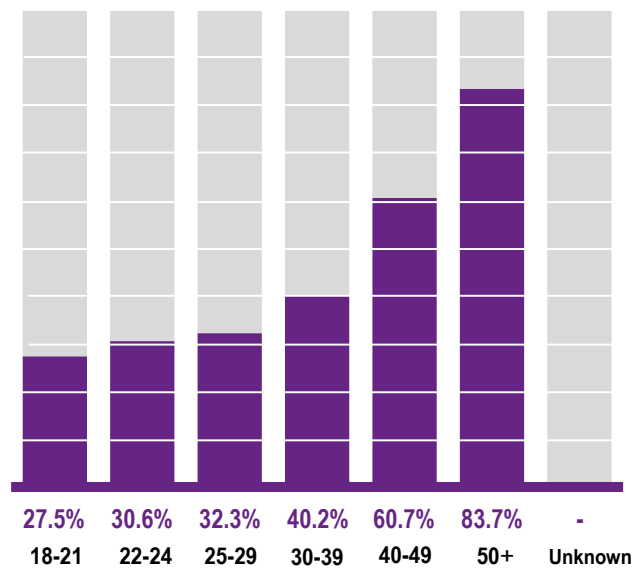
## BY AGE GROUP

Your students broken down by age at the time of the election. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens.

### 2012 Presidential Election



### 2014 Midterm Election



AGE GROUP	ENROLLED	VOTED
18-21	21,993	9,877
22-24	7,288	3,506
25-29	4,924	2,151
30-39	2,935	1,485
40-49	675	484
50+	723	648
Unknown	*	-

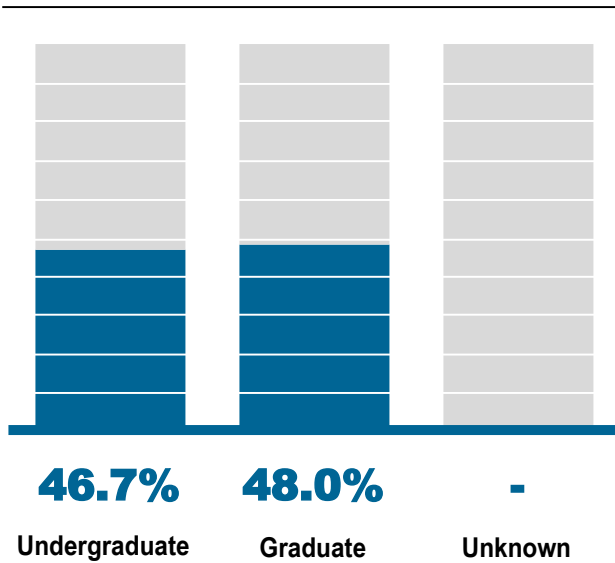
AGE GROUP	ENROLLED	VOTED
18-21	22,698	6,233
22-24	7,548	2,313
25-29	5,032	1,626
30-39	2,960	1,190
40-49	596	362
50+	728	609
Unknown	-	-

# Your Students' Voting Rate Breakdown

## BY EDUCATION LEVEL

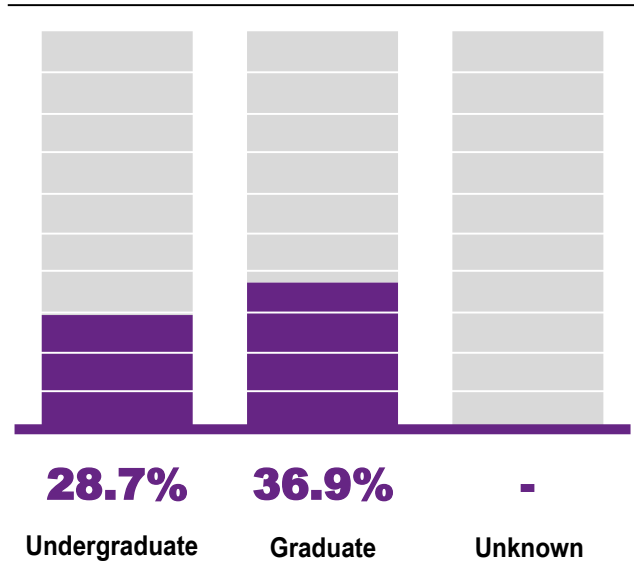
Your students broken down by undergraduate and graduate students. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens.

### 2012 Presidential Election



EDUCATION LEVEL	ENROLLED	VOTED
Undergraduate	27,161	12,685
Graduate	11,377	5,466
Unknown	*	-

### 2014 Midterm Election



EDUCATION LEVEL	ENROLLED	VOTED
Undergraduate	27,667	7,942
Graduate	11,895	4,391
Unknown	-	-

# Your Students' Voting Rate Breakdown

## BY FIELD OF STUDY

Your students broken down by field of study. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens.

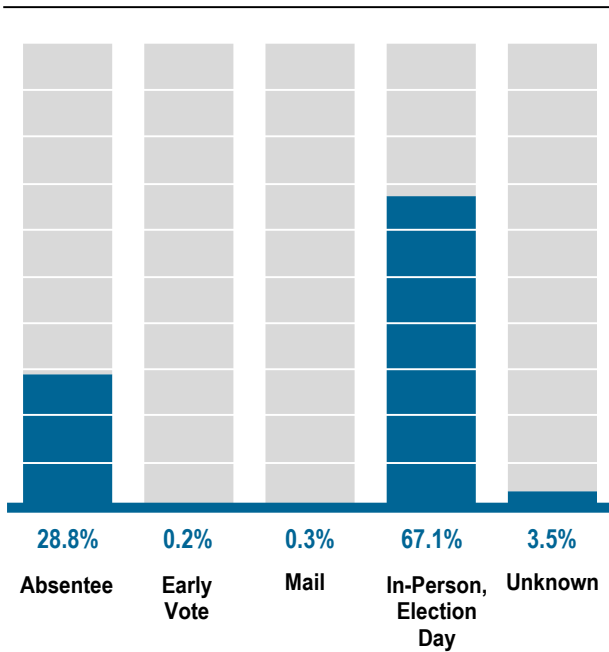
	2012 Presidential Election			2014 Midterm Election		
	Enrolled	Voted	Turnout	Enrolled	Voted	Turnout
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	1,015	483	47.6%	1,094	332	30.3%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,572	1,608	45.0%	3,417	1,018	29.8%
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support	2,489	1,051	42.2%	3,038	890	29.3%
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	954	403	42.2%	892	290	32.5%
Computer and Information and Library Sciences	632	241	38.1%	751	226	30.1%
Education	1,341	821	61.2%	1,087	467	43.0%
Engineering	5,200	2,096	40.3%	6,140	1,521	24.8%
Health Professions and Related Sciences, Knowledge, and Skills	2,763	1,500	54.3%	2,872	1,026	35.7%
Humanities	2,201	1,047	47.6%	1,642	540	32.9%
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities	7,502	3,491	46.5%	8,029	2,162	26.9%
Mathematics and Statistics	459	118	25.7%	391	69	17.6%
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	831	396	47.7%	740	213	28.8%
Parks and Recreation	591	299	50.6%	597	176	29.5%
Physical Sciences	1,384	566	40.9%	1,340	414	30.9%
Professions	1,769	1,012	57.2%	1,446	672	46.5%
Psychology, Personal Awareness, and Self-Improvement	1,010	490	48.5%	729	229	31.4%
Social Sciences	2,149	894	41.6%	1,768	569	32.2%
Technologies/Technicians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trades	561	292	52.0%	532	176	33.1%
Visual and Performing Arts	962	472	49.1%	815	291	35.7%

# Your Students' Voting Rate Breakdown

## BY VOTING METHOD

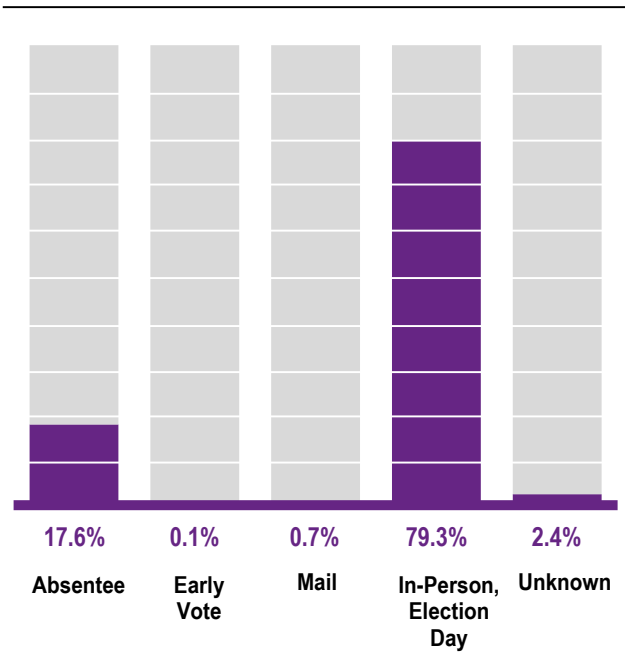
Your students broken down by voting method. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens. If your campus has a high percentage of "unknown" voting methods, it means that this information is not reported by local officials.

### 2012 Presidential Election



VOTING METHOD	ENROLLED	VOTED
Absentee	39,753	<b>5,220</b>
Early Vote	39,753	<b>36</b>
Mail	39,753	<b>63</b>
In-Person, Election Day	39,753	<b>12,188</b>
Unknown	39,753	<b>644</b>

### 2014 Midterm Election



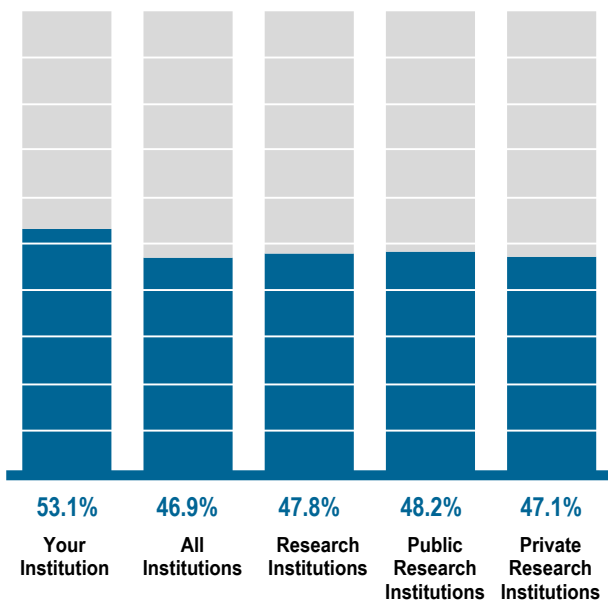
VOTING METHOD	ENROLLED	VOTED
Absentee	40,522	<b>2,165</b>
Early Vote	40,522	<b>14</b>
Mail	40,522	<b>82</b>
In-Person, Election Day	40,522	<b>9,777</b>
Unknown	40,522	<b>295</b>

# How Your Numbers Compare

## BY CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION

See how your campus voting rate compares to others in your Carnegie classification. This comparison data allows your campus to understand your individual voting rates in the context of similar institutions. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens.

### 2012 Presidential Election



### 2014 Midterm Election

