October 2021

Student Voting Rates for San Jose State University

2020 NSLVE Campus Report

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life

idhe INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY & HIGHER EDUCATION

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 10), with the outer ring showing your campus method utilization and the inner ring showing the national breakdown. These are described in percentages.

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

76.0%
2020 Voting Rate

+22.8
Change From 2016

ALL INSTITUTIONS

66%
2020 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

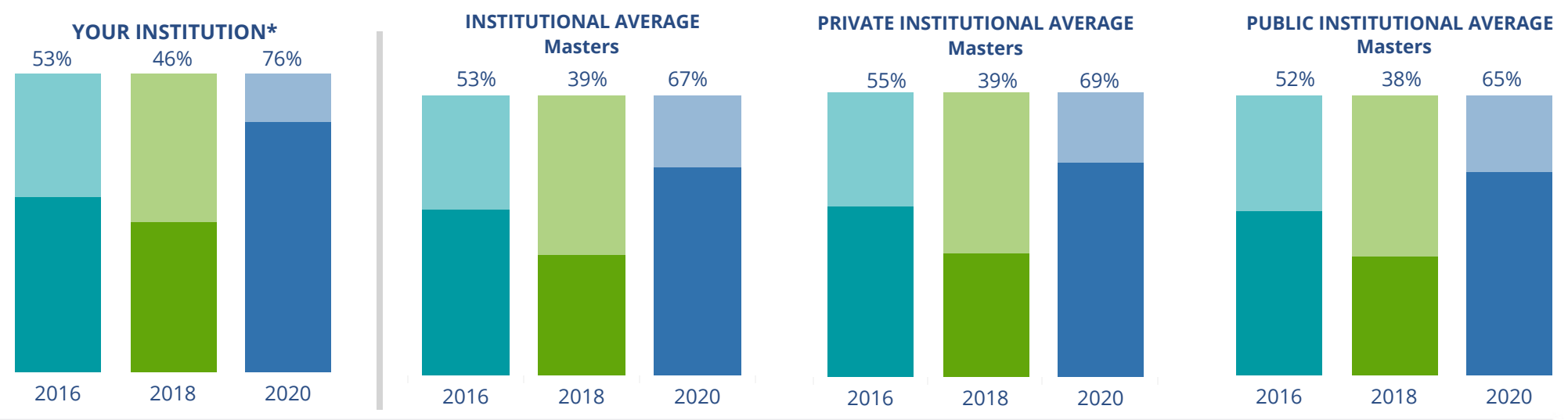|	2016	2018	2020	2016-2020 Change (p.p.)
Total Student Enrollment	31,890	32,463	33,464	⬆ 1,574
(Age under 18/Unknown)	–	–	–	–
(IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens)	3,896	3,939	3,412	⬇ -484
(FERPA records blocked)	270	218	210	⬇ -60
(Non-Degree Seeking Students)	368	333	362	⬇ -6
Total eligible voters	27,356	27,973	29,480	⬆ 2,124
Number of students who registered	21,785	22,101	26,123	⬆ 4,338
Number of students who voted	14,549	12,744	22,394	⬆ 7,845
Registration Rate %	80	79	89	⬆ 9
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	67	58	86	⬆ 19
Voting Rate %	53	46	76	⬆ 23

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*

53% — 2016
46% — 2018
76% — 2020

INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

53% — 2016
39% — 2018
67% — 2020

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

55% — 2016
39% — 2018
69% — 2020

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL AVERAGE
Masters

52% — 2016
38% — 2018
65% — 2020

By Race / Ethnicity

2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020	2016 2018 2020
ASIAN	**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKAN NATIVE**	**BLACK**	**HISPANIC**	**NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER**	**TWO OR MORE RACES**	**WHITE**

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	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Indian/ Alaska Native	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hispanic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2 or More Races	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Race Unknown	31,188	14,549	47	31,844	12,744	40	32,834	22,394	68	⬆ 22

By Voting Method

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

2016 — 23, 34, 35, 7

2018 — 23, 34, 36, 6

2020 — 24, 39, 18, 18
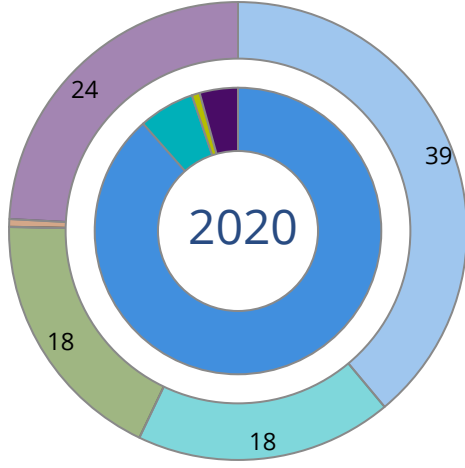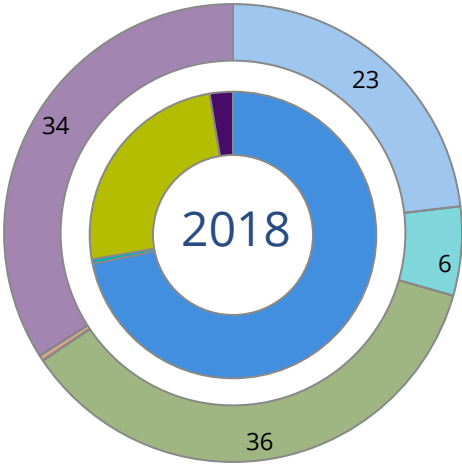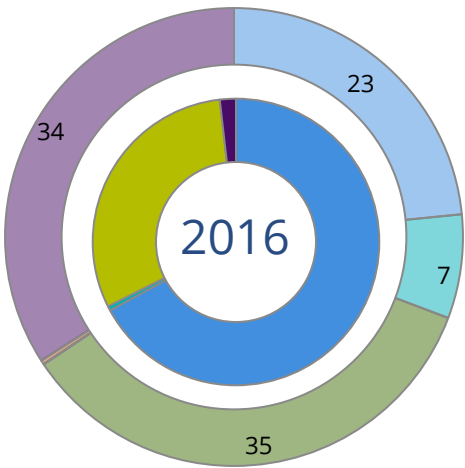
	2016		2018		2020		2016-2020	
	Voted	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Voted**	**Rate**	**Change (p.p.)**	
Early Vote	77	1	58	1	1,407	6	6	⬆
In-Person on Election Day	4,454	31	3,196	25	198	1	-30	⬇
Not-In-Person	9,761	67	9,144	72	19,822	89	21	⬆
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Provisional	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Voting Method Unknown	255	2	345	3	964	4	2	⬆

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	41%	35%	71%
22-24	46%	38%	65%
25-29	48%	42%	63%
30-39	58%	51%	67%
40-49	70%	64%	79%
50+	77%	76%	86%

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	12,433	5,102	41	13,384	4,674	35	14,166	10,040	71	⬆ 30
22-24	8,821	4,031	46	8,478	3,241	38	8,275	5,408	65	⬆ 20
25-29	5,582	2,680	48	5,625	2,367	42	5,618	3,521	63	⬆ 15
30-39	2,868	1,662	58	2,989	1,528	51	3,210	2,154	67	⬆ 9
40-49	996	700	70	910	585	64	1,022	805	79	⬆ 8
50+	488	374	77	458	349	76	543	466	86	⬆ 9

Looking Closer

By Sex

| | 2016 | | | 2018 | | | 2020 | | | 2016-2020 |
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Female	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

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 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2018 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2020 Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	2016-2020 Change (p.p)
EDUCATION LEVEL										
Undergraduate	24,707	10,818	44	25,134	9,225	37	25,321	17,093	68	↑ 24
Graduate	6,254	3,619	58	6,454	3,398	53	7,075	5,018	71	↑ 13
Class Unknown	227	112	49	256	121	47	438	283	65	↑ 15
CLASS YEAR										
First Year	4,233	36	1,528	4,587	29	1,314	2,668	68	1,803	↑ 31
Second Year	3,175	40	1,282	3,339	35	1,152	3,118	71	2,208	↑ 30
Upper Level	17,427	46	8,057	17,251	39	6,773	19,845	67	13,269	↑ 21
ENROLLMENT STATUS										
Full-time	23,943	10,502	44	24,571	9,183	37	25,673	17,399	68	↑ 24
Part-time	7,245	4,047	56	7,273	3,561	49	7,161	4,995	70	↑ 14

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.

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By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Architecture	81	61	75	76	49	64	78	67	86	⬆ 11
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	34	16	47	79	35	44	101	66	65	⬆ 18
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1,071	472	44	1,100	394	36	1,210	823	68	⬆ 24
Business, Management, and Marketing	5,172	2,032	39	5,025	1,622	32	5,658	3,534	62	⬆ 23
Communication and Journalism	1,425	739	52	1,369	622	45	1,532	1,129	74	⬆ 22
Computer and Information Sciences	707	275	39	694	218	31	915	525	57	⬆ 18
Education	599	391	65	494	282	57	422	335	79	⬆ 14

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	5,556	1,961	35	5,827	1,607	28	5,464	3,113	57	⬆ 22
English Language and Literature	445	258	58	426	227	53	399	300	75	⬆ 17
Family and Consumer/Human Sciences	694	338	49	684	290	42	719	522	73	⬆ 24
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui..	247	110	45	266	105	39	222	138	62	⬆ 18
Health Professions	1,965	1,019	52	2,044	924	45	1,996	1,485	74	⬆ 23
History	268	167	62	311	183	59	305	248	81	⬆ 19
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	752	354	47	851	339	40	1,084	794	73	⬆ 26
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	1,556	639	41	1,398	417	30	840	557	66	⬆ 25
Mathematics and Statistics	311	133	43	431	147	34	393	219	56	⬆ 13
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	427	223	52	589	257	44	624	430	69	⬆ 17
Natural Resources and Conservation	336	195	58	315	157	50	280	218	78	⬆ 20
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	989	438	44	1,221	412	34	1,323	944	71	⬆ 27
Philosophy and Religious Studies	88	38	43	85	30	35	74	54	73	⬆ 30

By Field of Study

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)
Physical Sciences	380	185	49	375	162	43	332	227	68	⬆ 20
Psychology	1,505	678	45	1,364	584	43	1,508	1,121	74	⬆ 29
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	561	348	62	629	398	63	630	489	78	⬆ 16
Social Sciences	1,460	708	48	1,625	717	44	1,576	1,127	72	⬆ 23
Visual and Performing Arts	2,249	1,137	51	2,139	923	43	2,228	1,558	70	⬆ 19
Unknown	158	78	49	259	122	47	453	289	64	⬆ 14

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.

San Jose 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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