



# COURSE & VOTER REGISTRATION

## The Problem

- UVM students aren't voting:
  - 57% of undergrads didn't vote in the 2016 general election and 66% didn't in the 2018 midterm (UVM NSLVE).
  - Low turnout persists; only 21% of eligible students voted in Burlington's recent mayoral race (Ward 8 turnout).
- UVM undergrads lagged the U.S. collegiate average by:
  - 4% in the 2016 general election (NSLVE).
  - 2% in the 2018 midterm elections (NSLVE).

## A Key To Improving Turnout

- Voter registration efforts are a worthwhile investment:
  - Registering stops 20% of interested students from voting (CRICLE).
  - Voting is a habit, so registering young voters pays dividends to democracy (Yale). 63% of registered catamounts vote (UVM NSLVE).

## The Future Involves Technology

- Linking UVM's TurboVote to the course hold system, every student would be presented with our best tool for voter registration.
  - Create an opt-in system with a checkbox asking students only if they've considered their voter status (Harvard/Stanford model).
- The Registrar's portal is a neutral touch point with every student and a fitting home for the non-partisan promotion of voter registration.

## Bolster UVM's Reputation

- Voter access aligns with our Common Ground for *Innovation & Justice*.
  - Protest have long been in vogue at UVM; involve the ballot box.
- It advances the Division of Enrollment Management's mission of "support[ing]... students who will contribute globally."
- Supporting voters signals leadership to the UVM community & beyond.