October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Western Illinois University

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.
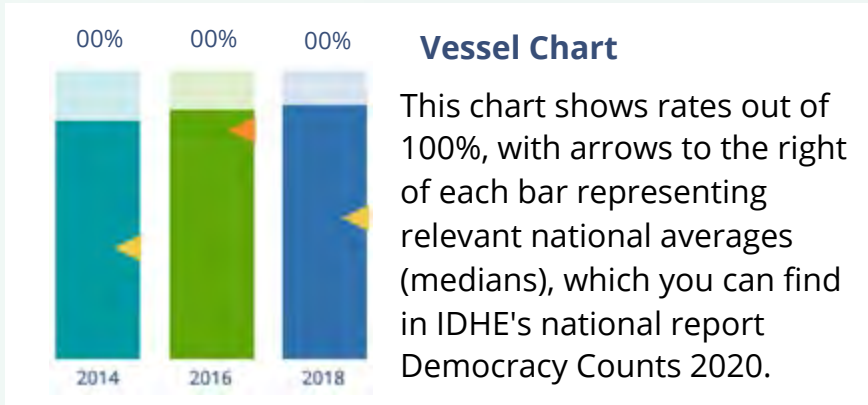
All the Best,
IDHE Team

(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

57.3%

2020 Voting Rate

+12.0

Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%

2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

77.4%	73.0%	81.6%
2016	2018	2020

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

58.5%	37.6%	70.2%
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

45.3%	27.5%	57.3%
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

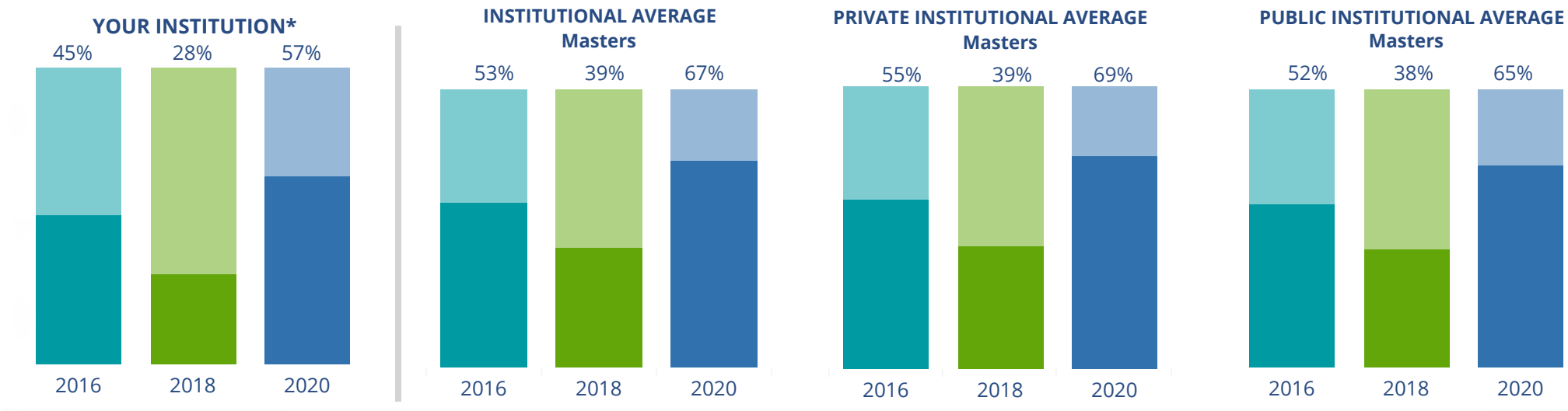|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	10,178	8,308	7,239	↓ -2,939
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	485	359	248	↓ -237
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	120	116	129	↑ 9
Total eligible voters	9,567	7,828	6,859	↓ -2,708
Number of students who registered	7,406	5,716	5,600	↓ -1,806
Number of students who voted	4,334	2,149	3,933	↓ -401
Registration Rate %	77	73	82	↑ 4
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	59	38	70	↑ 12
Voting Rate %	45	27	57	↑ 12

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 have removed non-resident aliens (international students) based on your institution's enrollment submission to the National Student Clearinghouse. This is indicated by "NSC reported non-resident aliens" on this page.
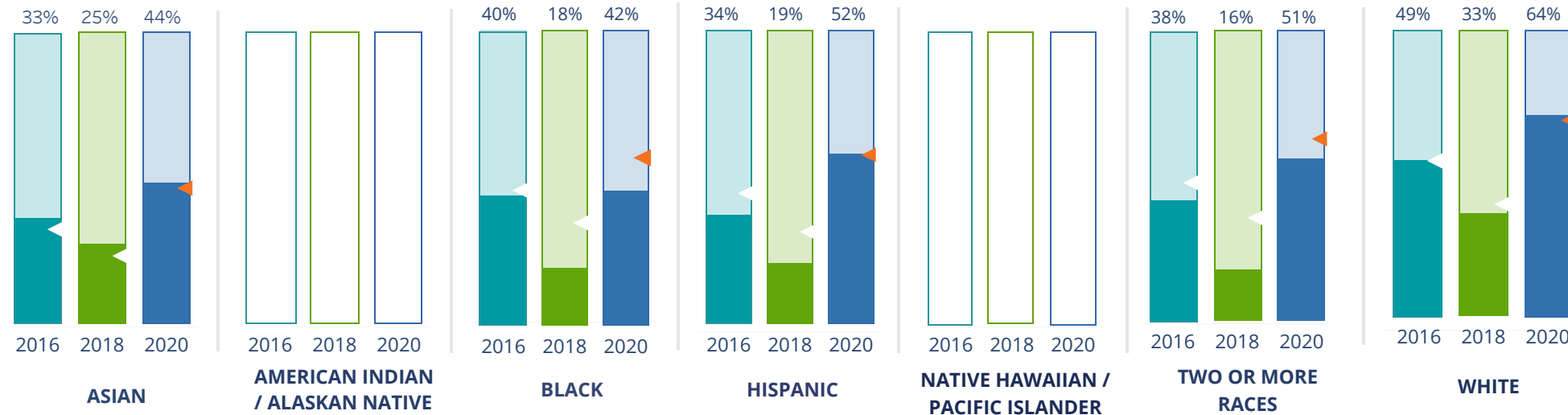
By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH 82%

LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

HIGH 89%

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*

45% | 28% | 57%

2016 | 2018 | 2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

53% | 39% | 67%

2016 | 2018 | 2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

55% | 39% | 69%

2016 | 2018 | 2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

52% | 38% | 65%

2016 | 2018 | 2020

By Race / Ethnicity

	ASIAN			AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE			BLACK			HISPANIC			NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER			TWO OR MORE RACES			WHITE		
	33%	25%	44%				40%	18%	42%	34%	19%	52%				38%	16%	51%	49%	33%	64%
	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020	2016	2018	2020

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
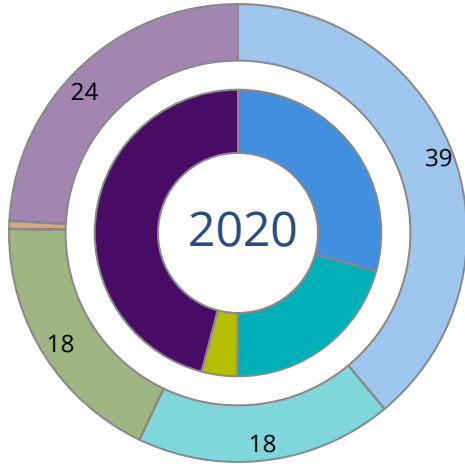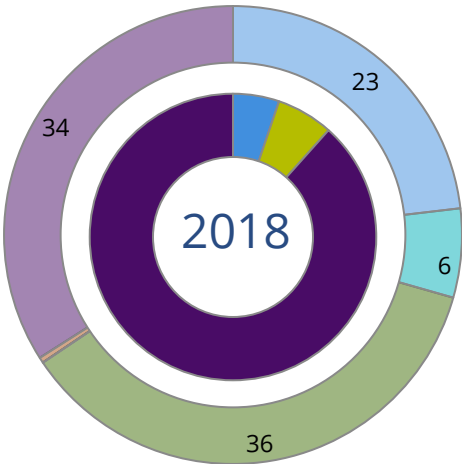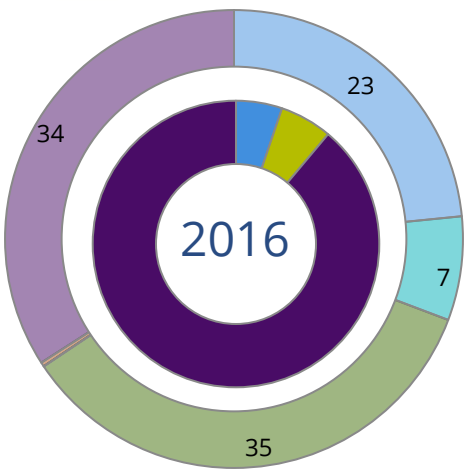
Looking Closer

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	89	29	33	93	23	25	96	42	44	⬆ 11
American Indian/ Alaska Native	12	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–
Black	1,814	725	40	1,527	269	18	1,326	551	42	⬆ 2
Hispanic	1,030	346	34	916	171	19	837	439	52	⬆ 19
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	265	101	38	227	37	16	180	92	51	⬆ 13
White	6,157	3,028	49	4,911	1,599	33	4,261	2,714	64	⬆ 15
Race Unknown	195	95	49	146	47	32	140	87	62	⬆ 13

By Voting Method

Legend: ■ Not-In-Person ■ Early Vote ■ In-Person ■ Other ■ Provisional ■ Unknown

2016 donut chart: 23, 7, 35, 34

2018 donut chart: 23, 6, 36, 34

2020 donut chart: 39, 18, 18, 24

	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	–	–	–	–	817	21	–	
In-Person on Election Day	255	6	138	6	159	4	-2	↓
Not-In-Person	226	5	111	5	1,152	29	24	↑
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	3,850	89	1,899	88	1,804	46	-43	↓

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	37%	17%	52%
22-24	44%	26%	55%
25-29	58%	36%	61%
30-39	67%	51%	67%
40-49	74%	67%	80%
50+	91%	76%	79%

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	5,170	1,901	37	3,968	681	17	3,416	1,793	52	⬆ 16
22-24	2,211	981	44	1,937	505	26	1,582	874	55	⬆ 11
25-29	871	501	58	776	280	36	724	439	61	⬆ 3
30-39	735	491	67	619	316	51	601	401	67	⬇ 0
40-49	406	302	74	368	245	67	365	291	80	⬆ 5
50+	174	158	91	160	122	76	171	135	79	⬇ -12

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**
Female	5,029	2,502	50	4,181	1,218	29	3,879	2,335	60	⬆ 10
Male	4,538	1,832	40	3,647	931	26	2,980	1,598	54	⬆ 13

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 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2016-2020 Change (p.p)
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	8,213	3,412	42	6,474	1,487	23	5,559	2,999	54	↑ 12
Graduate	1,353	922	68	1,354	662	49	1,300	934	72	↑ 4
Class Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	1,496	31	459	880	11	99	1,022	44	454	↑ 14
Second Year	1,391	33	460	1,004	17	169	798	54	429	↑ 21
Upper Level	5,328	47	2,494	4,600	27	1,224	3,741	57	2,117	↑ 10
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	7,780	3,159	41	6,338	1,373	22	5,359	2,915	54	↑ 14
Part-time	1,787	1,175	66	1,490	776	52	1,500	1,018	68	↑ 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	423	168	40	369	75	20	271	135	50	⬆ 10
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,259	547	43	1,113	279	25	1,002	539	54	⬆ 10
Communication and Journalism	451	181	40	348	87	25	326	169	52	⬆ 12
Communications Technologies/Technicians	44	15	34	23	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer and Information Sciences	244	110	45	196	56	29	161	73	45	⬆ 0
Education	954	590	62	874	398	46	865	612	71	⬆ 9
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	290	135	47	237	66	28	214	107	50	⬆ 3

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)
English Language and Literature	140	69	49	116	47	41	86	58	67	⬆ 18
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	25	12	48	20	–	–	14	–	–	–
Health Professions	608	238	39	500	69	14	461	253	55	⬆ 16
History	116	73	63	87	33	38	86	56	65	⬆ 2
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	1,562	571	37	1,296	243	19	1,027	532	52	⬆ 15
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	910	529	58	672	303	45	493	307	62	⬆ 4
Mathematics and Statistics	52	19	37	39	17	44	29	16	55	⬆ 19
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	40	26	65	37	19	51	32	25	78	⬆ 13
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	532	194	36	398	70	18	280	147	53	⬆ 16
Physical Sciences	239	99	41	177	45	25	173	88	51	⬆ 9
Psychology	392	149	38	354	51	14	366	205	56	⬆ 18
Public Administration and Social Service P..	237	113	48	166	52	31	148	83	56	⬆ 8
Social Sciences	224	120	54	200	71	36	226	126	56	⬆ 2
Visual and Performing Arts	374	188	50	314	93	30	344	233	68	⬆ 17

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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.

Western Illinois 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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