NSLVE
NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2019

2014 & 2018 CAMPUS REPORT

Student Voting Rates for Virginia Commonwealth University

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

About This Report

Thank you for participating in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Since NSLVE's launch in 2013, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have signed up to receive their voting rates for the 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has helped us build a robust database for research on more than 10 million de-identified student records for each election year.

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. IDHE is an applied research center focused on college and university student political learning and participation in democracy. IDHE researchers study voting, campus conditions for political learning and discussion, closing equity gaps in participation, and increasing student agency and participation. We accomplish our goals through research, resource development, assisting institutions and the higher education community, 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 voted in the 2014 and 2018 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files collected by Catalist. We exclude FERPA-blocked records. (For exceptions for campuses with disproportionately high numbers of FERPA blocked students, see our Campus Reports FAQ.)

The institutional voting rates reported on page 3 are adjusted by deducting an estimated number of students identified by each institution as non-resident aliens and reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). For breakdowns by student characteristics in subsequent pages of the report, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are ineligible to vote: non-resident aliens (international students), resident aliens (undocumented students), and students who have been disenfranchised due to a felony conviction. As a result, your institution's actual voting rate may be higher than we report. If you have access to more complete data for students who are ineligible to vote, you may recalculate your rates by using the Recalculation Tool **- https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve-recalculation-tool**.

To read more about NSLVE data, see our Campus Reports FAQ - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve/frequently-asked-questions.**

Reviewing the Data

Use the following key to interpret the charts:
* = number of students is less than 10
n/a = no data was collected or calculated for this field.

What to do next?

❑ Review the data and identify your challenges and opportunities. This report provides comparisons between subgroups of your students and with similar institutions. For more comparisons or to see national voter registration and voting rates, read our national report, Democracy Counts 2018. To access our data portals - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/public-data-portal-visualizations.**

❑ Share the report widely and strategically by sharing it with institutional leaders, faculty across disciplines, student government leaders, and other student groups.

❑ Read and implement *Election Imperatives*, ten recommendations for improving your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, equity, and participation - **https://idhe.tufts.edu/electionimperatives.**

❑ Work with us. IDHE can help via virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions, coaching, and in-person workshops.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: **https://idhe.tufts.edu/.**

Follow us on Twitter **@TuftsIDHE.**

We appreciate hearing from you! Please email us at **NSLVE@tufts.edu.**

Warm regards,

IDHE Team

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS
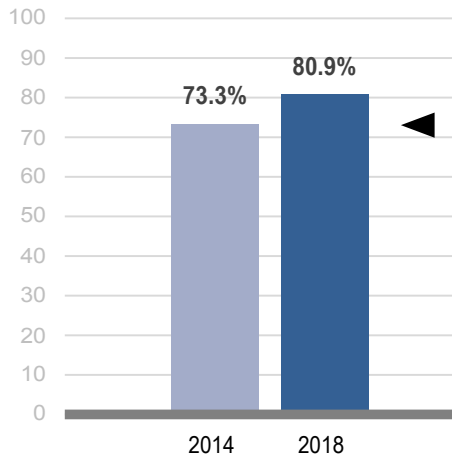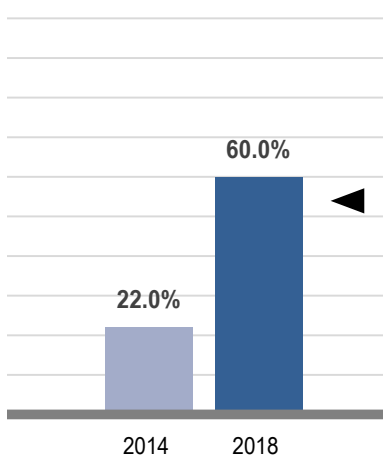
Voting and Registration Rates
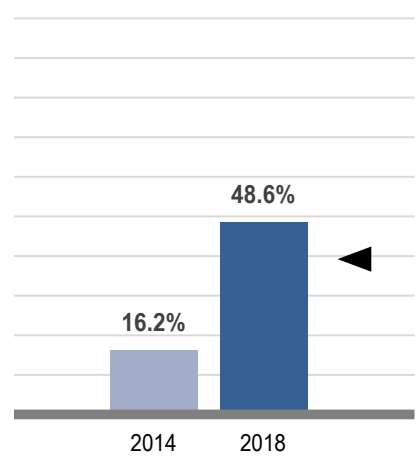
2018 Voting Rate

48.6%

CHANGE FROM 2014

+32.4

2018 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS

39.1%

Registration Rate

73.3% (2014) → 80.9% (2018)

Voting Rate of Registered Students

22.0% (2014) → 60.0% (2018)

Voting Rate

16.2% (2014) → 48.6% (2018)

◄ All Institutions, 2018

	2014	2018		Change
Total student enrollment	30,585	30,698	⬆	113
Age under 18/Unknown	(365)	(467)		
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,636)	(1,429)		
FERPA records blocked	(39)	(26)		
Total eligible voters	28,545	28,776	⬆	231
Number of students who registered	20,921	23,274	⬆	2,353
Number of students who voted	4,612	13,970	⬆	9,358
Registration rate	73.3%	80.9%	⬆	7.6
Voting rate of registered students	22.0%	60.0%	⬆	38.0
Voting rate	16.2%	48.6%	⬆	32.4
Difference from all institutions	-3.5	+9.5		

By Carnegie Classification

2014 Voting Rate for All Institutions	**HIGH 54.0%**
19.7%	**LOW 1.5%**

Difference from All Institutions   **-3.5**

2018 Voting Rate for All Institutions	**HIGH 64.1%**
39.1%	**LOW 11.5%**

Difference from All Institutions   **+9.5**

	Your Institution	Research Institutions	Public Research Institutions	Private Research Institutions
2014	16.2%	19.5%	19.6%	17.6%
2018	48.6%	41.2%	40.8%	42.5%
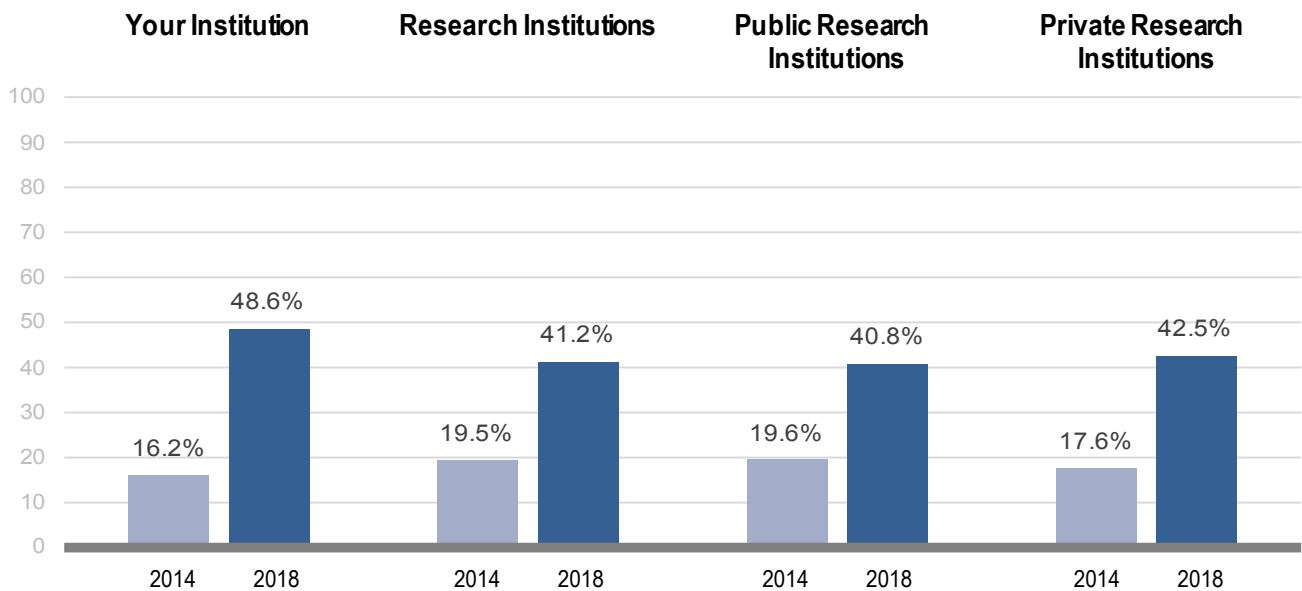
By Voting Method*
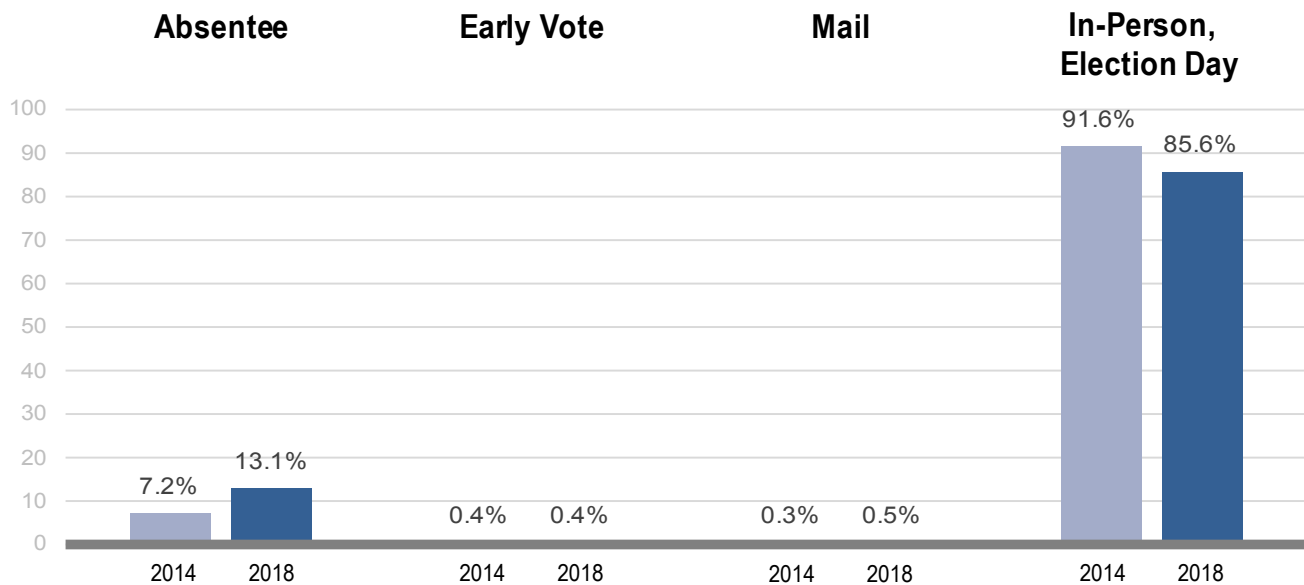
	2014			2018			
	Voted	Rate		Voted	Rate		Change
Absentee	332	**7.2%**		1,830	**13.1%**	⬆	5.9
Early Vote	19	**0.4%**		62	**0.4%**	➡	0.0
Mail	13	**0.3%**		71	**0.5%**	⬆	0.2
In-Person, Election Day	4,225	**91.6%**		11,952	**85.6%**	⬇	-6.1
Unknown	23	**0.5%**		55	**0.4%**		
Total	**4,612**			**13,970**			

* Your students' data broken down by voting method. If your campus has a high number of voting method "Unknown", it means that this information was not reported by local officals where your students voted.

By Age Group*
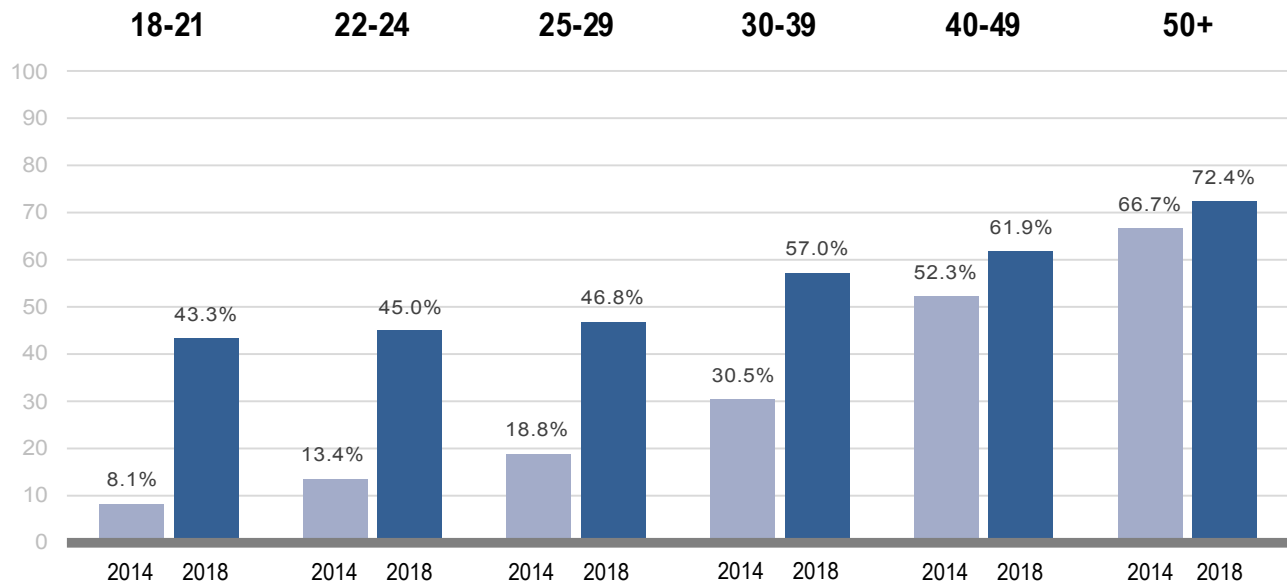
	2014			2018				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
18-21	14,319	1,158	**8.1%**	15,914	6,887	**43.3%**	⬆	**35.2**
22-24	7,302	981	**13.4%**	6,372	2,867	**45.0%**	⬆	**31.6**
25-29	4,620	867	**18.8%**	4,181	1,956	**46.8%**	⬆	**28.0**
30-39	2,465	751	**30.5%**	2,335	1,332	**57.0%**	⬆	**26.6**
40-49	895	468	**52.3%**	831	514	**61.9%**	⬆	**9.6**
50+	580	387	**66.7%**	572	414	**72.4%**	⬆	**5.7**
Unknown	*			18				

* Your students' data broken down by age at the time of the election. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

By Education Level*

	Undergraduate			Graduate		
2014	n/a			n/a		
2018	44.4%			51.0%		

	2014			2018			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
Undergraduate	0	0	**n/a**	22,300	9,905	**44.4%**	**n/a**
Graduate	0	0	**n/a**	6,770	3,452	**51.0%**	**n/a**
Unknown	30,181			1,135			

* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate and graduate students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

By Undergraduate Class Year*

First Year	Sophomore	Upper-level

4.1% 38.7% 7.6% 41.4% 14.3% 47.4%

2014 2018 2014 2018 2014 2018
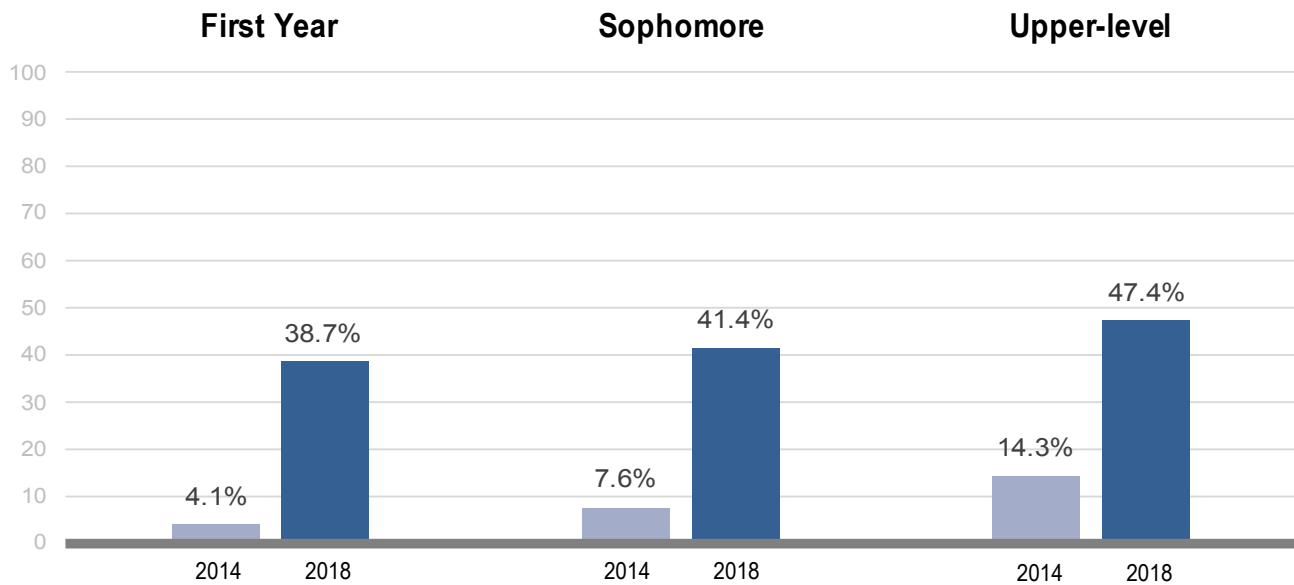
	2014			**2018**				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
First Year	3,486	142	**4.1%**	4,284	1,656	**38.7%**	⬆	34.6
Sophomore	4,724	360	**7.6%**	4,855	2,012	**41.4%**	⬆	33.8
Upper-level	13,742	1,971	**14.3%**	13,206	6,265	**47.4%**	⬆	33.1

* Your students' data broken down by undergraduate students' class level. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

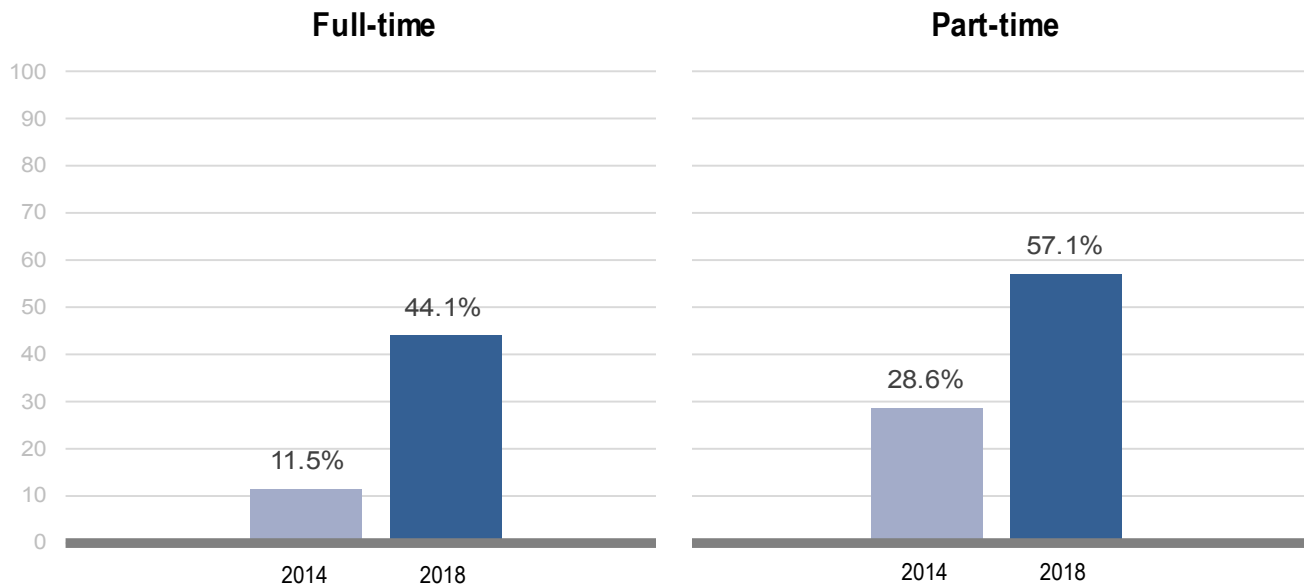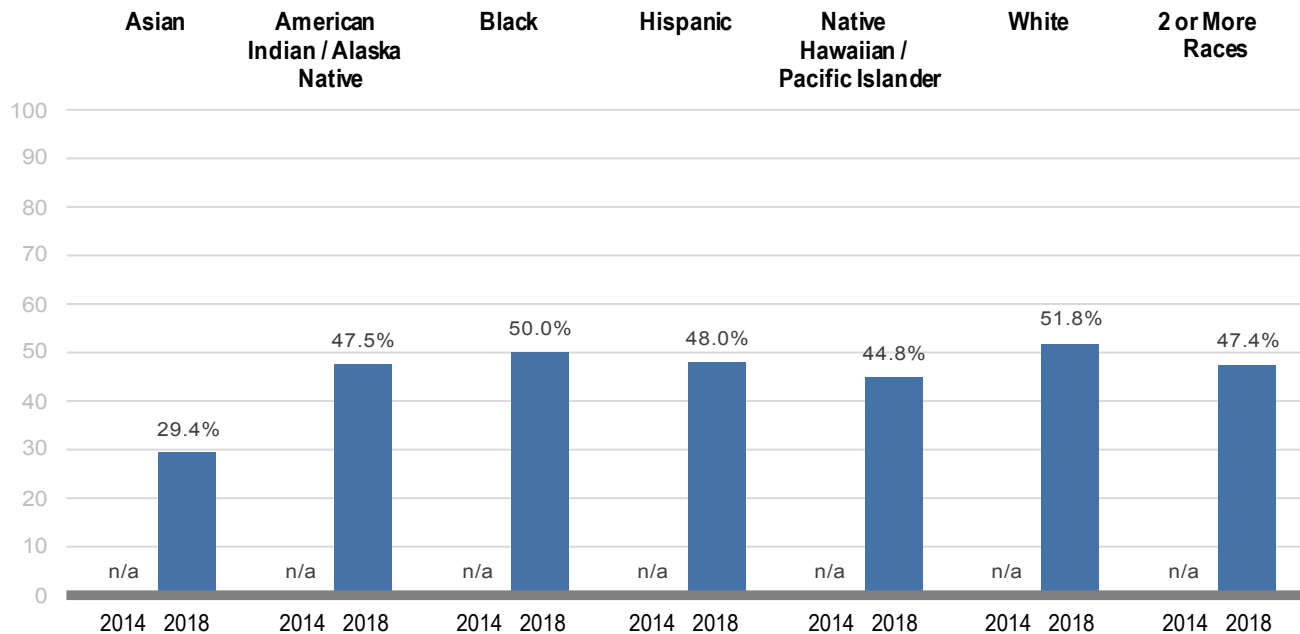**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

By Enrollment Status*

Full-time

Part-time

	2014				**2018**				
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Change
Full-time	23,469	2,690	**11.5%**		25,257	11,147	**44.1%**	⬆	**32.7**
Part-time	6,712	1,922	**28.6%**		4,948	2,823	**57.1%**	⬆	**28.4**
Unknown	0	0	**n/a**		0	0	**n/a**		

* Your students' data broken down by part-time and full-time students. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table.
Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students.

By Race/Ethnicity*

	2014			2018			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
Asian	0	0	**n/a**	4,469	1,313	**29.4%**	**n/a**
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0	0	**n/a**	61	29	**47.5%**	**n/a**
Black	0	0	**n/a**	5,262	2,631	**50.0%**	**n/a**
Hispanic	0	0	**n/a**	2,606	1,250	**48.0%**	**n/a**
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	0	**n/a**	29	13	**44.8%**	**n/a**
White	0	0	**n/a**	14,389	7,456	**51.8%**	**n/a**
2 or More Races	0	0	**n/a**	1,765	837	**47.4%**	**n/a**
Unknown	30,181			1,624			

* Your students' data broken down by race. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. For this page, we consider international students of unknown race/ethnicity.

By Field of Study*

* Your students' data broken down by field of study. To provide more accurate voting rates, students ineligible to vote because they were too young, students whose age data was not reported to the Clearinghouse, as well as records that were FERPA blocked are removed from this table. Please note that we are not able to adjust these voting rates by removing non-resident aliens, resident aliens or undocumented students. The green and red highlighted values below represent your campus's top three and bottom three voting rates by field of study.

	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	292	52	17.8%	309	186	60.2% ⬆	42.4
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,700	210	7.8%	2,576	1,047	40.6% ⬆	32.9
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,730	524	14.1%	3,586	1,497	41.8% ⬆	27.7
Communication and Journalism	1,221	153	12.5%	898	487	54.2% ⬆	41.7
Communications Technologies/Technicians	0	0	n/a	10	*	n/a	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	631	104	16.5%	851	346	40.7% ⬆	24.2
Education	1,600	375	23.4%	2,116	1,059	50.1% ⬆	26.6
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,570	186	11.9%	1,574	595	37.8% ⬆	26.0
English Language and Literature	411	85	20.7%	404	233	57.7% ⬆	37.0
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	27	14	51.9%	44	27	61.4% ⬆	9.5
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	123	26	21.1%	96	55	57.3% ⬆	36.2
Health Professions	3,818	715	18.7%	4,404	1,951	44.3% ⬆	25.6
History	354	117	33.1%	245	163	66.5% ⬆	33.5
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	1,461	195	13.4%	1,325	587	44.3% ⬆	31.0
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	3,095	548	17.7%	2,526	1,174	46.5% ⬆	28.8
Mathematics and Statistics	253	44	17.4%	297	149	50.2% ⬆	32.8
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,278	225	17.6%	1,024	508	49.6% ⬆	32.0
Natural Resources and Conservation	274	42	15.3%	238	151	63.5% ⬆	48.1
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	72	*	n/a	81	17	21.0%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	102	17	16.7%	124	73	58.9% ⬆	42.2
Physical Sciences	763	68	8.9%	722	287	39.8% ⬆	30.8
Psychology	1,606	172	10.7%	1,679	819	48.8% ⬆	38.1
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	881	282	32.0%	838	526	62.8% ⬆	30.8
Social Sciences	960	231	24.1%	1,138	687	60.4% ⬆	36.3

Visual and Performing Arts	2,945	217	**7.4%**	3,096	1,336	**43.2%** ⬆	**35.8**
Unknown		14	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a

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. (2019). *2014 and 2018 report for _____ [name of institution].* Medford, MA.

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Contact us:
Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement
Lincoln Filene Hall, Medford, MA 02155
NSLVE@tufts.edu | 617-627-0620

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