October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Worcester State 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
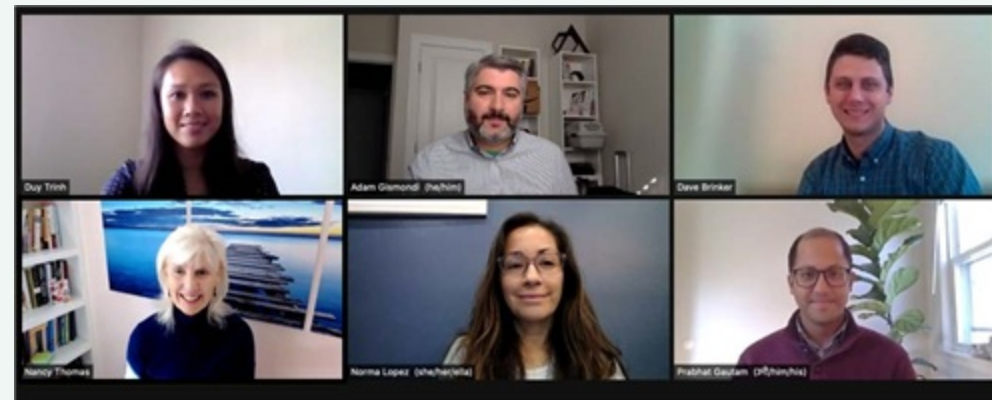
**(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.**

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.
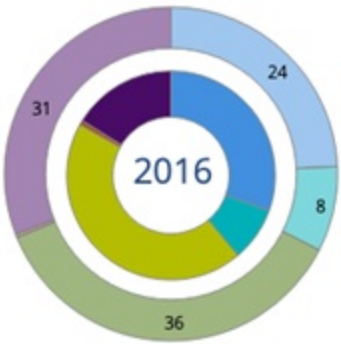

Vessel Chart

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

69.1%
2020 Voting Rate

+5.7
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

2016	2018	2020
81.3%	76.6%	85.1%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

2016	2018	2020
77.9%	57.8%	81.3%

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

2016	2018	2020
63.4%	44.3%	69.1%

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.
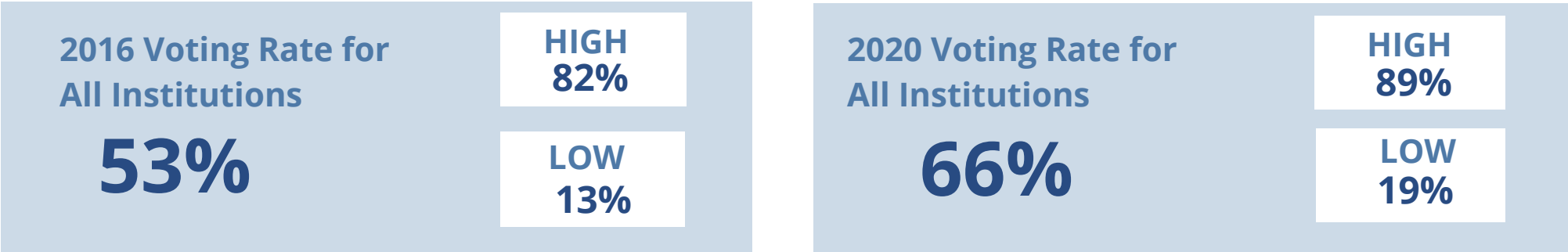
Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	6,916	6,669	5,691	⬇ -1,225
(Age under 18/Unknown)	18	–	–	–
(NSC reported non-resident aliens)	77	76	71	⬇ -6
(FERPA records blocked)	–	–	–	–
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	–	–	108	–
Total eligible voters	6,821	6,583	5,502	⬇ -1,319
Number of students who registered	5,549	5,045	4,681	⬇ -868
Number of students who voted	4,324	2,918	3,804	⬇ -520
Registration Rate %	81	77	85	⬆ 4
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	78	58	81	⬆ 3
Voting Rate %	63	44	69	⬆ 6

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

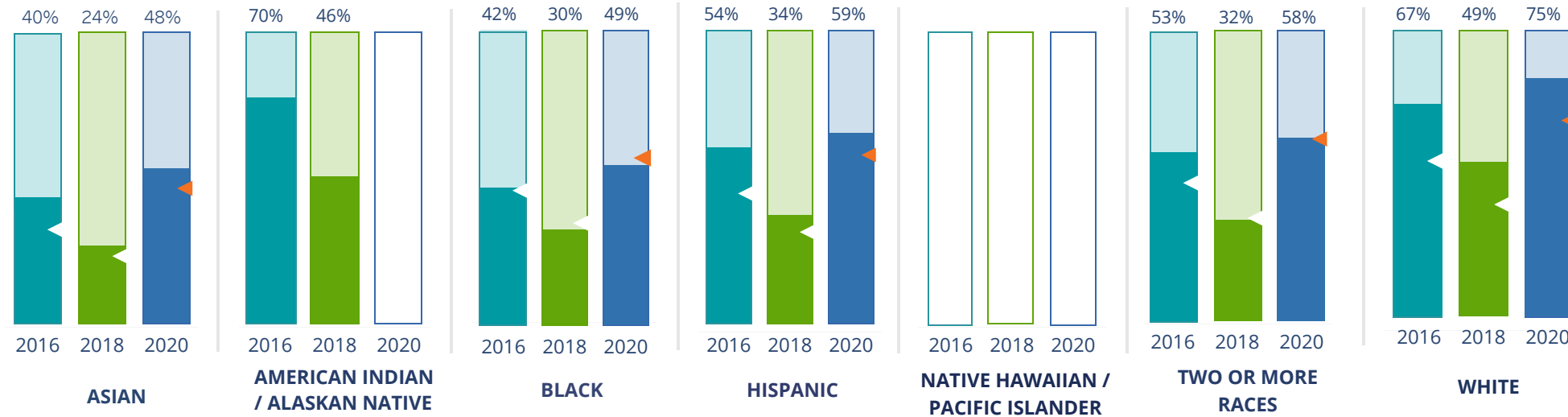| 2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 82%
53%	LOW 13%

2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions	HIGH 89%
66%	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*

63%	44%	69%
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
- 2016: 40%
- 2018: 24%
- 2020: 48%

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE
- 2016: 70%
- 2018: 46%

BLACK
- 2016: 42%
- 2018: 30%
- 2020: 49%

HISPANIC
- 2016: 54%
- 2018: 34%
- 2020: 59%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER

TWO OR MORE RACES
- 2016: 53%
- 2018: 32%
- 2020: 58%

WHITE
- 2016: 67%
- 2018: 49%
- 2020: 75%

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	238	94	39	273	66	24	251	121	48	⬆ 9
American Indian/ Alaska Native	37	26	70	24	11	46	11	–	–	–
Black	452	191	42	482	142	29	414	204	49	⬆ 7
Hispanic	599	326	54	696	236	34	661	389	59	⬆ 4
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	162	86	53	152	48	32	163	94	58	⬆ 5
White	4,939	3,309	67	4,559	2,217	49	3,752	2,816	75	⬆ 8
Race Unknown	471	292	62	397	198	50	250	177	71	⬆ 9

By Voting Method

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

2016 — 23, 7, 35, 34

2018 — 23, 6, 36, 34

2020 — 39, 18, 18, 24
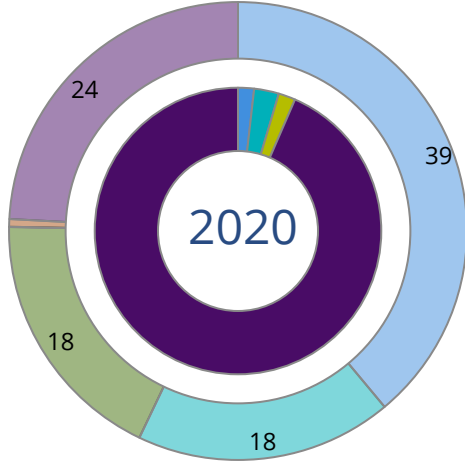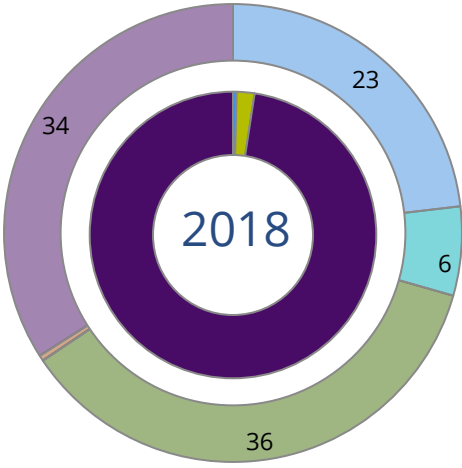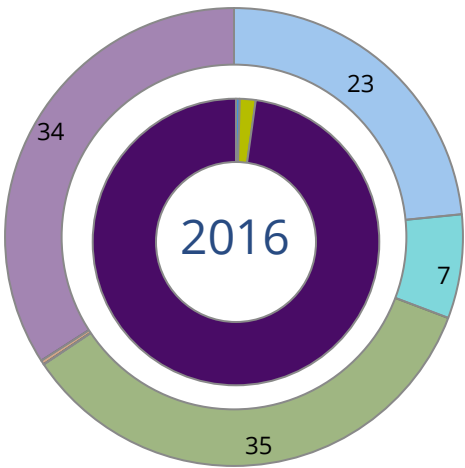
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	–	–	–	–	105	3	–	
In-Person on Election Day	78	2	57	2	71	2	0	⬆
Not-In-Person	17	0	12	0	69	2	1	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	4,229	98	2,849	98	3,559	94	-4	⬇

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	53%	31%	68%
22-24	59%	45%	68%
25-29	64%	48%	65%
30-39	71%	61%	70%
40-49	81%	70%	78%
50+	89%	80%	91%

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	2,973	1,578	53	3,198	1,000	31	3,056	2,072	68	⬆ 15
22-24	1,224	723	59	1,160	518	45	1,066	728	68	⬆ 9
25-29	799	513	64	692	332	48	505	326	65	⬆ 0
30-39	785	561	71	630	386	61	419	294	70	⬇ -1
40-49	508	409	81	442	311	70	223	173	78	⬇ -3
50+	609	540	89	461	371	80	233	211	91	⬆ 2

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 | |
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p)**	
Female	4,478	2,966	66	4,234	2,015	48	3,526	2,532	72	⬆	6
Male	2,420	1,358	56	2,348	902	38	1,976	1,272	64	⬆	8

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	4,802	2,658	55	4,836	1,771	37	4,496	3,001	67	⬆ 11
Graduate	576	449	78	527	338	64	503	416	83	⬆ 5
Class Unknown	1,520	1,217	80	1,220	809	66	503	387	77	⬇ -3
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	1,173	48	558	1,307	25	331	1,126	63	711	⬆ 16
Second Year	1,093	54	592	1,089	31	340	1,033	66	677	⬆ 11
Upper Level	2,455	59	1,454	2,456	45	1,100	2,393	68	1,636	⬆ 9
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	4,113	2,259	55	4,187	1,466	35	4,039	2,753	68	⬆ 13
Part-time	2,785	2,065	74	2,396	1,452	61	1,463	1,051	72	⬇ -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	504	254	50	520	173	33	407	247	61	⬆ 10
Business, Management, and Marketing	795	441	55	826	264	32	785	481	61	⬆ 6
Communication and Journalism	218	129	59	208	83	40	212	148	70	⬆ 11
Computer and Information Sciences	179	95	53	187	59	32	188	104	55	⬆ 2
Education	641	451	70	646	347	54	510	386	76	⬆ 5
English Language and Literature	144	94	65	108	54	50	116	105	91	⬆ 25
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	43	26	60	37	17	46	25	16	64	⬆ 4

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)
Health Professions	1,208	681	56	1,130	480	42	1,093	801	73	↑ 17
History	151	113	75	154	91	59	143	113	79	↑ 4
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	462	257	56	452	131	29	396	249	63	↑ 7
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	284	147	52	299	93	31	242	161	67	↑ 15
Mathematics and Statistics	82	49	60	88	34	39	56	43	77	↑ 17
Natural Resources and Conservation	33	23	70	55	29	53	62	44	71	↑ 1
Physical Sciences	104	49	47	70	19	27	64	39	61	↑ 14
Psychology	450	259	58	477	183	38	482	334	69	↑ 12
Social Sciences	211	143	68	203	106	52	173	117	68	↓ 0
Visual and Performing Arts	52	34	65	47	31	66	41	27	66	↑ 0
Unknown	1,337	1,079	81	1,076	724	67	507	389	77	↓ -4

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.

Worcester State 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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