

# National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement

Winthrop University Results, 2016 Election

# What is NSLVE?

- The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) is an ongoing project at Tufts University to determine college students' voter participation nationwide.
- Over 1,000 institutions participate, representing about half of all college students.
- Winthrop has participated since 2012.
- NSLVE is grant-funded. There is no cost to institutions to participate.

## How Does It Work?

- NSLVE researchers match student enrollment data (from Banner) with each state's voting records. Matches are based upon common data elements such as name, social security number, etc.
- Institutions only learn **WHETHER** students voted, but not **HOW** they voted.
- Institutions only receive summary data to protect student privacy.
- NSLVE eliminates students who are ineligible to vote (i.e. < age 18, international students) from its calculations.

# WU Student Voter Turn Out

- **58.1% of Winthrop students cast votes in the 2016 Presidential Election**
  - WU Goal: 53.4% (to remain constant with 2012 turnout)
  - WU student voter turnout was **up 4.8%** from 2012
- **83.5% of Winthrop students were registered to vote**
  - **Up 1.6%** from 2012
  - 69.6% voter turnout rate for registered students, **up 4.4%** from 2012

# Voter Turn Out Comparisons

- **National Comparisons:**

- 2016 Voting Rate for all NSLVE Institutions: 50.4%\*
- 2016 Voting Rate for Public Master's Institutions: 49.8%\*
- US, all 18-24 year olds: 43%\*\*
- US, all ages: 61.4%\*\*
- South Carolina, all ages: 62%\*\*\*

**WINTHROP STUDENTS: 58.1%\***

\*Source: NSLVE

\*\*Source: US Census Bureau

\*\*\*Source: South Carolina Election Commission

# Kudos!

- A large team of Winthrop faculty, staff, and students worked to get students to vote in 2016.
- This success is a tribute to their hard work and dedication.

The logo for "Winthrop Decision 2016" is enclosed in a red rectangular border. It features the word "WINTHROP" in a small, blue, sans-serif font at the top left. Below it, the word "DECISION" is written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font. To the right of "DECISION" is a stylized American flag with a white star on a blue field and red and white stripes. Further right, the year "2016" is displayed in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The number "0" in "2016" contains a small, circular emblem of the Winthrop University crest. A thin red horizontal line is positioned below the word "DECISION".

WINTHROP  
DECISION 2016

# Further Analysis: Age

- WU student voter turn out increased from 2012 across all age groups:
  - 18-21: 52.9%, Up 6.0%
  - 22-24: 56.6%, Up 5.9%
  - 25-29: 60.8%, Up 11.3%
  - 30-39: 68.8%, Up 4.1%
  - 40-49: 82.8%, Up 9.8%
  - 50+: 89.2%, Up 6.7%

*This pattern of higher voter turn out among older voters is consistent with national trends.*

*Not surprisingly, WU upperclassmen and graduate students voted at higher rates than Freshmen and Sophomores. WU Freshmen had the lowest voting rate of any class year (48.5%).*

# Further Analysis: Race/Ethnicity

- WU student voter turn out increased in almost all racial/ethnic groups:
  - Asian: 44.6%, Up 21.5%
  - Black: 57.6%, Down 6.4%
  - Hispanic: 50.7%, Up 10.6%
  - White: 59.6%, Up 11.1%
  - Two or more races: 47.0%, Up 13.7%

*The decline in Black student voter turnout is consistent with national trends. In 2012, Black students at Winthrop had a voter turn out of 64%, well above the national average.*



# FURTHER ANALYSIS: Fields of Study

## Highest Voter Turn Out, 2016

- Undeclared (75.7%)
- History (72.1%)
- Liberal Arts (64.6%)
- Social Service Professions (63.6%)

(Names of majors are as listed by NSLVE using CIP codes)

## Greatest Increases over 2012

- History: Up 16.9%
- Visual and Performing Arts: Up 13.6%
- English Language & Literature: Up 11.4%

## Further Analysis: Fields of Study (con't.)

### Lowest Voter Turn Out (2016)

- Natural Resources & Conservation: 42.1%
- Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies: 45.0%
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences: 49.8%

(Names of majors are as listed by NSLVE using CIP codes)

### Smallest Increases over 2012

- Philosophy & Religious Studies: **Down 8.8%**
- Natural Resources & Conservation: **Down 3.4%**
- Computer & Information Sciences: **Up 0.6%**

# Next Steps

- To use NSLVE results
  - To set goals for 2018 and 2020;
  - To design targeted voter registration and turn out messages;
- To continue participation in Voter Friendly Campus Initiative and All In Campus Democracy Challenge.

# Questions?

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