Student Voting Rates for Rochester Institute Of Technology

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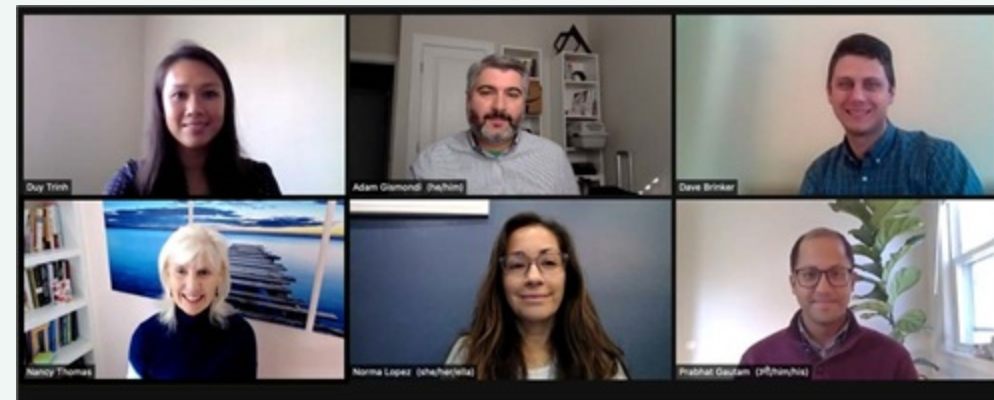
(Top Row from left) Duy Trinh, Program Administrator; Adam Gismondi, Director of Impact; Dave Brinker, Senior Researcher;
(Botton Row from left) Nancy Thomas, Director; Norma López, Postdoctoral Scholar; Prabhat Gautam, Data Manager.

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.
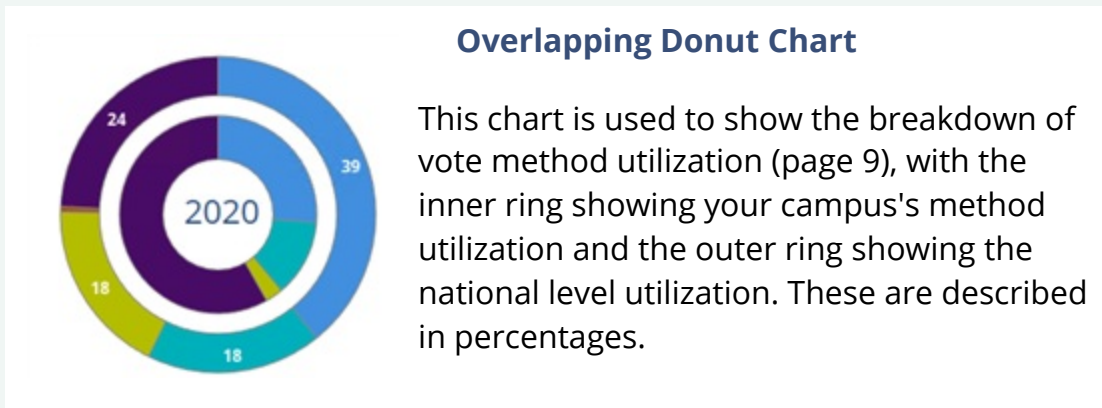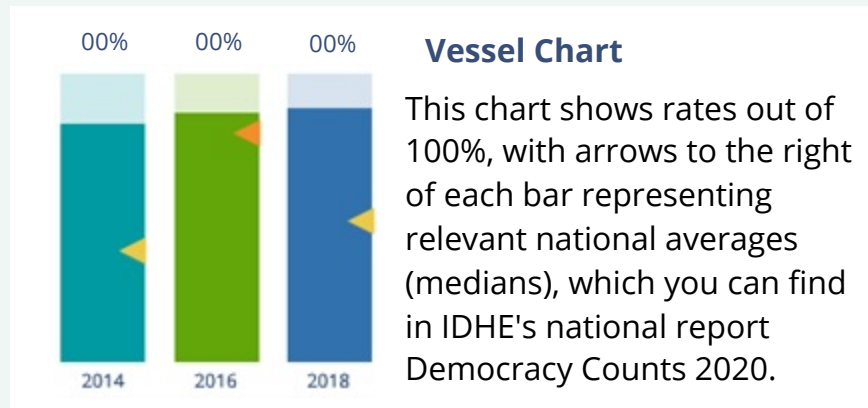
In This Report

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 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

53.0%
2020 Voting Rate

+16.7
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE

64.9%	63.1%	70.2%
2016	2018	2020
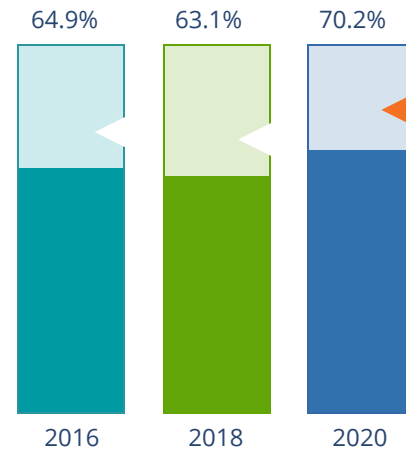
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible students who registered to vote.

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS

56.0%	36.1%	75.6%
2016	2018	2020
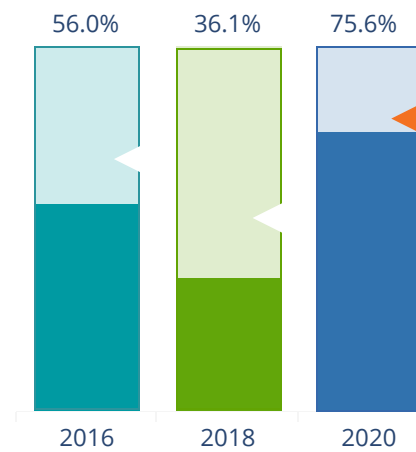
The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of registered students who voted on Election Day. We often refer to this as the "yield" rate.

VOTING RATE

36.3%	22.8%	53.0%
2016	2018	2020
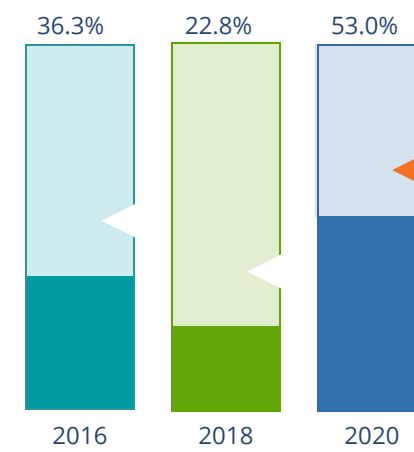
The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible students who voted on Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

Looking Closer

Voting and Registration Rates

	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	18,223	18,438	18,340	⬆ 116
(Age under 18/Unknown)	133	105	146	⬆ 13
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	3,372	3,177	2,531	⬇ -840
(FERPA records blocked)	65	42	200	⬆ 135
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	–	–	–	–
Total eligible voters	14,653	15,113	15,462	⬆ 809
Number of students who registered	9,505	9,537	10,852	⬆ 1,347
Number of students who voted	5,322	3,441	8,200	⬆ 2,878
Registration Rate %	65	63	70	⬆ 5
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	56	36	76	⬆ 20
Voting Rate %	36	23	53	⬆ 17

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	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*
36% (2016) | 23% (2018) | 53% (2020)

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA
53% (2016) | 39% (2018) | 67% (2020)

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA
54% (2016) | 39% (2018) | 69% (2020)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE MA
52% (2016) | 38% (2018) | 65% (2020)

By Race / Ethnicity

ASIAN
2016	2018	2020
22%	14%	41%

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE
2016	2018	2020
		63%

BLACK
2016	2018	2020
30%	16%	52%

HISPANIC
2016	2018	2020
26%	18%	49%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER
2016	2018	2020

TWO OR MORE RACES
2016	2018	2020
38%	24%	62%

WHITE
2016	2018	2020
45%	29%	68%

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
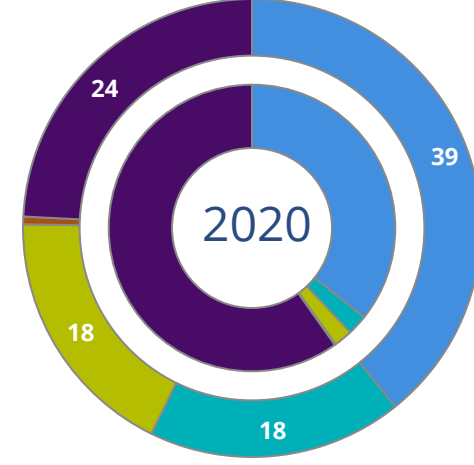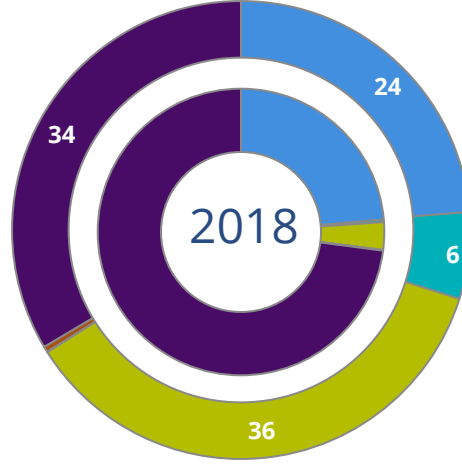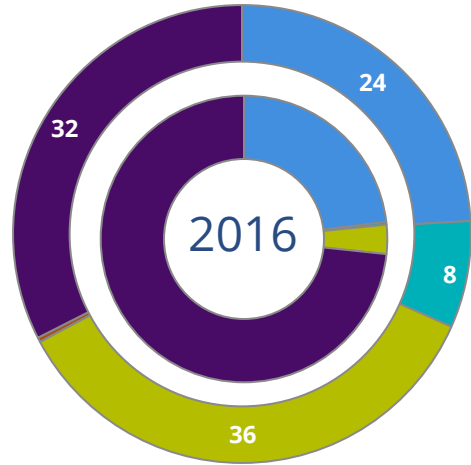
Looking Closer

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	1,109	238	21	1,317	180	14	1,410	584	41	⬆ 20
American Indian/ Alaska Native	28	–	–	16	–	–	19	12	63	–
Black	632	188	30	588	92	16	675	352	52	⬆ 22
Hispanic	974	257	26	1,042	190	18	1,159	562	48	⬆ 22
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	440	166	38	529	127	24	581	361	62	⬆ 24
White	9,006	4,082	45	9,120	2,620	29	9,001	6,106	68	⬆ 23
Race Unknown	5,317	381	7	5,314	227	4	4,754	223	5	⬇ -2

By Voting Method

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

2016 donut chart: 24, 32, 36, 8

2018 donut chart: 24, 34, 36, 6

2020 donut chart: 39, 24, 18, 18

	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	18	0	–	–	190	2	2	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	173	3	105	3	174	2	-1	⬇
Not-In-Person	1,232	23	812	24	2,926	36	13	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	3,899	73	2,512	73	4,903	60	-14	⬇

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	31%	18%	50%
22-24	27%	18%	43%
25-29	22%	16%	27%
30-39	39%	34%	43%
40-49	65%	47%	62%
50+	77%	63%	81%

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	10,891	3,417	31	11,318	2,061	18	11,485	5,741	50	⬆ 19
22-24	4,014	1,067	27	4,147	765	18	3,797	1,635	43	⬆ 16
25-29	1,652	364	22	1,546	250	16	1,490	404	27	⬆ 5
30-39	614	241	39	618	210	34	573	244	43	⬆ 3
40-49	211	137	65	199	93	47	156	97	62	⬇ -3
50+	124	96	77	98	62	63	98	79	81	⬆ 3

Looking Closer

By Sex

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**
Female	5,994	2,080	35	6,145	1,330	22	6,246	3,179	51	⬆ 16
Male	11,367	3,221	28	11,709	2,098	18	11,303	4,999	44	⬆ 16

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			Change (2016-2020)
	Enrolled	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	**Enrolled**	**Voted**	**Rate (%)**	
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	14,066	4,455	32	14,637	2,756	19	14,400	7,014	49	⬆ 17
Graduate	3,067	703	23	2,988	560	19	2,939	1,039	35	⬆ 12
Class Unknown	373	147	39	301	117	39	260	136	52	⬆ 13
CLASS YEAR										
Freshman	3,572	901	25	3,620	508	14	3,614	1,481	41	⬆ 16
Sophomore	3,176	908	29	3,236	488	15	3,082	1,438	47	⬆ 18
Upperclassman	7,726	2,833	37	8,118	1,890	23	8,044	4,300	53	⬆ 17
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	16,108	4,742	29	16,262	2,971	18	15,965	7,570	47	⬆ 18
Part-time	1,398	580	41	1,664	470	28	1,634	630	39	⬇ -3

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.)
Architecture	41	11	27	41	–	–	23	–	–	–
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	589	209	35	537	115	21	465	286	62	⬆ 26
Business, Management, and Marketing	2,228	457	21	2,402	272	11	2,270	513	23	⬆ 2
Communication and Journalism	145	70	48	366	94	26	353	188	53	⬆ 5
Communications Technologies/Technicians	224	81	36	181	42	23	165	92	56	⬆ 20
Computer and Information Sciences	3,375	842	25	3,829	657	17	4,024	1,721	43	⬆ 18
Education	34	20	59	22	–	–	40	30	75	⬆ 16

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.)
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	5,905	1,906	32	5,883	1,106	19	5,539	2,908	53	⬆ 20
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	50	25	50	26	–	–	23	13	57	⬆ 7
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	132	78	59	149	58	39	175	131	75	⬆ 16
Health Professions	386	212	55	378	103	27	383	271	71	⬆ 16
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	109	47	43	97	26	27	89	59	66	⬆ 23
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	956	174	18	937	136	15	915	252	28	⬆ 9
Mathematics and Statistics	247	91	37	267	72	27	308	174	56	⬆ 20
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	172	70	41	218	59	27	251	75	30	⬇ -11
Natural Resources and Conservation	75	33	44	67	22	33	57	39	68	⬆ 24
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	–	–	–	19	–	–	24	–	–	–
Philosophy and Religious Studies	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–
Physical Sciences	462	154	33	498	126	25	487	250	51	⬆ 18
Precision Production	56	–	–	41	–	–	30	–	–	–
Psychology	147	66	45	146	44	30	142	88	62	⬆ 17

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p.)
Public Administration and Social Service Profe..	11	–	–	20	11	55	16	11	69	–
Science Technologies/Technicians	57	–	–	45	–	–	33	–	–	–
Social Sciences	93	47	51	101	37	37	80	53	66	⬆ 16
Visual and Performing Arts	1,600	560	35	1,383	313	23	1,454	871	60	⬆ 25
Unknown	404	142	35	273	112	41	240	132	55	⬆ 20

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.

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.

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

Barnum Hall
163 Packard Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

tischcollege@tufts.edu
617.627.3453

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Institute for Democracy & Higher Education:
National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
Barnum Hall, Medford, MA 02155

Follow Us on Twitter: @TuftsIDHE
NSLVE@tufts.edu
617.627.0620