



October 2021

# **Student Voting Rates for West Virginia University**

## 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.



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

64.0%

2020 Voting Rate

+19.8

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Rate
2016	79.8%
2018	80.3%
2020	86.8%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Rate
2016	55.4%
2018	37.6%
2020	73.7%

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

Year	Rate
2016	44.2%
2018	30.2%
2020	64.0%

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	30,085	28,496	27,572	↓ -2,513
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	2,353	2,085	1,487	↓ -866
(FERPA records blocked)	98	42	33	↓ -65
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	28	-	-
Total eligible voters	27,631	26,341	26,052	↓ -1,579
Number of students who registered	22,037	21,165	22,624	↑ 587
Number of students who voted	12,199	7,953	16,677	↑ 4,478
Registration Rate %	80	80	87	↑ 7
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	55	38	74	↑ 18
Voting Rate %	44	30	64	↑ 20

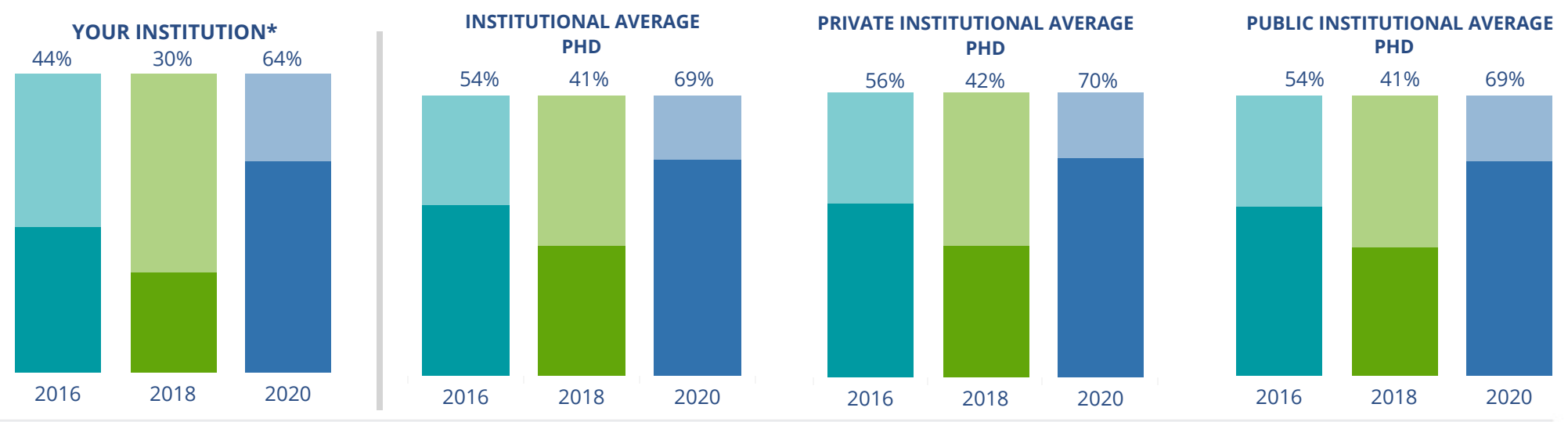
**This page provides the numbers we used to calculate your voting, registration, and yield rates.** The sub-categories under total student enrollment are the adjustments that we make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also exclude, when correctly flagged,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

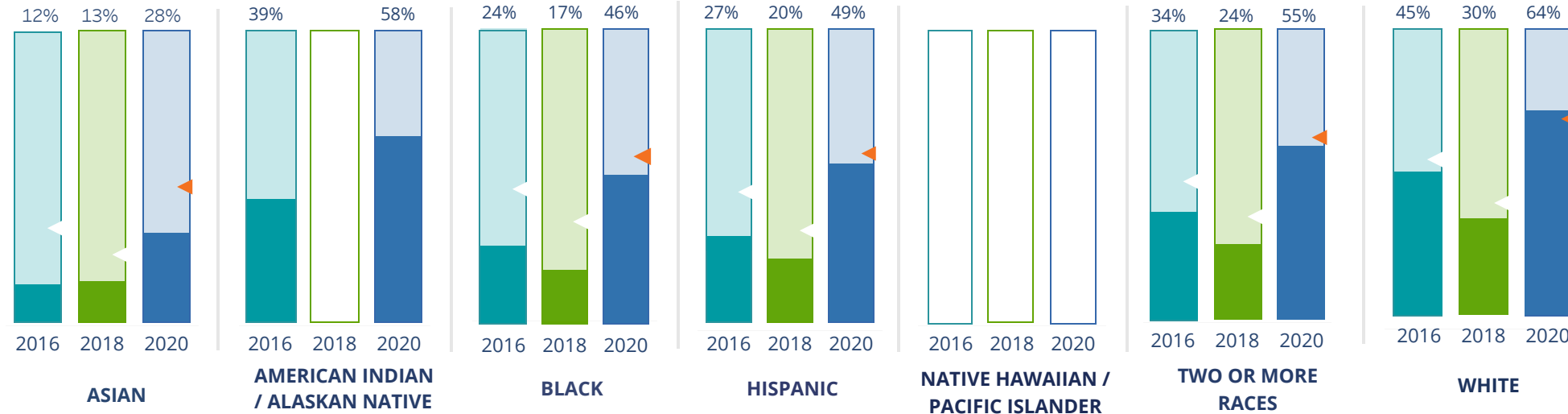
# By Institution Types



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-nsve-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

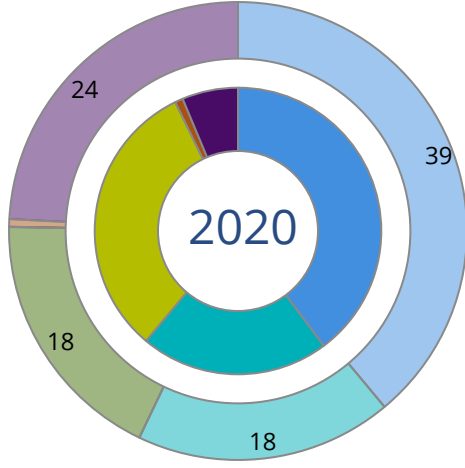
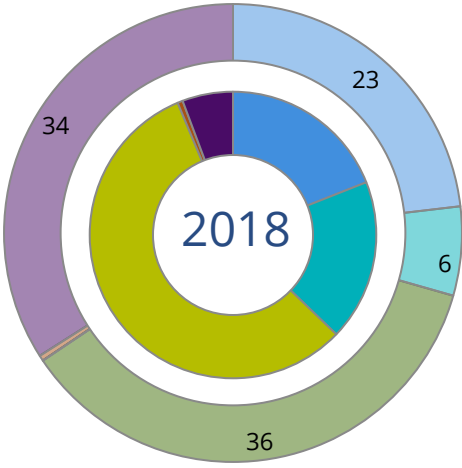
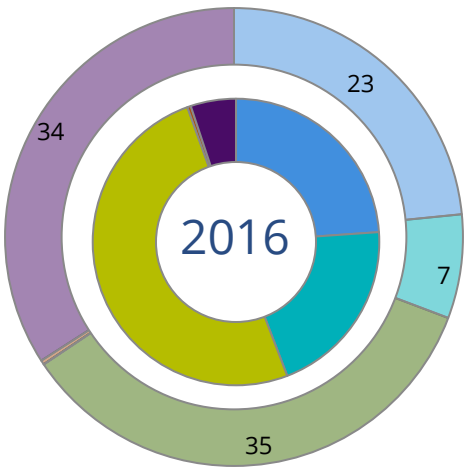
This page provides the numbers we used to calculate race / ethnicity group voting rates. We include the counts of students and the change in rates between the two most recent comparable election years. If you notice unavailable/missing data in this page, it could mean any of the following for your institution: (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	1,336	160	12	1,180	150	13	1,097	304	28	↑ 16
American Indian/ Alaska Native	52	20	38	41	-	-	45	26	58	↑ 19
Black	1,693	407	24	1,355	227	17	1,177	538	46	↑ 22
Hispanic	1,183	314	27	1,140	227	20	1,165	569	49	↑ 22
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	25	-	-	23	-	-	21	-	-	-
2 or More Races	1,097	371	34	1,085	258	24	1,058	578	55	↑ 21
White	24,103	10,841	45	23,150	7,019	30	22,538	14,500	64	↑ 19
Race Unknown	401	80	20	373	60	16	366	152	42	↑ 22



# 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	2,476	20	1,447	18	3,558	21	1	↑
In-Person on Election Day	6,138	50	4,492	57	5,283	32	-19	↓
Not-In-Person	2,910	24	1,508	19	6,636	40	16	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	45	0	47	1	154	1	1	↑
Voting Method Unknown	630	5	459	6	1,046	6	1	↑

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	37%	24%	62%
22-24	41%	28%	59%
25-29	48%	37%	57%
30-39	51%	41%	56%
40-49	67%	55%	69%
50+	71%	71%	77%

**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	18,327	6,842	37	17,957	4,346	24	17,513	10,794	62	↑	24
22-24	6,063	2,479	41	5,634	1,593	28	5,515	3,279	59	↑	19
25-29	2,796	1,335	48	2,445	915	37	2,328	1,322	57	↑	9
30-39	1,740	889	51	1,498	613	41	1,408	782	56	↑	4
40-49	654	435	67	567	311	55	477	327	69	↑	2
50+	310	219	71	246	175	71	226	173	77	↑	6

# Looking Closer

## By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Female	14,337	6,605	46	14,038	4,467	32	14,185	9,356	66	↑	20
Male	15,553	5,594	36	14,308	3,485	24	13,282	7,321	55	↑	19

**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	23,096	8,673	38	22,108	5,387	24	21,422	12,911	60	↑	23
Graduate	5,857	3,037	52	5,496	2,226	41	5,663	3,506	62	↑	10
Class Unknown	937	489	52	743	340	46	382	260	68	↑	16
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	7,497	34	2,553	6,991	22	1,562	6,244	56	3,478	↑	22
Second Year	5,374	37	1,973	5,268	22	1,169	5,192	61	3,188	↑	25
Upper Level	10,920	41	4,476	10,402	28	2,867	10,287	63	6,442	↑	22
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	27,048	10,479	39	25,691	6,657	26	25,696	15,573	61	↑	22
Part-time	2,842	1,720	61	2,656	1,296	49	1,771	1,104	62	↑	2

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)
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,882	745	40	2,108	560	27	2,320	1,477	64	↑ 24
Business, Management, and Marketing	3,437	1,233	36	3,468	720	21	3,784	2,207	58	↑ 22
Communication and Journalism	1,674	785	47	1,376	504	37	1,306	873	67	↑ 20
Computer and Information Sciences	414	163	39	442	144	33	455	266	58	↑ 19
Education	1,542	770	50	1,307	493	38	1,234	791	64	↑ 14
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	5,017	1,700	34	4,557	995	22	3,902	2,096	54	↑ 20
English Language and Literature	275	134	49	274	123	45	241	160	66	↑ 18

**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	
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	245	76	31	172	36	21	119	71	60	↑ 29
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	141	55	39	114	28	25	111	48	43	↑ 4
Health Professions	3,739	1,766	47	3,848	1,161	30	3,685	2,383	65	↑ 17
History	233	140	60	234	99	42	211	146	69	↑ 9
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	531	217	41	691	145	21	826	501	61	↑ 20
Legal Professions and Studies	350	235	67	345	189	55	362	280	77	↑ 10
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,833	719	39	1,558	459	29	1,442	838	58	↑ 19
Mathematics and Statistics	193	69	36	151	42	28	152	86	57	↑ 21
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	653	267	41	555	164	30	583	344	59	↑ 18
Natural Resources and Conservation	625	254	41	623	154	25	553	336	61	↑ 20
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	804	216	27	837	118	14	896	458	51	↑ 24
Philosophy and Religious Studies	43	17	40	28	14	50	37	24	65	↑ 25
Physical Sciences	658	247	38	559	133	24	513	263	51	↑ 14
Psychology	849	316	37	797	231	29	855	511	60	↑ 23



# 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	384	220	57	344	163	47	403	287	71	↑	14
Social Sciences	1,314	546	42	1,173	365	31	1,168	743	64	↑	22
Visual and Performing Arts	991	413	42	1,017	314	31	1,033	669	65	↑	23
Unknown	948	490	52	755	334	44	407	275	68	↑	16

# 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.

West Virginia University

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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