

MTV/Paramount Capstone Final Symposium Presentation

April 8th, 2022

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Project Motivation

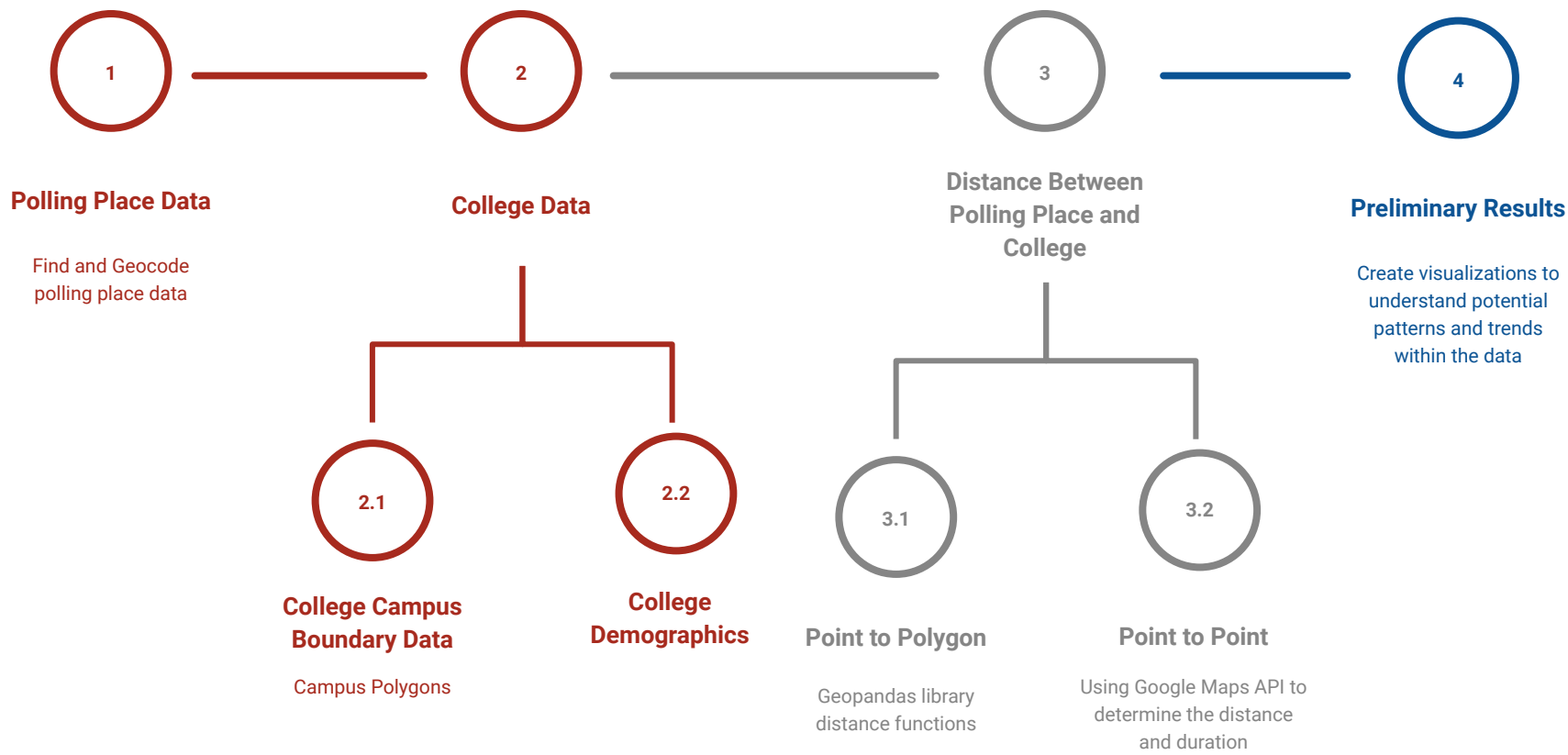
- Barriers to **access**:
 - Inconvenient polling locations & hours
 - Lack of transportation & Long lines
- Motivating Events:
 - 1,688 polling places have closed since the **2013 Shelby v. Holder** decision
 - Unclear how college campuses have been affected
- Goal: Target our efforts to **increase access** for college students



Research Questions

1. How many and which schools across the country have **election-day voting sites on their college campuses**? What types of voting sites are they i.e. early voting, same-day voting, dropboxes etc.?
2. How has this changed, if at all, over the last three **presidential election cycles (2012, 2016, 2020)**?
3. How does the presence of a polling place on campus / the distance to the nearest voting location differ depending on the **type of school and student demographics**?
4. For those schools that **do not have on-campus election-day voting options**, what is the **average travel distance** to their nearest early voting booth by foot, public transportation, or car?

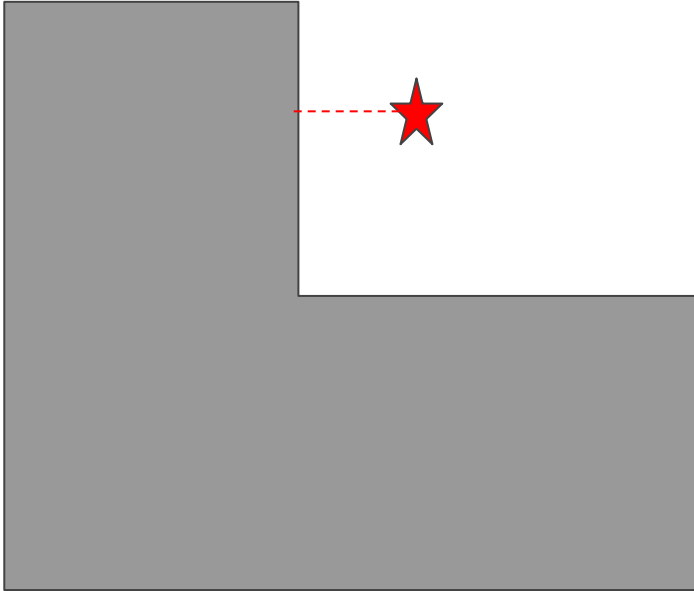
Overview: Data & Processes



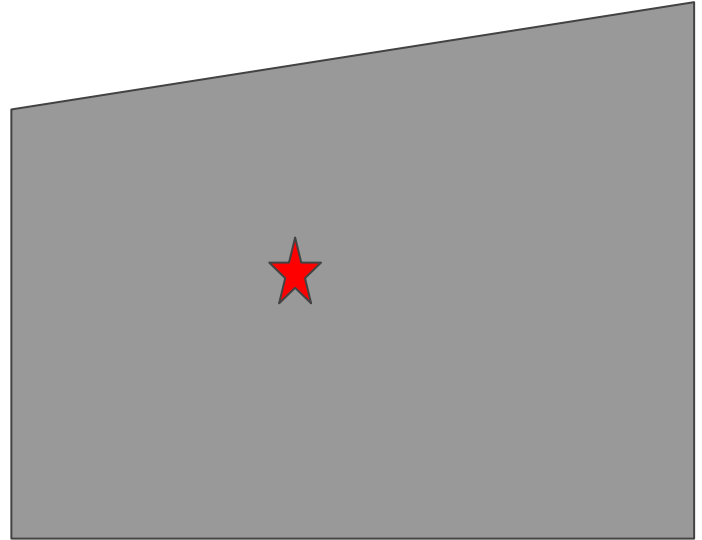
Nearest Polling Place Calculation

Point to Polygon

Off-Campus Polling Place

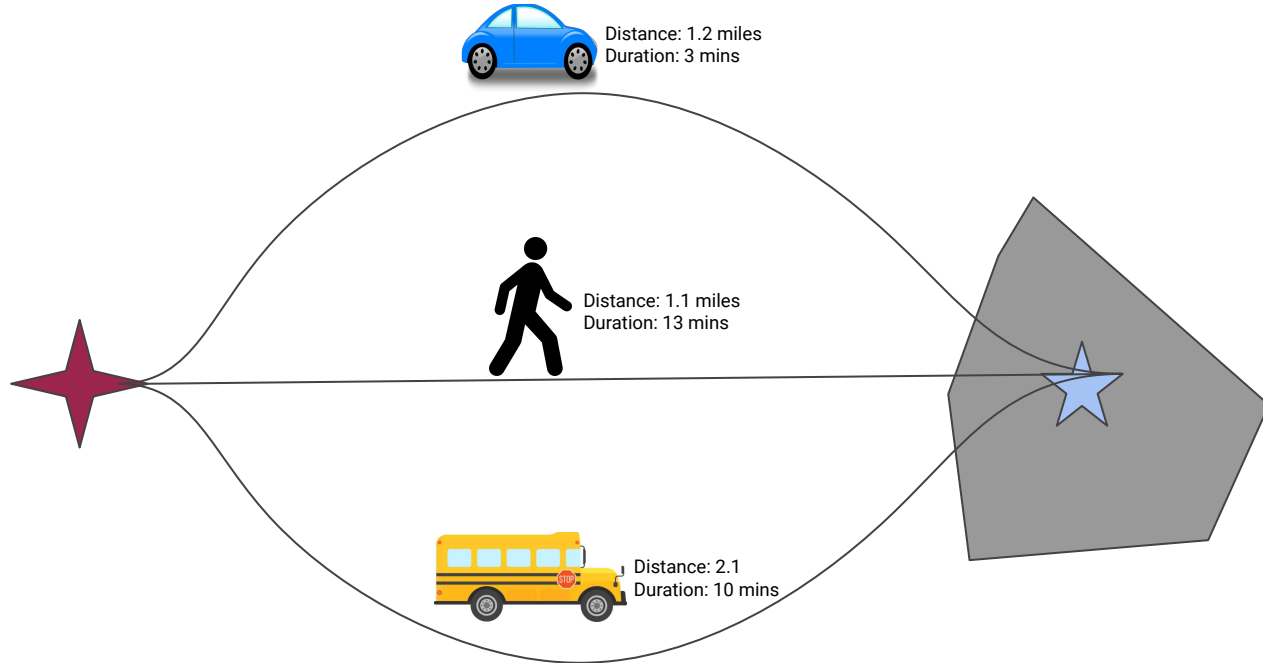


On-Campus Polling Place



Google Distance/Duration API

Distance and Duration from the University Centroid to the Polling Location

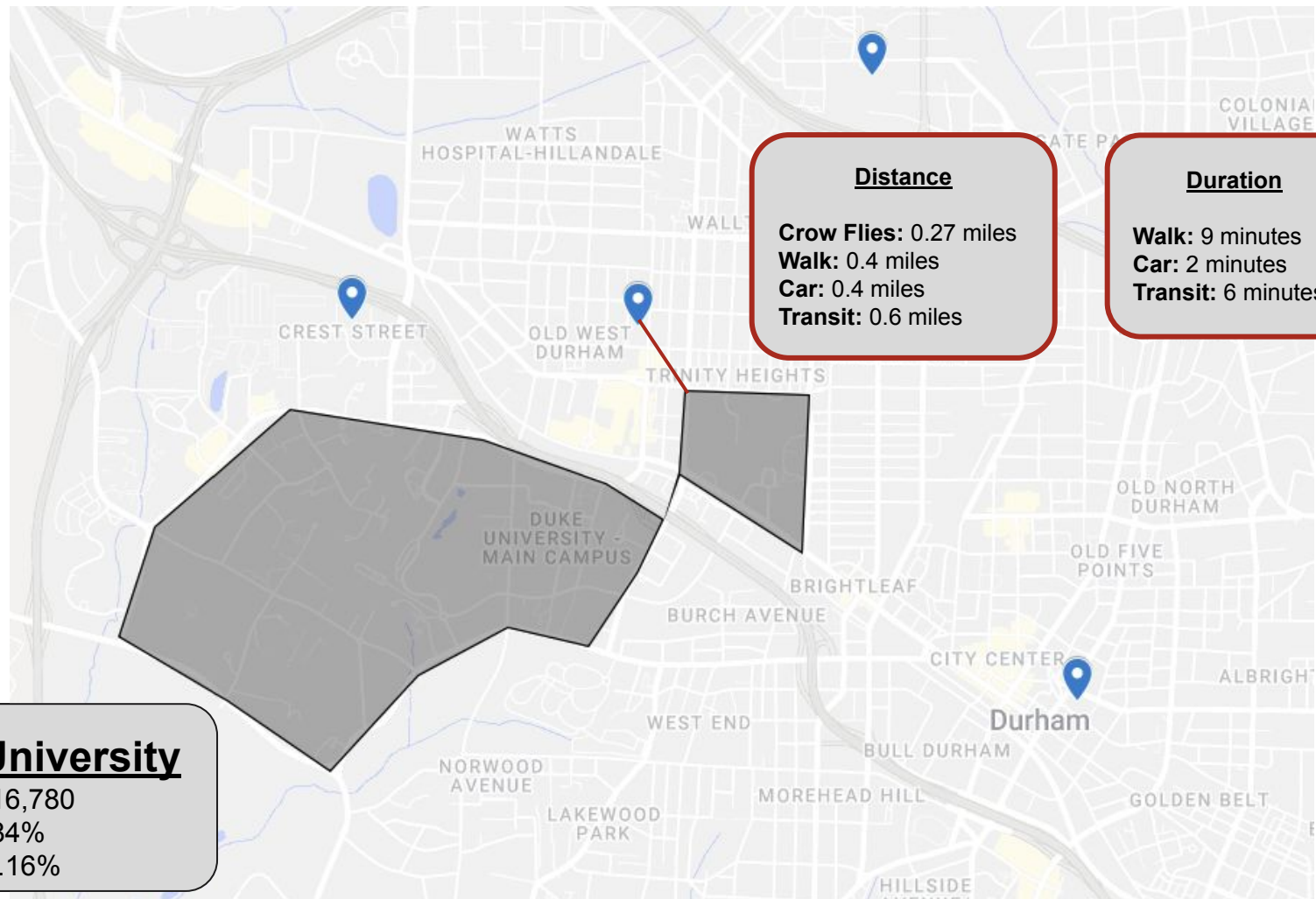


Duke University
Students: 16,780
White: 69.84%
BIPOC: 30.16%

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Understanding Our Data

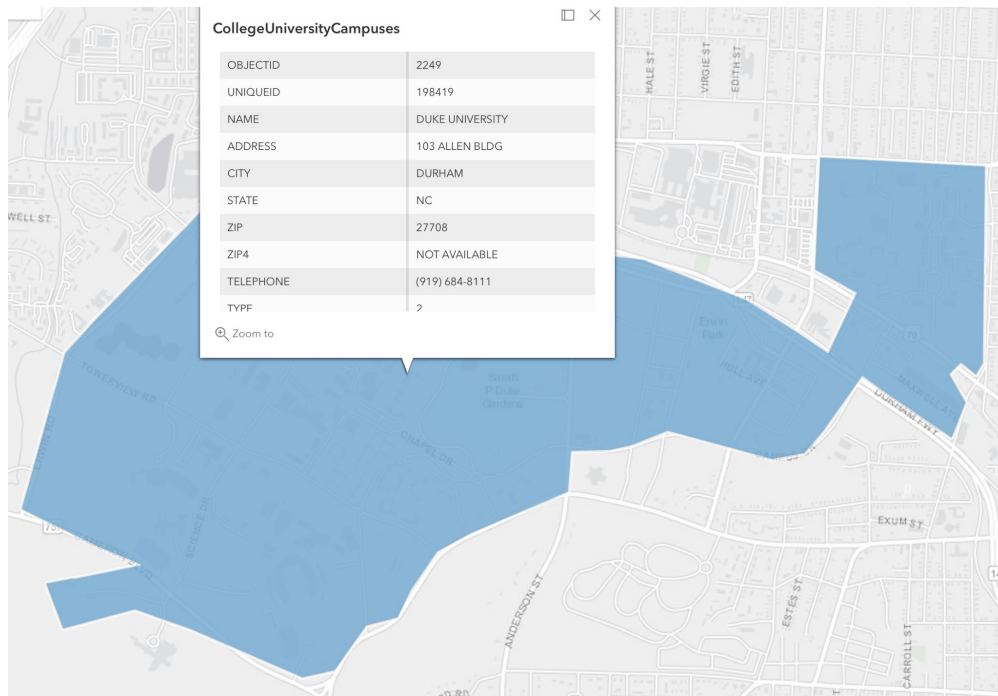
- Polling Places
- College Campus Boundaries
- College Demographics

Polling Place Data

| Year | In Person | Early Voting |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2020 | CPI (~35 States) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative: Safegraph (Less reliable web scraping) | Ballot Ready In-Person & Dropbox (45 States) |
| 2018 | Center for Public Integrity (CPI) Data (~35 States) | Ballot Ready In-Person & Dropbox (~37 States) |
| 2016 | Center for Public Integrity (CPI) Data (~35 States) | |
| 2012 | Center for Public Integrity (CPI) Data (~35 States) | |

College Campus Boundaries (Polygons)

5396 Universities and Colleges



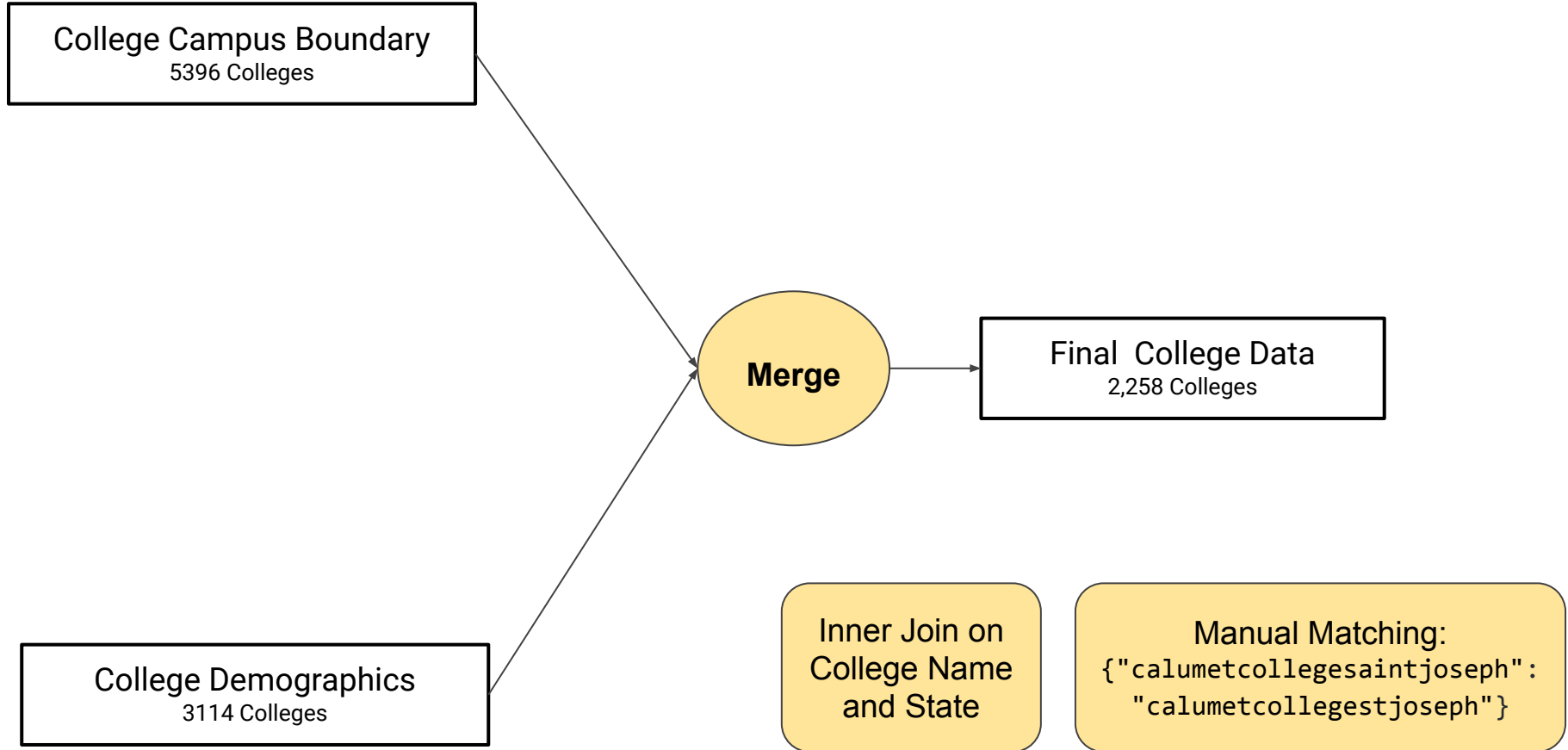
Source:
Homeland
Infrastructure
Foundation-Level
Data (HIFLD)

College Demographics

Source: +1 Team Data: 3114 Colleges

| State | OPE ID | IPED ID | School Name | Institution Type | # of Nat'l AP Partners | # of Partners | Civic Holiday | MSI |
|-------|----------|-----------|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| AK | 41386.00 | 442523.00 | Alaska Christian College | Private, 2 Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | ANNH & NASNTI |
| AK | 1061.00 | 102669.00 | Alaska Pacific University | Private, 4 Year | 0 | 1 | 1 | ANNH |
| AK | 34613.00 | 434584.00 | Ilisagvik College | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | AANAPISI, ANNH & TCU |
| AK | | | Prince William Sound Community College | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| AK | 11462.00 | 102553.00 | University of Alaska, Anchorage | Public, 4 Year | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| AK | 1063.00 | 102614.00 | University of Alaska, Fairbanks | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 1 | 0 | ANNH |
| AK | 1065.00 | 102632.00 | University of Alaska, Southeast | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 2 | 0 | ANNH & NASNTI |
| AL | 1002.00 | 100654.00 | Alabama A & M University | Public, 4 Year | 3 | 5 | 0 | HBCU |
| AL | 1005.00 | 100724.00 | Alabama State University | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | HBCU |
| AL | 25034.00 | 100690.00 | Amridge University | Private, 4 Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | PBI |
| AL | 1008.00 | 100812.00 | Athens State University | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| AL | 1009.00 | 100858.00 | Auburn University | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 3 | 1 | |
| AL | 8310.00 | 100830.00 | Auburn University, Montgomery | Public, 4 Year | 0 | 2 | 0 | PBI |
| AL | 5733.00 | 102429.00 | Bevill State Community College | Public, 2 Year | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| AL | 1012.00 | 100937.00 | Birmingham Southern College | Private, 4 Year | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| AL | 1030.00 | 102030.00 | Bishop State Community College | Public, 2 Year | 1 | 1 | 0 | HBCU |

Merging College Data



Results & Analysis

Understanding Our Samples

| | 2012 Election Day | 2016 Election Day | 2018 Election Day | 2020 Election Day | 2020 Early Voting | 2020 Election Day & Early Voting | 2012, 2016, 2018, 2020 Election Day |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of Colleges | 1,189 Colleges | 1,148 Colleges | 1,310 Colleges | 1,816 Colleges | 1,896 Colleges | 1,727 Colleges | 902 Colleges |
| States | 27 States | 26 States | 30 States | 35 States | 35 States | 32 States | 18 States |

Early Voting Statistics

Campus Perspective

1. **90% of colleges** do not have an early voting option **on campus**.
2. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 54% of colleges.

2-Year Colleges & 4-Year Colleges

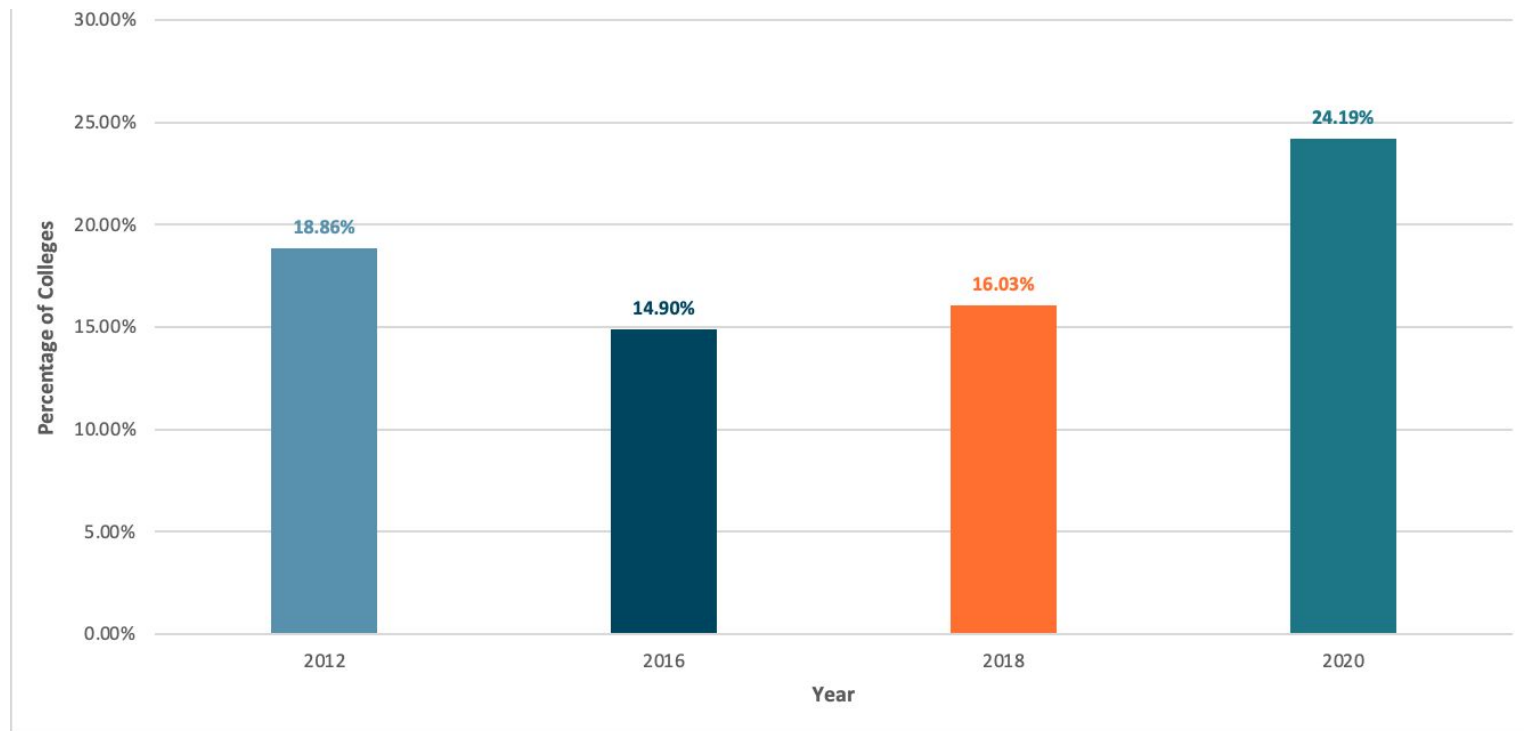
3. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile away from the edge of campus for **63% of 2-year colleges** and universities.
4. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile away from the edge of campus for 46% of 4-year colleges and universities.

Student Perspective

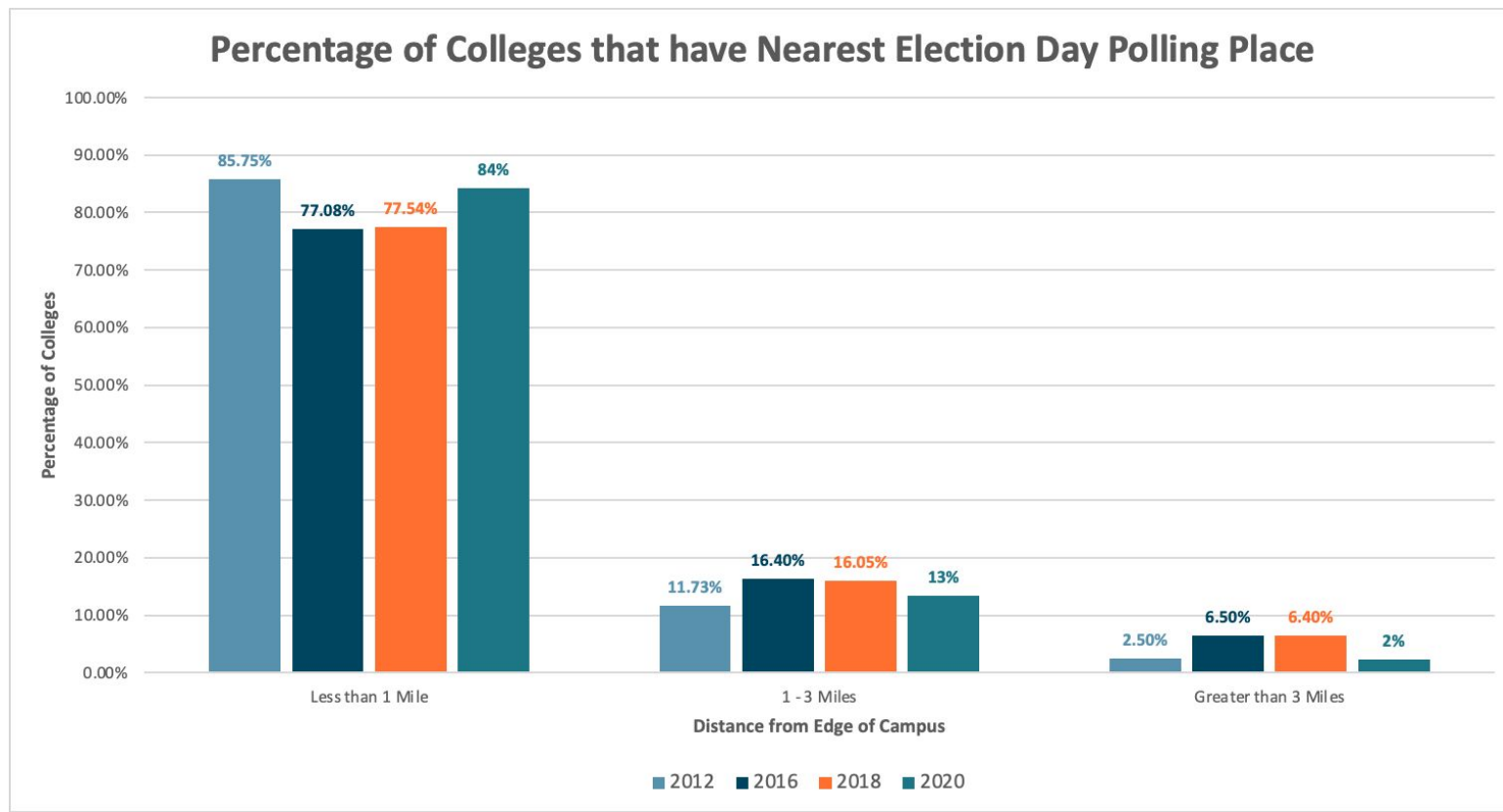
5. **75% of students** do not have an on campus early voting option.

On Campus Voting Access worsened in 2016 and 2018, Improved in 2020

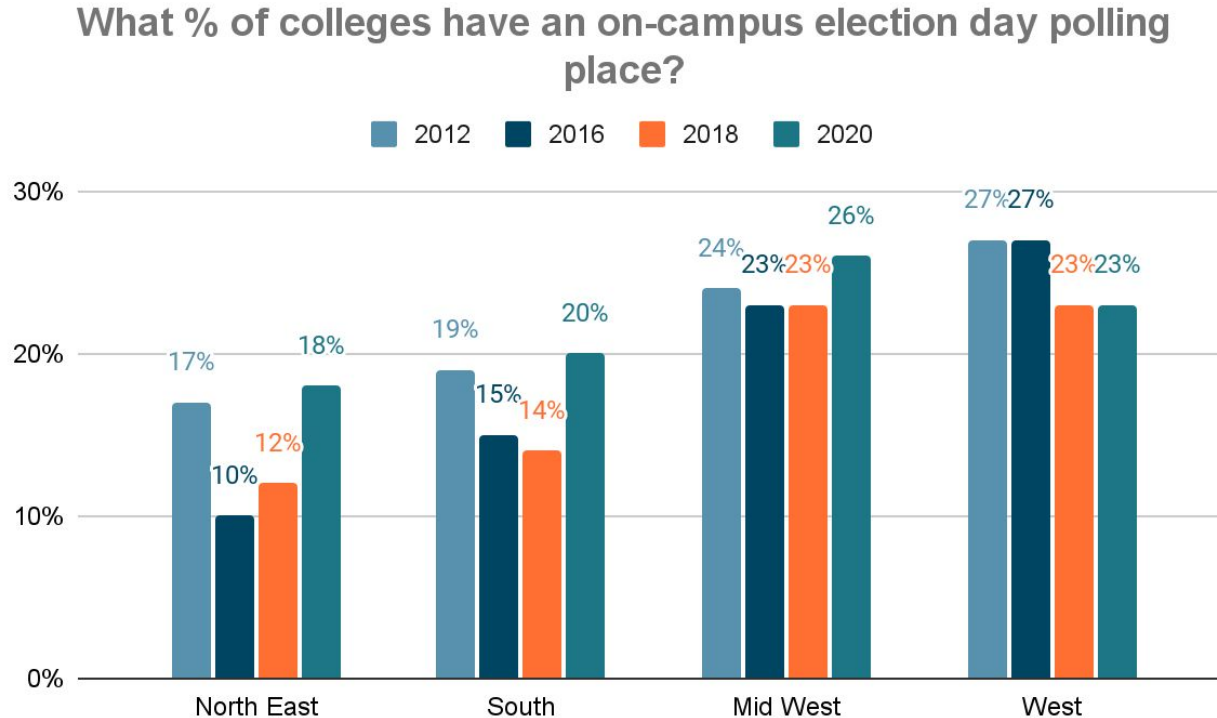
Percentage of Colleges with Election Day Voting On Campus



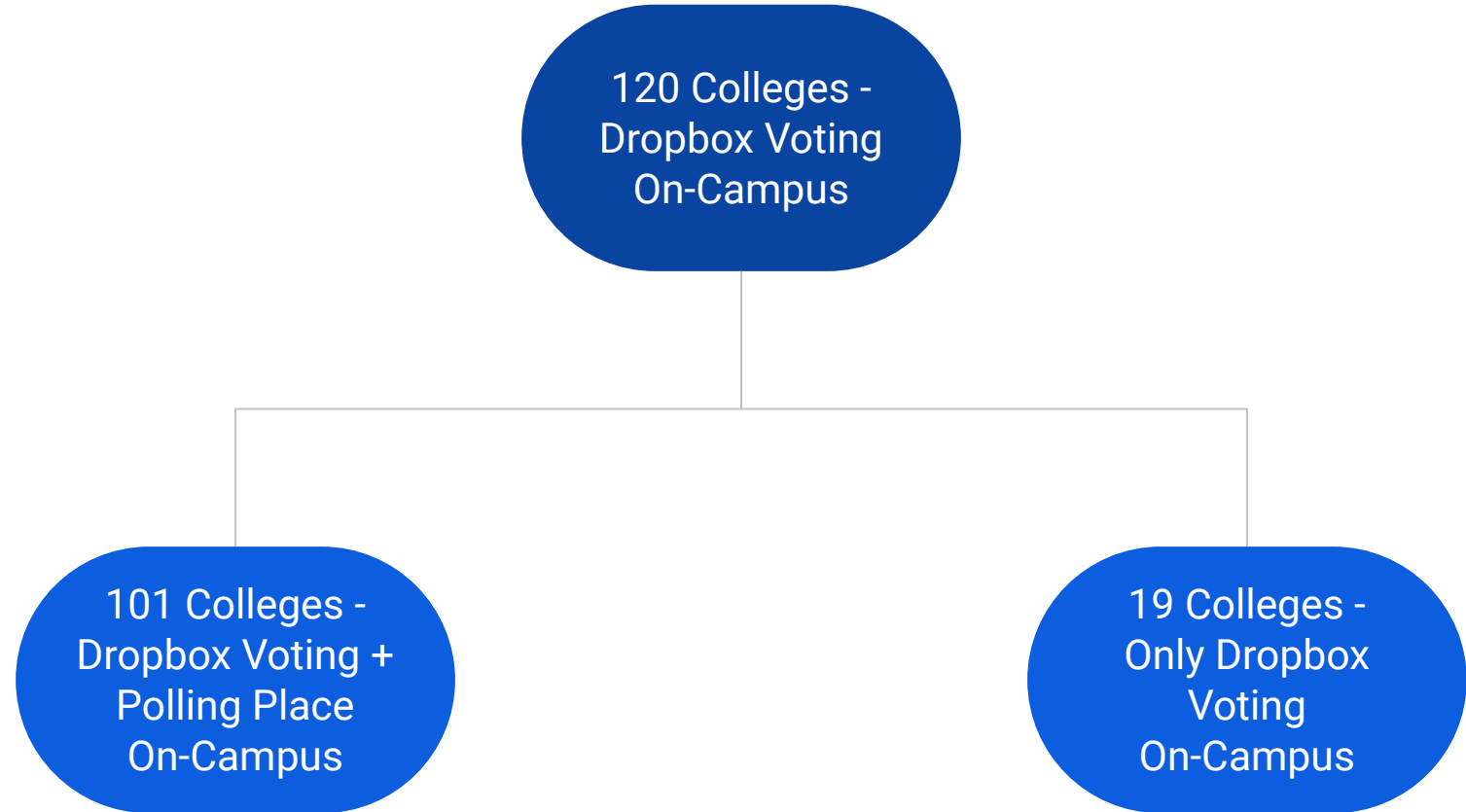
Voting Access worsened in 2016 and 2018, Improved in 2020



The North-East & South See The Most Pronounced Drop In 2016/2018

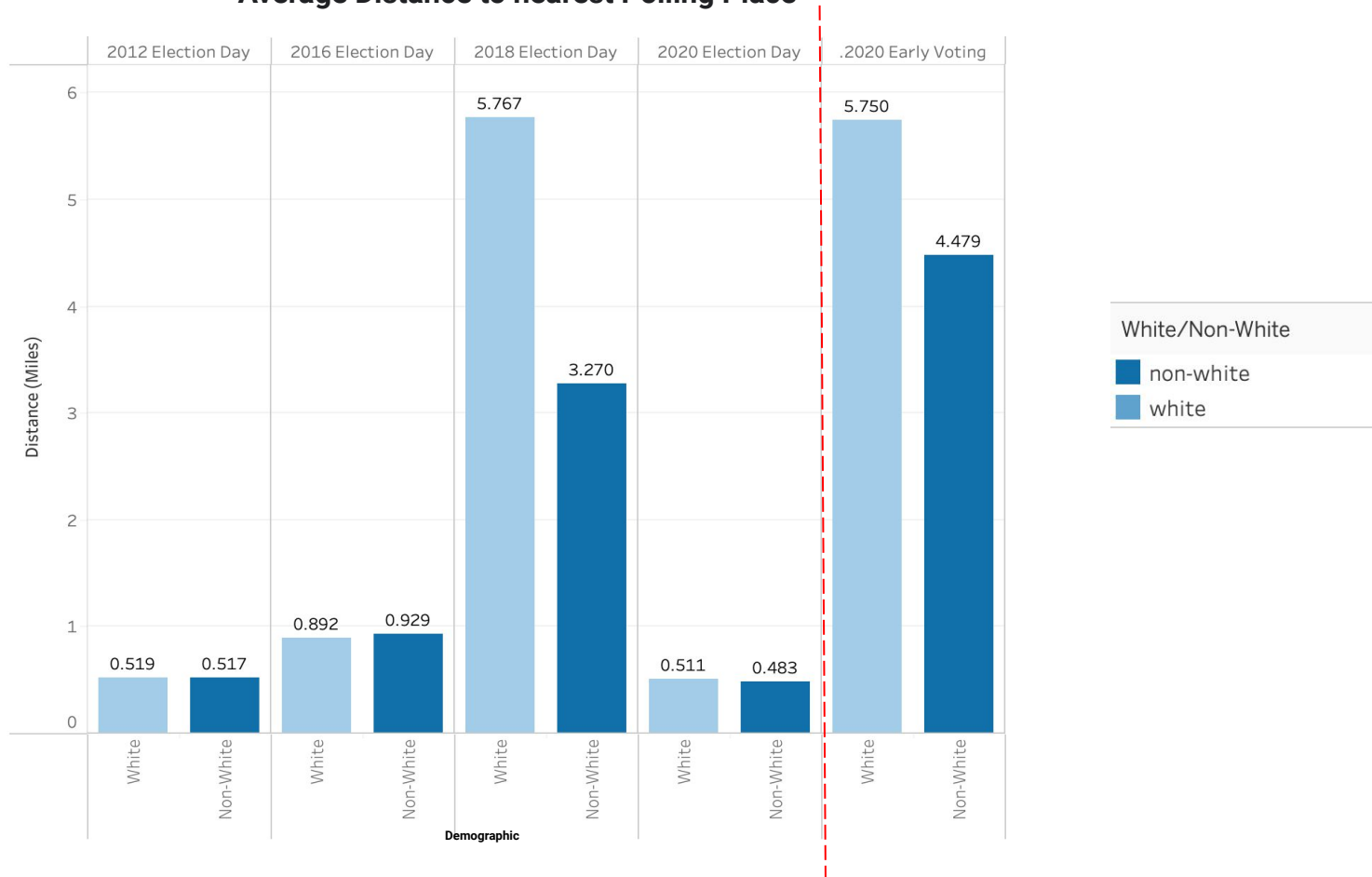


Dropbox Voting Improves Access For 7% of Colleges



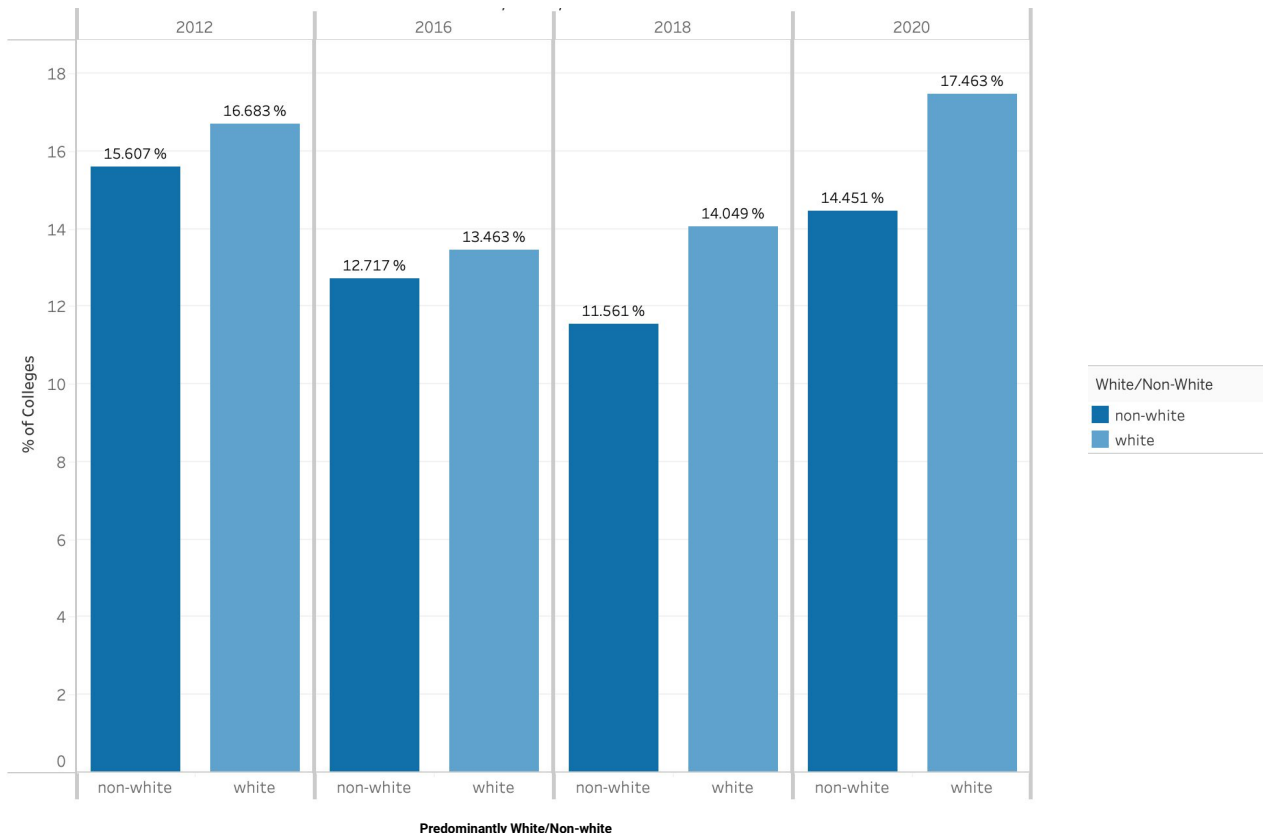
White and Non White schools average the same distance in Presidential Election years

Average Distance to nearest Polling Place



Predominantly white schools are more likely to have Polling Place on campus

Percentage of White/Non-white Schools with a Polling Place on Campus



Conclusions

- **90% of colleges** do not have an early voting option **on campus**.
- From **2012 to 2016/2018 we saw less college access**, with more access returning in 2020
- While 2016 & 2018 had the least campus voting access, this **drop was most pronounced in the North East & Southern regions**
- Ballot drop-boxes improve voting access numbers slightly
- **Non-white schools have on-campus polling places less often** than predominantly white schools in all election years

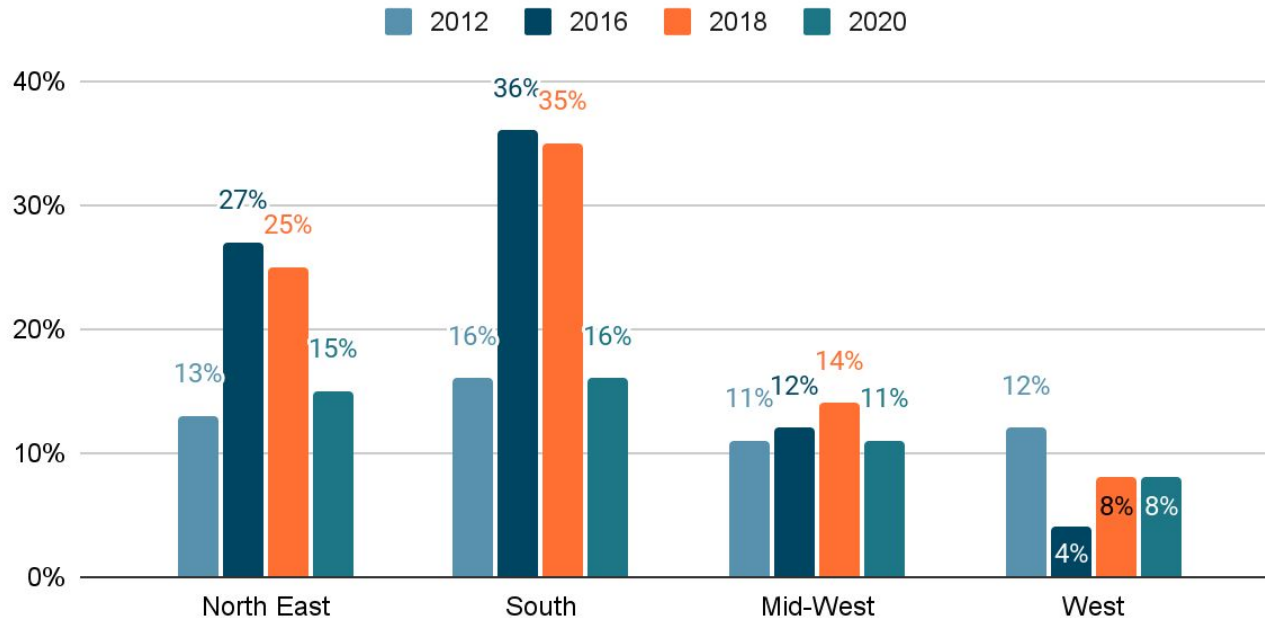


Questions?

Appendix

Colleges With Less Access More Pronounced In North East & South

What % of colleges are >1 Mile from their nearest election day polling place?



University of San Diego

| <u>Election Day</u> | <u>Early Voting</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 15 min. Drive 30 min. Transit 1 hour Walk | 25 min. Drive 1 hour transit 2.5 hour Walk |
| Location: Elementary School | Location: County Registrar's Office |
| Obstacles: Streets without sidewalks | Obstacles: Streets without sidewalks |

Emory University

| <u>Election Day</u> | <u>Early Voting</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3-5 min. Drive 10-15 min. Transit 20 min. Walk | 7 min. Drive 30 min. Transit 50 min. Walk |
| Location: High School | Location: Library |
| Student Housing: 0.3 miles closer - Same drive, Shorter walk | Student Housing: 0.5 miles farther - Longer Drive, Longer Walk |

University of Miami

Election Day & Early Voting

7 min. Drive
40 min. Transit
48 min. Walk

Location: Public Library

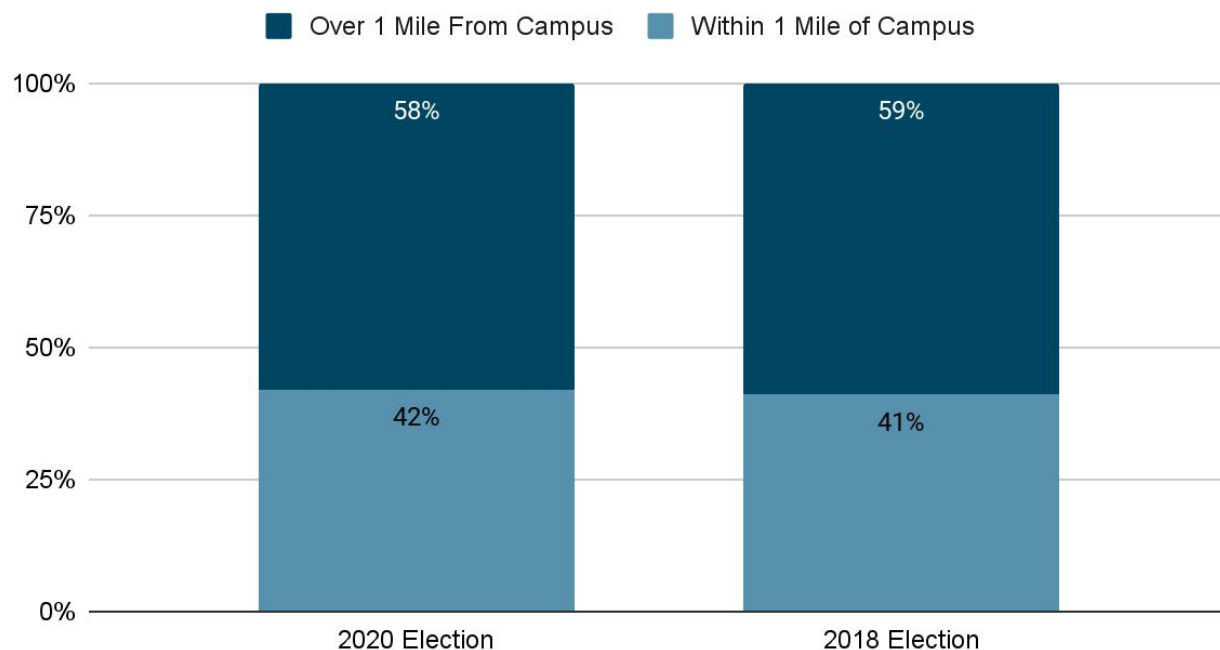
Student Housing: 0.25 miles farther -
Longer Drive, Longer Walk

Few Ballot Dropboxes on Campus, But More Within 1 Mile

In 2018, 11% of campuses had a polling dropbox on campus.

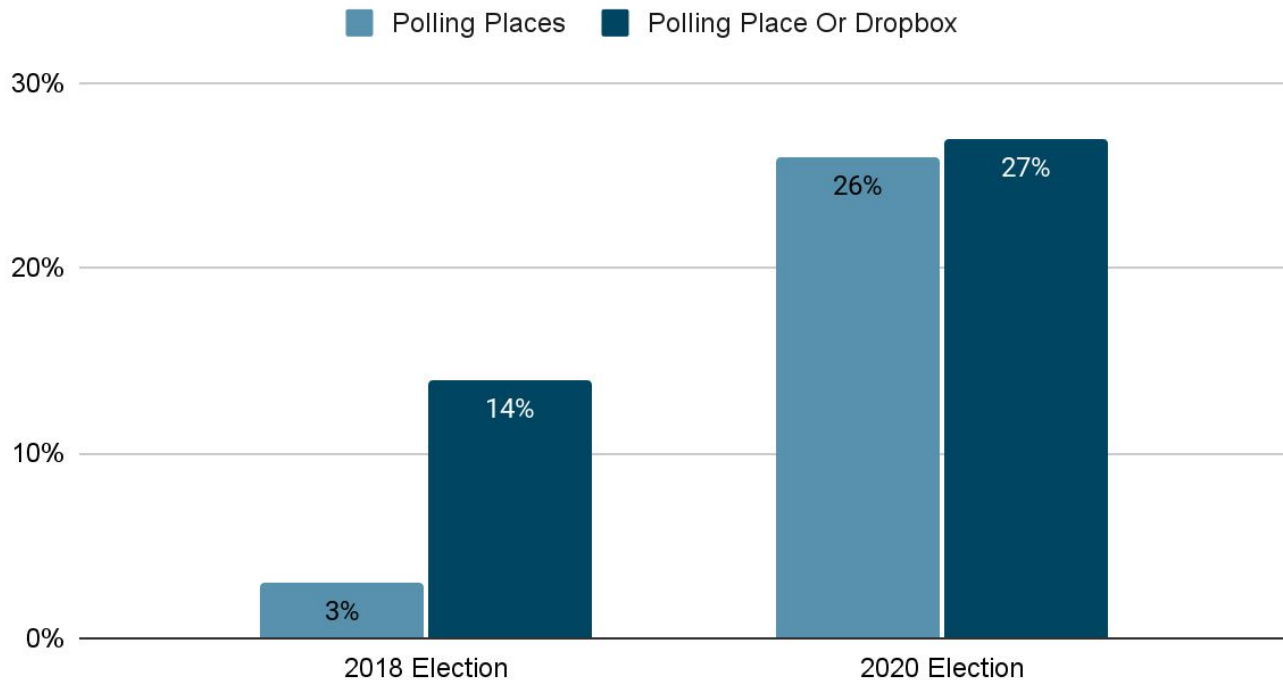
In 2020, 7% of campuses had a polling dropbox on campus.

% of Campuses With Dropboxes Over/Within 1 Mile of Campus



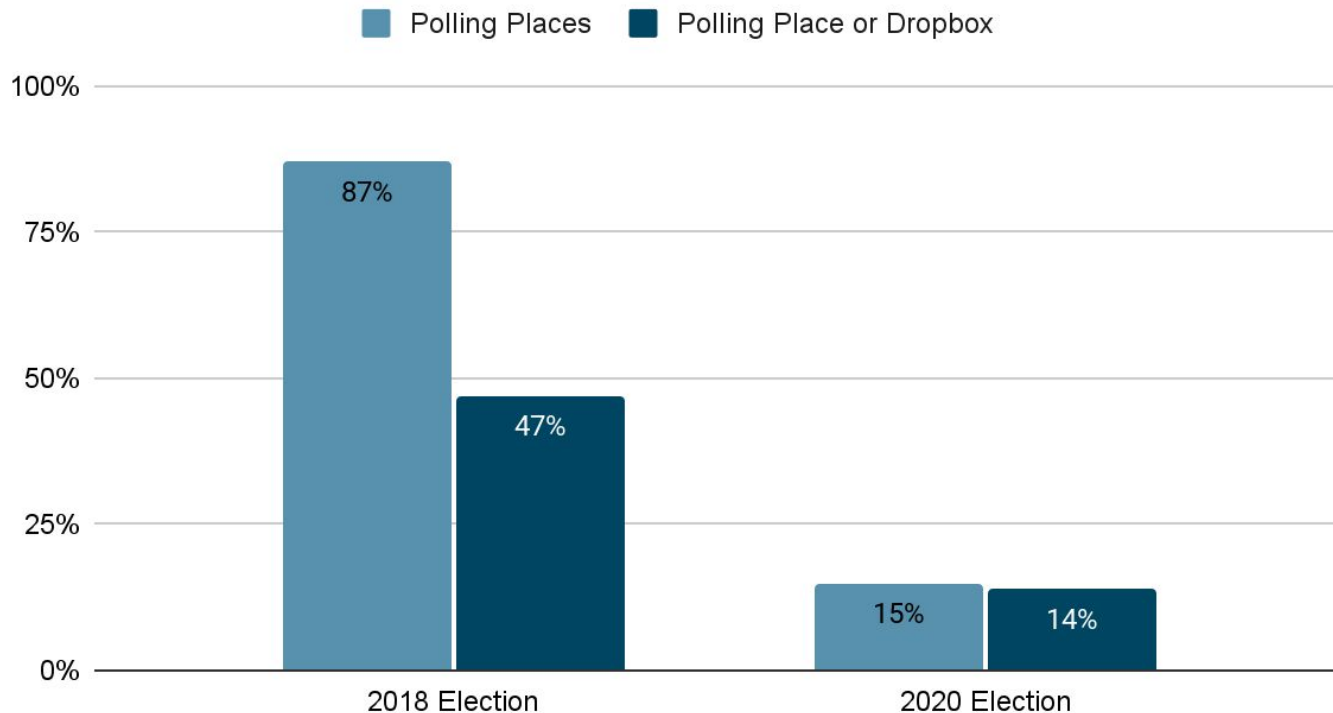
Incorporation of Ballot Dropboxes

What % of colleges have an on-campus voting option?



Incorporation of Ballot Dropboxes

What % of colleges are > 1 Mile from their nearest voting option?



Dropbox Voting Improves Access For 7% of Colleges

Colleges With Dropbox Voting On-Campus

