October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Washington University in St Louis

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe 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** 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;
(Botton 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.

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.

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.

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

70.8%
2020 Voting Rate

+8.4
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

81.6%	79.9%	82.9%
2016	2018	2020

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

76.4%	63.9%	85.4%
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

62.4%	51.1%	70.8%
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

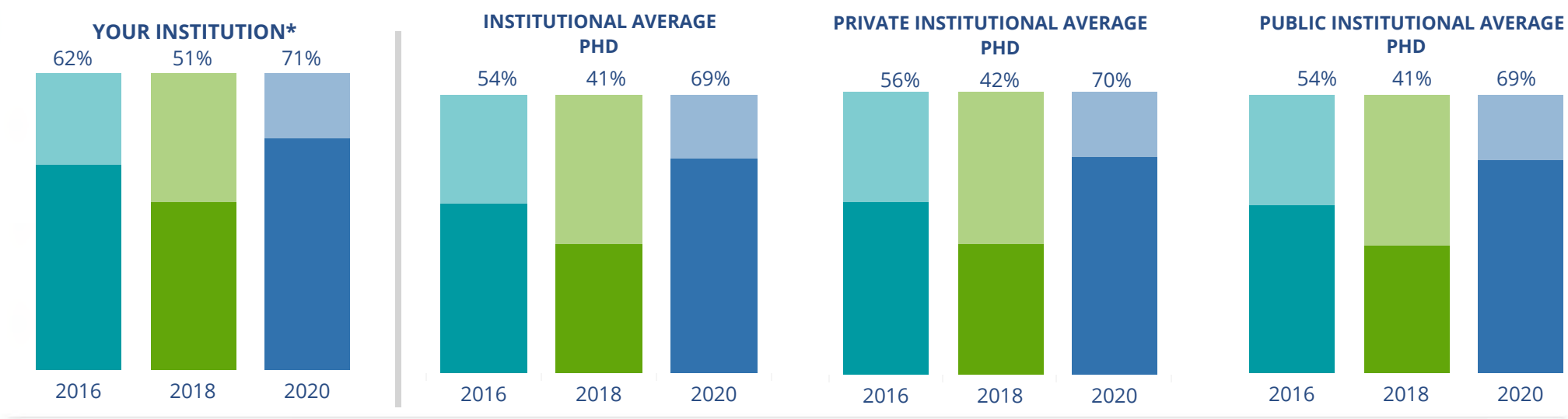|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	14,510	15,939	16,162	⬆ 1,652
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	2,716	3,262	3,375	⬆ 659
(FERPA records blocked)	539	269	137	⬇ -402
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	164	178	205	⬆ 41
Total eligible voters	11,090	12,230	12,444	⬆ 1,354
Number of students who registered	9,048	9,777	10,315	⬆ 1,267
Number of students who voted	6,915	6,245	8,809	⬆ 1,894
Registration Rate %	82	80	83	⬆ 1
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	76	64	85	⬆ 9
Voting Rate %	62	51	71	⬆ 8

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/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool.
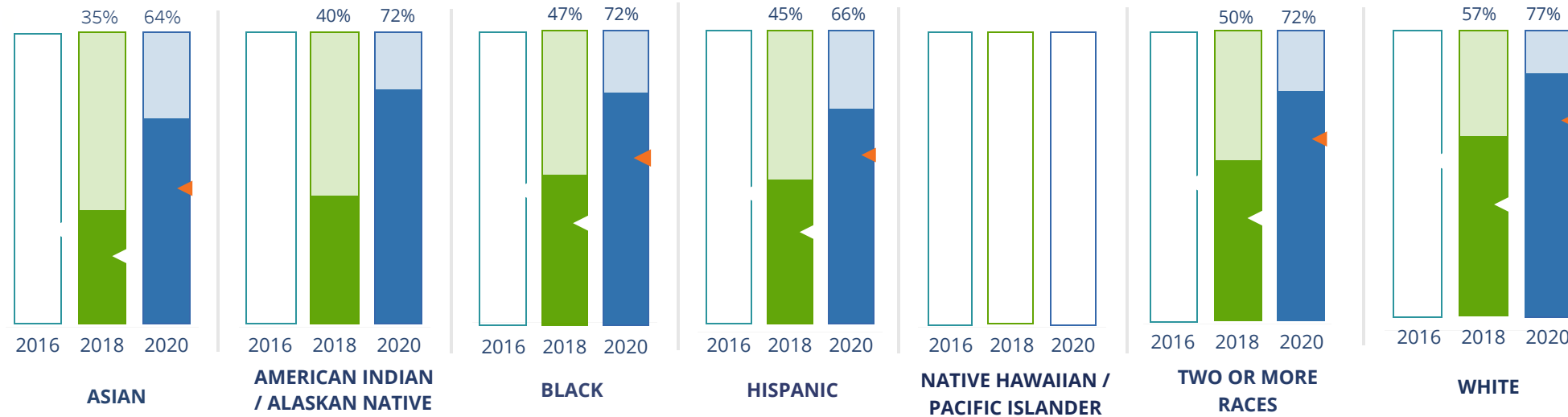
By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 82%
53%	LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 89%
66%	LOW 19%

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.

YOUR INSTITUTION*

62%	51%	71%
2016	2018	2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

54%	41%	69%
2016	2018	2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

56%	42%	70%
2016	2018	2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE PHD

54%	41%	69%
2016	2018	2020

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-nslve-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
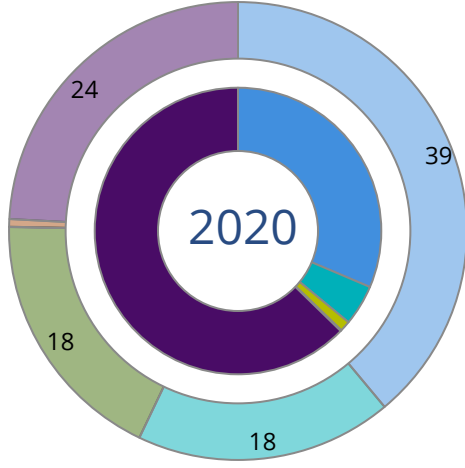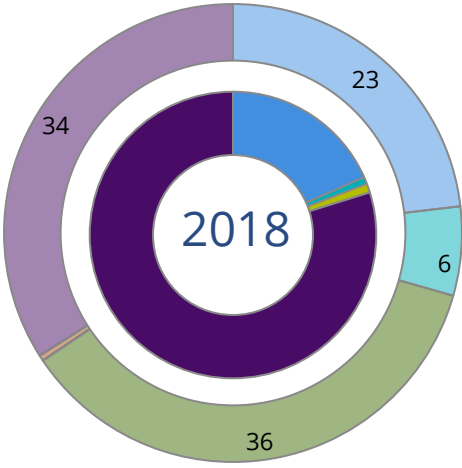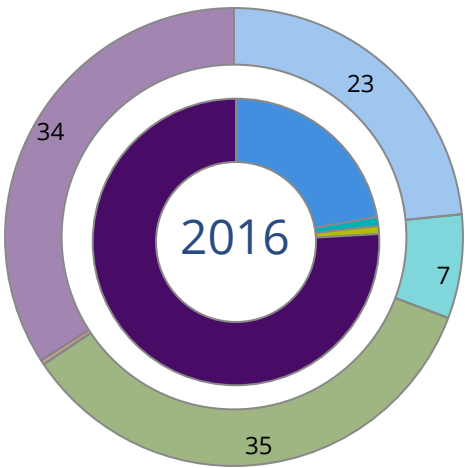
Looking Closer

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	–	–	–	1,761	622	35	1,926	1,228	64	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	30	12	40	29	21	72	–
Black	–	–	–	1,134	527	46	1,163	833	72	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	1,012	453	45	1,142	757	66	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	504	254	50	607	438	72	–
White	–	–	–	7,156	4,063	57	6,790	5,215	77	–
Race Unknown	13,763	6,915	50	626	313	50	4,094	309	8	⬇ -43

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ 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	67	1	53	1	402	5	4	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	61	1	62	1	107	1	0	⬆
Not-In-Person	1,534	22	1,151	18	2,767	31	9	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	5,252	76	4,979	80	5,524	63	-13	⬇

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/nslve/nslve-faq#CampusReports

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	58%	48%	71%
22-24	40%	46%	39%
25-29	44%	56%	46%
30-39	47%	61%	52%
40-49	52%	62%	60%
50+	78%	69%	73%

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	5,866	3,418	58	6,119	2,935	48	6,657	4,710	71	⬆ 12
22-24	3,054	1,210	40	2,230	1,018	46	3,942	1,529	39	⬇ -1
25-29	2,747	1,199	44	2,155	1,208	56	3,084	1,406	46	⬆ 2
30-39	1,405	662	47	1,071	658	61	1,426	741	52	⬆ 5
40-49	442	231	52	384	239	62	419	253	60	⬆ 8
50+	249	195	78	271	187	69	234	170	73	⬇ -6

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 |
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Female	–	–	–	6,464	3,607	56	8,250	4,926	60	–
Male	–	–	–	5,682	2,595	46	7,512	3,883	52	–

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	6,318	3,732	59	6,585	3,227	49	7,220	5,141	71	↑ 12
Graduate	6,628	2,800	42	5,027	2,712	54	7,975	3,391	43	↑ 0
Class Unknown	817	383	47	618	306	50	567	277	49	↑ 2
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	1,380	60	823	1,693	48	811	1,476	69	1,016	↑ 9
Second Year	1,531	58	893	1,611	45	728	1,429	70	1,007	↑ 12
Upper Level	3,389	59	2,004	3,258	51	1,671	4,280	73	3,106	↑ 13
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	–	–	–	10,677	5,305	50	13,614	7,743	57	–
Part-time	–	–	–	1,553	940	61	2,148	1,066	50	–

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.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Architecture	460	136	30	234	91	39	380	170	45	⬆ 15
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	152	113	74	124	78	63	124	92	74	⬇ 0
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,095	594	54	997	546	55	1,235	810	66	⬆ 11
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,881	881	47	1,362	634	47	2,182	918	42	⬇ -5
Communication and Journalism	–	–	–	18	14	78	–	–	–	–
Computer and Information Sciences	573	247	43	513	222	43	834	415	50	⬆ 7
Education	37	26	70	46	34	74	41	31	76	⬆ 5

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
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,646	705	43	1,216	572	47	1,846	951	52	⬆ 9
English Language and Literature	152	109	72	147	96	65	169	131	78	⬆ 6
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	175	84	48	124	72	58	163	76	47	⬇ -1
Health Professions	1,142	527	46	1,019	479	47	1,084	608	56	⬆ 10
History	87	52	60	69	46	67	75	57	76	⬆ 16
Legal Professions and Studies	966	412	43	958	507	53	1,253	711	57	⬆ 14
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,371	833	61	1,571	752	48	1,668	1,183	71	⬆ 10
Mathematics and Statistics	283	105	37	167	84	50	589	92	16	⬇ -21
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	278	182	65	649	286	44	853	458	54	⬇ -12
Natural Resources and Conservation	67	57	85	48	34	71	50	46	92	⬆ 7
Philosophy and Religious Studies	34	19	56	38	16	42	43	33	77	⬆ 21
Physical Sciences	411	191	46	258	141	55	325	169	52	⬆ 6
Psychology	397	270	68	437	256	59	501	366	73	⬆ 5
Public Administration and Social Service P..	476	265	56	457	317	69	435	300	69	⬆ 13

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Social Sciences	717	419	58	739	450	61	821	555	68	⬆ 9
Visual and Performing Arts	412	249	60	409	205	50	458	315	69	⬆ 8
Unknown	941	431	46	630	313	50	623	315	51	⬆ 5

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.

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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