

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Western Carolina  
University

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# 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 and 2016 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of nearly 30 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 2012 and 2016 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (FERPA-blocked records excluded) and publicly available voting files collected by Catalyst.

Institutional voting rates 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, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are non-resident aliens, resident aliens, or undocumented students. This may result in your institution's actual voting rate being higher than we report. To calculate that percentage, and to read more about NSLVE data, see our [FAQ on Campus Reports](#). Please also see [Creating and Maintaining the NSLVE Database](#) paper for a more detailed study methodology.

## 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. This report provides a baseline measure of your students' engagement in democracy in 2012 and 2016, and compares your institution's voting rates to similar institutions. Visit our website for more comparison data.
- ❑ Share the report widely and strategically, including posting it online.
- ❑ Put your data into practice. Use our IDHE Resources to guide you.
- ❑ Address your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, and participation. Start by bringing the IDHE team to your campus or using the IDHE self-assessment rubric available on our website.
- ❑ Partner with IDHE. We are available with virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions and in-person trainings.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

Follow us on Twitter [@TuftsIDHE](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE) or email us at [NSLVE@tufts.edu](mailto:NSLVE@tufts.edu).

Warm regards,  
IDHE Team



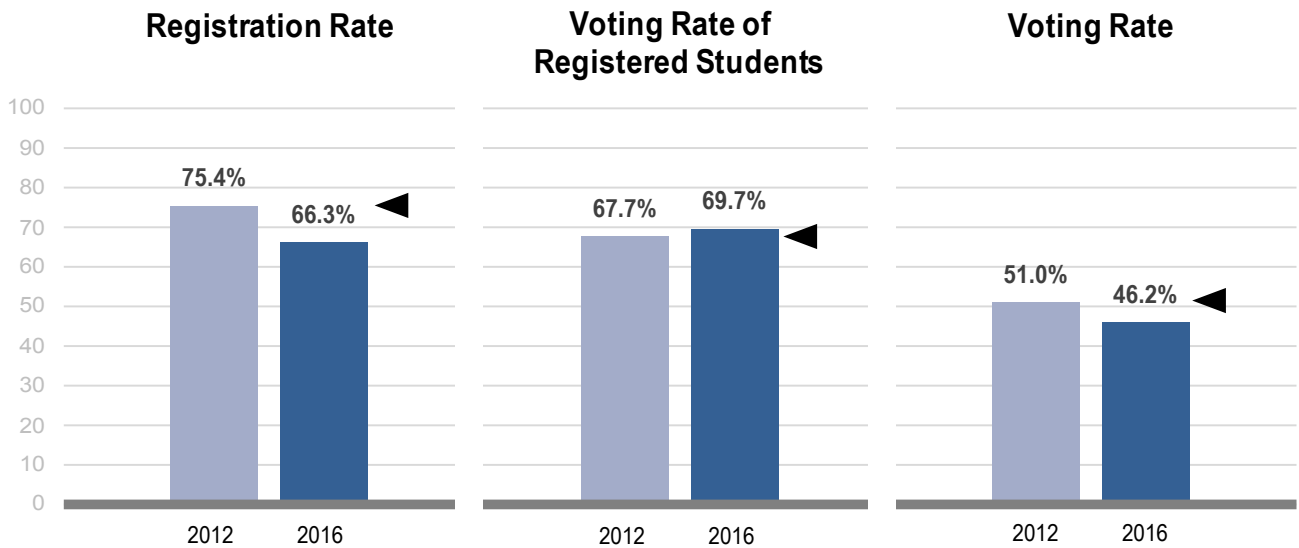
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**46.2%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**-4.9**

2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**50.4%**



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	9,162	10,704	↑ 1,542
Age under 18/Unknown	(36)	(20)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(168)	(217)	
FERPA records blocked	(13)	*	
Total eligible voters	8,945	10,462	↑ 1,517
Number of students who registered	6,741	6,935	↑ 194
Number of students who voted	4,565	4,830	↑ 265
Registration rate	75.4%	66.3%	↓ -9.1
Voting rate of registered students	67.7%	69.7%	↑ 1.9
Voting rate	51.0%	46.2%	↓ -4.9
Difference from all institutions	+4.1	-4.2	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

**2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**46.9%**

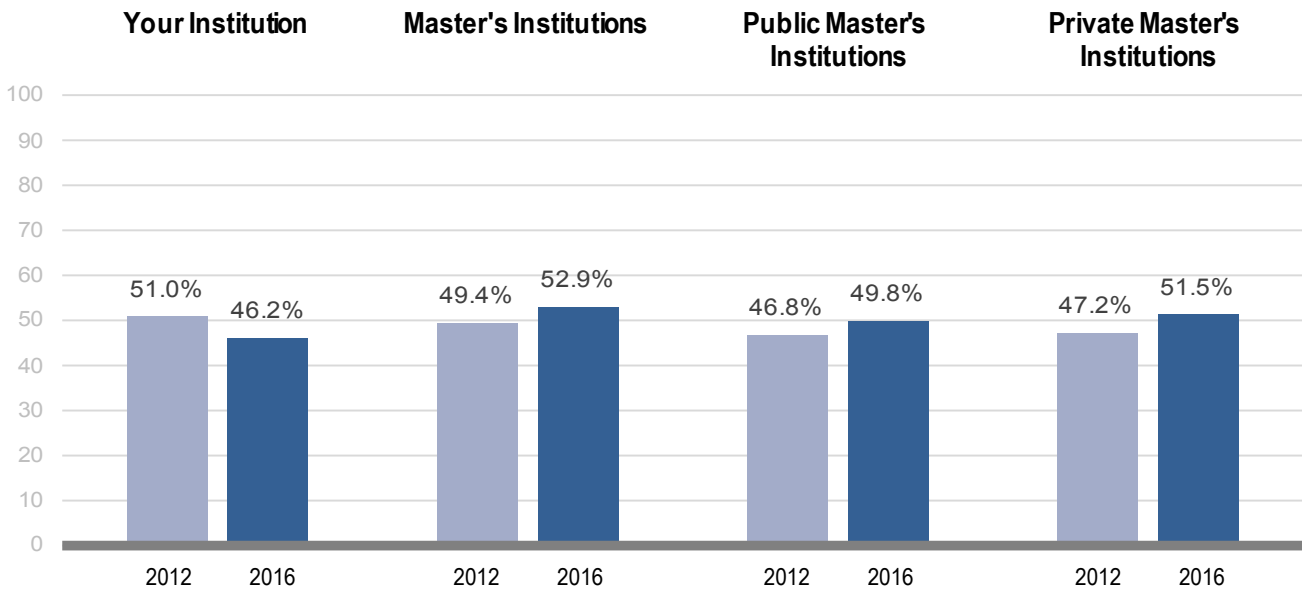
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

**2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**50.4%**

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

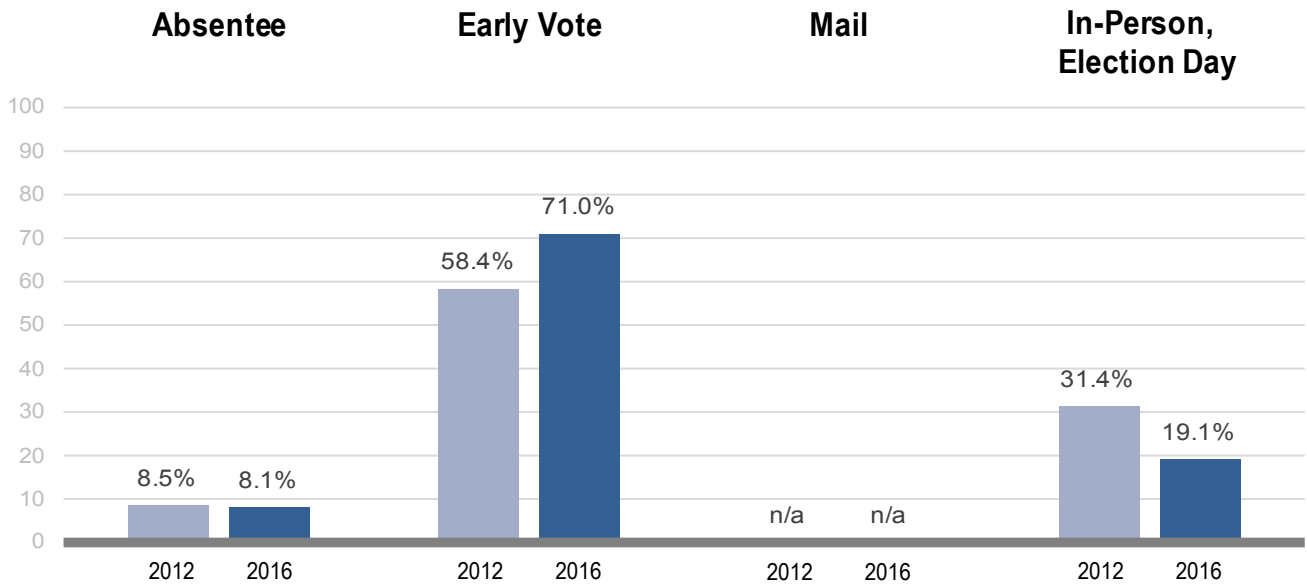
Difference from All Institutions **+4.1**

Difference from All Institutions **-4.2**



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

# By Voting Method\*

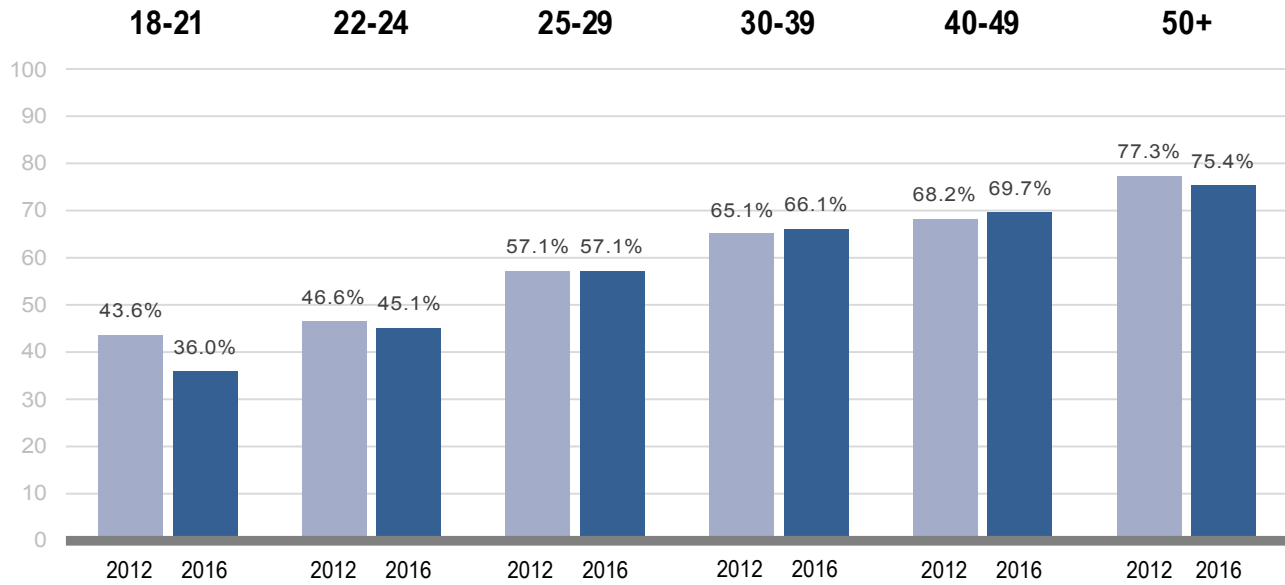


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	390	8.5%	390	8.1%	↓ -0.5
Early Vote	2,664	58.4%	3,429	71.0%	↑ 12.6
Mail	*	n/a	*	n/a	n/a
In-Person, Election Day	1,434	31.4%	922	19.1%	↓ -12.3
Unknown	73	1.6%	87	1.8%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,565</b>		<b>4,830</b>		

\* 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 officials where your students voted.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Age Group\*

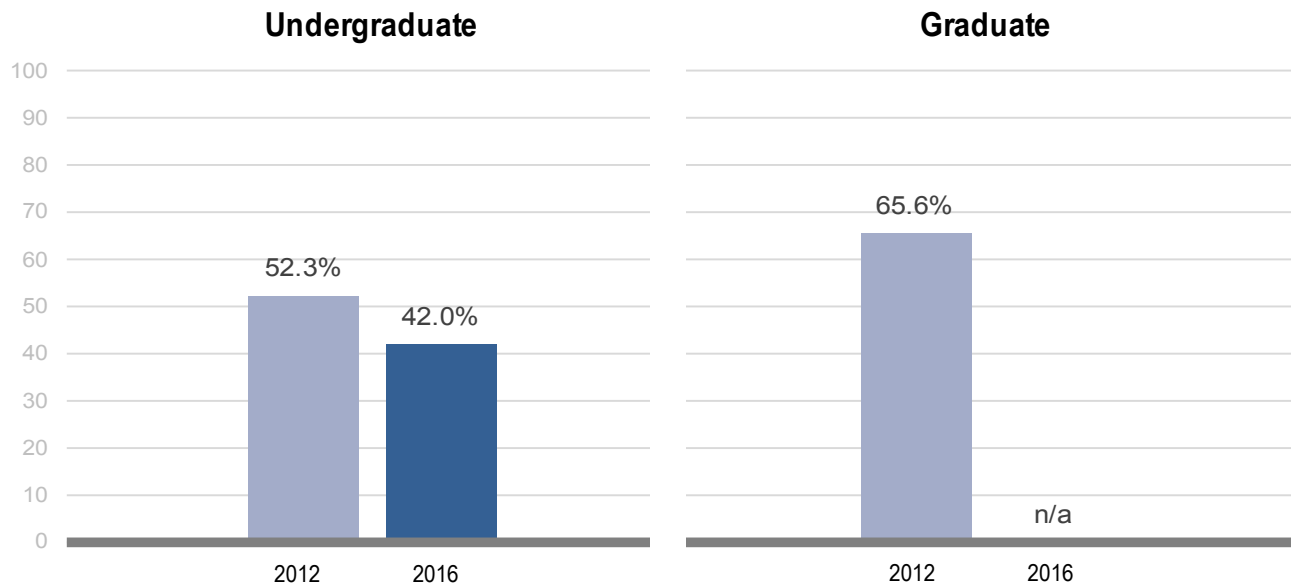


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	4,976	2,168	43.6%	6,048	2,175	36.0%	↓ -7.6
22-24	1,452	676	46.6%	1,717	774	45.1%	↓ -1.5
25-29	890	508	57.1%	978	558	57.1%	→ 0.0
30-39	1,041	678	65.1%	1,120	740	66.1%	↑ 0.9
40-49	529	361	68.2%	564	393	69.7%	↑ 1.4
50+	225	174	77.3%	252	190	75.4%	↓ -1.9
Unknown	0			0			

\* 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.

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

# By Education Level\*

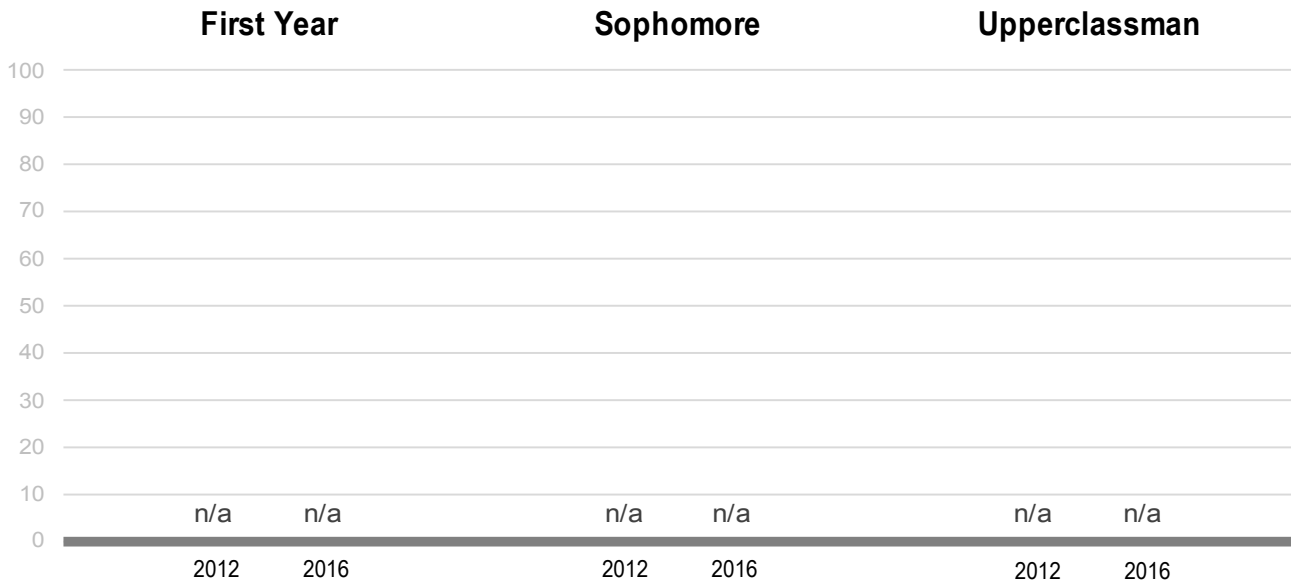


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	2,584	1,351	<b>52.3%</b>	9,167	3,848	<b>42.0%</b>	↓ <b>-10.3</b>
Graduate	784	514	<b>65.6%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Unknown	5,745			1,512			

\* 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.

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

# By Undergraduate Class Year\*



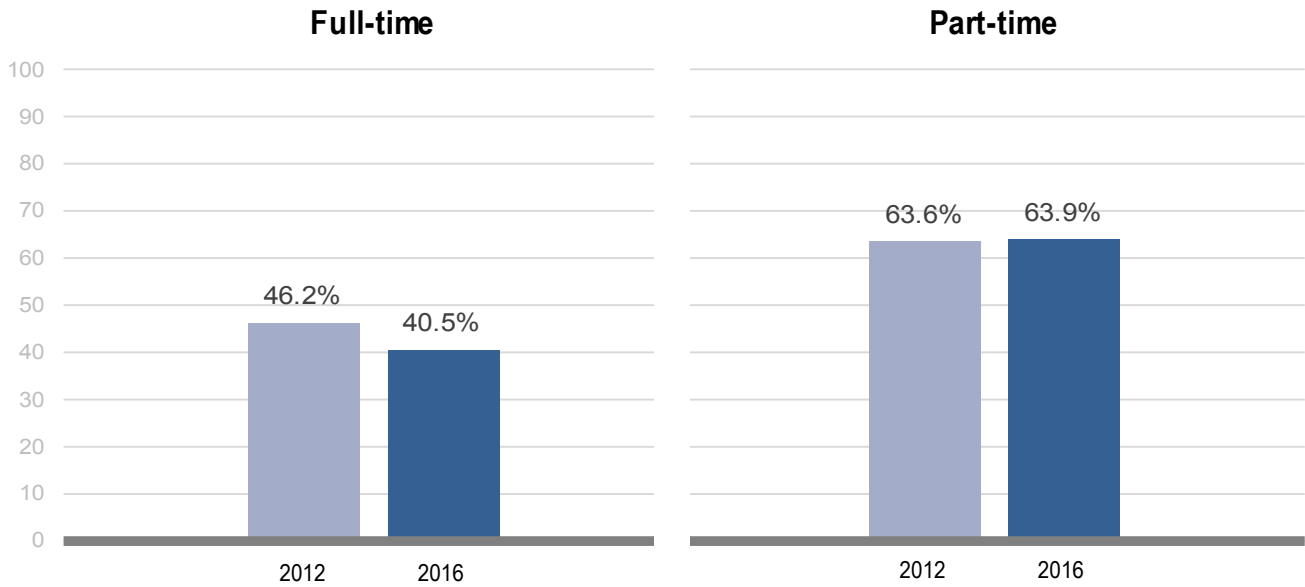
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Sophomore	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Upperclassman	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Enrollment Status\*

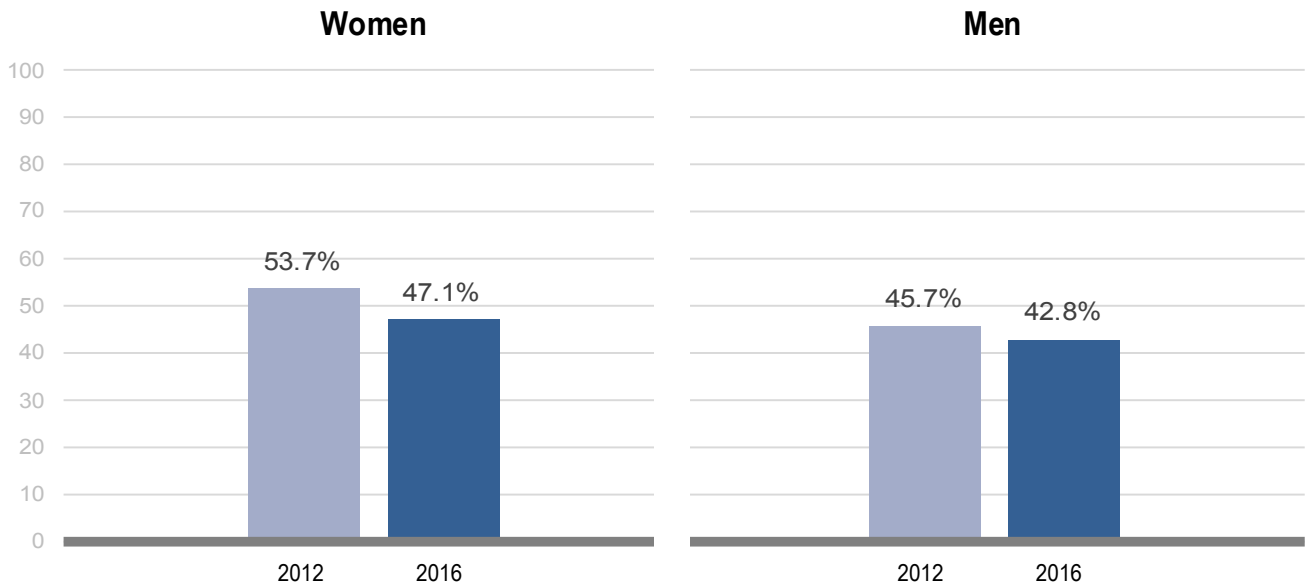


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	7,073	3,268	<b>46.2%</b>	8,506	3,442	<b>40.5%</b>	↓ <b>-5.7</b>
Part-time	2,040	1,297	<b>63.6%</b>	2,173	1,388	<b>63.9%</b>	↑ <b>0.3</b>
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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.

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

# By Gender\*

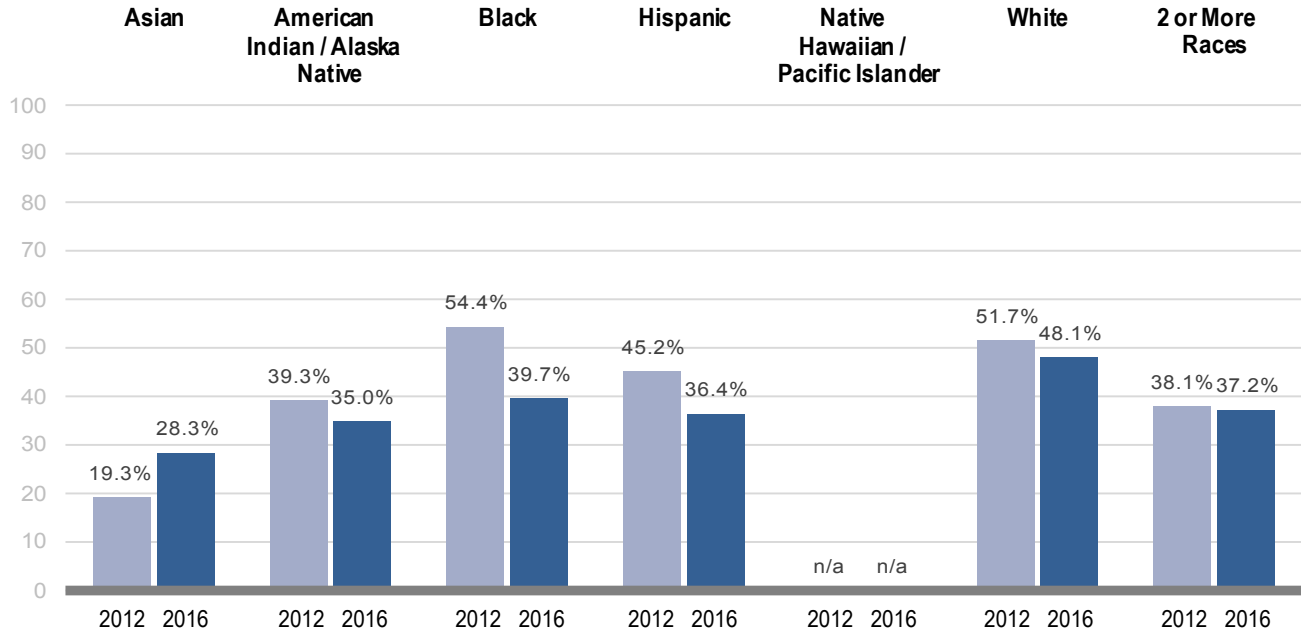


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Women	5,061	2,715	53.7%	6,058	2,852	47.1%	↓ -6.6
Men	4,052	1,850	45.7%	4,620	1,978	42.8%	↓ -2.8
Unknown	0	0	n/a	*	0	n/a	

\* Your students' data broken down by gender. 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Race/Ethnicity\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	114	22	19.3%	145	41	28.3%	↑ 9.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native	84	33	39.3%	80	28	35.0%	↓ -4.3
Black	603	328	54.4%	738	293	39.7%	↓ -14.7
Hispanic	292	132	45.2%	663	241	36.4%	↓ -8.9
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	10	*	n/a	14	*	n/a	n/a
White	7,567	3,908	51.7%	8,380	4,028	48.1%	↓ -3.6
2 or More Races	226	86	38.1%	401	149	37.2%	↓ -0.9
Unknown	217			258			

\* 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.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# 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.

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	306	129	42.2%	463	188	40.6% ↓	-1.6
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,377	662	48.1%	1,901	904	47.6% ↓	-0.5
Communication and Journalism	257	129	50.2%	254	102	40.2% ↓	-10.0
Computer and Information Sciences	95	33	34.7%	136	50	36.8% ↑	2.0
Education	1,447	795	54.9%	1,168	593	50.8% ↓	-4.2
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	528	230	43.6%	714	315	44.1% ↑	0.6
English Language and Literature	185	98	53.0%	182	84	46.2% ↓	-6.8
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	16	*	n/a	27	13	48.2%	n/a
Health Professions	1,568	874	55.7%	2,094	1,033	49.3% ↓	-6.4
History	142	71	50.0%	142	63	44.4% ↓	-5.6
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	541	277	51.2%	562	269	47.9% ↓	-3.3
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	150	55	36.7%	579	204	35.2% ↓	-1.4
Mathematics and Statistics	82	37	45.1%	51	20	39.2% ↓	-5.9
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	71	34	47.9%	40	15	37.5% ↓	-10.4
Natural Resources and Conservation	151	70	46.4%	147	57	38.8% ↓	-7.6
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	199	75	37.7%	297	109	36.7% ↓	-1.0
Philosophy and Religious Studies	35	14	40.0%	19	*	n/a	n/a
Physical Sciences	156	64	41.0%	156	59	37.8% ↓	-3.2
Psychology	411	180	43.8%	436	154	35.3% ↓	-8.5
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	407	276	67.8%	462	268	58.0% ↓	-9.8
Social Sciences	364	170	46.7%	283	117	41.3% ↓	-5.4
Visual and Performing Arts	455	206	45.3%	557	202	36.3% ↓	-9.0
Unknown	170	77	45.3%	*	*	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: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

**References:**

NSLVE encourages to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2016). *2012 & 2016 NSLVE Campus Report*. Medford, MA.

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