September 2022

Student Voting Rates for Michigan State University

NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts University | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

September 2022
Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to share this tailored report containing your students' voting rates for several recent election cycles. This report contains three years of relevant topline data: 2014, 2018, and 2020. In addition to sharing the change between 2014 and 2018 voting rates, we also disaggregate the data so you can better identify and address gaps in participation. Although you have likely seen these numbers before, we find that many report recipients appreciate a refresher heading into another national election.

College and university students participated in record-breaking numbers in the 2020 election. In 2016, the Average Institutional Voting Rate was 53%. In 2020, it jumped to 66%. In the last midterm, the student voting rate more than doubled, from roughly 19% in 2014 to around 40% in 2018. These encouraging data points signal that 2022 can be yet another banner year for student participation if we all work together to ensure that lasting, long-term interventions turn this into a *trend* across the nation.

As always, 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 encourage you to review our recommendations for leveraging election seasons to cultivate a robust and healthy campus climate for political engagement, discourse, equity, and participation, year around: Election Imperatives 2.0 and the more recent Election Imperatives 2020: A Time of Physical Distancing and Social Action, a report with recommendations for institutional leaders, faculty, and voter coalitions.

Since political dialogue across campus 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 how campuses use their NSLVE reports.

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 (or sign up!) for our periodic newsletter, announcements about upcoming releases, and new resources.

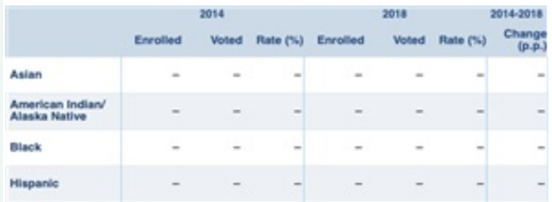
Remember, student political learning is a year-round objective. Elections may be episodic, but student engagement in democracy should not be.

All the Best,
The Team at IDHE

IDHE: https://idhe.tufts.edu/
NSLVE: https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve
Election Imperatives: https://idhe.tufts.edu/publications-and-resources/election-imperatives
Talking Politics discussion guide (for NSLVE reports): https://idhe.tufts.edu/resources/talking-politics-guide-campus-conversations-about-nslve-reports
Free Speech & Inclusion on Campus discussion guide: https://idhe.tufts.edu/resources/free-speech-inclusion-campus-discussion-guide

In This Report

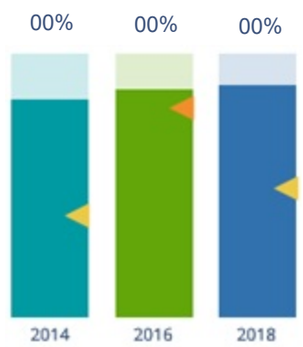
This report presents data on student voter participation rates for your campus. The topline counts on page 5 tells you how many students voted, but we encourage you to look carefully at the data on subsequent pages to learn who voted. Data are presented in the form of vessel charts, overlapping donut charts, and tables.



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

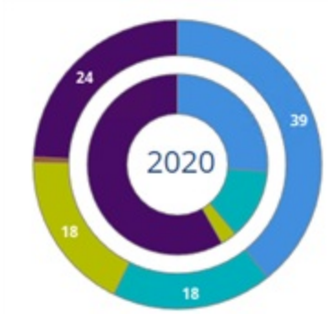
Tables

The tables show the numbers of students and the rates from 2014, 2018, and 2020. The change column represents difference between counts and rates. The change in rates are in terms of percentage points. 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 2018 & 2020.



Overlapping Donut Chart

This chart is used to show the breakdown of vote method utilization (page 9), with the inner ring showing your campus's method utilization and the outer ring showing the national level utilization. These are described in percentages.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

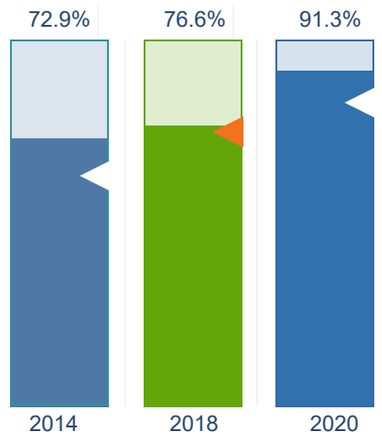
39.0%
2018 Voting Rate

+22.1
Change From 2014

ALL INSTITUTIONS

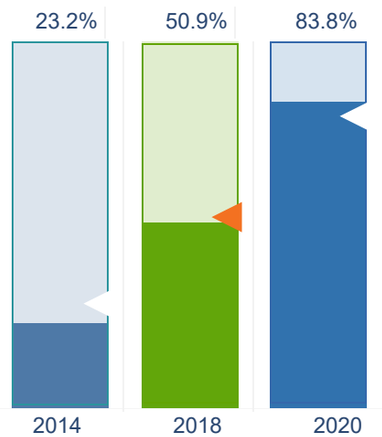
39.1%
2018 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



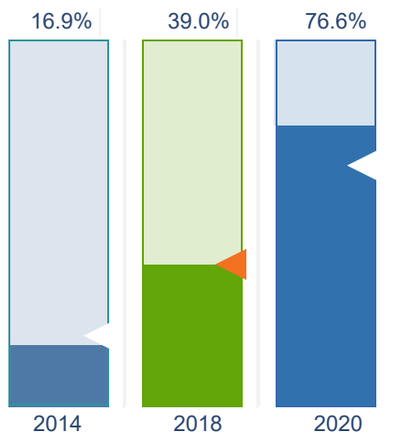
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



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



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

	2014	2018	2020	2014-2018 Change
Total student enrollment per NSC	44,120	49,631	49,178	↑ 5,511
(Age under 18/Unknown)	256	345	380	↑ 89
(Non-resident aliens)	6,262	5,791	4,412	↓ -471
Non-resident aliens data source	IPEDS	IPEDS	NSC	
(FERPA records blocked)	2,827	1,519	557	↓ -1,308
(Non-degree seeking students)	–	1,084	950	–
Total eligible voters	34,775	40,892	42,879	↑ 6,117
Number of students who registered	25,366	31,330	39,169	↑ 5,964
Number of students who voted	5,882	15,962	32,840	↑ 10,080
Registration Rate %	73	77	91	↑ 4
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	23	51	84	↑ 28
Voting Rate %	17	39	77	↑ 22

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.

When we have removed non-resident aliens (international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. This is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens data source. 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 is indicated by IPEDS in the data source.

In the following pages with tables, **Enrolled** represents the eligible voters when we have used NSC as the data source. When we have used IPEDS as the data source, **Enrolled** includes non-resident aliens who are ineligible to vote, and for whom we are unable to account due to the lack of data from your institution.

By Institution Types

2014 Voting Rate for All Institutions

19.7%

HIGH 52%

LOW 2%

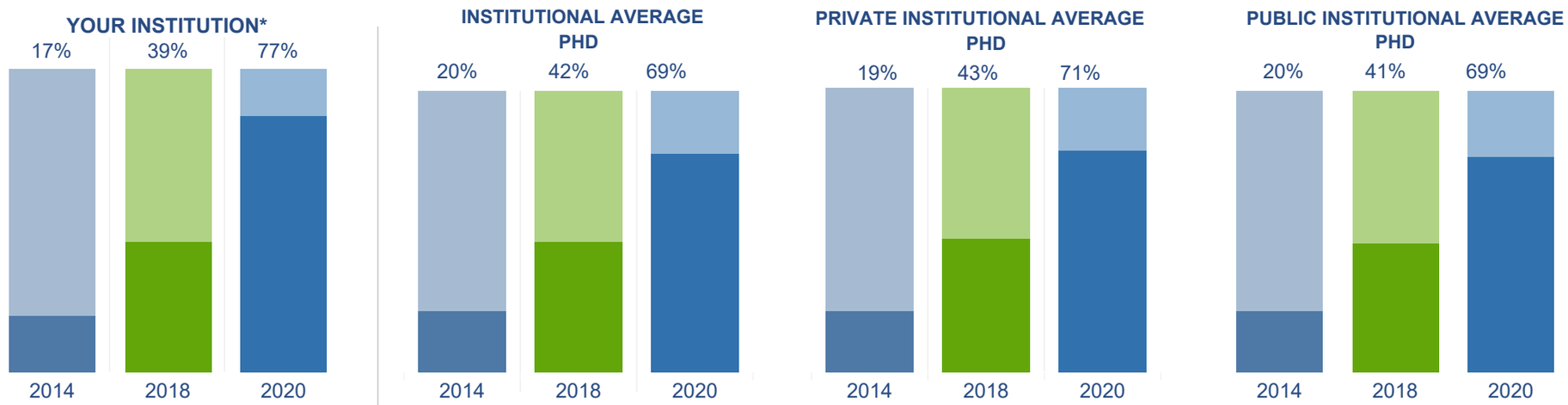
2018 Voting Rate for All Institutions

39.1%

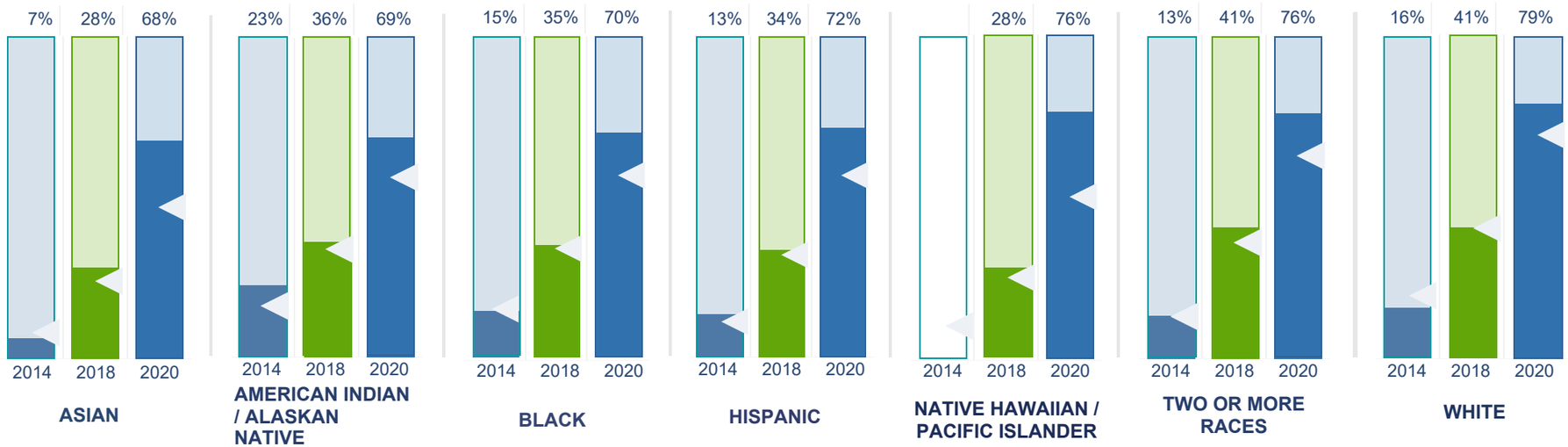
HIGH 76%

LOW 7%

These are estimated voting rates of your institution compared to the average voting rates of similar institutions in NSLVE. For Associate institutions, we only share public associate institutional averages due to sample size. *"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 : 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 or reports this data as unknown; (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

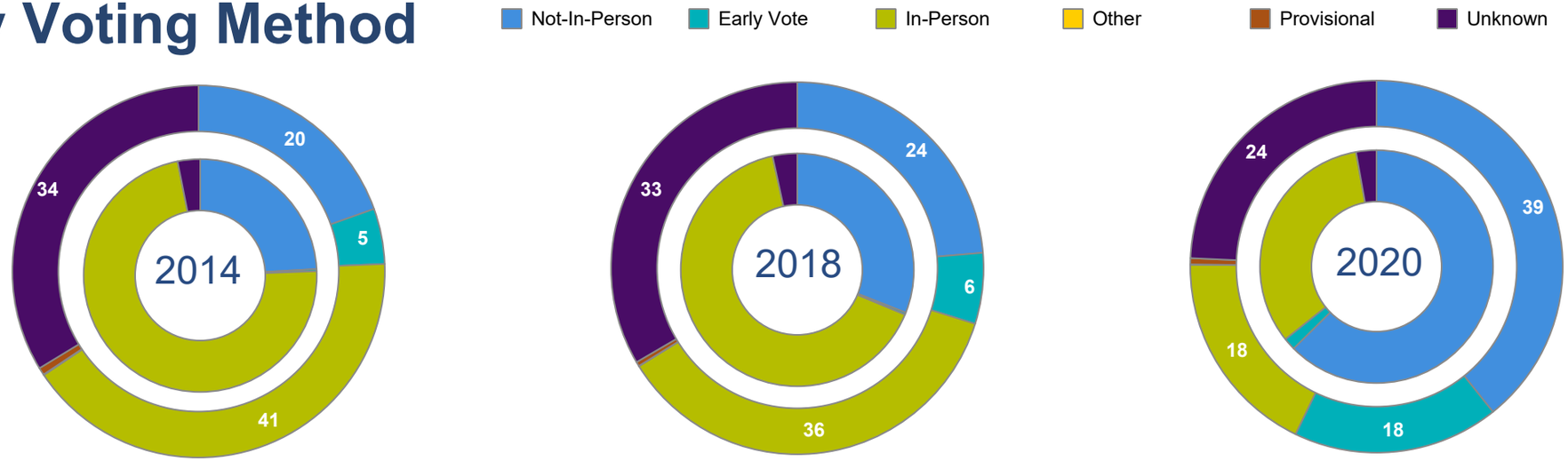
Looking Closer

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 or reports this data as unknown; (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.

	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Asian	1,889	126	7	2,593	734	28	3,086	2,082	67	↑ 22
American Indian/ Alaska Native	119	27	23	97	35	36	118	81	69	↑ 13
Black	2,746	402	15	3,149	1,106	35	3,309	2,323	70	↑ 20
Hispanic	1,716	230	13	2,200	738	34	2,626	1,880	72	↑ 20
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	41	–	–	47	13	28	25	19	76	–
2 or More Races	1,087	143	13	1,377	557	40	1,572	1,188	76	↑ 27
White	30,788	4,864	16	30,963	12,616	41	31,495	24,837	79	↑ 25

By Voting Method



	2014		2018		2020		2014-2018
	Voted	Rate(%)	Voted	Rate(%)	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Early Vote	15	0	45	0	568	2	0
In-Person	4,264	73	10,423	65	10,811	33	-7
Not-In-Person	1,415	24	4,952	31	20,559	63	7
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provisional	–	–	–	–	11	0	–
Voting Method Unknown	186	3	539	3	891	3	0

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. The inner ring in these charts show your campus's method utilization and the outer ring show the national level utilization.

By Age Group

	2014	2018	2020
18-21	10%	33%	80%
22-24	15%	34%	73%
25-29	21%	37%	68%
30-39	30%	40%	63%
40-49	45%	54%	73%
50+	64%	68%	77%

Voting is habit-forming and young voters will usually continue as voters in subsequent elections. Also, elected officials and public opinion polls solicit opinions from people they can locate - people in the voter files. In 2020, the youngest students on campuses voted at the highest rates, giving them increasing voice and power. Government officials should take note of this data point, as the viewpoints of young voters may prove influential in future elections. Candidates should be cautious about remaining distant and unresponsive to the perspectives of young voters.

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.

	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
18-21	26,122	2,710	10	31,129	10,207	33	29,701	23,614	80	↑ 22
22-24	7,392	1,083	15	7,646	2,613	34	6,578	4,774	73	↑ 20
25-29	4,133	849	21	4,401	1,614	37	3,904	2,661	68	↑ 16
30-39	2,376	724	30	2,348	930	40	1,877	1,183	63	↑ 9
40-49	712	322	45	769	419	54	570	417	73	↑ 9
50+	302	194	64	263	179	68	249	191	77	↑ 4

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Female	21,149	3,259	15	23,873	9,093	38	22,959	18,210	79	↑ 23
Male	19,888	2,623	13	22,683	6,869	30	19,920	14,630	73	↑ 17

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

	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Rate Change
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	31,586	3,546	11	36,946	12,143	33	34,326	26,742	78	↑ 22
Graduate	8,304	1,987	24	9,129	3,715	41	8,324	5,932	71	↑ 17
Class Unknown	1,147	349	30	481	104	22	229	166	72	↓ -9
CLASS YEAR										
Freshman	7,277	610	8	9,012	2,739	30	7,912	6,343	80	↑ 22
Sophomore	7,142	690	10	8,688	2,510	29	8,060	6,329	79	↑ 19
Upperclassman	17,211	2,254	13	19,294	6,920	36	18,471	14,175	77	↑ 23
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	35,228	4,494	13	41,747	13,841	33	37,936	29,317	77	↑ 20
Part-time	5,809	1,388	24	4,809	2,121	44	4,943	3,523	71	↑ 20

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	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Agriculture	1,487	246	17	1,332	470	35	1,254	916	73	↑ 19
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	65	12	18	39	20	51	19	14	74	↑ 33
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	3,718	470	13	4,664	1,721	37	4,919	3,799	77	↑ 24
Business, Management, and Marketing	6,310	648	10	8,109	2,241	28	6,954	5,360	77	↑ 17
Communication and Journalism	2,986	305	10	3,552	1,107	31	3,029	2,297	76	↑ 21
Computer and Information Sciences	702	75	11	1,580	417	26	1,428	1,032	72	↑ 16
Construction Trades	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Education	2,292	619	27	1,540	707	46	1,429	1,117	78	↑ 19
Engineering and Engineering Techno..	4,492	400	9	5,533	1,602	29	4,698	3,607	77	↑ 20
English Language and Literature	637	109	17	463	242	52	357	280	78	↑ 35
Family and Consumer/Human Scienc..	479	77	16	440	160	36	385	277	72	↑ 20
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and ..	327	50	15	294	101	34	196	154	79	↑ 19
Health Professions	5,258	855	16	5,199	2,096	40	4,665	3,406	73	↑ 24
History	159	40	25	198	103	52	183	145	79	↑ 27
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and P..	751	103	14	706	240	34	907	637	70	↑ 20
Legal Professions and Studies	267	39	15	368	165	45	1,087	867	80	↑ 30
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Huma..	1,029	169	16	739	208	28	560	443	79	↑ 12
Mathematics and Statistics	426	43	10	826	185	22	450	324	72	↑ 12
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	1,360	212	16	1,379	590	43	1,590	1,307	82	↑ 27
Natural Resources and Conservation	563	142	25	764	361	47	745	589	79	↑ 22

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2014			2018			2020			2014-2018
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate(%)	Rate Change
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	1,116	103	9	1,420	441	31	1,195	942	79	↑ 22
Philosophy and Religious Studies	78	18	23	58	25	43	55	39	71	↑ 20
Physical Sciences	961	134	14	1,084	370	34	891	641	72	↑ 20
Psychology	1,317	160	12	1,387	475	34	1,658	1,317	79	↑ 22
Public Administration and Social Service Profe..	354	105	30	326	158	48	319	240	75	↑ 19
Social Sciences	2,803	598	21	2,851	1,191	42	2,557	2,054	80	↑ 20
Visual and Performing Arts	933	119	13	1,119	422	38	1,094	857	78	↑ 25
Unknown	28	–	–	485	103	21	253	178	70	–

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, 2020 and 2022 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 serves 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 2014, 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.

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. (2022). 2014, 2018, and 2020 report for _____ [name of institution]. Medford, MA.

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