

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Southwestern 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 and 2016 federal elections. Along with others, your institution's participation in this study has allowed us to build a robust database of nearly 30 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 2012 and 2016 elections. These results are based on enrollment records your institution submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse (FERPA-blocked records excluded) and publicly available voting files collected by Catalyst.

Institutional voting rates 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, we cannot consistently adjust for students who are non-resident aliens, resident aliens, or undocumented students. This may result in your institution's actual voting rate being higher than we report. To calculate that percentage, and to read more about NSLVE data, see our [FAQ on Campus Reports](#). Please also see [Creating and Maintaining the NSLVE Database](#) paper for a more detailed study methodology.

## 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. This report provides a baseline measure of your students' engagement in democracy in 2012 and 2016, and compares your institution's voting rates to similar institutions. Visit our website for more comparison data.
- Share the report widely and strategically, including posting it online.
- Put your data into practice. Use our IDHE Resources to guide you.
- Address your campus climate for student political learning, discourse, and participation. Start by bringing the IDHE team to your campus or using the IDHE self-assessment rubric available on our website.
- Partner with IDHE. We are available with virtual office hours, webinars, brown bag discussions and in-person trainings.

For up-to-date news on NSLVE data, resources and upcoming opportunities visit our website: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://idhe.tufts.edu).

Follow us on Twitter [@TuftsIDHE](https://twitter.com/TuftsIDHE) or email us at [NSLVE@tufts.edu](mailto:NSLVE@tufts.edu).

Warm regards,  
IDHE Team

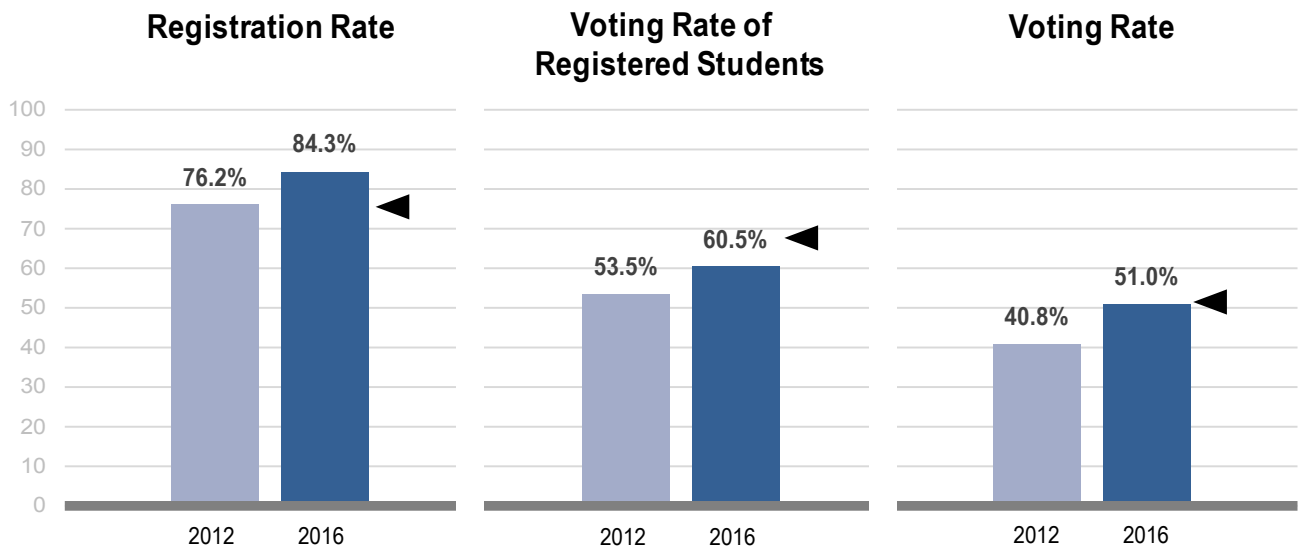
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**51.0%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**10.2**

2016 VOTING RATE FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS  
**50.4%**



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	1,389	1,493	↑ 104
Age under 18/Unknown	*	(11)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	*	(31)	
FERPA records blocked	*	*	
Total eligible voters	1,371	1,450	↑ 79
Number of students who registered	1,045	1,222	↑ 177
Number of students who voted	559	739	↑ 180
Registration rate	76.2%	84.3%	↑ 8.1
Voting rate of registered students	53.5%	60.5%	↑ 7.0
Voting rate	40.8%	51.0%	↑ 10.2
Difference from all institutions	-6.1	+0.6	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

**2012 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**46.9%**

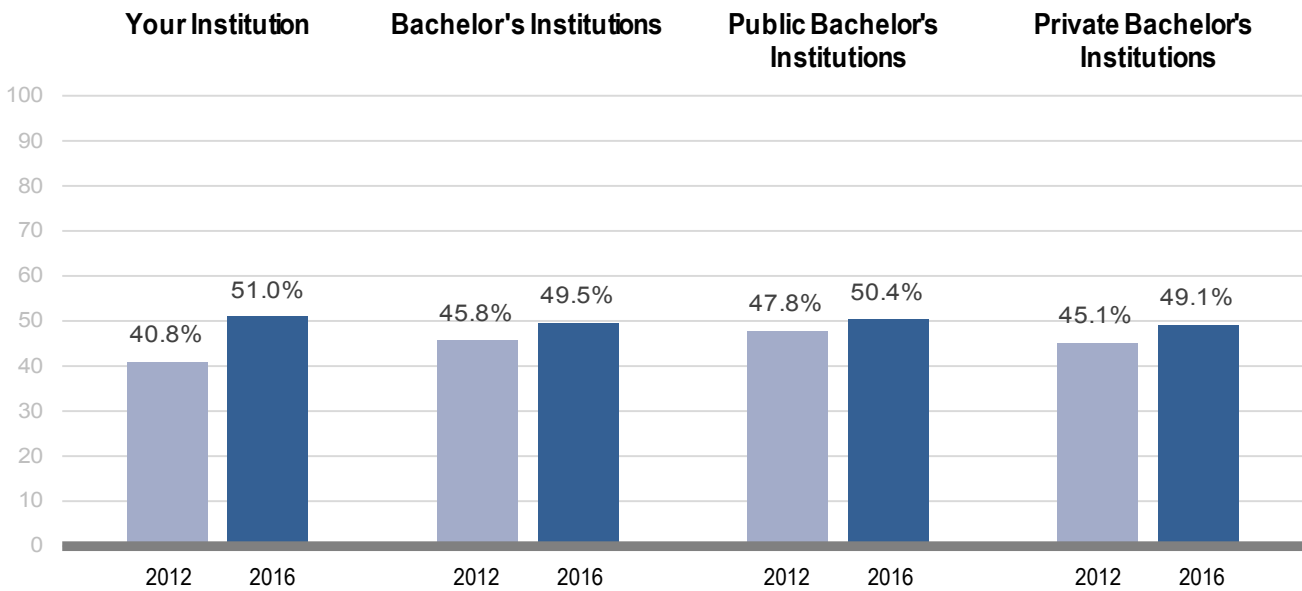
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

**2016 Voting Rate for All Institutions**  
**50.4%**

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

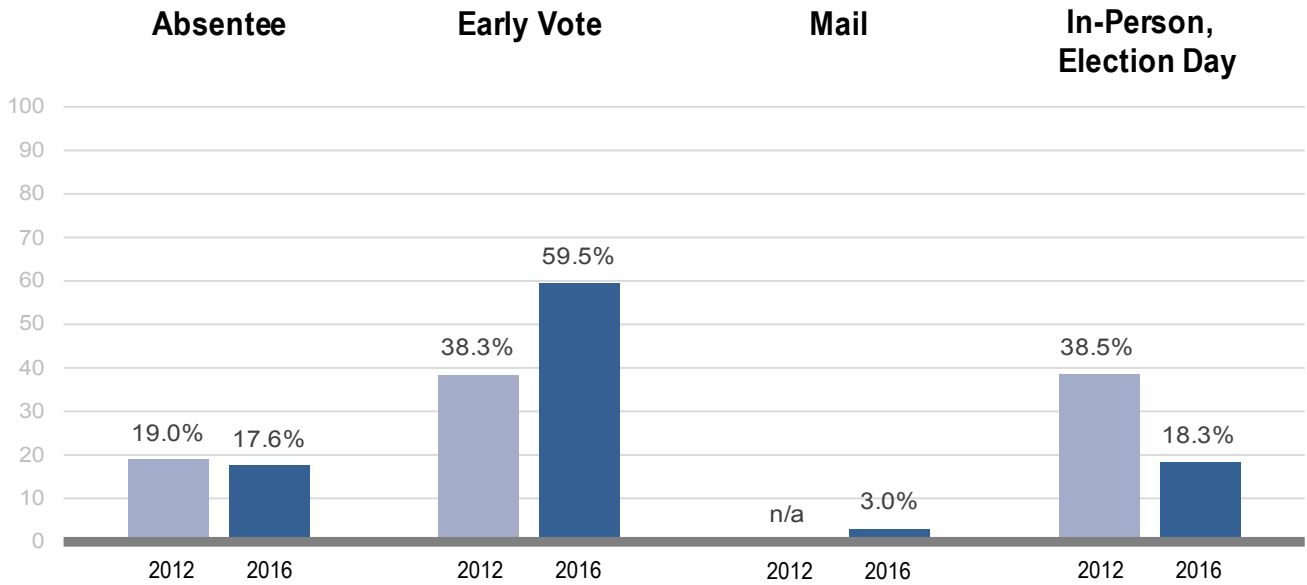
Difference from All Institutions **-6.1**

Difference from All Institutions **+0.6**



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

# By Voting Method\*

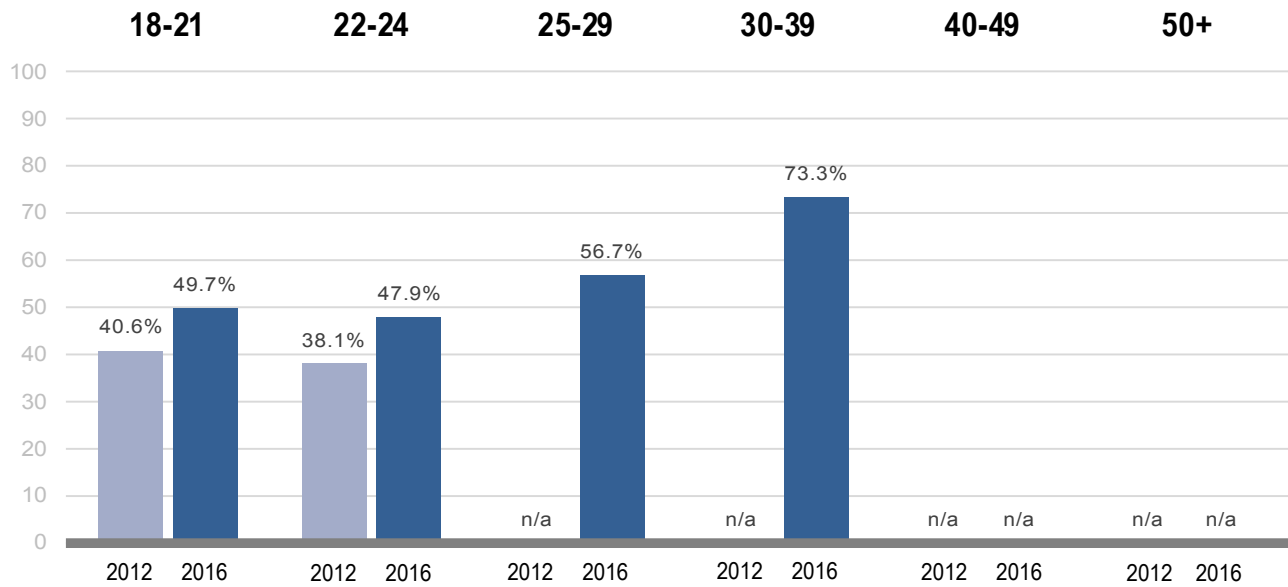


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	106	19.0%	130	17.6%	↓ -1.4
Early Vote	214	38.3%	440	59.5%	↑ 21.3
Mail	*	n/a	22	3.0%	n/a
In-Person, Election Day	215	38.5%	135	18.3%	↓ -20.2
Unknown	18	3.2%	12	1.6%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>559</b>		<b>739</b>		

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Age Group\*

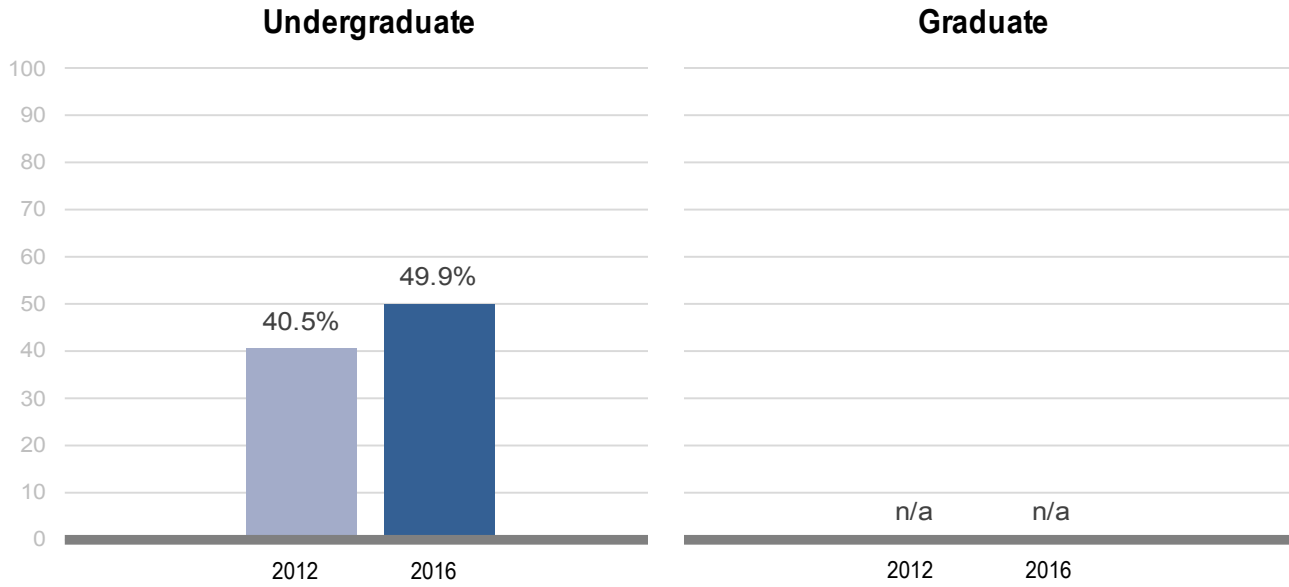


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	1,203	488	40.6%	1,265	629	49.7%	↑ 9.2
22-24	134	51	38.1%	163	78	47.9%	↑ 9.8
25-29	23	*	n/a	30	17	56.7%	n/a
30-39	15	*	n/a	15	11	73.3%	n/a
40-49	*	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
50+	*	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Unknown	0			0			

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Education Level\*

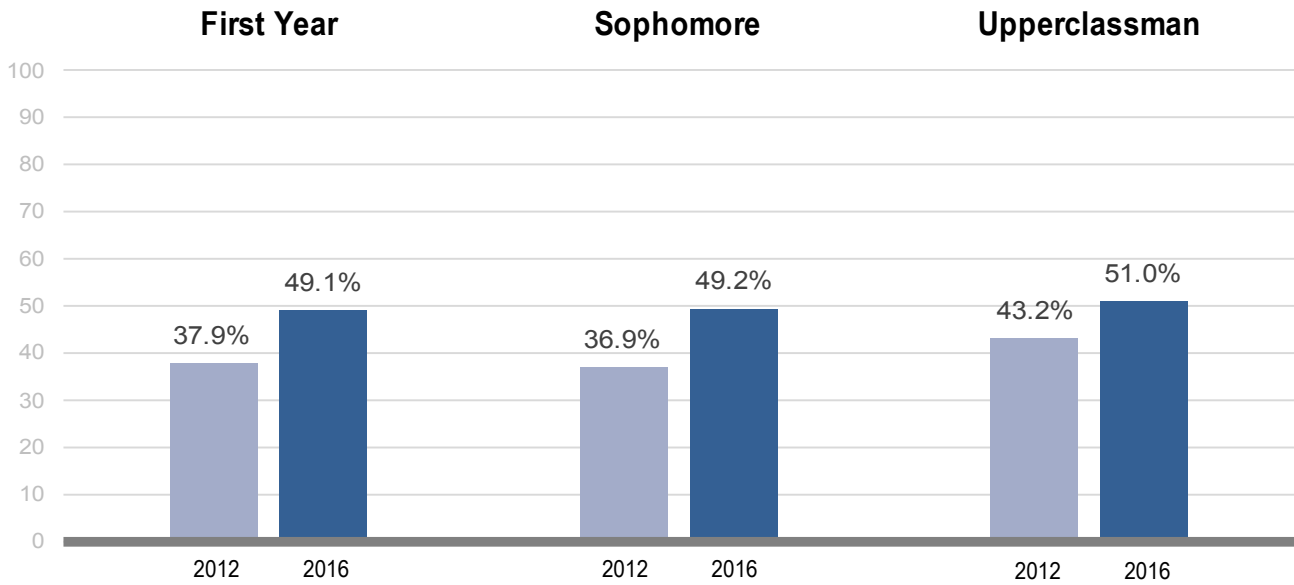


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	1,378	558	40.5%	1,481	739	49.9%	↑ 9.4
Graduate	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Unknown	*			0			

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Undergraduate Class Year\*



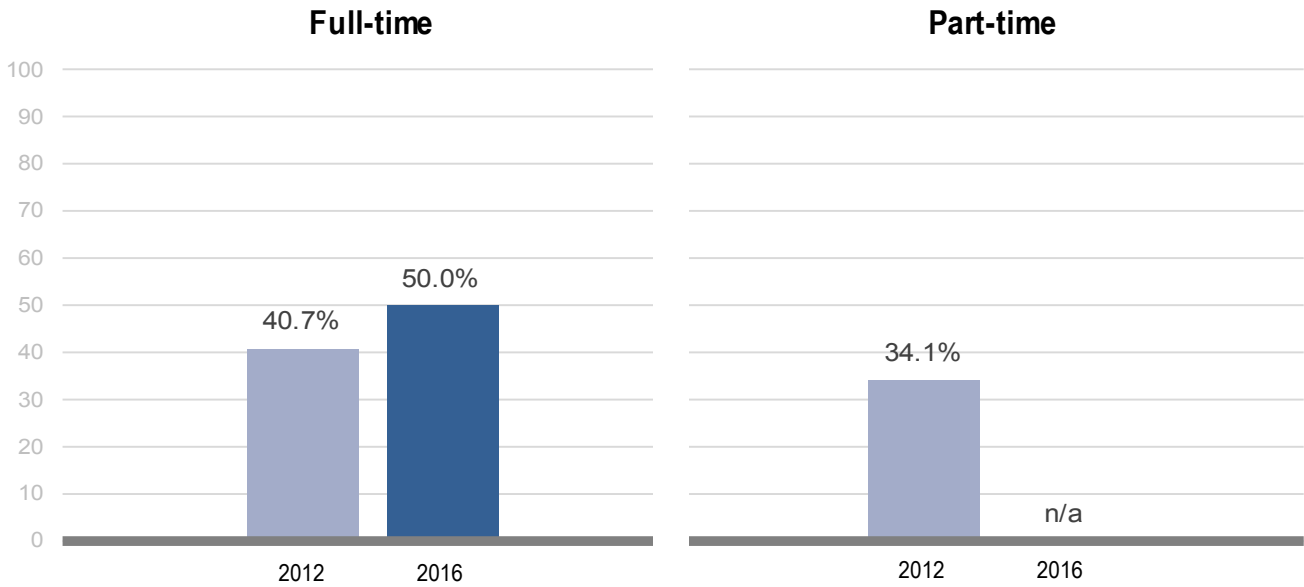
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	256	97	37.9%	397	195	49.1%	↑ 11.2
Sophomore	287	106	36.9%	311	153	49.2%	↑ 12.3
Upperclassman	783	338	43.2%	766	391	51.0%	↑ 7.9

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

# By Enrollment Status\*

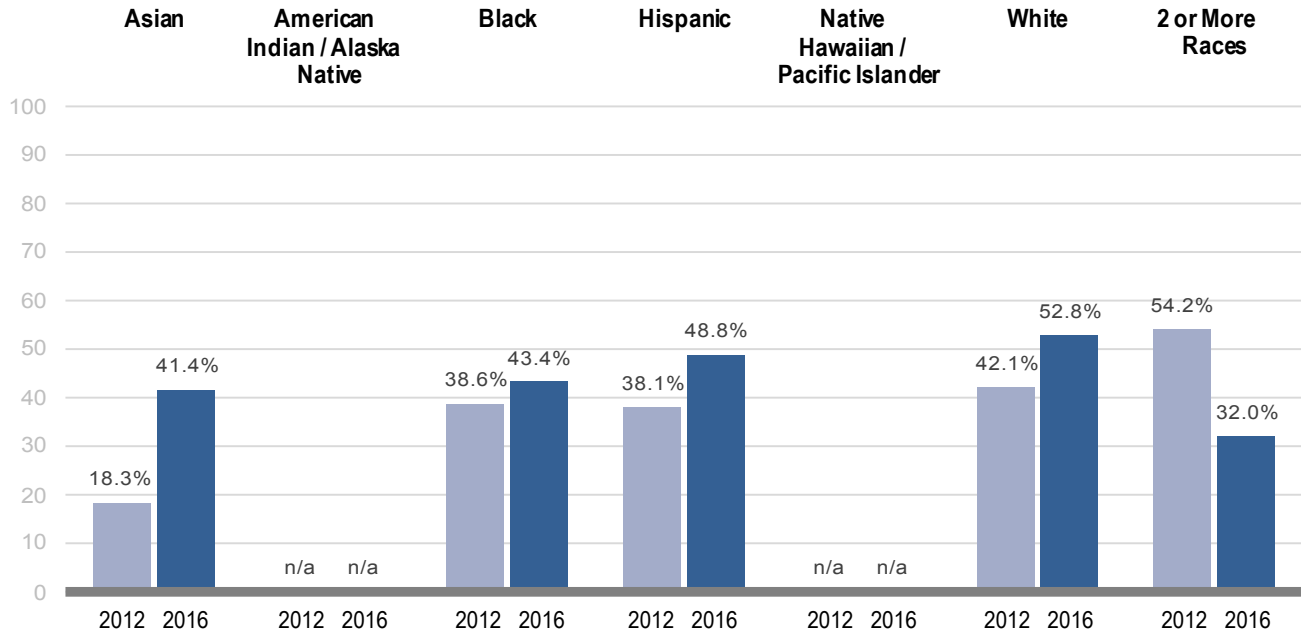


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	1,336	544	40.7%	1,463	731	50.0%	↑ 9.3
Part-time	44	15	34.1%	18	*	n/a	n/a
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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 | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Race/Ethnicity\*



	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Asian	60	11	18.3%	70	29	41.4%	↑ 23.1
American Indian/ Alaska Native	11	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Black	44	17	38.6%	83	36	43.4%	↑ 4.7
Hispanic	252	96	38.1%	320	156	48.8%	↑ 10.7
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
White	984	414	42.1%	924	488	52.8%	↑ 10.7
2 or More Races	24	13	54.2%	50	16	32.0%	↓ -22.2
Unknown	*			28			

\* Your students' data broken down by race. 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 | PRESIDENTIAL 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.

	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	10	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	109	41	37.6%	109	59	54.1% ↑	16.5
Business, Management, and Marketing	88	36	40.9%	117	55	47.0% ↑	6.1
Communication and Journalism	43	20	46.5%	64	30	46.9% ↑	0.4
Computer and Information Sciences	18	*	n/a	19	*	n/a	n/a
Education	61	27	44.3%	108	47	43.5% ↓	-0.7
English Language and Literature	41	21	51.2%	29	22	75.9% ↑	24.6
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	*	*	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
History	31	14	45.2%	12	*	n/a	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	594	222	37.4%	696	328	47.1% ↑	9.8
Mathematics and Statistics	11	*	n/a	14	*	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources and Conservation	17	*	n/a	22	11	50.0%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	21	*	n/a	*	*	n/a	n/a
Physical Sciences	14	*	n/a	41	22	53.7%	n/a
Psychology	61	21	34.4%	74	40	54.1% ↑	19.6
Social Sciences	108	52	48.2%	99	63	63.6% ↑	15.5
Visual and Performing Arts	125	56	44.8%	39	24	61.5% ↑	16.7
Unknown	19	*	n/a	25	11	44.0%	n/a

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:**

NSLVE encourages to share this report as broadly as possible, including posting it. When doing so, please use the following citation: Institute for Democracy & Higher Education: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement. (2018). *2012 & 2016 NSLVE Campus Report*. Medford, MA.

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