

**2014 & 2018 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Western Kentucky  
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, 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 providing 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](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE).

We appreciate hearing from you! Please email us at [NSLVE@tufts.edu](mailto:NSLVE@tufts.edu).

Warm regards,

IDHE Team



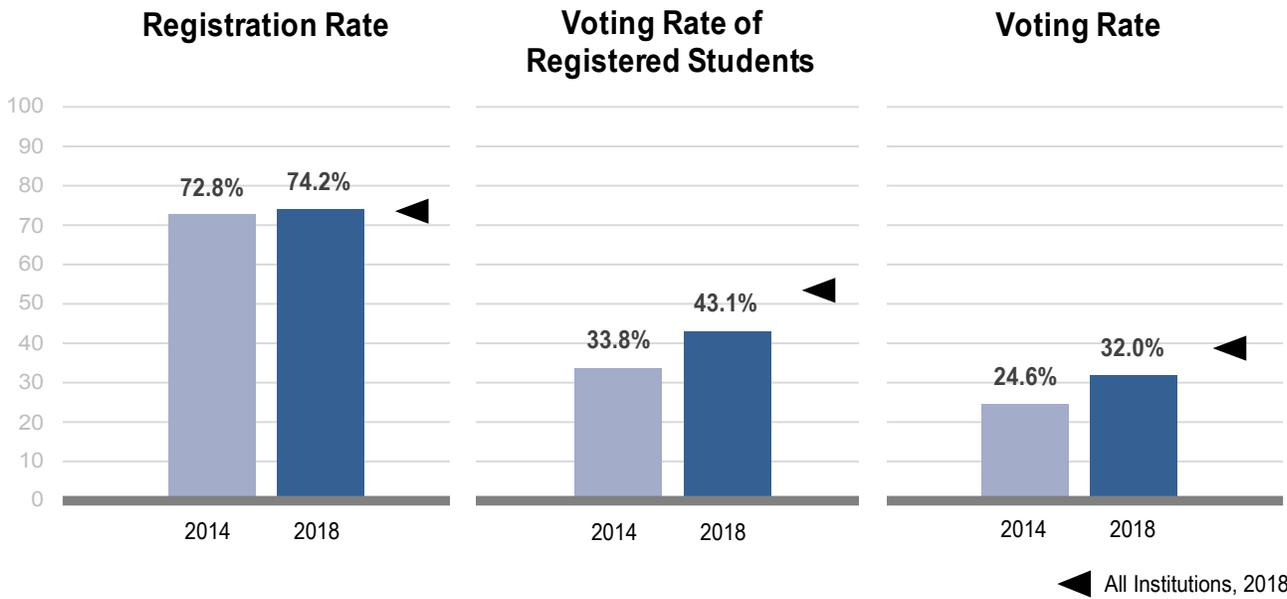
**YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2018 Voting Rate**  
**32.0%**

CHANGE FROM 2014  
**+7.4**

2018 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**39.1%**



	2014	2018	Change
Total student enrollment	18,164	16,385	↓ -1,779
Age under 18/Unknown	(163)	(205)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(1,278)	(677)	
FERPA records blocked	(27)	(18)	
Total eligible voters	16,696	15,485	↓ -1,211
Number of students who registered	12,151	11,490	↓ -661
Number of students who voted	4,107	4,952	↑ 845
Registration rate	72.8%	74.2%	↑ 1.4
Voting rate of registered students	33.8%	43.1%	↑ 9.3
Voting rate	24.6%	32.0%	↑ 7.4
Difference from all institutions	+4.9	-7.1	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

2014 Voting Rate  
for All Institutions

**19.7%**

HIGH  
54.0%

LOW  
1.5%

2018 Voting Rate  
for All Institutions

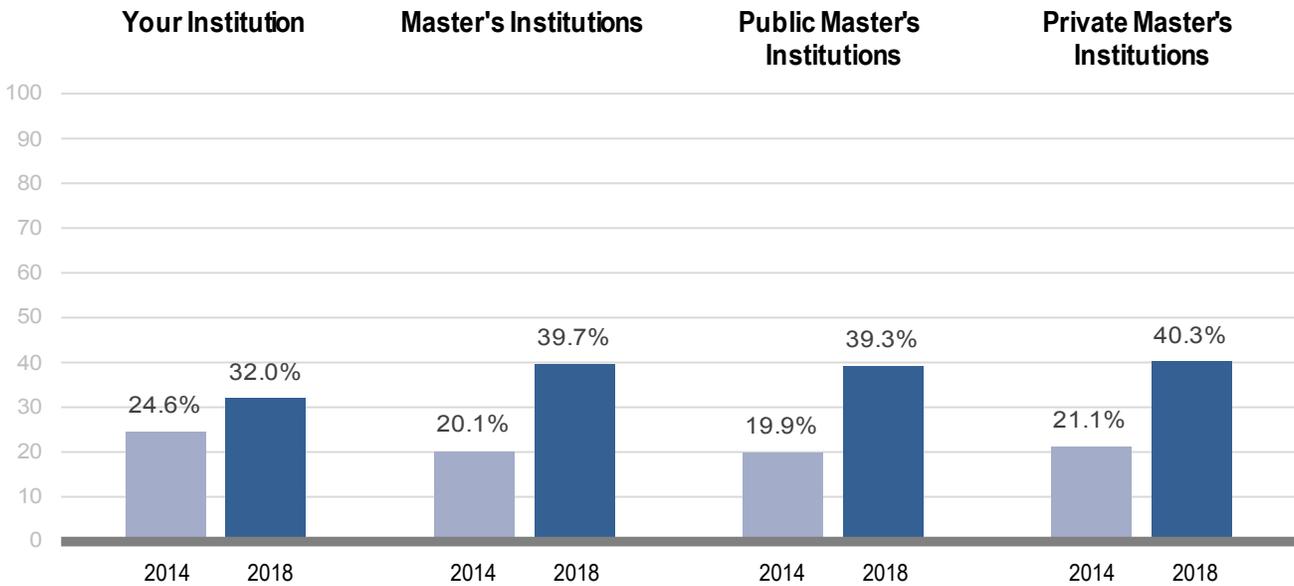
**39.1%**

HIGH  
64.1%

LOW  
11.5%

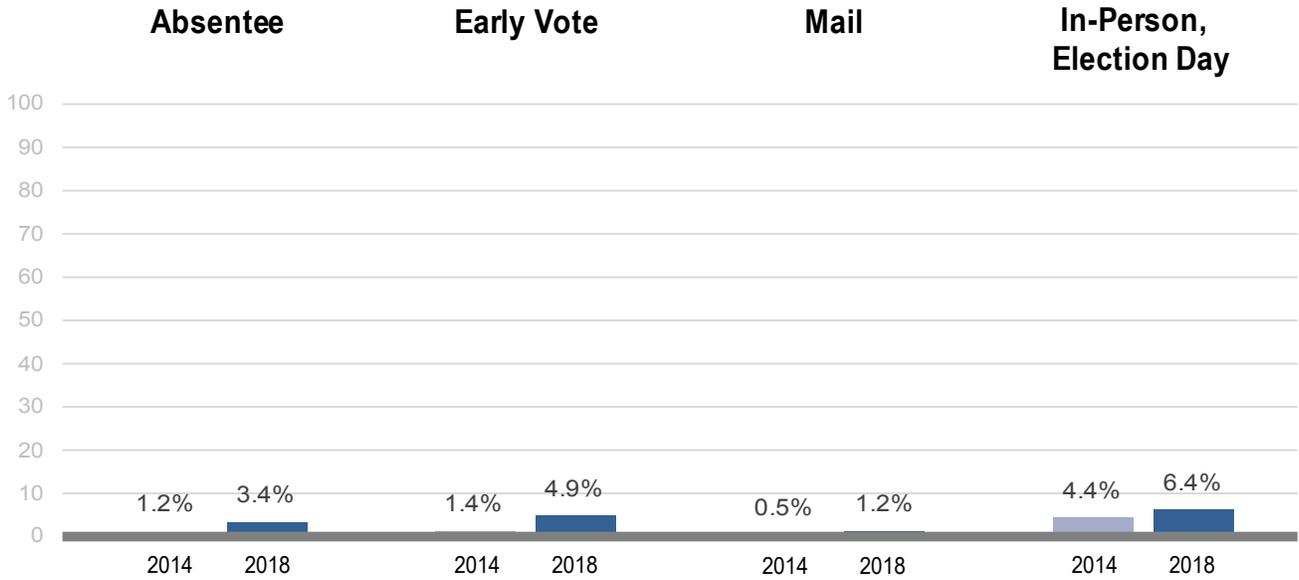
Difference from All Institutions **+4.9**

Difference from All Institutions **-7.1**



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

# By Voting Method\*

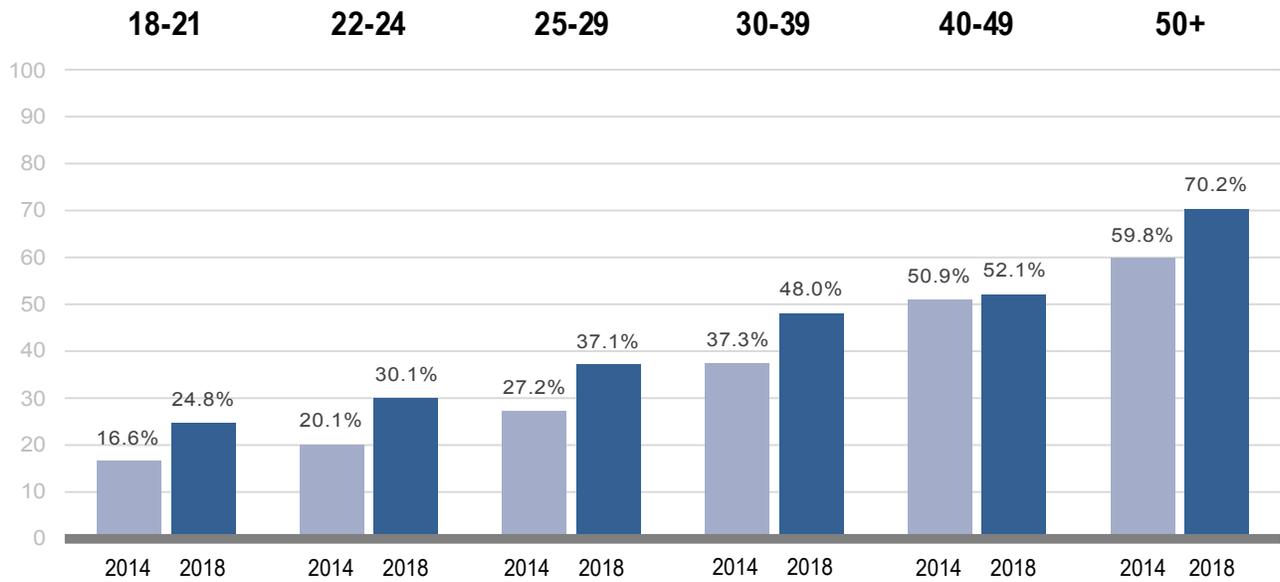


	2014		2018		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	48	1.2%	169	3.4%	↑ 2.2
Early Vote	56	1.4%	241	4.9%	↑ 3.5
Mail	21	0.5%	59	1.2%	↑ 0.7
In-Person, Election Day	181	4.4%	319	6.4%	↑ 2.0
Unknown	3,801	92.6%	4,164	84.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,107</b>		<b>4,952</b>		

\* 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 | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

# By Age Group\*

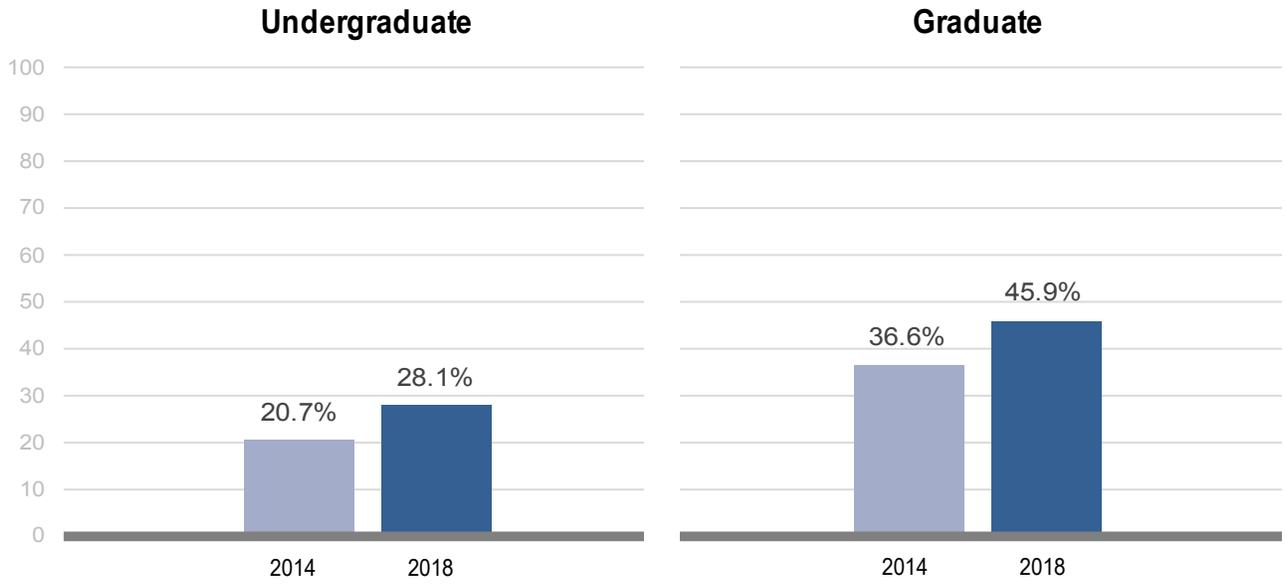


	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	9,476	1,570	16.6%	9,346	2,314	24.8%	↑ 8.2
22-24	3,627	729	20.1%	3,022	910	30.1%	↑ 10.0
25-29	2,030	553	27.2%	1,549	575	37.1%	↑ 9.9
30-39	1,640	612	37.3%	1,378	662	48.0%	↑ 10.7
40-49	843	429	50.9%	649	338	52.1%	↑ 1.2
50+	358	214	59.8%	218	153	70.2%	↑ 10.4
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 | MIDTERM ELECTIONS

# By Education Level\*

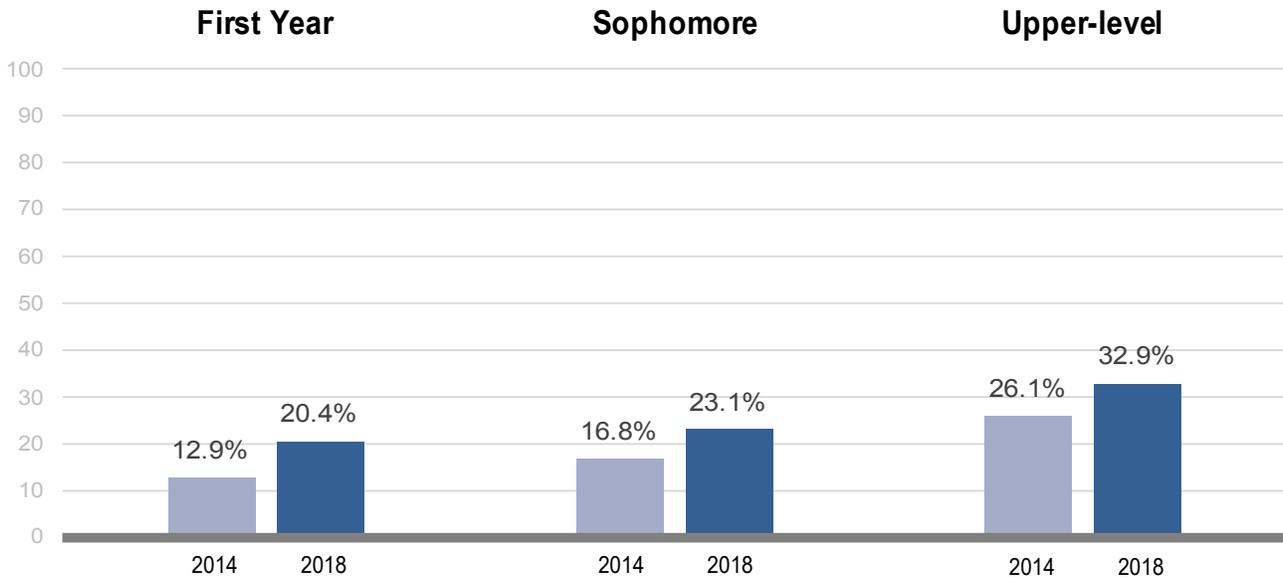


	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	15,315	3,164	<b>20.7%</b>	13,803	3,878	<b>28.1%</b>	↑ 7.4
Graduate	2,531	925	<b>36.6%</b>	2,326	1,068	<b>45.9%</b>	↑ 9.4
Unknown	128			33			

\* 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 | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

# By Undergraduate Class Year\*

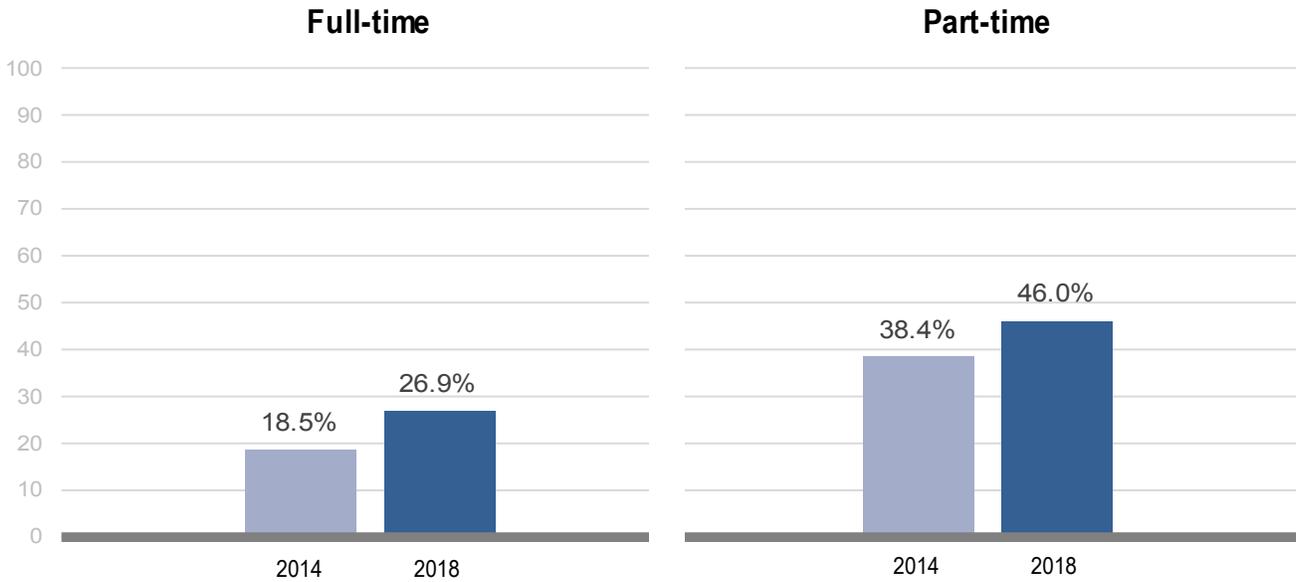


	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	4,421	571	12.9%	3,449	704	20.4%	↑ 7.5
Sophomore	3,113	522	16.8%	2,731	632	23.1%	↑ 6.4
Upper-level	7,628	1,987	26.1%	7,398	2,430	32.9%	↑ 6.8

\* 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 | MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

# By Enrollment Status\*



	2014			2018			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	14,055	2,602	<b>18.5%</b>	12,997	3,497	<b>26.9%</b>	↑ 8.4
Part-time	3,919	1,505	<b>38.4%</b>	3,165	1,455	<b>46.0%</b>	↑ 7.6
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 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	
Agriculture and Agriculture Operations	425	118	27.8%	382	112	29.3% ↑	1.6
Architecture	122	16	13.1%	115	22	19.1% ↑	6.0
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	41	*	n/a	49	20	40.8%	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	824	145	17.6%	713	215	30.2% ↑	12.6
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,437	512	21.0%	2,704	762	28.2% ↑	7.2
Communication and Journalism	1,051	168	16.0%	888	245	27.6% ↑	11.6
Computer and Information Sciences	403	79	19.6%	445	157	35.3% ↑	15.7
Education	1,977	657	33.2%	1,458	608	41.7% ↑	8.5
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	1,027	159	15.5%	864	199	23.0% ↑	7.6
English Language and Literature	286	68	23.8%	254	88	34.7% ↑	10.9
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	17	*	n/a	200	53	26.5%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	74	20	27.0%	130	47	36.2% ↑	9.1
Health Professions	2,836	687	24.2%	2,735	841	30.8% ↑	6.5
History	198	87	43.9%	140	61	43.6% ↓	-0.4
Legal Professions and Studies	30	12	40.0%	44	12	27.3% ↓	-12.7
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,646	327	19.9%	1,103	295	26.8% ↑	6.9
Library Science	62	36	58.1%	55	40	72.7% ↑	14.7
Mathematics and Statistics	188	68	36.2%	100	32	32.0% ↓	-4.2
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	31	*	n/a	20	*	n/a	n/a
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,134	183	16.1%	835	182	21.8% ↑	5.7
Philosophy and Religious Studies	42	15	35.7%	22	12	54.6% ↑	18.8
Physical Sciences	364	72	19.8%	242	57	23.6% ↑	3.8
Psychology	693	136	19.6%	705	236	33.5% ↑	13.9

Public Administration and Social Service Professions	485	155	32.0%	417	176	42.2% ↑	10.3
Social Sciences	867	256	29.5%	922	293	31.8% ↑	2.3
Visual and Performing Arts	568	84	14.8%	522	141	27.0% ↑	12.2
Other	95	*	n/a	12	*	n/a	n/a
Unknown	51	23	45.1%	86	34	39.5% ↓	-5.6

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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