

Issue Brief: Lehman College Student Voting Summary, 2012 and 2016 Donald Sutherland

Lehman College actively engages students “in their academic, personal, and professional development”¹ and contributes to “the transformation of lives and communities.”² Lehman College’s institutional learning goals aim to prepare its graduates for “leadership roles to build capacity in their communities.”³ Civic engagement, of which participation in elections is one indicator, provides insight into the College’s efforts.

The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement provided voting data for Lehman College’s students (not graduates) for the 2012 and 2016 elections. Electoral participation by students provides a snapshot into how well the College is doing with its current student body. The data is encouraging. Lehman College’s students vote at a higher rate than the average for students at other institutions, including Master’s Institutions and Public Master’s Institutions.

Highlights:

- 2016 voting rate: 53.1% vs. 50.4% for all institutions (2012 voting rate: 49.5% vs. 46.9% for all institutions)⁴
- 2016 voting rate: 53.1% vs. 52.9% for Master’s Institutions and 52.1% for Public Master’s Institutions (2012 voting rate: 49.5% vs. 49.4% for Master’s Institutions and 48.7% for Public Master’s Institutions)⁵
- Lehman’s undergraduate voting rate rose from 48.9% in 2012 to 50.1% in 2016; its graduate voting rate rose sharply from 50.0% in 2012 to 57.2% in 2016.⁶
- During both the 2012 and 2016 elections, Lehman College’s part-time students voted at a higher rate than its full-time students (6.5 percentage points and 5.3 percentage points respectively).⁷
- Lehman College’s younger students (age 18-21 and 22-24 cohorts) voted at a higher rate than the nation’s respective voter cohorts.⁸

Age Group	2012 Election		2016 Election	
	Lehman	National	Lehman	National
18-21	39.5%	38.3%	46.5%	40.0%
22-24	47.5%	45.1%	48.9%	46.5%

- Four of the five fields (80%) in which data was available for 200 or more students in both 2012 and 2016 had 2016 voting rates that exceeded the Lehman College average of 53.1%: Education: 56.7%; Health Professions: 54.6%; Public Administration and Social Service Professions: 57.4%; and, Social Sciences: 56.1%.⁹ The voting rate for Business, Management, and Marketing was 46.7%.¹⁰
- Four of the five fields (80%) in which data was available for 200 or more students in both 2012 and 2016 saw a higher voting rate in 2016 than 2012: Business, Management, and Marketing: +3.7%; Education: +1.3%; Health Professions: +9.9%; and, Public Administration and Social Services Professions: +0.6%.¹¹ Social Sciences recorded a 1.2% decline.¹²

Endnotes:

¹ Lehman College Mission Statement.

² Lehman College Values Statement.

³ Characteristics of a Lehman Graduate at <http://www.lehman.edu/engage/>.

⁴ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.3.

⁵ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.4.

⁶ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.7.

⁷ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.7.

⁸ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.6, U.S. Census Bureau, “Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2012” and U.S. Census Bureau, “Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2016.”

⁹ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.10.

¹⁰ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.10.

¹¹ Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.10.

¹² Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, “2012 & 2016 Campus Report,” July 2019, p.10.