

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Pennsylvania State  
University-Main Campus

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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



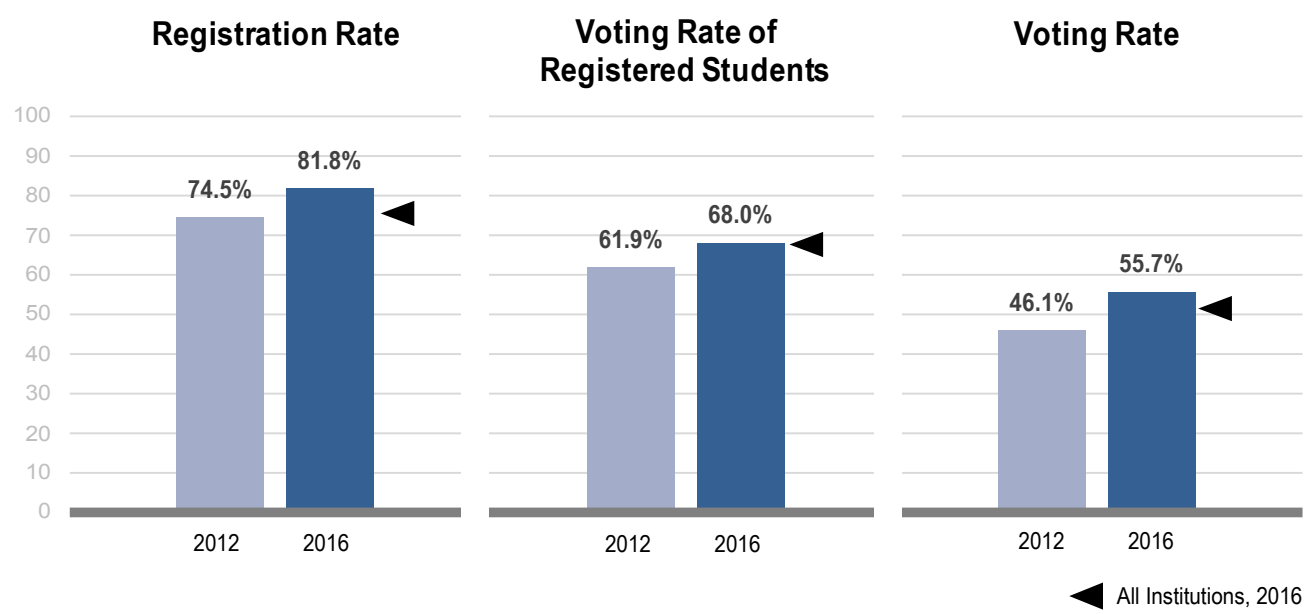
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**55.7%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**9.5**

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



	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	88,178	93,140	↑ 4,962
Age under 18/Unknown	(882)	(795)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(10,802)	(13,953)	
FERPA records blocked	(67)	(42)	
Total eligible voters	76,427	78,350	↑ 1,923
Number of students who registered	56,968	64,121	↑ 7,153
Number of students who voted	35,266	43,605	↑ 8,339
Registration rate	74.5%	81.8%	↑ 7.3
Voting rate of registered students	61.9%	68.0%	↑ 6.1
Voting rate	46.1%	55.7%	↑ 9.5
Difference from all institutions	-0.8	+5.3	

HOW YOUR NUMBERS COMPARE | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# By Carnegie Classification

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

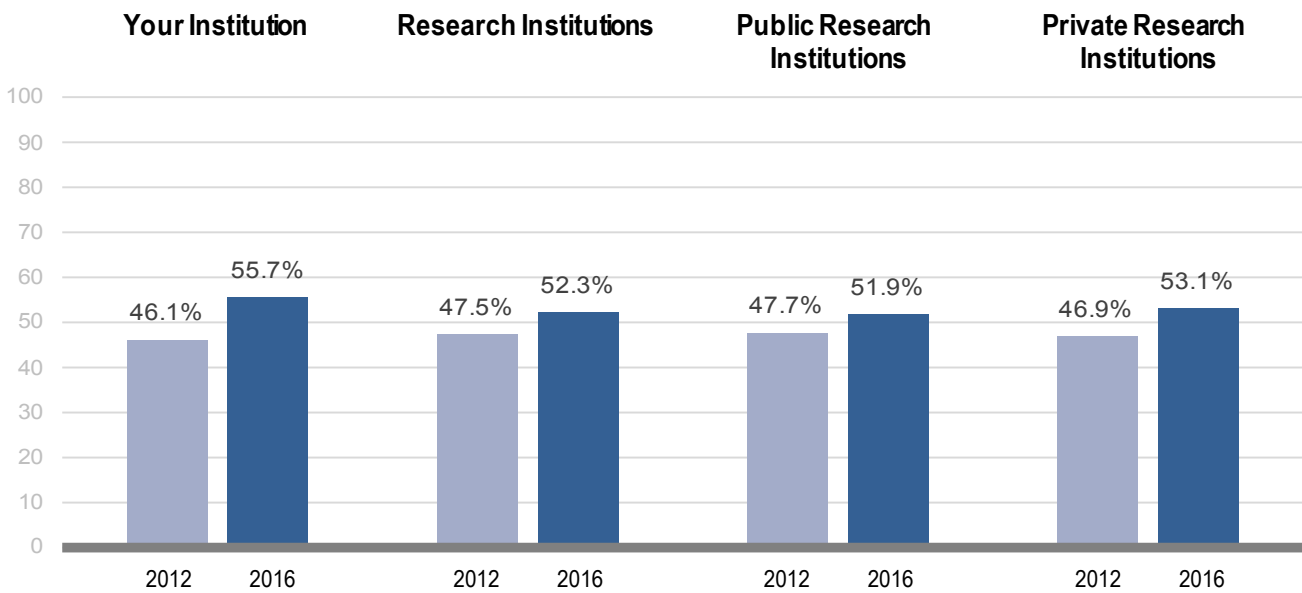
HIGH 72.9%  
 LOW 19.3%

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

HIGH 81.4%  
 LOW 13.1%

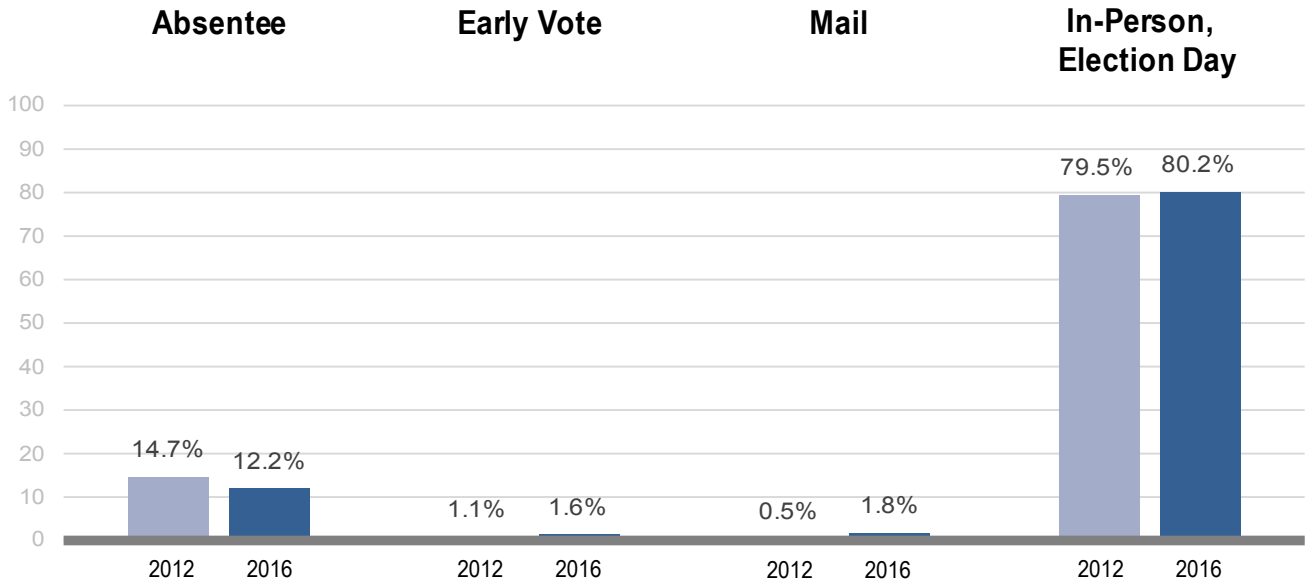
Difference from All Institutions **-0.8**

Difference from All Institutions **+5.3**



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

# By Voting Method\*

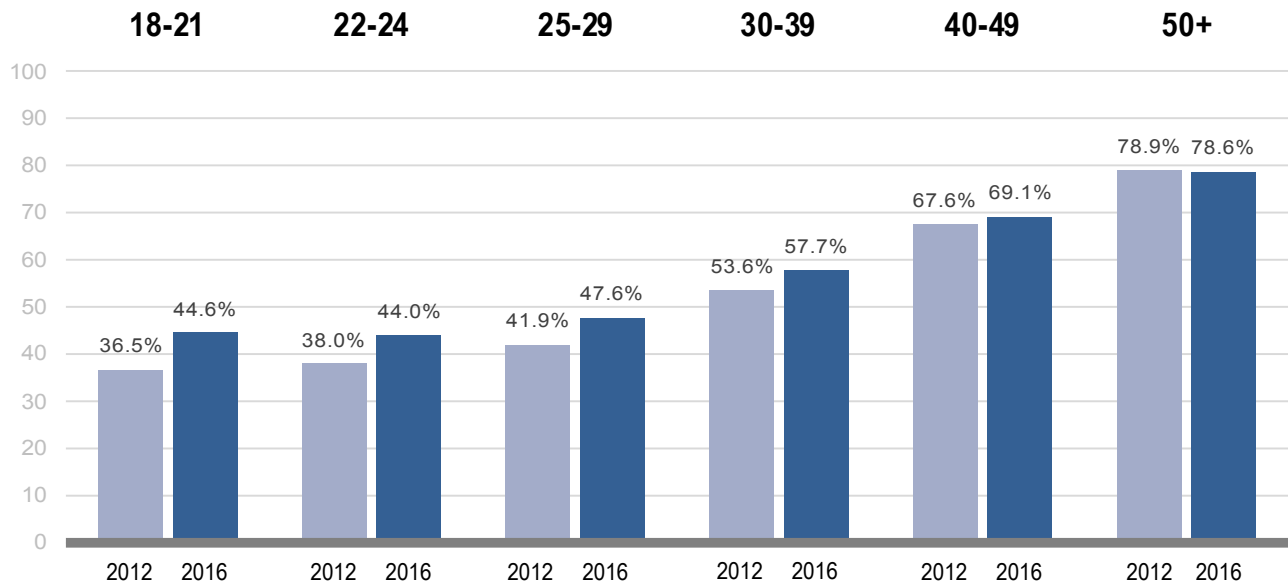


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	5,176	14.7%	5,311	12.2%	↓ -2.5
Early Vote	375	1.1%	680	1.6%	↑ 0.5
Mail	178	0.5%	767	1.8%	↑ 1.3
In-Person, Election Day	28,034	79.5%	34,989	80.2%	↑ 0.8
Unknown	1,503	4.3%	1,858	4.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,266</b>		<b>43,605</b>		

\* 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\*

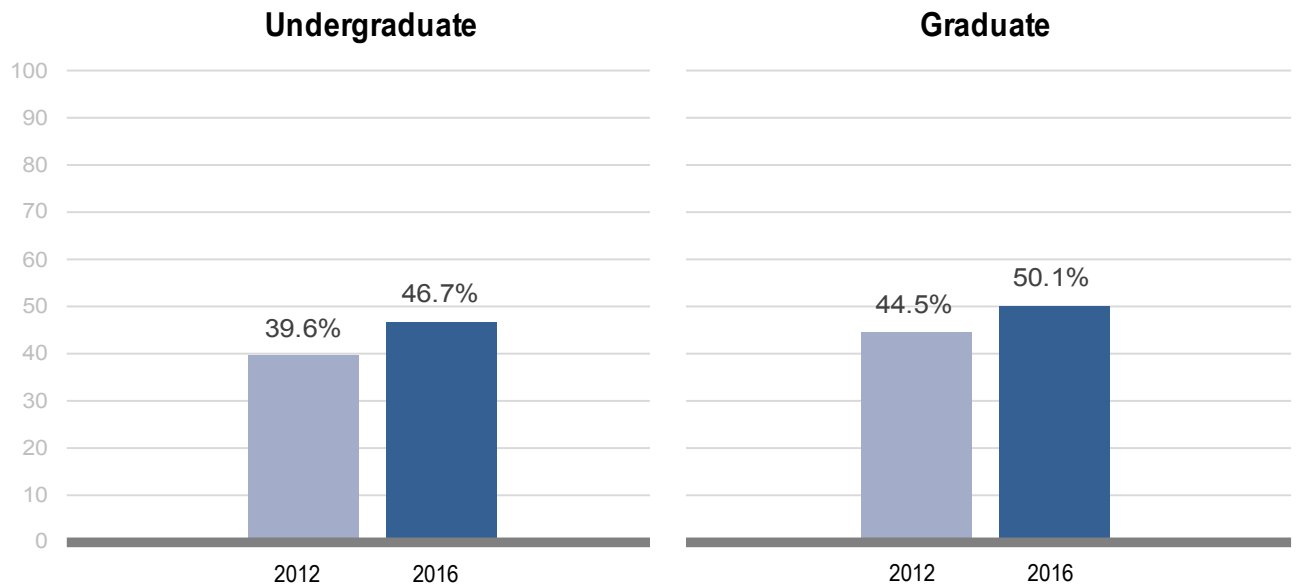


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	52,614	19,196	36.5%	56,172	25,064	44.6%	↑ 8.1
22-24	14,159	5,376	38.0%	14,394	6,330	44.0%	↑ 6.0
25-29	8,958	3,757	41.9%	9,340	4,450	47.6%	↑ 5.7
30-39	7,091	3,797	53.6%	8,099	4,672	57.7%	↑ 4.1
40-49	2,975	2,010	67.6%	3,028	2,091	69.1%	↑ 1.5
50+	1,432	1,130	78.9%	1,270	998	78.6%	↓ -0.3
Unknown	*			*			

\* 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\*

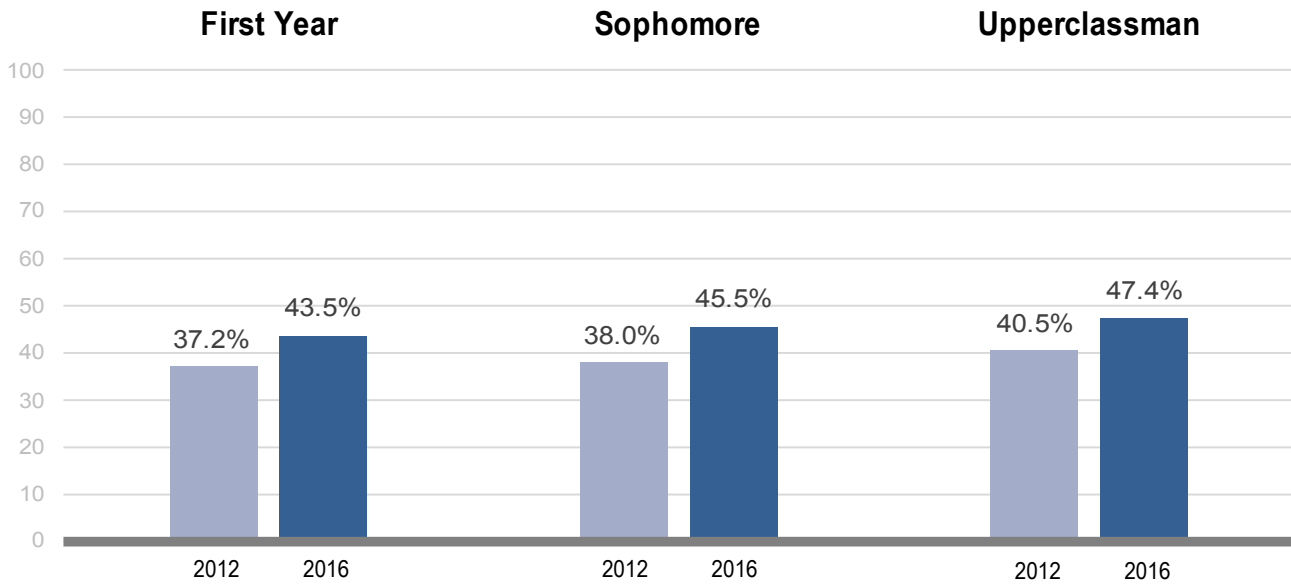


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	74,060	29,356	<b>39.6%</b>	78,534	36,704	<b>46.7%</b>	↑ 7.1
Graduate	12,895	5,741	<b>44.5%</b>	13,660	6,842	<b>50.1%</b>	↑ 5.6
Unknown	274			109			

\* 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\*



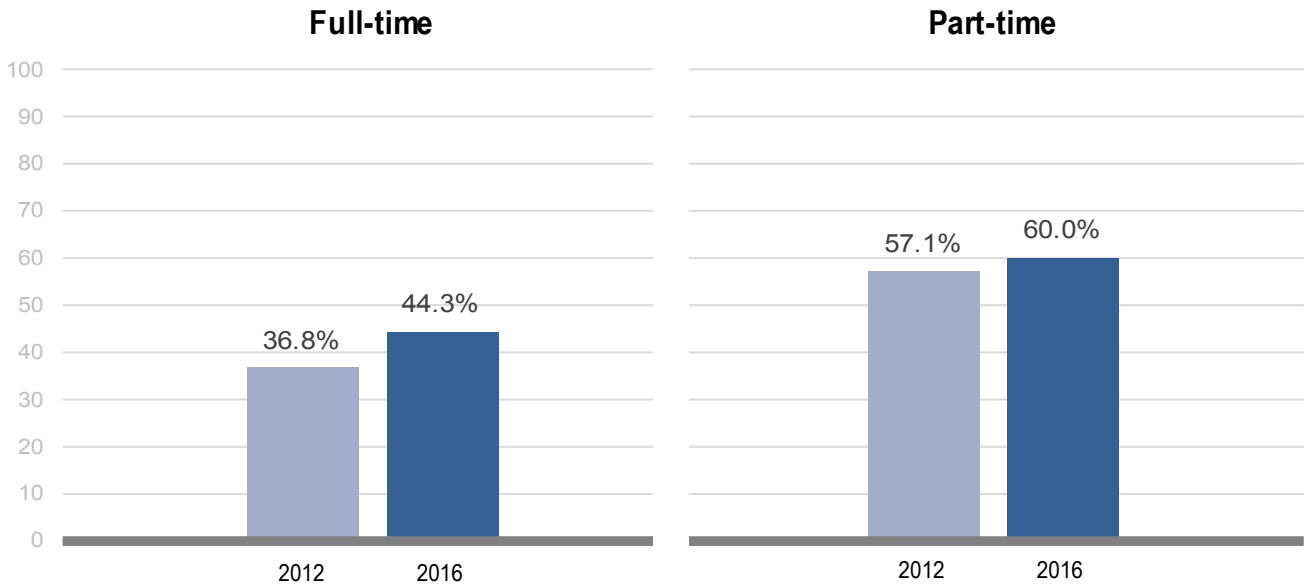
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	17,062	6,351	<b>37.2%</b>	15,902	6,913	<b>43.5%</b>	↑ 6.3
Sophomore	17,071	6,489	<b>38.0%</b>	15,023	6,832	<b>45.5%</b>	↑ 7.5
Upperclassman	33,492	13,571	<b>40.5%</b>	43,009	20,394	<b>47.4%</b>	↑ 6.9

\* 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\*

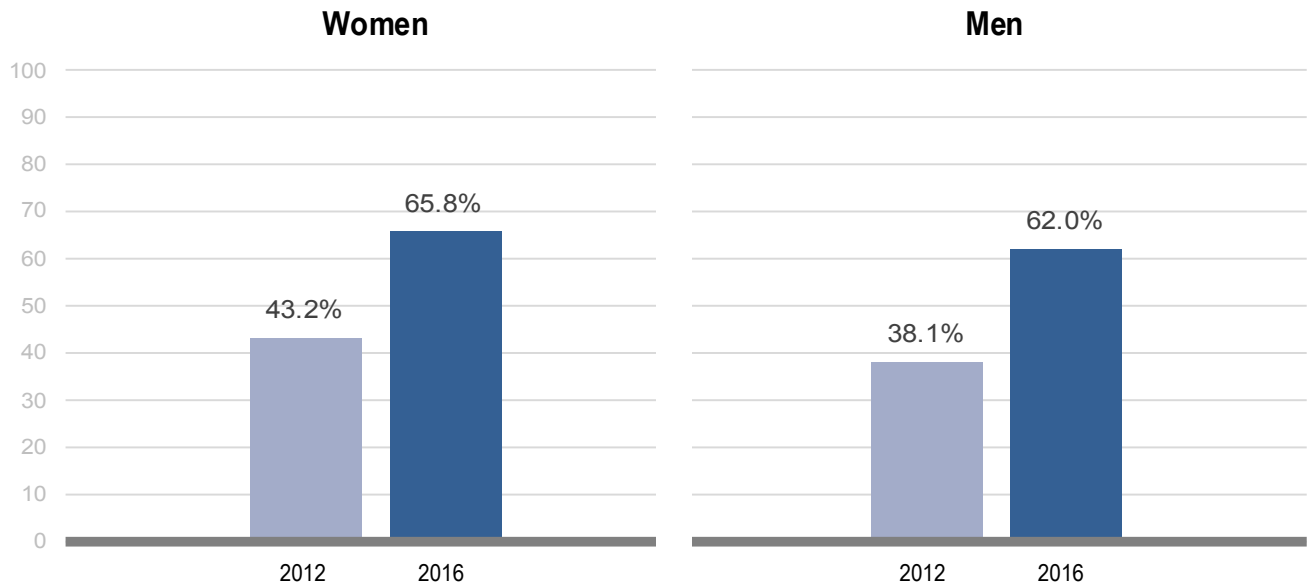


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	71,604	26,348	<b>36.8%</b>	75,097	33,289	<b>44.3%</b>	↑ 7.5
Part-time	15,625	8,918	<b>57.1%</b>	17,205	10,315	<b>60.0%</b>	↑ 2.9
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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 Gender\*

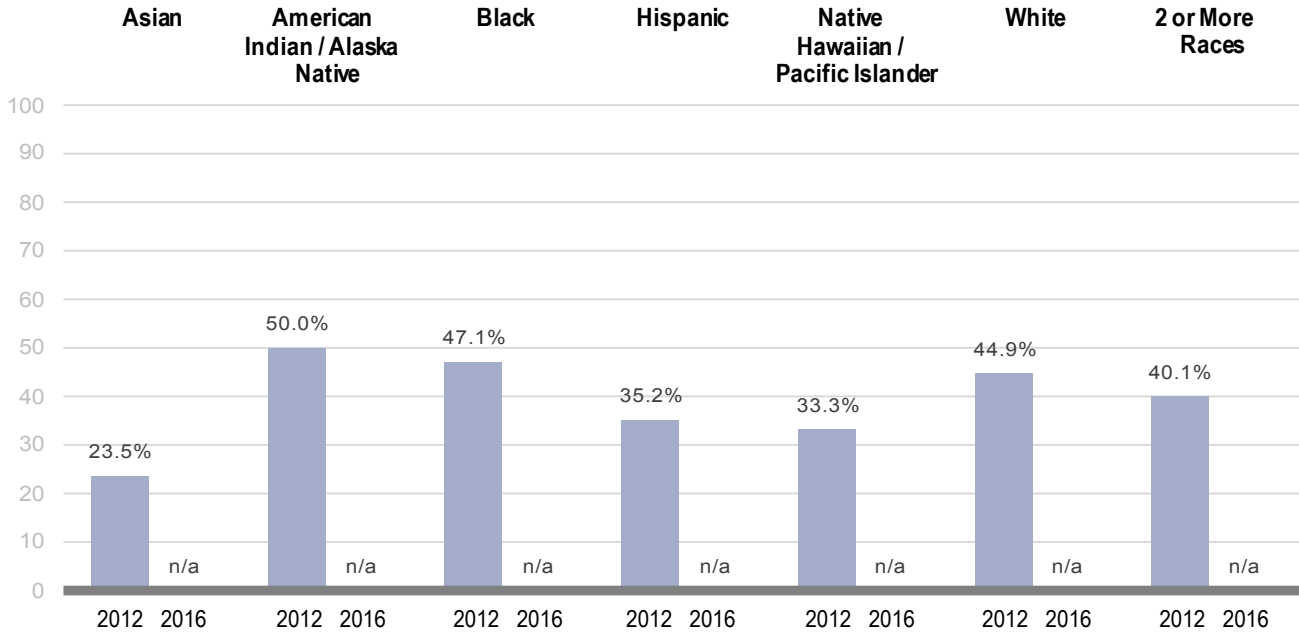


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Women	40,434	17,456	43.2%	30,827	20,278	65.8%	↑ 22.6
Men	46,780	17,810	38.1%	35,212	21,838	62.0%	↑ 24.0
Unknown	15	0	n/a	26,264	1,489	5.7%	

\* Your students' data broken down by gender. 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	4,252	1,000	<b>23.5%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
American Indian/ Alaska Native	114	57	<b>50.0%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Black	5,666	2,670	<b>47.1%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Hispanic	4,672	1,642	<b>35.2%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	63	21	<b>33.3%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
White	62,518	28,048	<b>44.9%</b>	22	*	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
2 or More Races	1,786	716	<b>40.1%</b>	0	0	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Unknown	2,144			92,281			

\* 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	
Agriculture and Agriculture Operations	1,025	367	35.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Architecture	427	163	38.2%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, Gender, and Group Studies	158	105	66.5%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	2,249	793	35.3%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	12,832	5,280	41.2%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Communication and Journalism	2,101	870	41.4%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	3,522	1,408	40.0%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Education	3,698	1,834	49.6%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	13,890	4,728	34.0%	0	0	n/a	n/a
English Language and Literature	690	346	50.1%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	1,768	845	47.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	404	165	40.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Health Professions	5,799	2,687	46.3%	0	0	n/a	n/a
History	418	218	52.2%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	1,845	797	43.2%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Legal Professions and Studies	796	350	44.0%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	15,483	6,481	41.9%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Mathematics and Statistics	669	186	27.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	5,006	1,858	37.1%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources and Conservation	380	158	41.6%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	1,480	483	32.6%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	109	44	40.4%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Physical Sciences	2,340	860	36.8%	0	0	n/a	n/a

Psychology	2,569	1,102	42.9%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	371	247	66.6%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Science Technologies/Technicians	77	19	24.7%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Social Sciences	3,483	1,438	41.3%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Visual and Performing Arts	1,167	467	40.0%	0	0	n/a	n/a
Unknown	2,473	967	39.1%	92,303	43,605	47.2% ↑	8.1

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: [idhe.tufts.edu](http://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. (2016). *2012 & 2016 NSLVE Campus Report*. Medford, MA.

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