Engagement (NSLVE) offers some key findings from the 2020 election and data on student voting. However, in the last presidential election, there was a need to hold in the 2022 midterms for the overall voting rate to keep pace with the general election rate.

National Student Voting Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered Voters</th>
<th>Non-Registrants</th>
<th>Registered Non-Voters</th>
<th>Voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2020, student voting skyrocketed compared to past years.

2020 voting rates with increases over 2016 at:

Demographic breakdowns/ student communities
Who leads in participation?
Black, multiracial, and White women. Colleges with the highest voting rates.

Student voting also matters because students are part of a formidable voting bloc. Students, of course, are not a monolithic group, but with this kind of power, they can shape policy for decades. Why not use their NSLVE reports to identify and address these gaps in voting.

Election seasons are a chance to have the full campus climate that promotes political learning be a year-round process.

Promote turnout in the 2022 midterms

Build a permanent, diverse, campuswide coalition to lead your efforts. Make sure it represents the full campus community.

Close equity gaps in voting. Use NSLVE reports to see which groups of students aren’t being engaged by existing efforts.

Fight for voting rights. Confronting and restrictive voting conditions often target students, particularly students of color.

Talk politics across campus. This IDHE’s How find out about politically engaged campuses. Talk beyond classrooms to involve cultural clubs, arts groups, athletic teams, and disciplinary clubs, art groups, and math clubs. beyond classrooms to involve cultural clubs, arts groups, athletic teams, and disciplinary clubs, art groups, and math clubs. Beyond classrooms to involve cultural clubs, arts groups, athletic teams, and disciplinary clubs, art groups, and math clubs.

IHDE Resources

Election imperatives series
.idhe.tufts.edu/publications-and-resources/election-imperatives

Data portals and visualizations
.idhe.tufts.edu/publications-and-resources/data-portal-visualizations

Democracy Counts 2020 national voting report
.idhe.tufts.edu/resource/democracy-counts-2020-national-vote-data

The Politically Engaged Classroom
.idhe.tufts.edu/resources/book-chapter/politically-engaged-classroom

Politics 365
.idhe.tufts.edu/publications-and-resources/politics-365

Participating campuses
.idhe.tufts.edu/resources/participating-campuses

highest voting academic disciplines in 2020: Education and library science (fields shown with increases over 2018).

Why the bounce?
The increase in student voting was likely due to several influences—extreme polarization; Donald Trump, who attracted a fervent wave of both critics and supporters; measures to make voting safe and accessible; commitment from higher ed institutions; and a greater focus on yield rates, which refer to the percentage of students who registered and followed through to vote in the election.

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