



October 2021

Student Voting Rates for Illinois State University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

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; (Bottom 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.

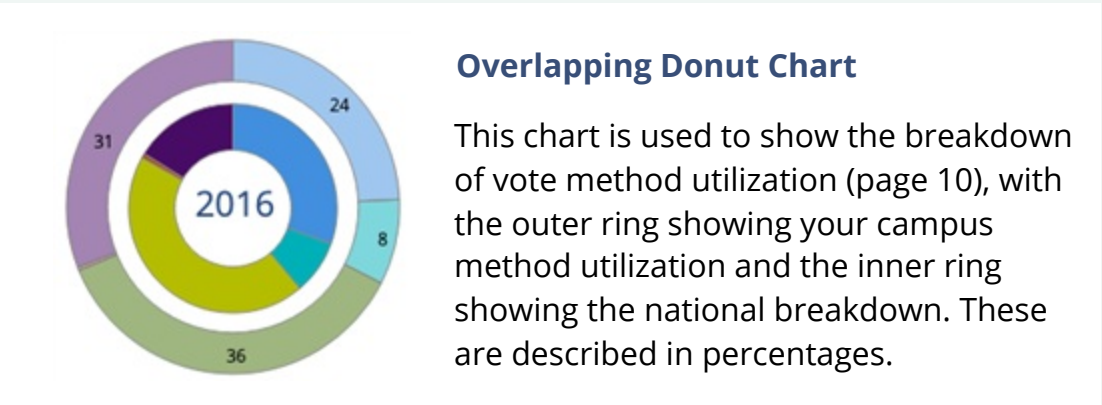
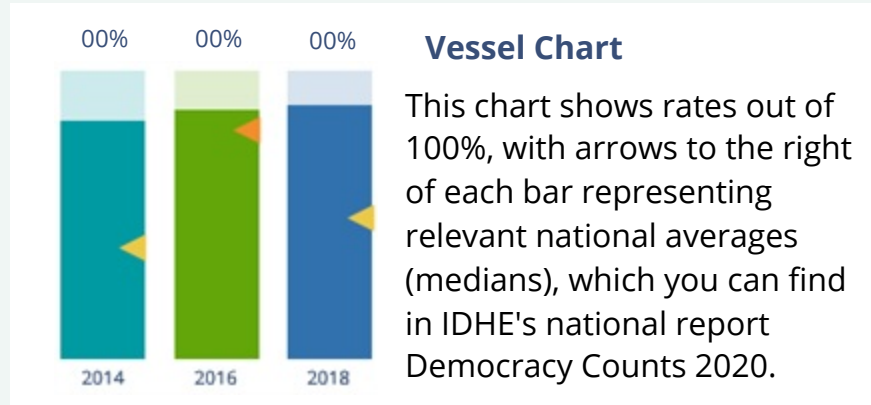
In This Report

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.

	2014			2018			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p.)
Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

64.8%
2020 Voting Rate

+14.0
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

Year	Registration Rate
2016	77.5%
2018	68.4%
2020	82.2%

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

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

Year	Voting Rate of Registered Students
2016	65.5%
2018	41.2%
2020	78.8%

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

Year	Voting Rate
2016	50.8%
2018	28.2%
2020	64.8%

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	20,879	20,407	20,480	↓ -399
(Age under 18/Unknown)	-	-	-	-
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	369	506	540	↑ 170
(FERPA records blocked)	239	138	70	↓ -169
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	-	-	-	-
Total eligible voters	20,271	19,763	19,870	↓ -401
Number of students who registered	15,702	13,520	16,329	↑ 627
Number of students who voted	10,291	5,577	12,867	↑ 2,576
Registration Rate %	77	68	82	↑ 5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	66	41	79	↑ 13
Voting Rate %	51	28	65	↑ 14

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 use IPEDS-derived estimates of NRAs when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accuracy of the reported counts. This estimate is given by "IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens" on this page. If you believe the number of international students reported on this report is incorrect, you can manually adjust your institution's voting rates by using our recalculation tool. <https://id-he.tufts.edu/nslve/nslve-recalculation-tool>.

By Institution Types

2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions

53%

HIGH
82%

LOW
13%

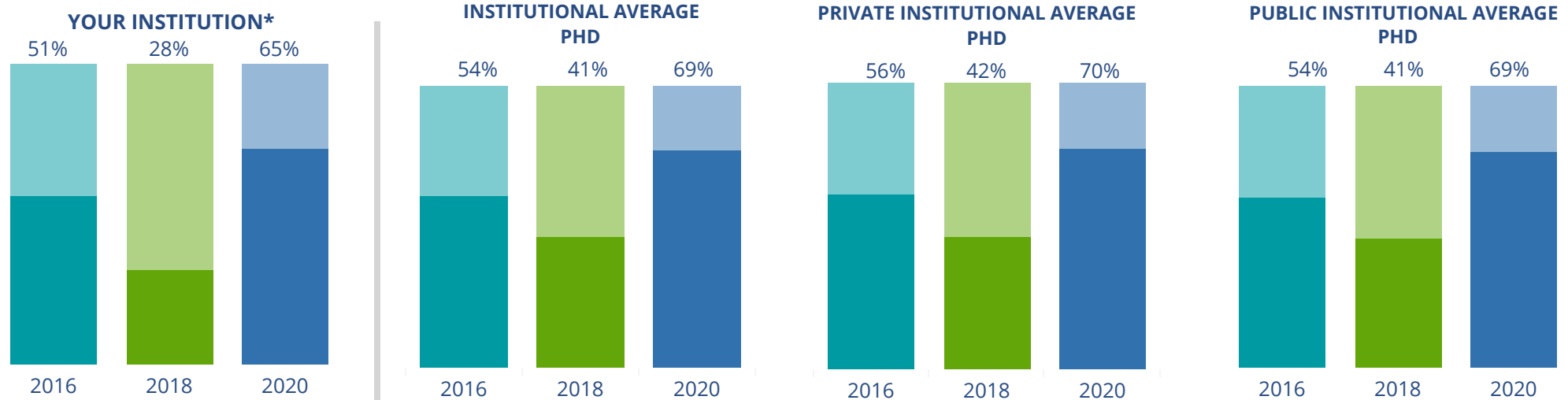
2020 Voting Rate for All Institutions

66%

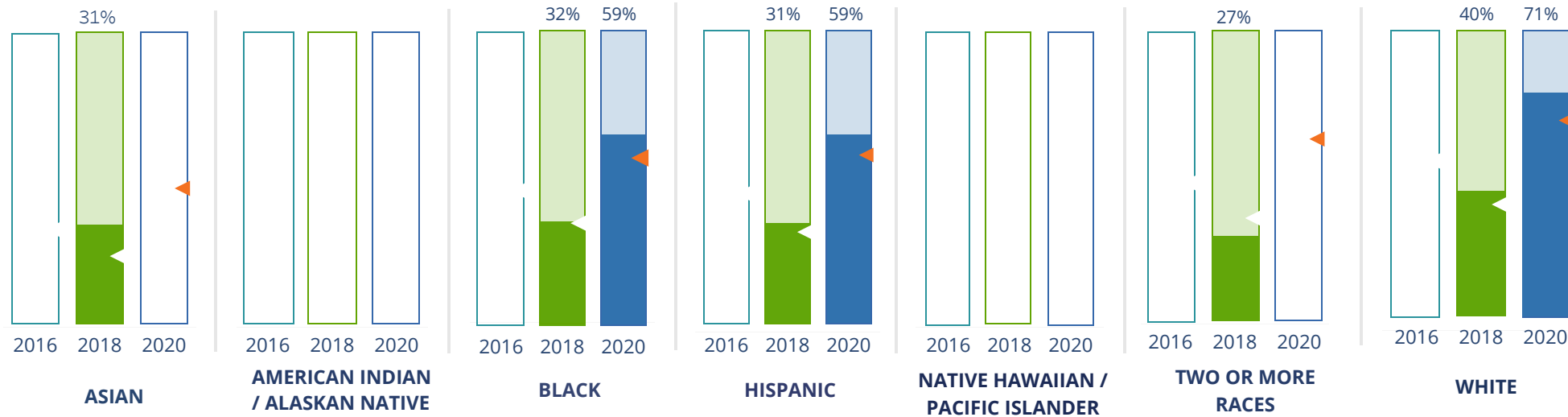
HIGH
89%

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.



By Race / Ethnicity



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

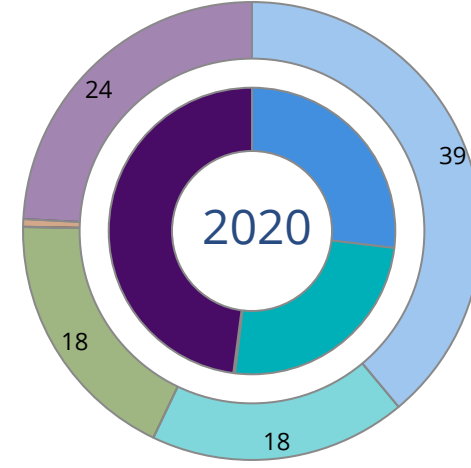
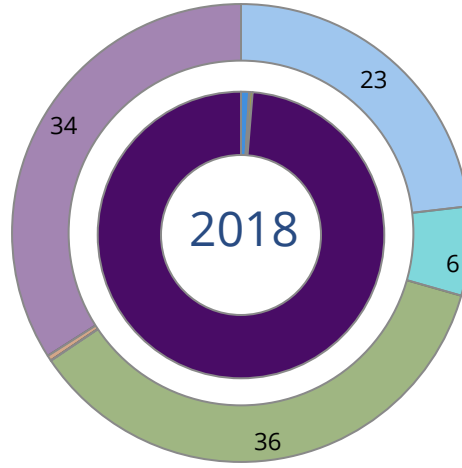
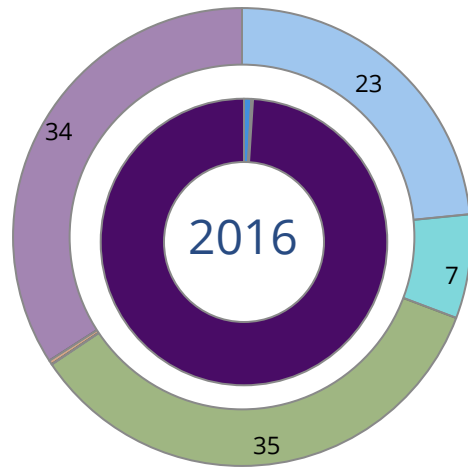
By Race/Ethnicity

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	-	-	-	39	12	31	-	-	-	-
American Indian/ Alaska Native	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black	-	-	-	199	64	32	46	27	59	-
Hispanic	-	-	-	154	48	31	29	17	59	-
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 or More Races	-	-	-	41	11	27	-	-	-	-
White	-	-	-	1,226	484	39	393	277	70	-
Race Unknown	20,640	10,291	50	18,610	4,958	27	19,924	12,534	63	 13

By Voting Method

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



	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)	
Early Vote	12	0	-	-	3,221	25	25	↑
In-Person on Election Day	-	-	19	0	25	0	-	
Not-In-Person	86	1	49	1	3,460	27	26	↑
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Voting Method Unknown	10,183	99	5,501	99	6,161	48	-51	↓

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/nsive/nsive-faq#CampusReports>

By Age Group

	2016	2018	2020
18-21	48%	24%	65%
22-24	48%	28%	58%
25-29	51%	35%	52%
30-39	68%	52%	67%
40-49	80%	66%	81%
50+	86%	68%	84%

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	13,968	6,716	48	13,654	3,255	24	13,745	8,868	65	↑ 16	
22-24	4,175	2,004	48	4,150	1,179	28	4,058	2,353	58	↑ 10	
25-29	1,183	607	51	1,247	439	35	1,228	643	52	↑ 1	
30-39	802	545	68	750	392	52	823	549	67	↓ -1	
40-49	361	289	80	322	213	66	395	320	81	↑ 1	
50+	151	130	86	146	99	68	160	134	84	↓ -2	

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	-	-	-	972	394	41	317	218	69	-
Male	-	-	-	716	233	33	181	118	65	-

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			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
EDUCATION LEVEL											
Undergraduate	18,150	8,830	49	17,602	4,451	25	17,349	11,004	63	↑	15
Graduate	2,020	1,167	58	2,194	931	42	2,370	1,414	60	↑	2
Class Unknown	470	294	63	473	195	41	690	449	65	↑	3
CLASS YEAR											
First Year	4,876	47	2,311	4,683	19	908	3,133	64	2,014	↑	17
Second Year	3,780	45	1,715	3,382	25	833	3,775	64	2,399	↑	18
Upper Level	9,606	50	4,841	9,709	28	2,767	10,771	63	6,800	↑	13
ENROLLMENT STATUS											
Full-time	18,534	8,973	48	18,155	4,619	25	18,024	11,271	63	↑	14
Part-time	2,106	1,318	63	2,114	958	45	2,385	1,596	67	↑	4

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	834	399	48	788	188	24	775	475	61	↑ 13	
Business, Management, and Marketing	4,103	1,743	42	4,068	806	20	3,830	2,114	55	↑ 13	
Communication and Journalism	1,025	579	56	1,005	307	31	980	624	64	↑ 7	
Communications Technologies/Technicians	56	29	52	44	11	25	66	40	61	↑ 9	
Computer and Information Sciences	719	282	39	592	126	21	592	296	50	↑ 11	
Education	3,347	1,798	54	3,544	1,097	31	3,787	2,697	71	↑ 17	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	322	142	44	295	75	25	302	136	45	↑ 1	

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 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
English Language and Literature	505	316	63	508	217	43	514	372	72	↑ 10
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	388	197	51	354	92	26	350	214	61	↑ 10
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	129	74	57	118	39	33	121	70	58	↑ 0
Health Professions	1,819	961	53	1,630	460	28	1,556	1,113	72	↑ 19
History	409	262	64	477	209	44	492	350	71	↑ 7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	495	223	45	507	116	23	577	326	56	↑ 11
Legal Professions and Studies	26	19	73	31	15	48	37	28	76	↑ 3
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,243	509	41	948	188	20	885	470	53	↑ 12
Mathematics and Statistics	401	186	46	374	96	26	402	246	61	↑ 15
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	692	272	39	732	118	16	792	467	59	↑ 20
Philosophy and Religious Studies	44	22	50	51	13	25	42	25	60	↑ 10
Physical Sciences	334	166	50	309	82	27	257	149	58	↑ 8
Psychology	600	314	52	690	208	30	816	535	66	↑ 13
Public Administration and Social Service P..	289	172	60	257	93	36	260	162	62	↑ 3

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Social Sciences	906	498	55	834	312	37	780	523	67	↑ 12
Visual and Performing Arts	1,014	576	57	1,085	362	33	1,088	722	66	↑ 10
Unknown	302	217	72	468	193	41	696	452	65	↓ -7

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.

Illinois 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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