

**2012 & 2016 CAMPUS REPORT**

Student Voting Rates for  
Grand Valley State  
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



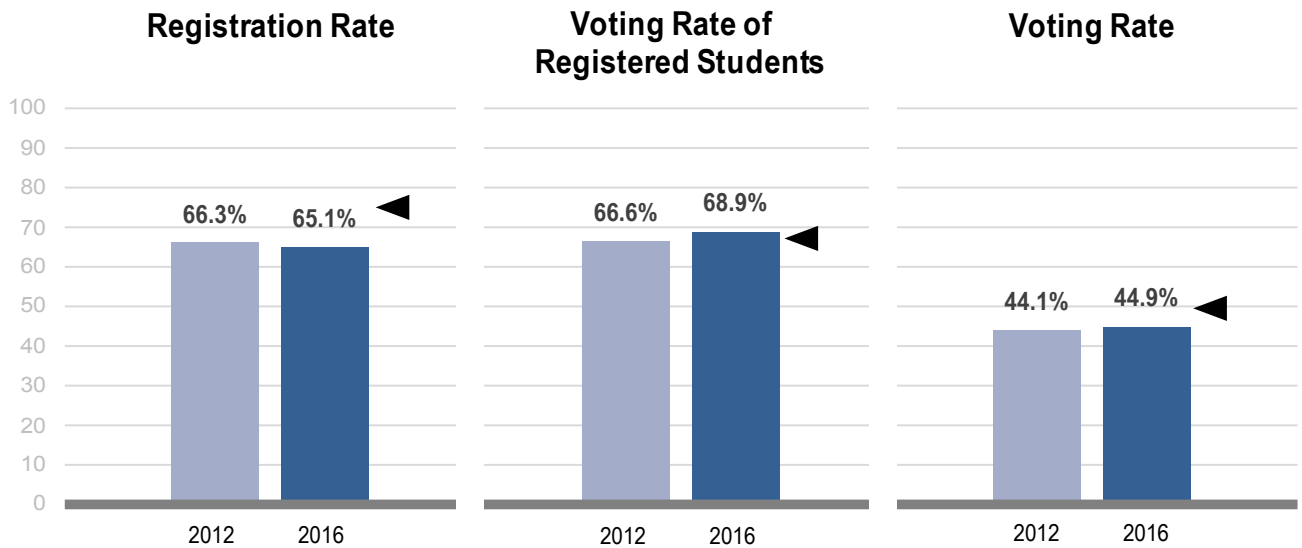
YOUR STUDENTS' VOTING DATA | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

# Voting and Registration Rates

**2016 Voting Rate**  
**44.9%**

CHANGE FROM 2012  
**0.7**

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



◀ All Institutions, 2016

	2012	2016	Change
Total student enrollment	24,334	24,813	↑ 479
Age under 18/Unknown	(145)	(157)	
IPEDS estimated non-resident aliens	(343)	(423)	
FERPA records blocked	(1,397)	(159)	
Total eligible voters	22,449	24,074	↑ 1,625
Number of students who registered	14,887	15,678	↑ 791
Number of students who voted	9,909	10,801	↑ 892
Registration rate	66.3%	65.1%	↓ -1.2
Voting rate of registered students	66.6%	68.9%	↑ 2.3
Voting rate	44.1%	44.9%	↑ 0.7
Difference from all institutions	-2.8	-5.5	

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**

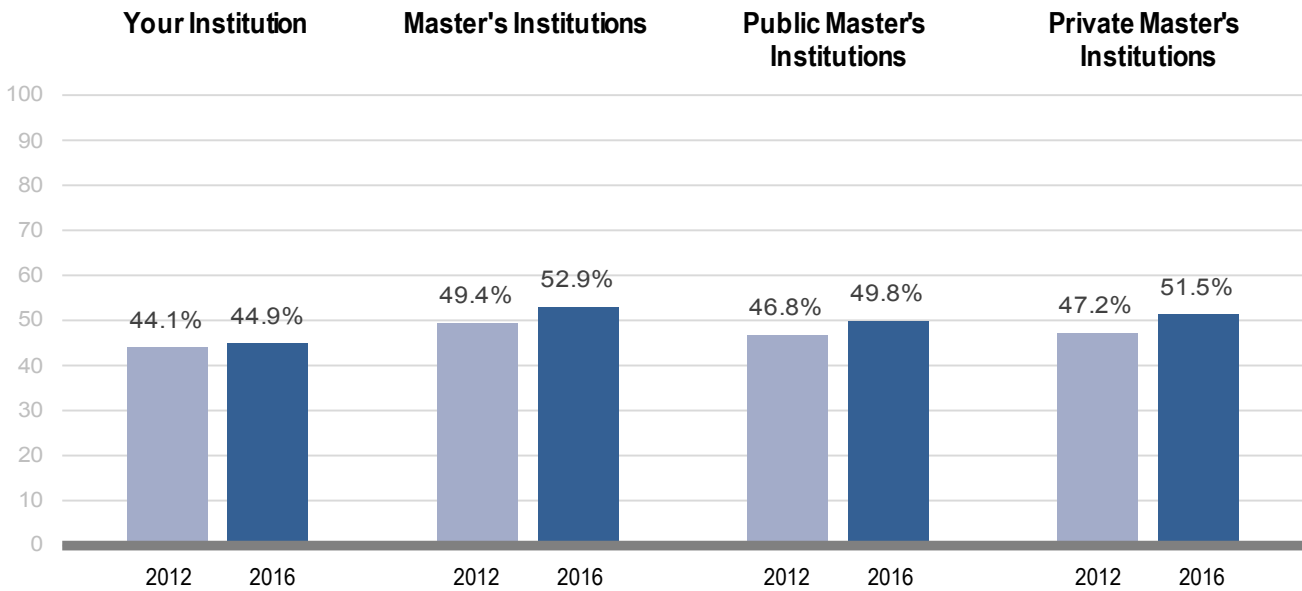
**50.4%**

HIGH 81.4%

LOW 13.1%

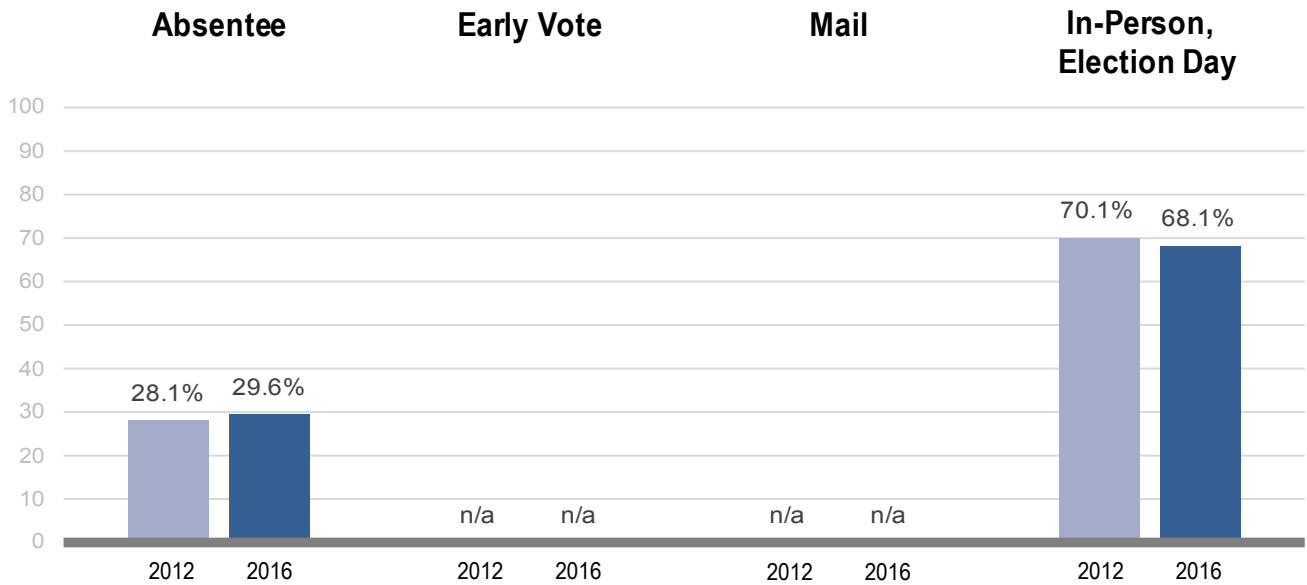
Difference from All Institutions **-2.8**

Difference from All Institutions **-5.5**



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

# By Voting Method\*

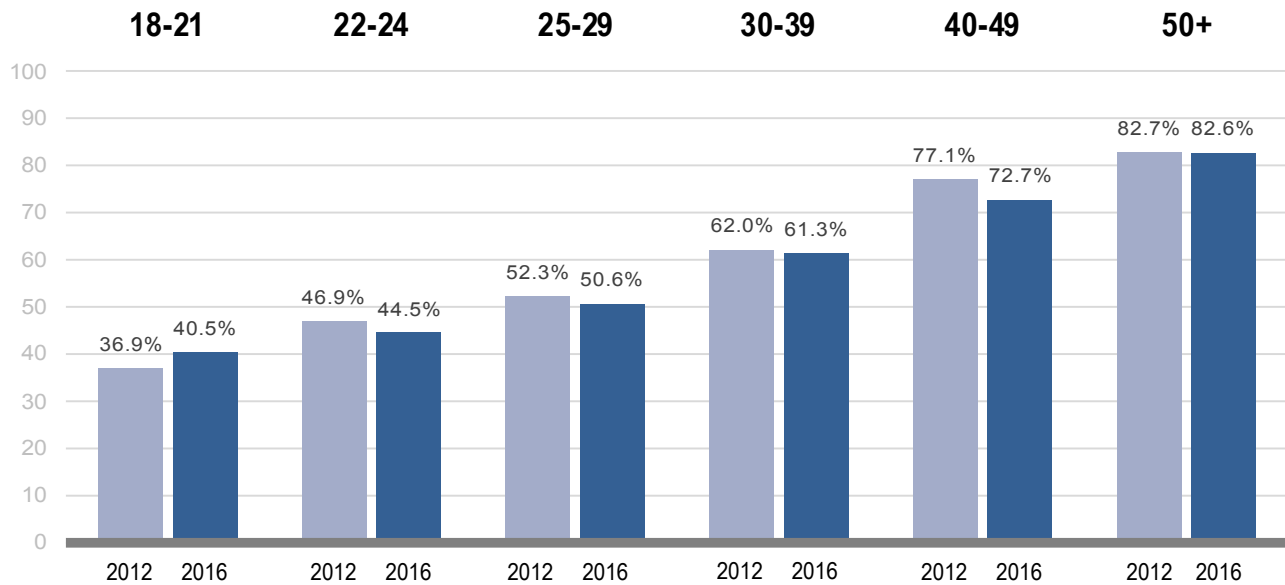


	2012		2016		Change
	Voted	Rate	Voted	Rate	
Absentee	2,786	28.1%	3,193	29.6%	↑ 1.4
Early Vote	*	n/a	*	n/a	n/a
Mail	*	n/a	*	n/a	n/a
In-Person, Election Day	6,944	70.1%	7,360	68.1%	↓ -1.9
Unknown	173	1.8%	238	2.2%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,909</b>		<b>10,801</b>		

\* 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\*

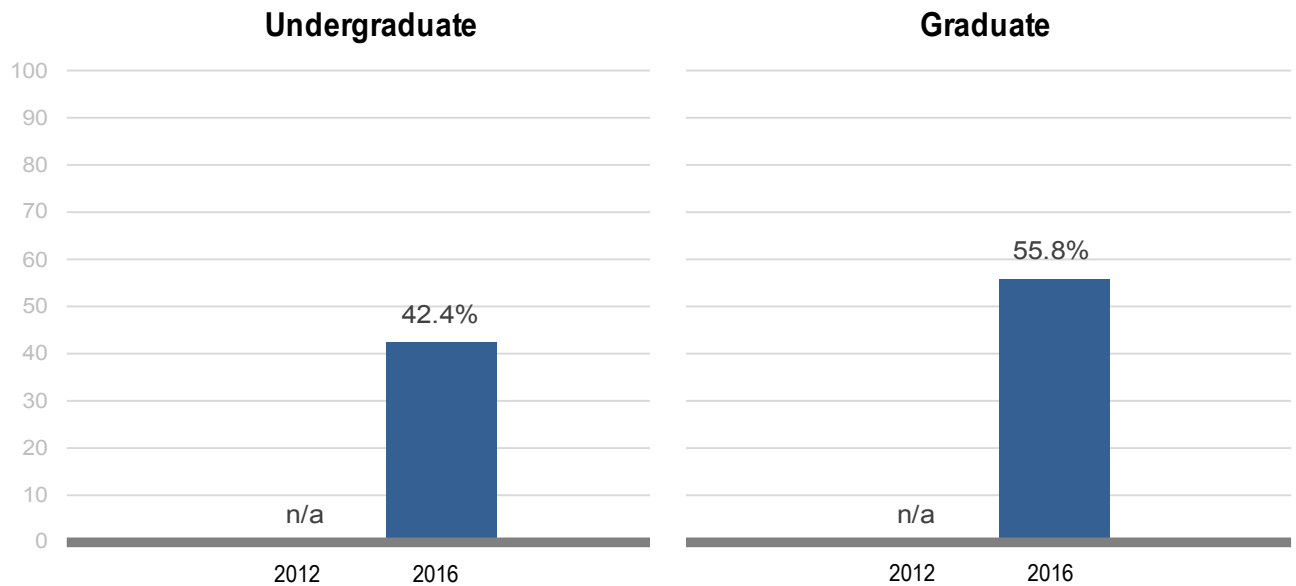


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	13,809	5,100	36.9%	15,319	6,198	40.5%	↑ 3.5
22-24	4,634	2,172	46.9%	5,258	2,342	44.5%	↓ -2.3
25-29	2,063	1,078	52.3%	2,098	1,062	50.6%	↓ -1.6
30-39	1,443	895	62.0%	1,252	768	61.3%	↓ -0.7
40-49	589	454	77.1%	403	293	72.7%	↓ -4.4
50+	254	210	82.7%	167	138	82.6%	↓ -0.1
Unknown	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\*

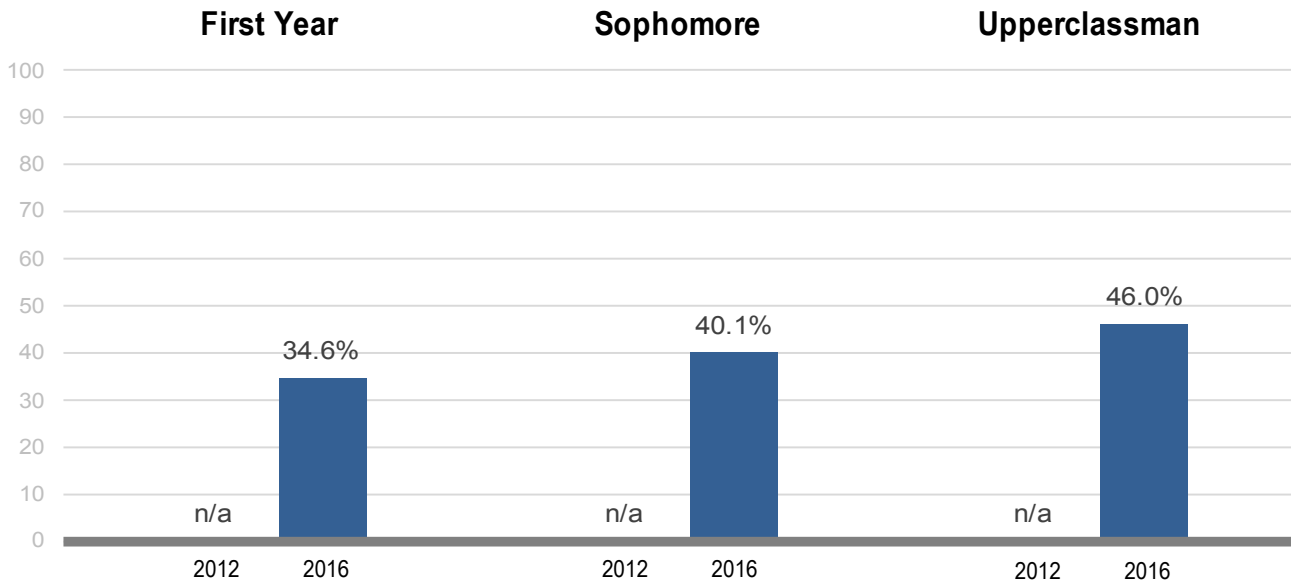


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Undergraduate	0	0	n/a	21,371	9,057	42.4%	n/a
Graduate	0	0	n/a	3,117	1,740	55.8%	n/a
Unknown	22,792			*			

\* 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\*



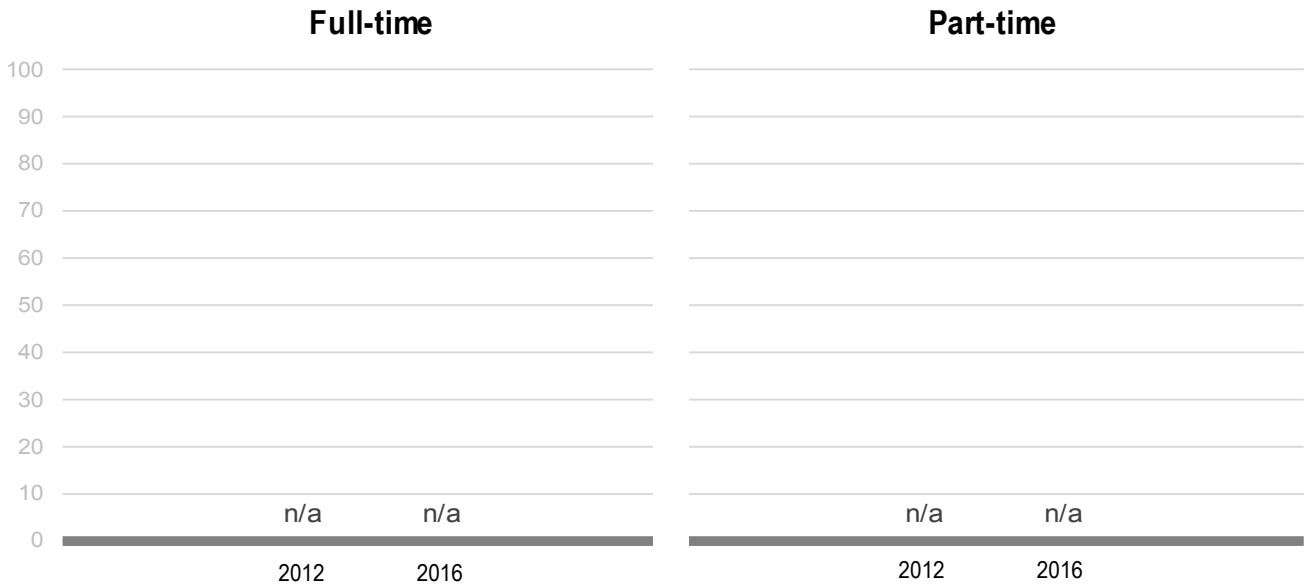
	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
First Year	0	0	n/a	4,352	1,506	34.6%	n/a
Sophomore	0	0	n/a	4,778	1,915	40.1%	n/a
Upperclassman	0	0	n/a	12,241	5,636	46.0%	n/a

\* 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\*

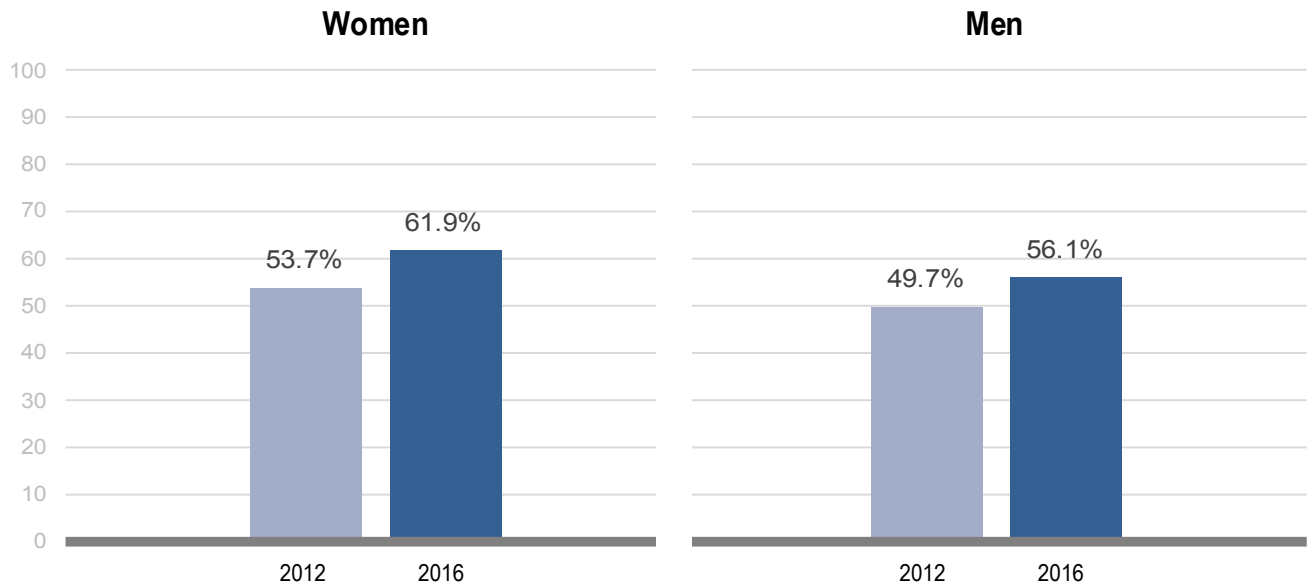


	2012			2016			Change
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Full-time	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Part-time	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a
Unknown	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	

\* 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 Gender\*



	2012			2016			Change	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate		
Women	11,457	6,157	53.7%	10,974	6,790	61.9%	↑	8.1
Men	7,552	3,750	49.7%	7,144	4,007	56.1%	↑	6.4
Unknown	3,783	*	n/a	6,379	*	n/a		

\* 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 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	0	0	n/a	47	27	57.5%	n/a
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	0	0	n/a	989	412	41.7%	n/a
Business, Management, and Marketing	0	0	n/a	4,403	1,775	40.3%	n/a
Communication and Journalism	0	0	n/a	1,144	488	42.7%	n/a
Computer and Information Sciences	0	0	n/a	813	309	38.0%	n/a
Education	0	0	n/a	2,514	1,198	47.7%	n/a
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	0	0	n/a	1,198	488	40.7%	n/a
English Language and Literature	0	0	n/a	735	386	52.5%	n/a
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	0	0	n/a	141	71	50.4%	n/a
Health Professions	0	0	n/a	5,175	2,222	42.9%	n/a
History	0	0	n/a	131	73	55.7%	n/a
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protective Services	0	0	n/a	616	229	37.2%	n/a
Legal Professions and Studies	0	0	n/a	102	50	49.0%	n/a
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	0	0	n/a	1,627	677	41.6%	n/a
Mathematics and Statistics	0	0	n/a	405	179	44.2%	n/a
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	n/a	132	73	55.3%	n/a
Natural Resources and Conservation	0	0	n/a	220	101	45.9%	n/a
Philosophy and Religious Studies	0	0	n/a	31	15	48.4%	n/a
Physical Sciences	0	0	n/a	245	121	49.4%	n/a
Psychology	0	0	n/a	978	431	44.1%	n/a
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	0	0	n/a	1,109	580	52.3%	n/a
Social Sciences	0	0	n/a	865	471	54.5%	n/a
Visual and Performing Arts	0	0	n/a	862	417	48.4%	n/a

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Unknown	22,792	9,909	43.5%	15	*	n/a	n/a
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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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