

## Civic Learning in Context Conference MA Dept. of Higher Education



### The Challenges of Political Learning and Engagement – Now

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## Political Learning - Now

- ✓ Post-election opportunities and challenges?
- ✓ Overview National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
- ✓ Overview – studies on campus climates for political engagement
- ✓ Discussion
- ✓ Adjourn 11:45



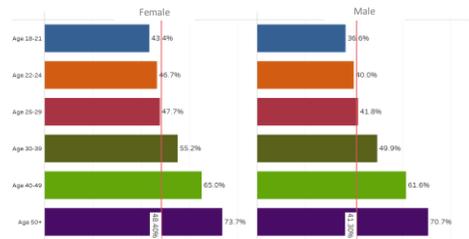
## NSLVE NATIONAL STUDY OF LEARNING, VOTING, AND ENGAGEMENT

Your Students' Voting and Registration Rates

- The first objective measure of college student voting
- A service to campuses
- A database for research
- Over 1000 institutions
- All states
- 8.5 million college student records for each election year

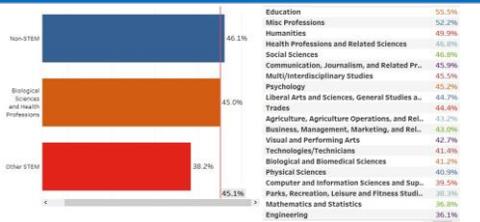


## 2012 Student Voting Rates by Age and Gender



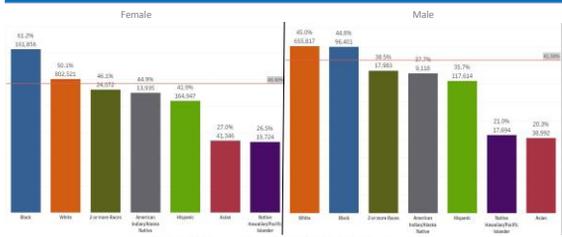
Source: Tufts College's Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

## 2012 Student Voting Rates by Field of Study



Source: Tufts College's Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

## 2012 Student Voting Rates by Race



Source: Tufts College's Institute for Democracy and Higher Education (IDHE) National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

## Massachusetts NSLVE Institutions



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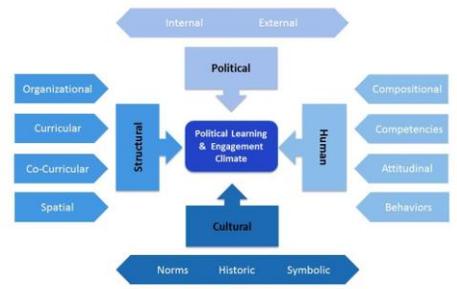


## Massachusetts NSLVE Institutions



## Campus Climate Framework

Figure 1. Campus Climate for Political Learning & Engagement in Democracy Conceptual Framework



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## Politics 365

- ✓ Social cohesion, strong student faculty relations
- ✓ Diversity and equity as intentional practice
- ✓ Pervasive political discussions
- ✓ Student voice and agency
- ✓ Student activism and electoral engagement



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## Strong social cohesion among diverse student populations

- ✓ Strong interpersonal relationships, particularly student-faculty
- ✓ A clear commitment to student well-being on the part of the faculty and students toward each other
- ✓ Compositional diversity used as an educational asset



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## Pervasive political discussions



- ✓ Classroom discussions
- ✓ Prepared faculty and students
- ✓ Balanced academic and expressive freedom

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## Student agency, power, and shared responsibility



- ✓ Students with positional authority
- ✓ Students respected for their views, with or without positional authority
- ✓ Strong student government association

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## Active political engagement



- ✓ Traditional political participation, election season “buzz”
- ✓ Issue activism and organizing, with or w/o government
- ✓ Nimble institutions, supportive faculty

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## Call to Action

- Treat conflict as a learning opportunity.
- Encourage faculty-student relationships and supportive communities.
- Treat diversity as an educational asset .
- Create deliberative forums and mini-publics; respect student voice and activism.
- Teach students to participate in and facilitate discussions on difficult topics. Consider starting with campus climate issues, such as attitudes toward free speech and inclusion.
- Talk about your NSLVE reports; create an election buzz.

## Our Vision: A Democracy that is...

**Participatory:** people engage in shaping the political and social systems that affect their lives

**Equitable and representational:** people have an equal opportunity for engagement in social and political systems, with equitable outcomes

**Educated and informed:** people have equal access to quality public education and information

**Effectively governed:** government systems are equitable, ethical, transparent, accountable, and collaborative.

## Resources

[Diversity & Democracy: Student and Institutional Engagement in Political Life](#)



[Politics 365: Fostering Campus Climate for Student Political Learning and Engagement](#)



[Talking Politics: Guide for Campus Conversations about your Voting Reports](#)



## Where to find...

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Is my campus participating in NSLVE? Look [here](#).

How do I obtain my campus report? Go [here](#).

Where do I go for other resources? Go [here](#).



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