NSLVE — NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT

2014 & 2018 CAMPUS REPORT

Student Voting Rates for Western Carolina 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
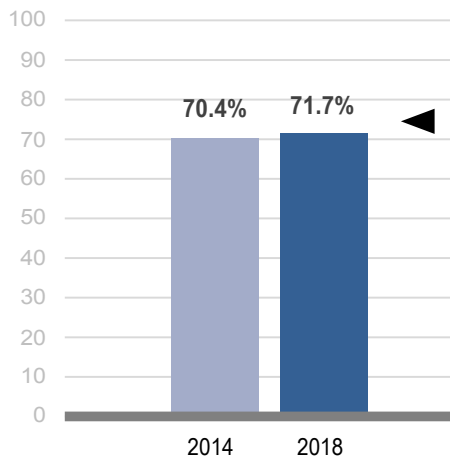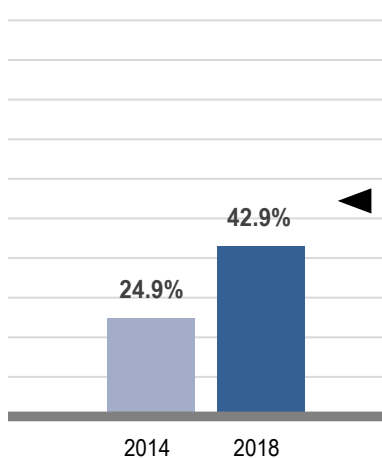
Voting and Registration Rates
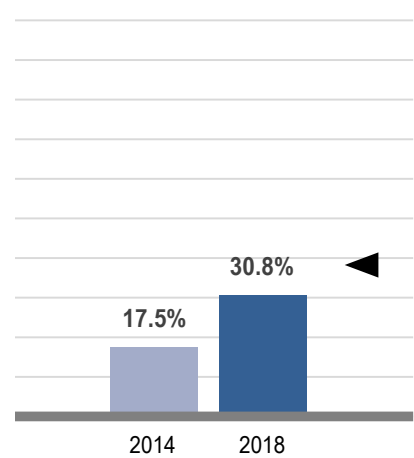
2018 Voting Rate	CHANGE FROM 2014	2018 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS
30.8%	**+13.3**	**39.1%**

Registration Rate — 2014: 70.4% / 2018: 71.7%

Voting Rate of Registered Students — 2014: 24.9% / 2018: 42.9%

Voting Rate — 2014: 17.5% / 2018: 30.8%

◄ All Institutions, 2018

	2014	2018		Change
Total student enrollment	10,333	11,508	⬆	1,175
Age under 18/Unknown	(60)	(28)		
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(276)	(232)		
FERPA records blocked	*	(15)		
Total eligible voters	9,988	11,233	⬆	1,245
Number of students who registered	7,032	8,052	⬆	1,020
Number of students who voted	1,750	3,457	⬆	1,707
Registration rate	70.4%	71.7%	⬆	1.3
Voting rate of registered students	24.9%	42.9%	⬆	18.0
Voting rate	17.5%	30.8%	⬆	13.3
Difference from all institutions	-2.2	-8.3		

By Carnegie Classification

**2014 Voting Rate
for All Institutions**

19.7%

**HIGH
54.0%**

**LOW
1.5%**

**2018 Voting Rate
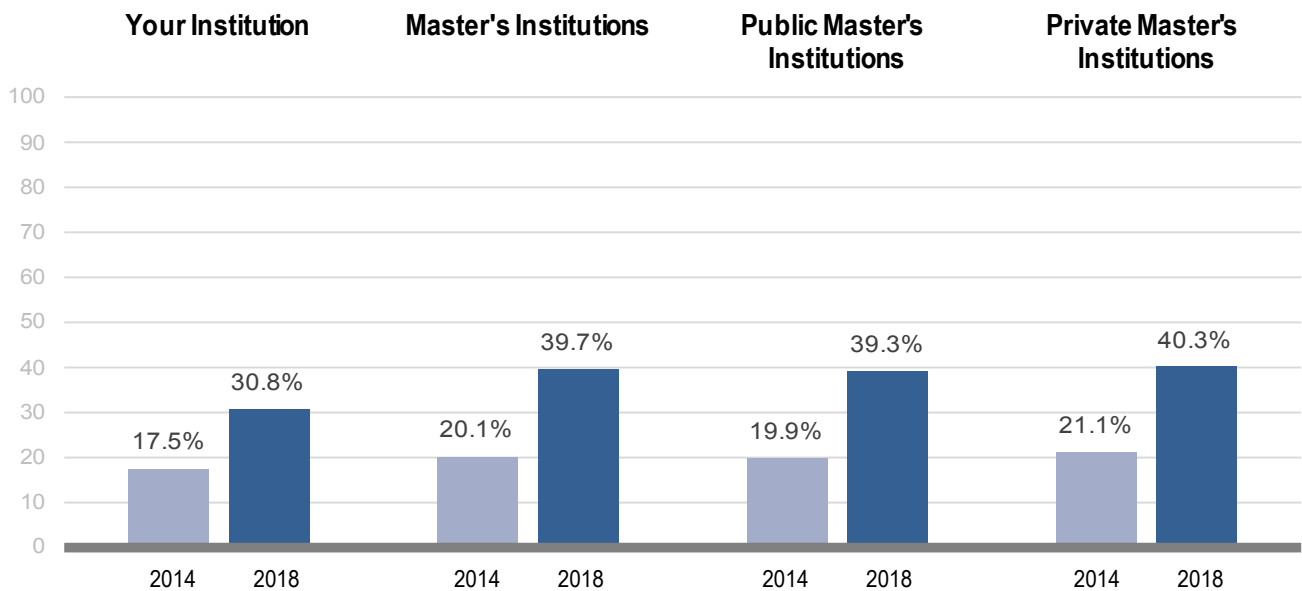for All Institutions**

39.1%

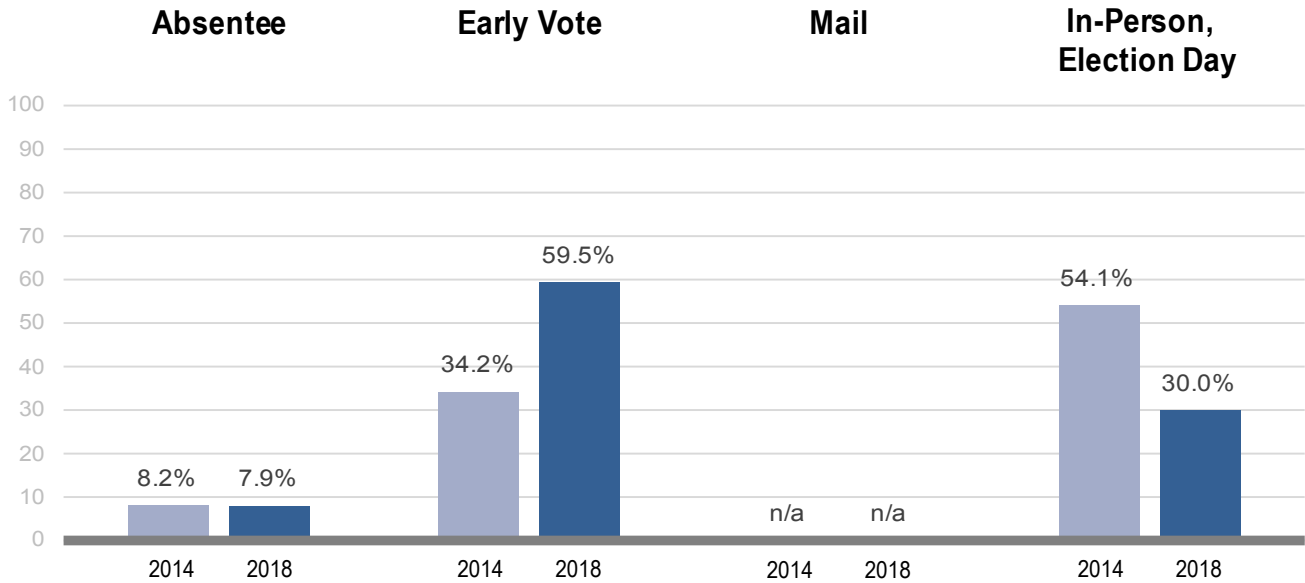**HIGH
64.1%**

**LOW
11.5%**

Difference from All Institutions   **-2.2**

Difference from All Institutions   **-8.3**

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

By Voting Method*

	2014			**2018**			
	Voted	Rate		Voted	Rate		Change
Absentee	143	**8.2%**		272	**7.9%**	⬇	**-0.3**
Early Vote	598	**34.2%**		2,058	**59.5%**	⬆	**25.4**
Mail	*	**n/a**		*	**n/a**		**n/a**
In-Person, Election Day	946	**54.1%**		1,036	**30.0%**	⬇	**-24.1**
Unknown	59	**3.4%**		85	**2.5%**		
Total	**1,750**			**3,457**			

* 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*
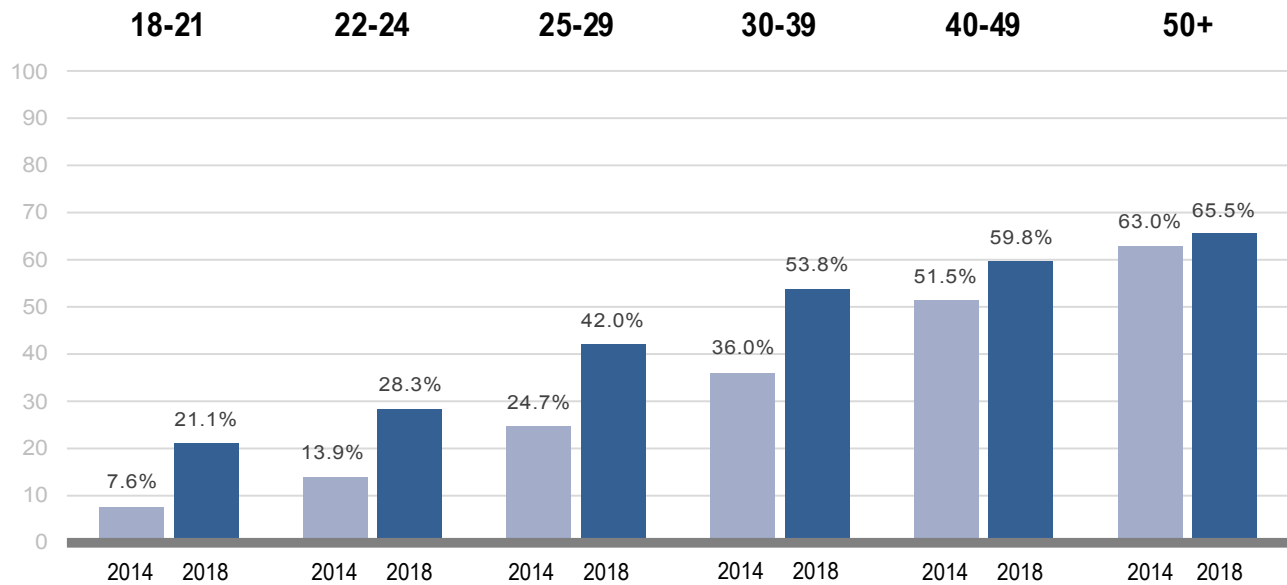
	2014			**2018**				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
18-21	5,738	437	**7.6%**	6,731	1,422	**21.1%**	⬆	**13.5**
22-24	1,574	219	**13.9%**	1,789	507	**28.3%**	⬆	**14.4**
25-29	1,026	253	**24.7%**	1,014	426	**42.0%**	⬆	**17.4**
30-39	1,133	408	**36.0%**	1,095	589	**53.8%**	⬆	**17.8**
40-49	577	297	**51.5%**	604	361	**59.8%**	⬆	**8.3**
50+	216	136	**63.0%**	232	152	**65.5%**	⬆	**2.6**
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.

By Education Level*

Undergraduate
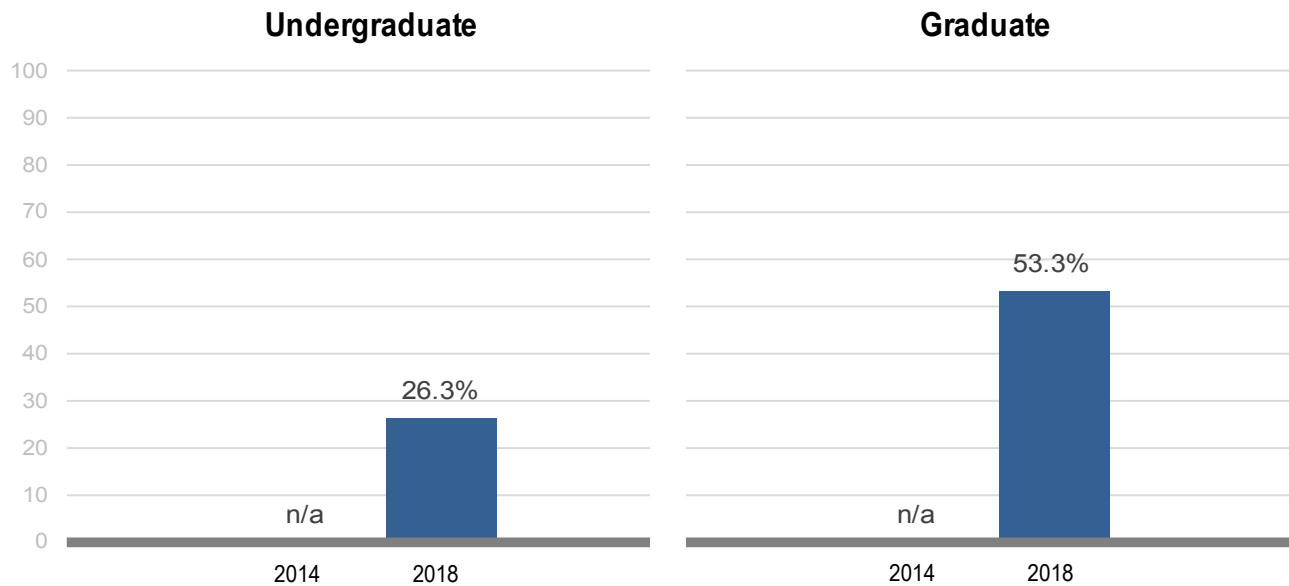
Graduate

	2014				**2018**			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
Undergraduate	0	0	**n/a**		9,678	2,549	**26.3%**	**n/a**
Graduate	0	0	**n/a**		1,570	836	**53.3%**	**n/a**
Unknown	10,264				217			

* 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	
100						
90						
80						
70						
60						
50						
40						
30						
20						
10						
0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
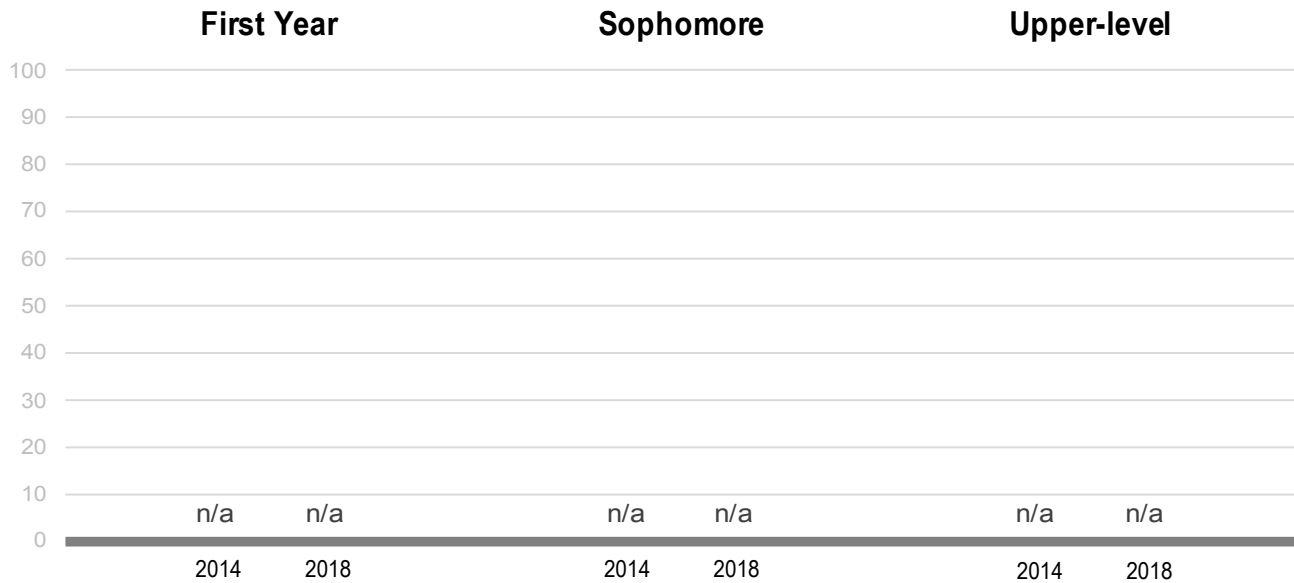
	2014			2018			
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change
First Year	0	0	**n/a**	*	0	**n/a**	**n/a**
Sophomore	0	0	**n/a**	0	0	**n/a**	**n/a**
Upper-level	0	0	**n/a**	0	0	**n/a**	**n/a**

* 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.

By Enrollment Status*
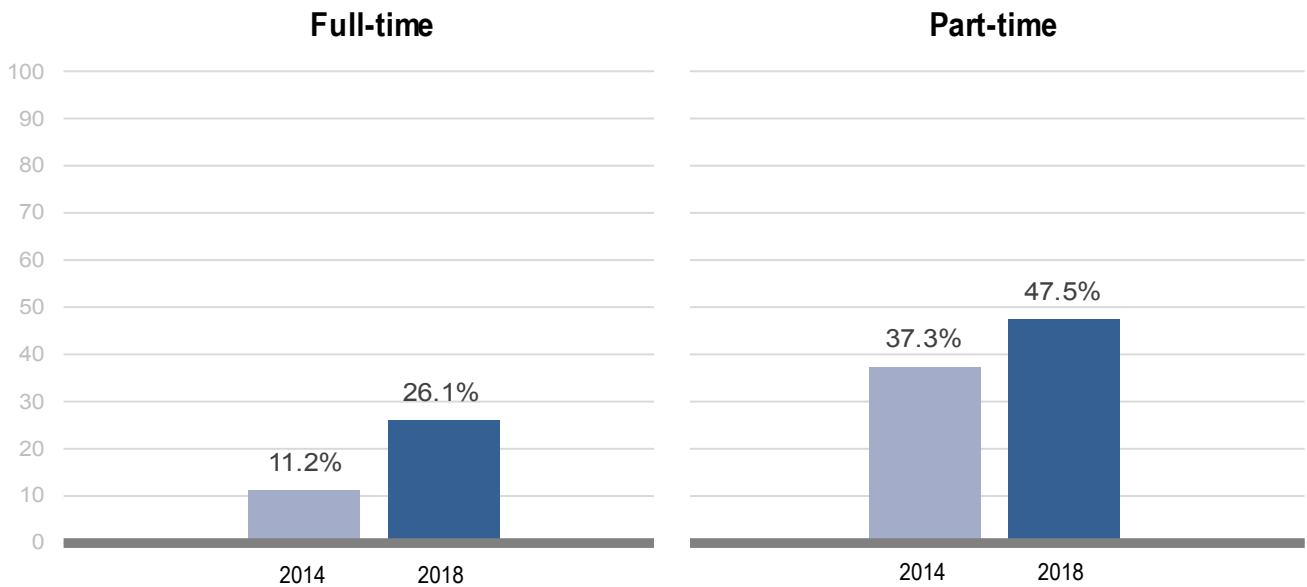
Full-time

Part-time

	2014			**2018**				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
Full-time	7,968	893	**11.2%**	9,286	2,422	**26.1%**	⬆	**14.9**
Part-time	2,296	857	**37.3%**	2,179	1,035	**47.5%**	⬆	**10.2**
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.

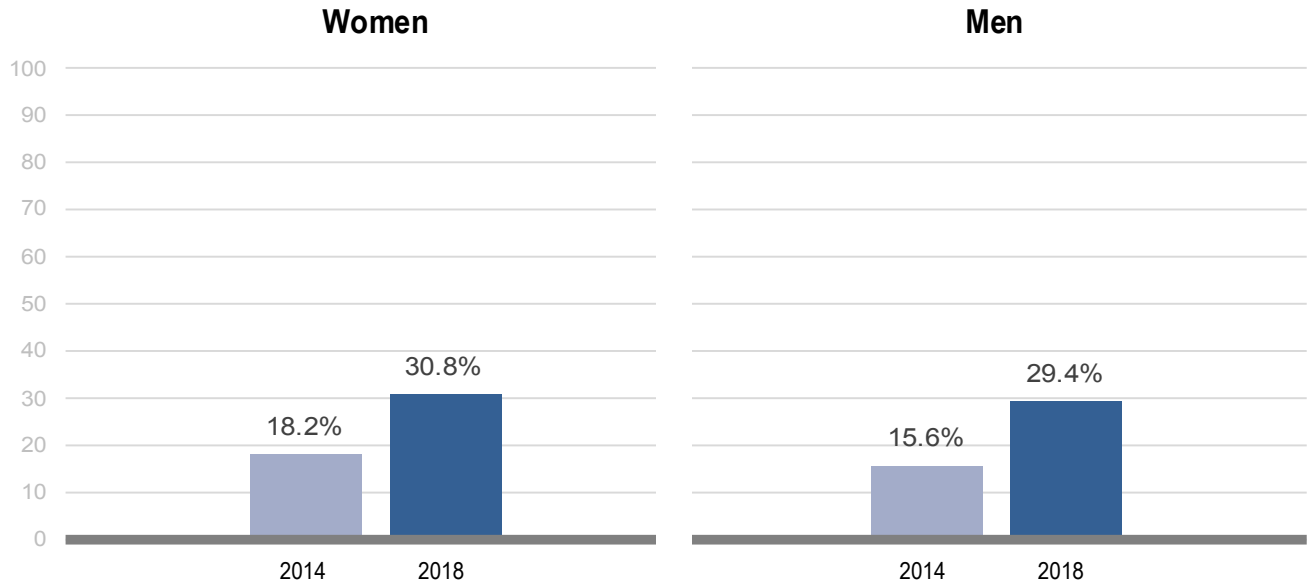**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

By Gender*

Women		**Men**	

Women chart: 2014 — 18.2%, 2018 — 30.8%

Men chart: 2014 — 15.6%, 2018 — 29.4%

	2014			**2018**				**Change**
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
Women	5,757	1,049	**18.2%**	6,498	1,998	**30.8%**	⬆	**12.5**
Men	4,505	701	**15.6%**	4,960	1,458	**29.4%**	⬆	**13.8**
Unknown		*			*			

* 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.

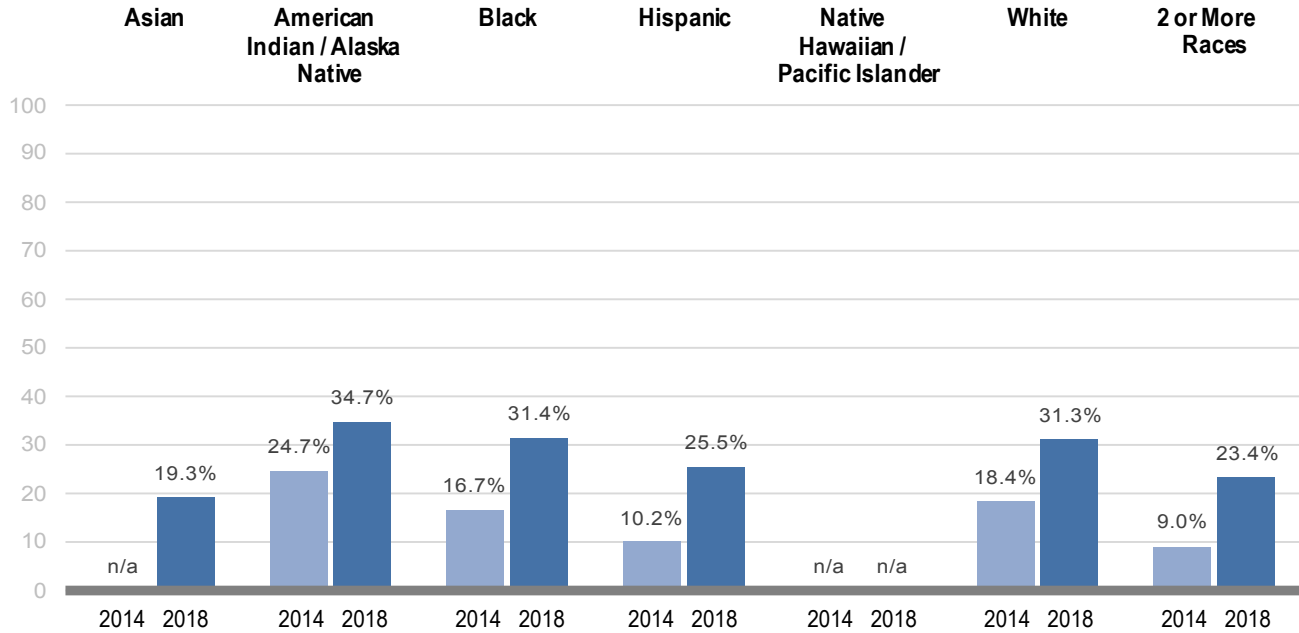**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

By Race/Ethnicity*

	2014			2018				Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
Asian	149	*	n/a	140	27	**19.3%**		n/a
American Indian/ Alaska Native	85	21	**24.7%**	95	33	**34.7%**	⬆	**10.0**
Black	737	123	**16.7%**	716	225	**31.4%**	⬆	**14.7**
Hispanic	511	52	**10.2%**	803	205	**25.5%**	⬆	**15.4**
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	13	*	n/a	*	*	n/a		n/a
White	8,164	1,504	**18.4%**	9,017	2,821	**31.3%**	⬆	**12.9**
2 or More Races	310	28	**9.0%**	445	104	**23.4%**	⬆	**14.3**
Unknown	295			241				

* 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.

YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM 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.

	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	376	31	8.2%	453	103	22.7% ⬆	14.5
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,607	311	19.4%	2,100	656	31.2% ⬆	11.9
Communication and Journalism	237	24	10.1%	244	70	28.7% ⬆	18.6
Computer and Information Sciences	107	*	n/a	143	27	18.9%	n/a
Education	1,234	328	26.6%	1,322	478	36.2% ⬆	9.6
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	682	106	15.5%	864	234	27.1% ⬆	11.5
English Language and Literature	183	34	18.6%	179	71	39.7% ⬆	21.1
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	12	*	n/a	53	13	24.5%	n/a
Health Professions	2,019	406	20.1%	2,150	662	30.8% ⬆	10.7
History	121	19	15.7%	112	47	42.0% ⬆	26.3
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	564	87	15.4%	495	145	29.3% ⬆	13.9
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	607	68	11.2%	648	132	20.4% ⬆	9.2
Mathematics and Statistics	58	*	n/a	80	26	32.5%	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	41	*	n/a	42	*	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources and Conservation	153	14	9.2%	174	53	30.5% ⬆	21.3
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	240	13	5.4%	321	74	23.1% ⬆	17.6
Philosophy and Religious Studies	29	*	n/a	32	10	31.3%	n/a
Physical Sciences	168	11	6.6%	167	36	21.6% ⬆	15.0
Psychology	409	34	8.3%	509	116	22.8% ⬆	14.5
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	488	146	29.9%	502	243	48.4% ⬆	18.5
Social Sciences	326	43	13.2%	356	111	31.2% ⬆	18.0
Visual and Performing Arts	477	41	8.6%	507	138	27.2% ⬆	18.6
Unknown	126	*	n/a	12	*	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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