

MTV/Viacom Capstone Statistics

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Introduction

In this document we present statistical findings relating to the 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections at college campuses across the United States. We present a list of all statistics in sentence format. Each statistic has a footnote that corresponds to detailed information about the data sources, sample and the method by which the statistic was calculated.

2020 Early Voting Statistics

All colleges in the 35 states with meaningful early voting in 2020.

★ Average college perspective

1. 90% of colleges do not have an early voting option on campus.₁
2. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 54% of colleges.₁
3. The nearest early voting option is more than 3 miles from the edge of campus for 23% of colleges.₁
4. The nearest early voting option is more than 5 miles from the edge of campus for 15% of colleges.₁
5. 18% of colleges are closer to their nearest Starbucks than their nearest early voting option.₁
6. 3% of colleges are closer to their nearest Target than their nearest early voting option.₁
7. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile away from the edge of campus for 63% of 2-year colleges and universities.₁
8. The nearest early voting option is more than 1 mile away from the edge of campus for 46% of 4-year colleges and universities.₁

★ Average student perspective

9. 75% of students do not have an on campus early voting option.₁
10. 41% of students have their nearest early voting option greater than 1 mile from the edge of campus.₁
11. 55% of students have a Starbucks closer than their nearest Early Voting Option.₁
12. 22% of students have a Target closer than their nearest Early Voting Option.₁
13. 7.7 million students do not have early voting options on campus.₁

2020 Election Day Statistics

All colleges in the 35 states for which we have election day polling place information for 2020.

★ Average college perspective

14. 76% of colleges do not have an election day voting option on campus.₂

15. The nearest election day voting option is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 16% of colleges.₂
16. The nearest election day voting option is more than 3 miles from the edge of campus for 2% of colleges.₂
17. 21% of colleges are closer to their nearest Starbucks than their nearest election day voting option.₂
18. 3% of colleges are closer to their nearest Target than their nearest election day voting option.₂
19. The nearest election day voting option is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 20.5% of 2-year colleges.₂
20. The nearest election day voting option is more than 5 miles from the edge of campus for 0.6% of 4-year colleges and universities.₂
 - The nearest election day voting option is less than 5 miles away for 99.4% of 4-year colleges and universities.₂
21. The nearest election day voting option is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 8.6% of 4-year colleges and universities.₂
22. The nearest election day voting option is more than 5 miles from the edge of campus for 0.45% of 4-year colleges and universities.₂
 - The nearest election day voting option is less than 5 miles away for 99.55% of 4-year colleges and universities

★ **Average student perspective**

23. 56% of students do not have an election day voting option present on campus.₀₂
24. 10% of students have their nearest election day voting option greater than 1 mile from the edge of campus.₂
25. 26% of students have a Starbucks closer than their nearest election day voting option from college.₂
26. 4% of students have a Target closer than their nearest election day voting option.₂
27. 6.99 million students do not have election day voting options on campus.₂

2020 Combined Early Voting and Election Day Statistics

All colleges in the 32 states with both meaningful early voting and for which we have election day polling place information for 2020.

★ **Average college perspective**

28. 74% of colleges do not have any voting option on campus.₃
29. The nearest voting option (any) is more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 15% of colleges.₃
30. The nearest voting option (any) is more than 3 miles from the edge of campus for 2% of colleges.₃
31. 21% of colleges are closer to their nearest Starbucks than their nearest voting option.₃

- 32. 3% of colleges are closer to their nearest Target than their nearest voting option.₃
- 33. 7.9% of 4-year colleges are closer to their nearest starbucks than their nearest voting option.₃
- 34. 0.07% of 4-year colleges are closer to their nearest target than their nearest voting option.₃

★ **Average student perspective**

- 35. 53.71 % of students do not have any voting option (Election Day or Early Voting) on campus.₃
- 36. 10.16% of students have their nearest voting option (Election Day or Early Voting) greater than 1 mile from the edge of campus. ₃
- 37. 24% of students have a Starbucks closer than their nearest Voting Option (Election Day or Early Voting).₃
- 38. 3.93% of students have a Target closer than their nearest Voting Option (Election Day or Early Voting).₃
- 39. 6.6 million students have neither early voting nor election day voting options on campus.₃

2012 Election Day Statistics

All colleges in the 26 states for which we have election day polling place information for 2012.

- 40. In 2012, 18.92% of campuses had election day on campus voting.₅
- 41. In 2012, 85.96 % of colleges had their nearest polling place less than 1 mile from the college edge.₅
- 42. In 2012, 11.61 % of colleges had their nearest polling place between greater than or equal to 1 mile and less than 3 miles from the college edge.₅
- 43. In 2012, 2.44 % of colleges had their nearest polling place over 3 miles from the college edge.₅
- 44. In 2012, 81.0 % of colleges did not have an election day voting option on campus.₅
- 45. In 2012, the nearest election day voting option was more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 14.0 % of colleges.₅

2016 Election Day Statistics

All colleges in the 25 states for which we have election day polling place information for 2016.

- 46. In 2016, 17.33% of campuses had election day on campus voting.₆
- 47. In 2016, 77.00 % of colleges had their nearest polling place less than 1 mile from the college edge.₆
- 48. In 2016, 16.46 % of colleges had their nearest polling place between greater than or equal to 1 mile and less than 3 miles from the college edge.₆
- 49. In 2016, 6.53 % of colleges had their nearest polling place over 3 miles from the college edge.₆
- 50. In 2016, 85.0 % of colleges did not have an election day voting option on campus.₆

51. In 2016, the nearest election day voting option was more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 23.0 % of colleges.⁶

2018 Election Day Statistics

All colleges in the 25 states for which we have election day polling place information for 2018.

52. In 2018, 16.49% of campuses had election day on campus voting.⁷
53. In 2018, 77.48 % of colleges had their nearest polling place less than 1 mile from the college edge.⁷
54. In 2018, 16.11 % of colleges had their nearest polling place between greater than or equal to 1 mile and less than 3 miles from the college edge.⁷
55. In 2018, 6.41 % of colleges had their nearest polling place over 3 miles from the college edge.⁷
56. In 2018, 84.0 % of colleges did not have an election day voting option on campus.⁷
57. In 2018, the nearest election day voting option was more than 1 mile from the edge of campus for 23.0 % of colleges.⁷

Footnotes

1. These statistics are calculated using information on 1,896 colleges in 35 states with meaningful early voting for the 2020 Presidential election. Here we define meaningful early voting as a state with in-person early voting beyond county clerk buildings, and therefore with the potential to host an early voting site on a college campus. States not included in this sample either did not allow early voting, or had a very limited form of early voting that did not allow for the possibility of early voting on college campuses. The states with meaningful early voting are: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MT, NC, ND, NE, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, and WV. Our early voting polling place data comes from Ballot Ready for the 2020 November Presidential election. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3,114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to the 2,258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. These 2,258 colleges had a total enrollment of about 15.6 million students. In this dataset, we use 2020 enrollment data from The Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the 68% of all campuses that have it. When colleges are missing from 2020 enrollment data, we use enrollment data from the HIFLD database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance). Target and Starbucks store data comes from ScrapeHero which consists of all the Official Stores present in the United States in 2020.
2. These statistics represent 1,816 colleges in 35 states for which data on the location of election day polling places for the 2020 November presidential election was made available by the Center for Public Integrity. The states for which we have election day voting data in 2020 are: AK, AL, AR, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA,

IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, VA, VT, WI, and WV. Our 2020 election day polling place data comes from the Center for Public Integrity and was limited to these 35 states. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3,114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to the 2,258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. These 2,258 colleges had a total enrollment of about 15.6 million students. In this dataset, we used 2020 enrollment data from The Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the 68% of all campuses that have it. When colleges are missing from 2020 enrollment data, we use enrollment data from the HIFLD database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance). Target and Starbucks store data comes from ScrapeHero which consists of all the Official Stores present in the United States.

3. These statistics represent 1,728 colleges in 32 states with both meaningful early voting *and* for which data on election day polling place locations in the 2020 November Presidential were made available by the Center for Public Integrity. Here we define meaningful early voting as a state with in-person early voting, early voting locations beyond county clerk buildings, and with the potential to host an early voting site on a college campus. States not included in this sample either did not allow early voting, had a very limited form of early voting, or were not present in our 2020 election day data. The states with both meaningful early voting and election day voting are: AK, AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NV, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, VA, VT, WI, and WV. Our early voting polling place data comes from Ballot Ready for the 2020 election. Our 2020 election day polling place data comes from the Center for Public Integrity and was limited to 35 states, some of which did not have meaningful early voting. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to 2258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. These 2,258 colleges had a total enrollment of about 15.6 million students. In this dataset, we used 2020 enrollment data from The Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the 68% of all campuses that have it. When schools are missing from 2020 enrollment data, we use enrollment data from the HIFLD database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance). Target and Starbucks store data comes from ScrapeHero which consists of all the Official Stores present in the United States.
4. According to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), as of November 2016 about 28% of all community colleges offer on-campus housing, even though only one percent of community college students live on campus. (https://www.aacc.nche.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DataPoints_No23.pdf)
5. These statistics represent 1,189 colleges in 26 states for which data on the location of election day polling places for the 2012 November presidential election was made available by the Center for Public Integrity. The states for which we have election day voting data in 2012 are: MA, WV, MS, KY, OH, OK, IL, LA, ME, RI, ND, MD, VA, NC, MT, NE, SC, IA, WI, CT, PA, AR, NH, NJ, DE, and MI. Our 2012 election day polling place data comes from the Center for Public Integrity and was limited to these 26 states. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of

the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3,114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to the 2,258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance).

6. These statistics represent 1,148 colleges in 25 states for which data on the location of election day polling places for the 2016 November presidential election was made available by the Center for Public Integrity. The states for which we have election day voting data in 2016 are: MA, WV, MS, KY, OH, OK, SD, NM, IL, LA, ME, ND, MD, VA, NC, MT, NE, IA, WI, CT, PA, NH, NJ, DE, and GA. Our 2016 election day polling place data comes from the Center for Public Integrity and was limited to these 25 states. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3,114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to the 2,258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance).
7. These statistics represent 1,310 colleges in 29 states for which data on the location of election day polling places for the 2018 November election was made available by the Center for Public Integrity. The states for which we have election day voting data in 2018 are: MA, WV, MS, KY, OH, OK, SD, NM, IL, LA, ME, RI, ND, MD, VA, NC, MT, NE, SC, IA, MN, WI, CT, PA, AR, NH, NJ, DE, GA'. Our 2018 election day polling place data comes from the Center for Public Integrity and was limited to these 29 states. Our college campus data comes from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) and represents all of the campuses listed in the National Student Clearinghouse in 2017 and any minority-serving institutions listed in the Rutgers Center for MSI Directory which are not already included in the National Student Clearinghouse data. We then exclude for-profit colleges and universities as well as specialized medical schools, and beauty schools. This provides us with a sample of 3,114 colleges and universities across the United States. To facilitate our geospatial analyses, our sample is then restricted to the 2,258 college campuses whose campus boundaries are included in the Department of Homeland Security Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) database. Distances reported are calculated as the shortest distance between the edge of campus and the nearest polling place (i.e., the “as the crow flies” distance).