

Elections and Voting Behavior



Chapter 10

Midterm Elections...what to watch for

- Film Clip

Real Clear Politics Polls

- View Senate, House, Governors

EQ #11- What are State Ballot Measure Elections?

Three Types of Elections

1. Primary-

- To select party nominees
- National and state level

2. General-

- To select officeholders
- National and state level.
- Presidential & Midterm

3. Special / Initiatives & Referendums

- To accept or deny specific policies
- State-level only

Statewide Ballot Measures

- Many states allow voters to propose laws for a statewide vote.
- These are examples of Direct Democracy
- There are THREE common types.
 - Referral
 - Initiative
 - Referendum

Risks and Benefits of Citizen Initiatives

- Activity- Read the handout and complete the Questions for the Ballot Initiative Assignment.
- Answer the Key Questions in INB on LEFT side. Pair share / collaborate with table partner. Title-OR's Initiative Process
- Gubernatorial=Governor's Election

Why more signatures...

- Needed for Initiative than Referendum?

What is a Referral?

1. Referral:

Oregon's state Legislature may refer any bill it passes to voters for approval.

It MUST do so for any amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

What is an Initiative?

2. A Citizens' Initiative :

- Registered voters may place a proposed law or constitutional amendment on the ballot.
- Law is then voted on by the people.
- Requires 6%, or 88,184 signatures to get on ballot as a LAW. (based on last Gov race)
- Requires 8%, or 117,578 signatures to get on ballot as a Constitutional Amendment

Types of Ballot Measures in Oregon

3. REFERENDUM–

Registered voters may attempt to reject any bill passed by the Legislature by placing a referendum on the ballot.

- Similar to a “recall”
- Requires 4% percent, or 58,789 signatures.

How does it work in Oregon?

- The number of signatures required is based on a percentage of the total votes cast for governor at the last election.
- Pay Attention to Interest Groups- interest groups can pay people to collect signatures and spend big money to support measures. Often they are NOT local citizens groups
- EXAMPLE- PepsiCo support of measures in OR and WA to prevent taxes on soda

Pros and Cons of the Process

- Benefits- Record THREE
- Risks- Record THREE

Wednesday 11/7

- What did we learn from the midterm election results?

Warm-Up- Ballot Measures

Is it a Referral, Referendum or Initiative?

1. Requires 4% of total # of voters from last gov's election
2. Requires 6% of total # of voters from last gov's election.
3. Requires 8% of total # of voters from last gov's election.
4. Cannot be offered for emergency laws
5. Can be used to amend the constitution.
6. Can be used to overturn a passed law.
7. Used by legislature to get voter approval.
8. Used by citizens to propose a new law or amendment.

EQ #12-Who Votes in America? What influences whether one votes?

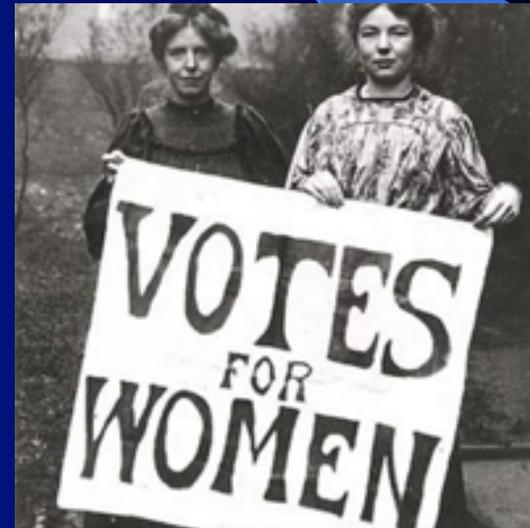
- What is US voter turnout—how do we compare to other nations?
- Who votes and who doesn't
- Why is turnout better in other countries?

What is Suffrage?

- Suffrage is the legal right to vote; it is also called franchise.

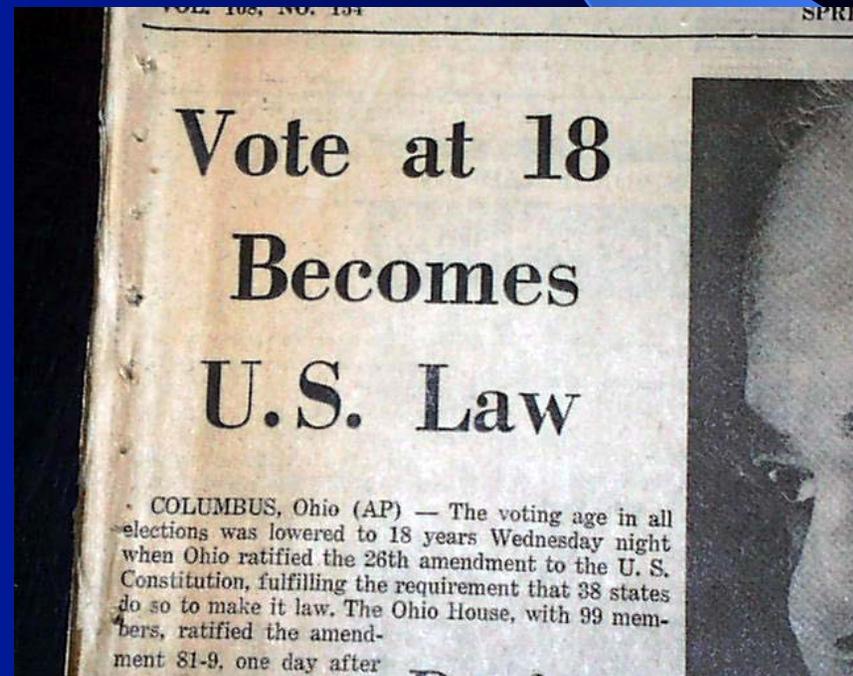
How has Suffrage Expanded in the US?

- 19th Amendment, 1920- Extended right to vote to women



How has Suffrage Expanded in the US?

- 26th Amendment, 1971 – Extended the right to vote to all over the age of 18.



What is voter turnout?

- Voter turnout is the % of eligible voters who cast votes in an election.
- In the U.S., a PRESIDENTIAL election takes place every FOUR years.
 - Turnout is HIGHEST for P elections
- A MID-TERM election, happens every TWO years between PRESIDENTIAL elections (for House and some Senators).
 - Turnout is much LOWER in mid-term elections.

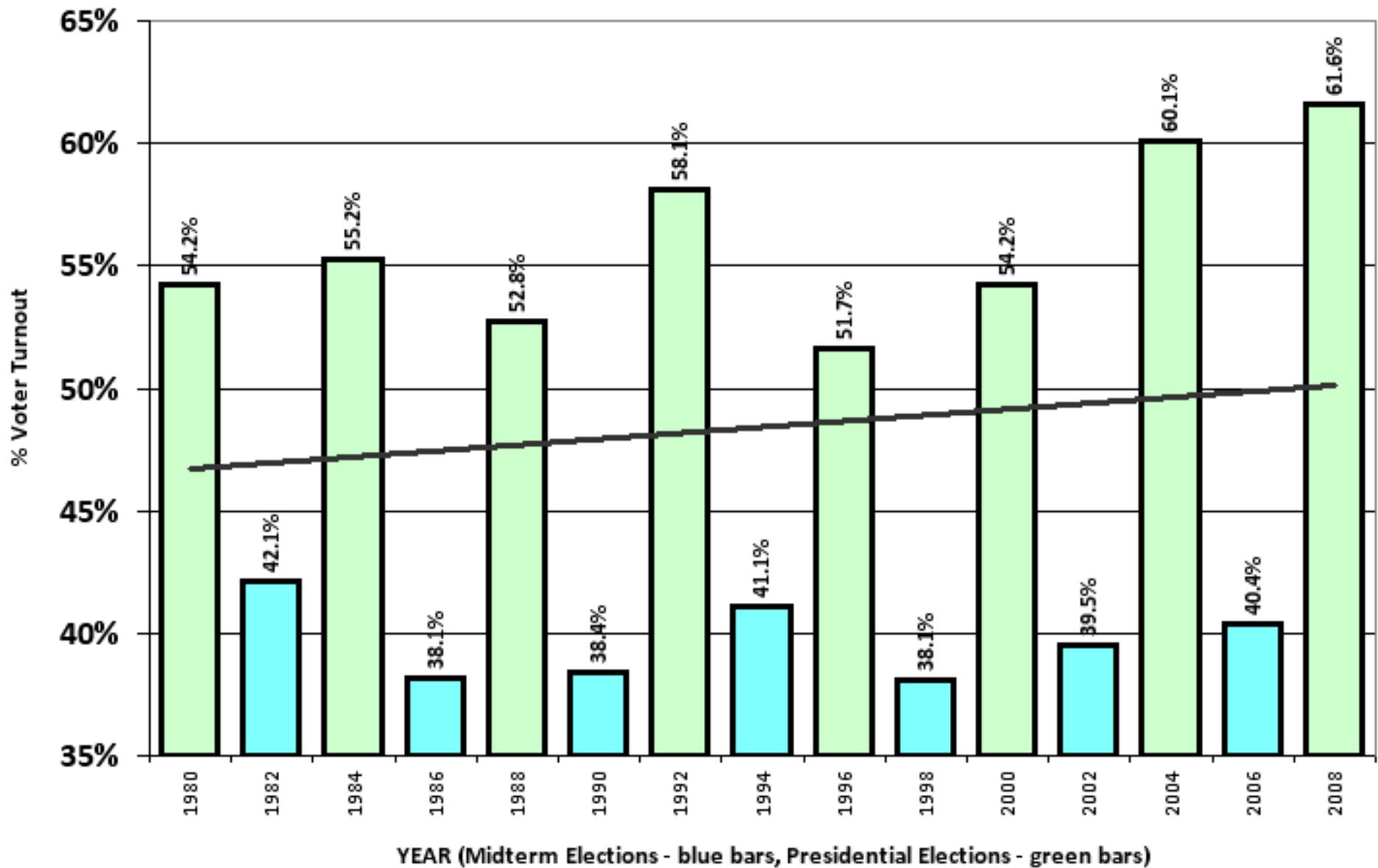
What was the 2018 Midterm Election Turnout?

- The estimated national turnout for yesterday's election will be about 113 million, according to Edison Research.
- That is approximately 49% of eligible voters.
- **Democrats:** 51,792,910 votes
- **Republicans:** 46,190,531 votes
- **Keep in mind:** These numbers are an estimate and can change. Votes are still being counted.

Read the Article

- Please read the article (Project Fair Vote)
- Note 3-5 KEY IDEAS about US voter turnout compared to the other countries on the list / data table.
- What patterns do you notice that are significant in explaining our lower turnout?

U.S. Election Voter Turnout 1980 to 2008



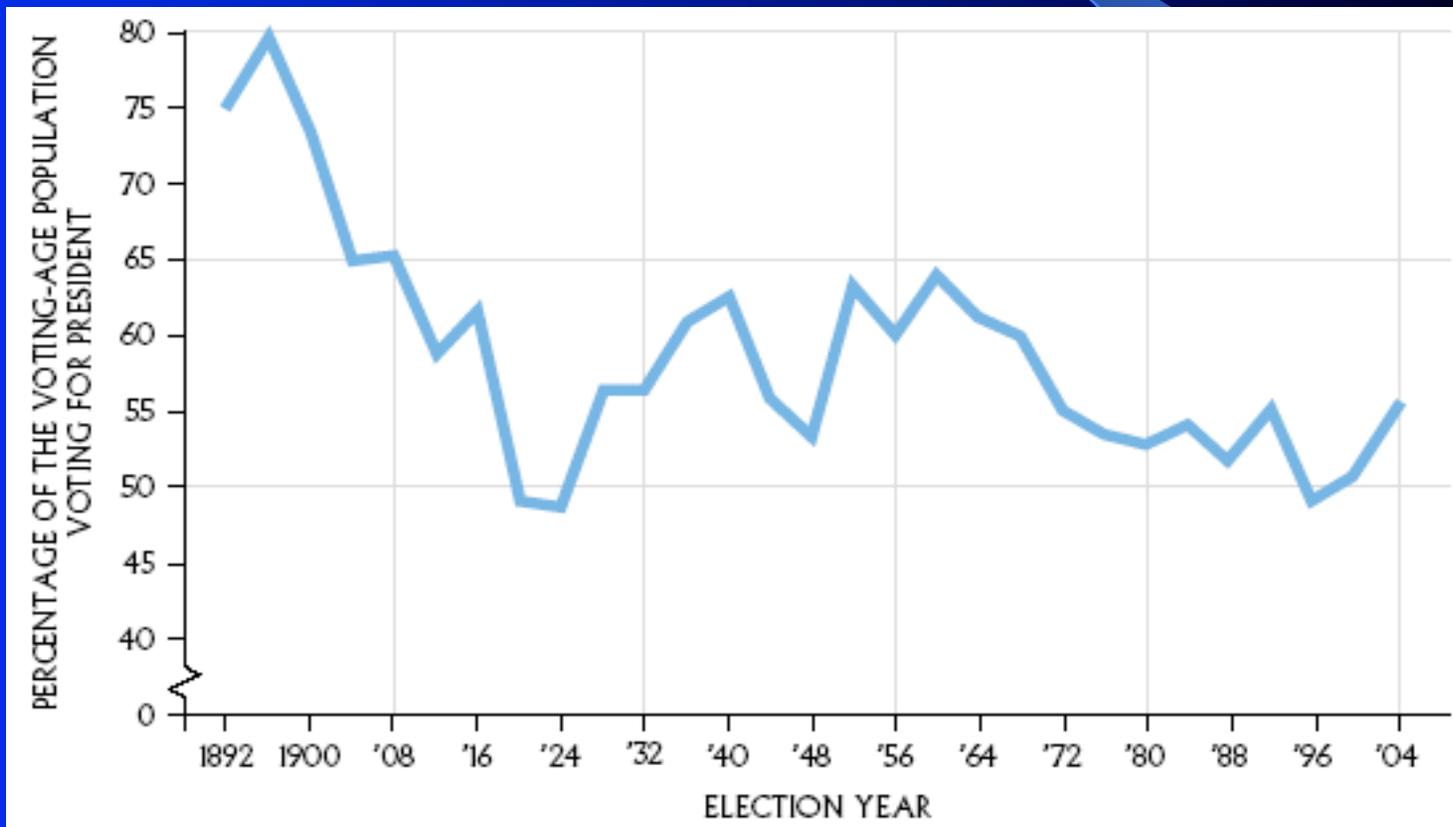
■ % Voter Turnout — Linear (% Voter Turnout)

How is US Voter Turnout?

- U.S. typically has LOW voter turnout compared to other democracies.
- Participation has hovered between 48% and 57% (2008) in US presidential elections since 1980.
- In France, turnout regularly tops 80%.
- The US ranked 31 of 34 for percentage of voting-age population among economically similar countries (OECD countries).

Whether to Vote: A Citizen's First Choice

- The Decline of Turnout: 1892-2004 (Figure 10.2)



Why is US Turnout Low?

1. Registering To Vote

- Voter Registration: A system that requires voters to register in advance of election day.
- Purpose is to limit voter fraud
- 49 states require voter registration
- Registration procedures differ from state to state.

Effects of Registration

- Requiring registration is an extra step and leads to lower turnout in the U.S.
- Few states allow voters to register day of election

Same-Day Registration States	
	Year Enacted
California	2012
Colorado	2013
Connecticut	2012
District of Columbia	2010
Idaho	1994
Iowa	2007
Maine	1973
Minnesota	1974
Montana	2005
New Hampshire	1996
Wisconsin	1975
Wyoming	1994

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

What is the Motor Voter Act?

- **MOTOR VOTER ACT, 1993**
- Law passed by Congress
- Requires states to *permit* people to register to vote when they apply for their driver's license.
- Has led to an increase in the # of qualified voters!

- Oregon Law 2016- Automatically registers all new and renewing drivers

What other factors reduce turnout in the U.S.?

2. Tuesday Elections – is a work day for most Americans making it harder to find time to vote.
3. More elections take place in US compared to other countries. Voter fatigue?

What other factors reduce turnout in the U.S.?

- 4. Lack of Clear Party Differences—
Because the major parties in U.S. are more similar than different, voters who are strong conservatives or liberals aren't always motivated to vote.
- Those who distrust government are unlikely to vote.

Why is US Turnout Low?

5. VOTER ID LAWS

- *34 states have laws requesting or requiring voters to show some form of ID at the polls
- *Some states require photo ID; others any ID
- *Some have STRICT ID laws- if no ID, you fill out a provisional ballot that isn't counted until you bring in ID

5. Voter ID Laws

Evaluating Voter ID Laws-

*FOR-Prevents voter fraud

*AGAINST- Fraud isn't a big issue; these laws are unnecessary and can restrict legitimate voting

What influences the decision to vote?

TWO factors

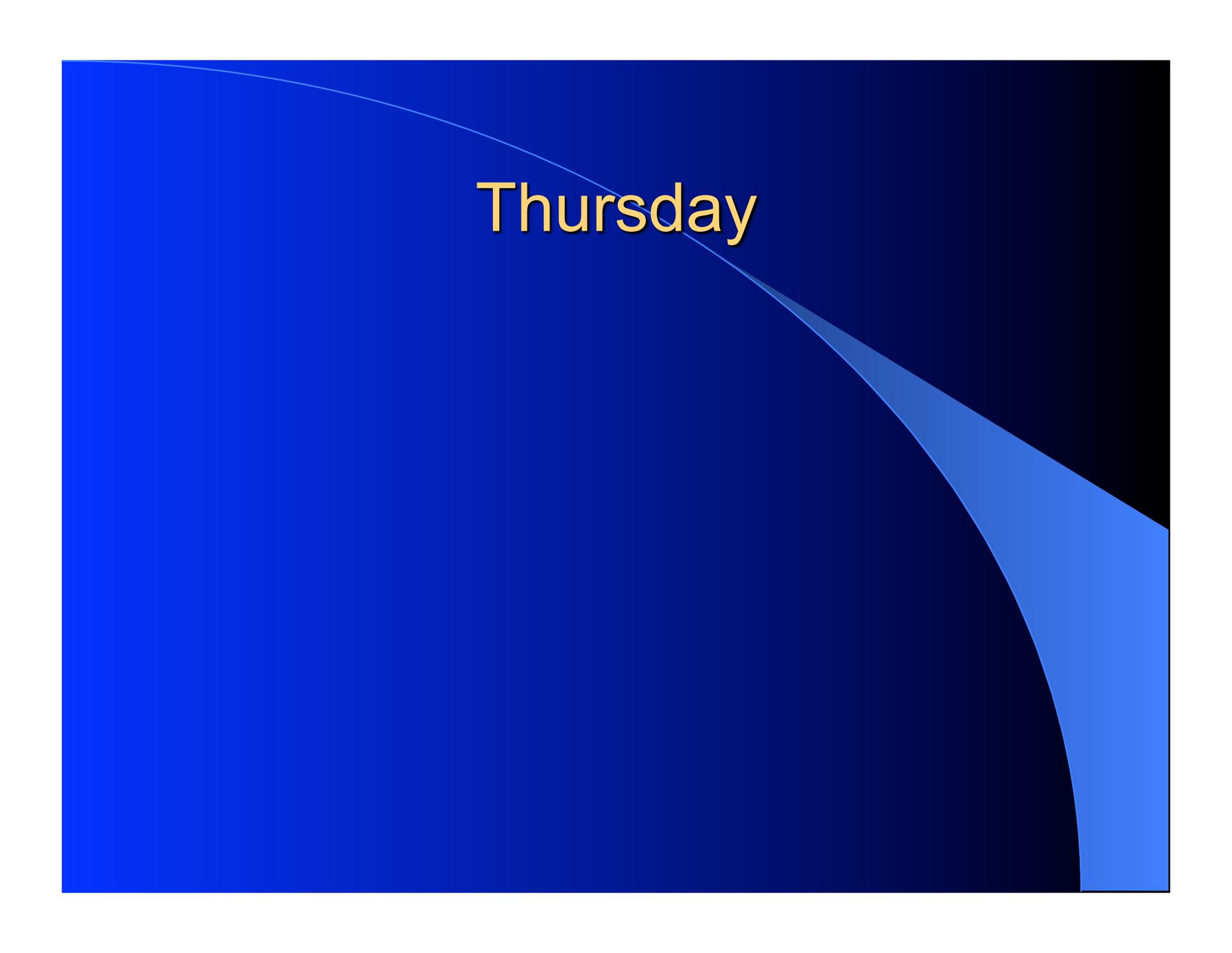
1. POLITICAL EFFICACY: The belief that your political participation makes a difference/matters.

*A HIGH sense of efficacy increases likelihood of vote.

- 2. CIVIC DUTY: The belief that in a democratic system, a citizen should always vote.
- A HIGH sense of civic duty increases likelihood of vote

Activity- Voter ID Laws

Thursday

The image features a blue gradient background. A curved line starts from the top left and arcs towards the bottom right. A light blue wedge-shaped area is positioned in the bottom right corner, pointing towards the center of the page.

Who is a likely voter?

- Who Votes?

- **Education:** More education = more likely to vote. This is the MOST important factor.
- **Age:** Older = more likely to vote (until VERY old)
- **Race:** Caucasian = more likely to vote. BUT, other ethnicities are higher with comparable education.
- **Gender:** Female = more likely to vote.

Whether to Vote: A Citizen's First Choice

- Who Votes? (continued)
 - **Marital Status:** Married = more likely to vote.
 - **Union Membership:** Union member = more likely to vote.
 - Traits are cumulative - possessing several adds up.

Who Votes?

TABLE 10.1

Reported Turnout Rate in 2004

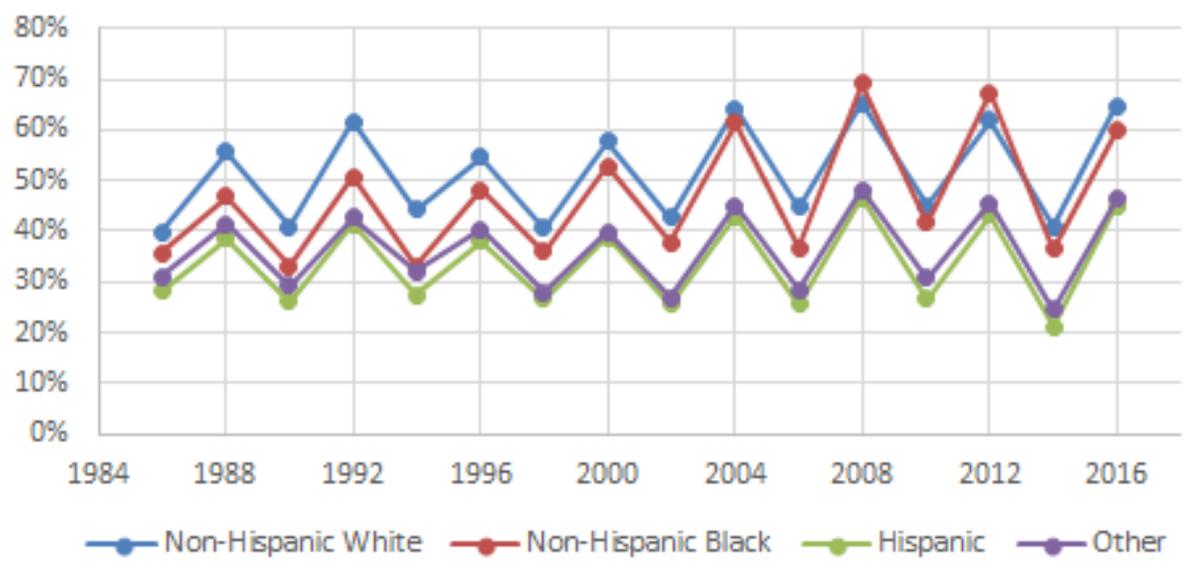
SOCIAL GROUPS	PERCENT
18-20	41
21-24	42
25-44	52
45-64	67
65 and over	69
No high school diploma	30
High school	52
Some college	66
College	74
White	66
African American	56
Hispanic citizens	47
Asian American citizens	44
Men	56
Women	60
Married	65
Single	47
Government workers	75
Self-employed	64
Work in private industry	57
Unemployed	46

Source: Authors' analysis of 2004 U.S. Census Bureau survey.

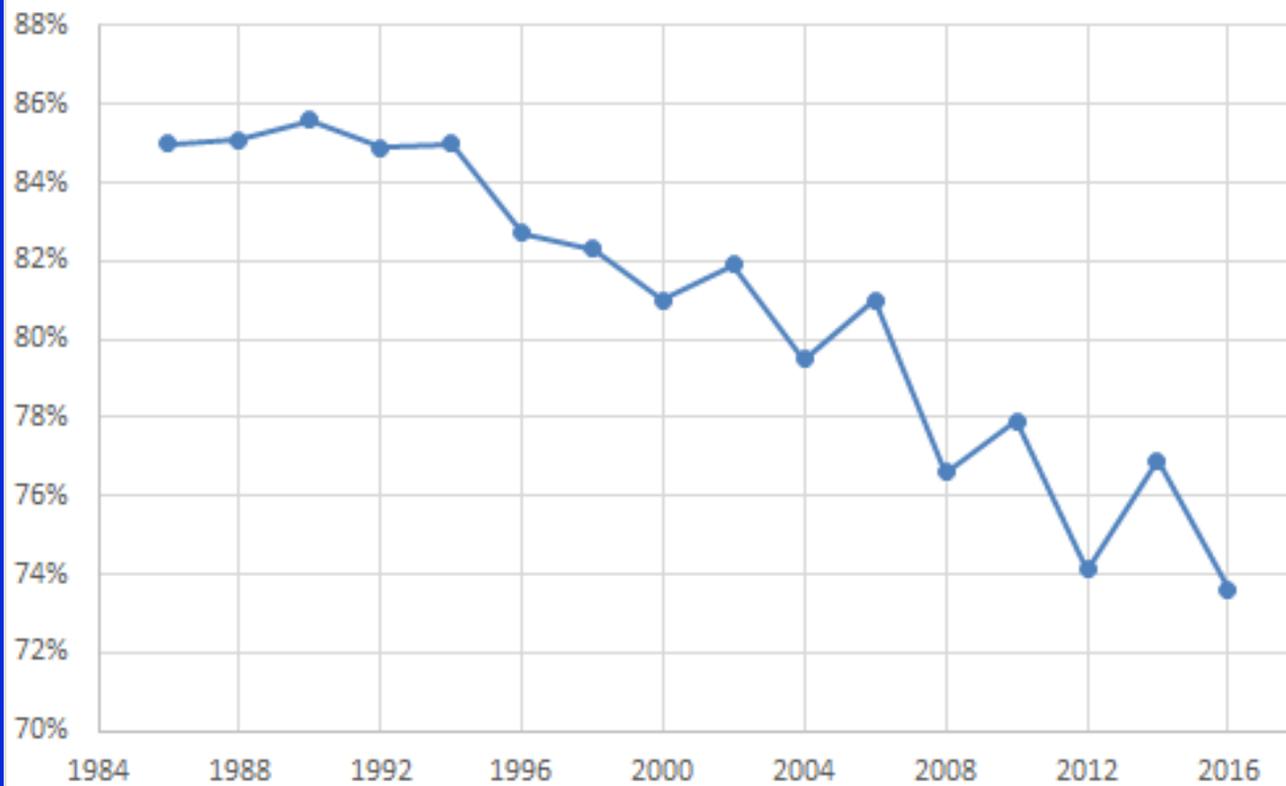
What is the Mandate Theory?

- Mandate Theory of Elections
 - The idea that the winning candidate has a mandate (a clear “green light”) from the people to carry out his or her platforms and politics.
 - Politicians like the theory better than voters or political scientists do.

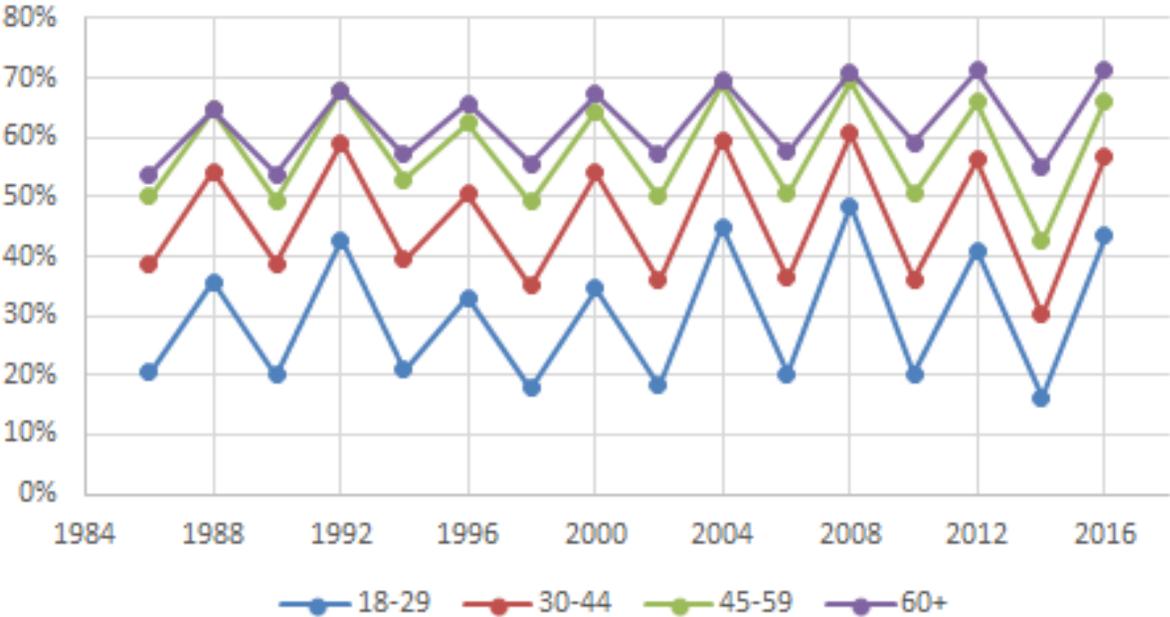
Citizen Voting-Age Population Turnout Rates by Race and Ethnicity



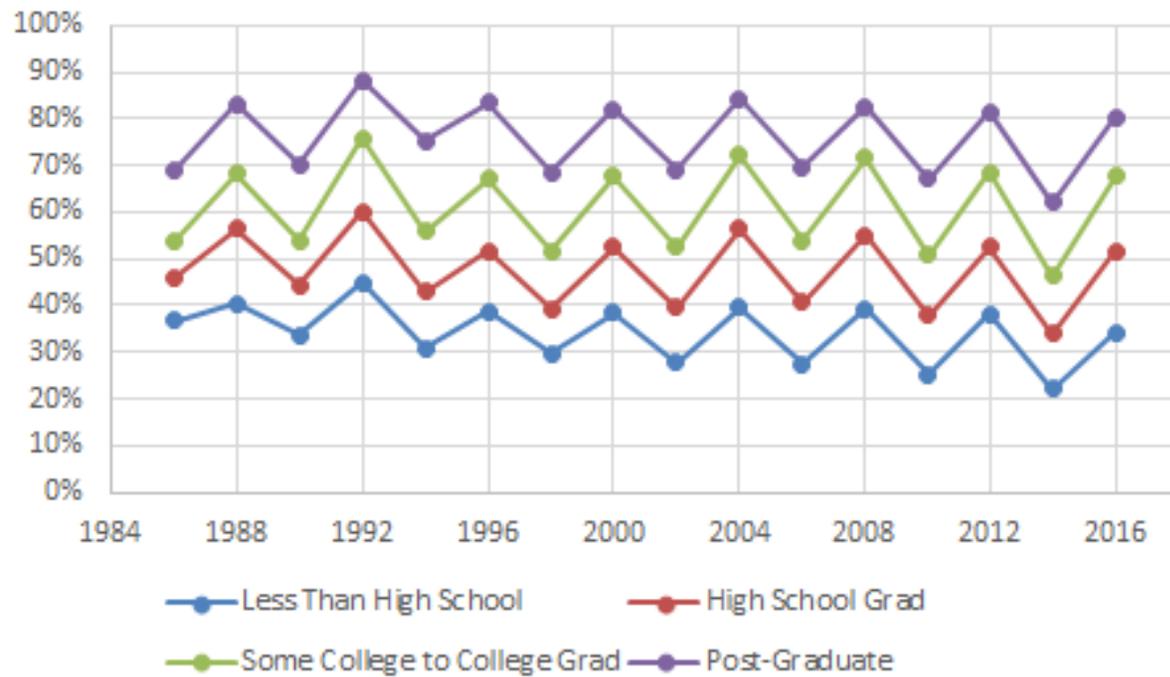
Non-Hispanic White Share of Electorate



Turnout by Age



Citizen Voting-Age Population Turnout Rates by Education

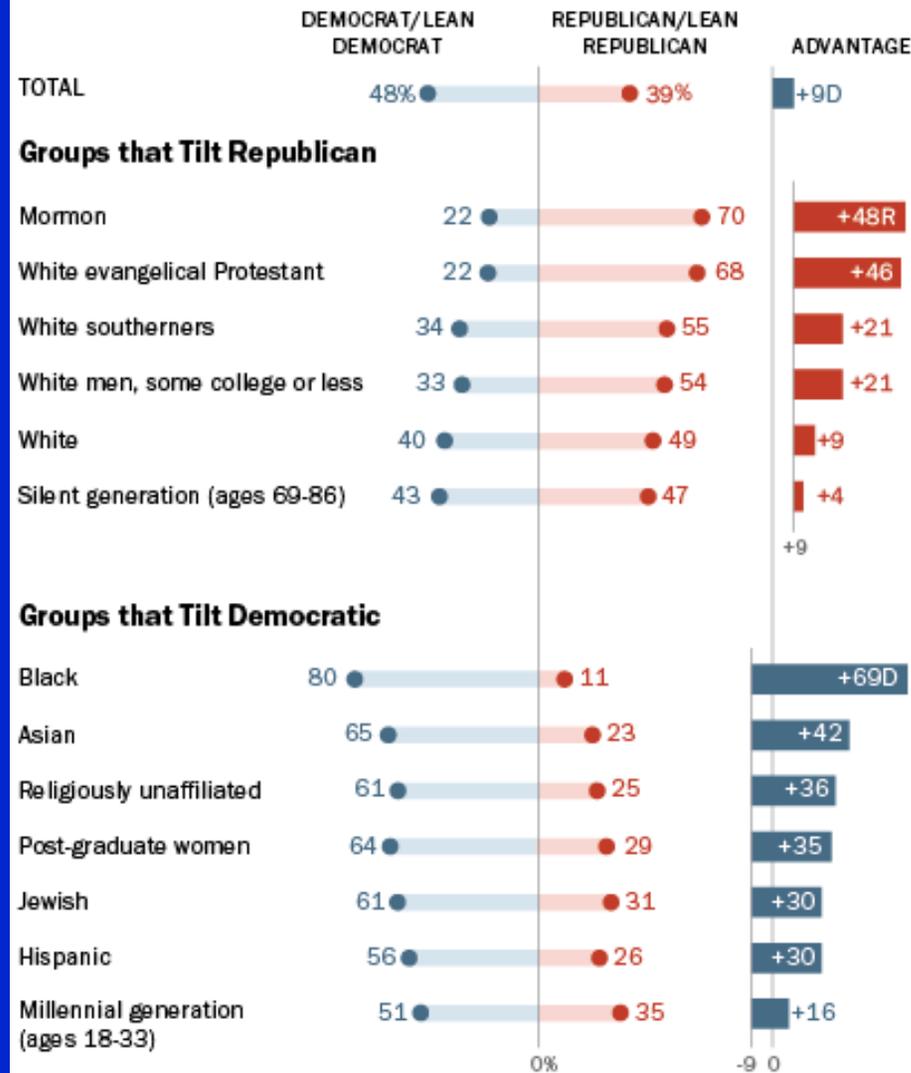


What groups are reliably D or R?

- Pass out handout for INB

Strong Groups for the Democratic and Republican Parties

% of each group that identifies as ...



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Asians are non-Hispanic and English-speaking only.

Source: All Pew Research Center political surveys from 2014. Based on the general public.

How Americans Vote: Explaining Citizens' Decisions

TABLE 10.2

Changing Patterns in Voting Behavior: 1960 and 2008 Compared

	KENNEDY	NIXON	OBAMA	McCAIN
Protestant	36	63	45	54
Catholic	83	17	54	45
Jewish	89	11	78	21
Regularly attend religious services	49	50	43	55
Often attend religious services	36	64	53	46
Seldom attend religious services	55	44	59	39
Never attend religious services	51	49	67	30
White	48	52	43	56
African American	71	29	95	4
Hispanic	NA	NA	67	31
Male	52	48	49	48
Female	47	53	56	43
18-29	53	47	66	32
30-44	51	49	52	46
45-64	50	50	50	49
65+	39	61	45	53
No high school diploma	55	45	63	35
High school diploma	52	48	52	46
Some college	33	67	51	47
College degree	38	62	53	45

How is Party Identification a Factor?

- Party Identification- Being a registered R or D can make voting choices easier
- People generally still vote for the party they are registered in and agree with most.
- But... The rise of candidate-centered politics has changed this view somewhat.
 - Characteristics of each candidate have become more important than party to some voters.

How do Candidate Evaluations Affect Voting?

- Candidate Evaluations: How Americans See the Candidates
 - Candidates strive to present a good visual image.
 - Most important dimensions are integrity, reliability, and competence.
 - Personality still plays a role.

What is Policy Voting?

- POLICY VOTING- Is basing your vote choice on your issue preferences rather than candidates or party identification.
 - Must know where you and the candidates stand on issues and see differences between candidates.

What is Policy Voting?

- * Candidates can be ambiguous on policy issues.
- * The press tends to focus on the “horse race” NOT the issues.
- * Today candidates are forced to take a clear stand on key issues in the party primaries. These positions generally soften during the general election.

Wednesday Warm-Up

1. Who turns out to vote in terms of age, education, marital status and gender?
2. What is party identification and what role does it play in whether or not one votes?
3. How has the rise of candidate-centered politics affected this?
4. What is policy voting?

EQ #13 What is the Electoral
College and how does it
work?

What is the Electoral College?

- The Electoral College was created at the Constitutional Convention to actually elect the President (rather than direct popular vote)
- WHY?- Founders wanted the President chosen indirectly-by an enlightened elite.
- States choose the electors
- Popular votes are tallied within states and the winner takes all electoral votes in state.

Film- Electing the President

- Watch film-

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok_VQ8I7g6I

2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/08/learning/lesson-plans/the-final-vote-for-president-learning-about-the-electoral-college.html>

Pair Share- Discuss with Partner

1. How many electoral votes does each state get and how is this determined?
2. Is the Electoral College located in a specific place and where do electors vote?
3. What is the winner-take-all feature?
4. Why is each significant to the electoral college- 270, 538?
5. How can the Electoral College be changed?

How does the Electoral College Work?

- How it works today:
 - Each state has as many votes as it does Representatives and Senators.
 - Winner of popular vote typically gets ALL the Electoral College votes (winner-take-all)
 - Electors meet in December, votes are reported by the vice president in January.
 - If no candidate gets 270 votes (a majority), the House of Representatives votes for president, with each state getting ONE vote.

Electoral College FAQ's Activity

- Begin the Electoral College FAQ Assignment.

Look at Historical Electoral College Maps

- <https://www.270towin.com/historical-presidential-elections/>

Evaluating the Electoral College- Pro/Con

- Form a group of four
- Divide articles among group members
- Read and mark up. Underline FIVE key points from your article that you will explain to your group verbally
- Share out in group
- Complete Graphic Org together as group

The Last Battle: The Electoral College

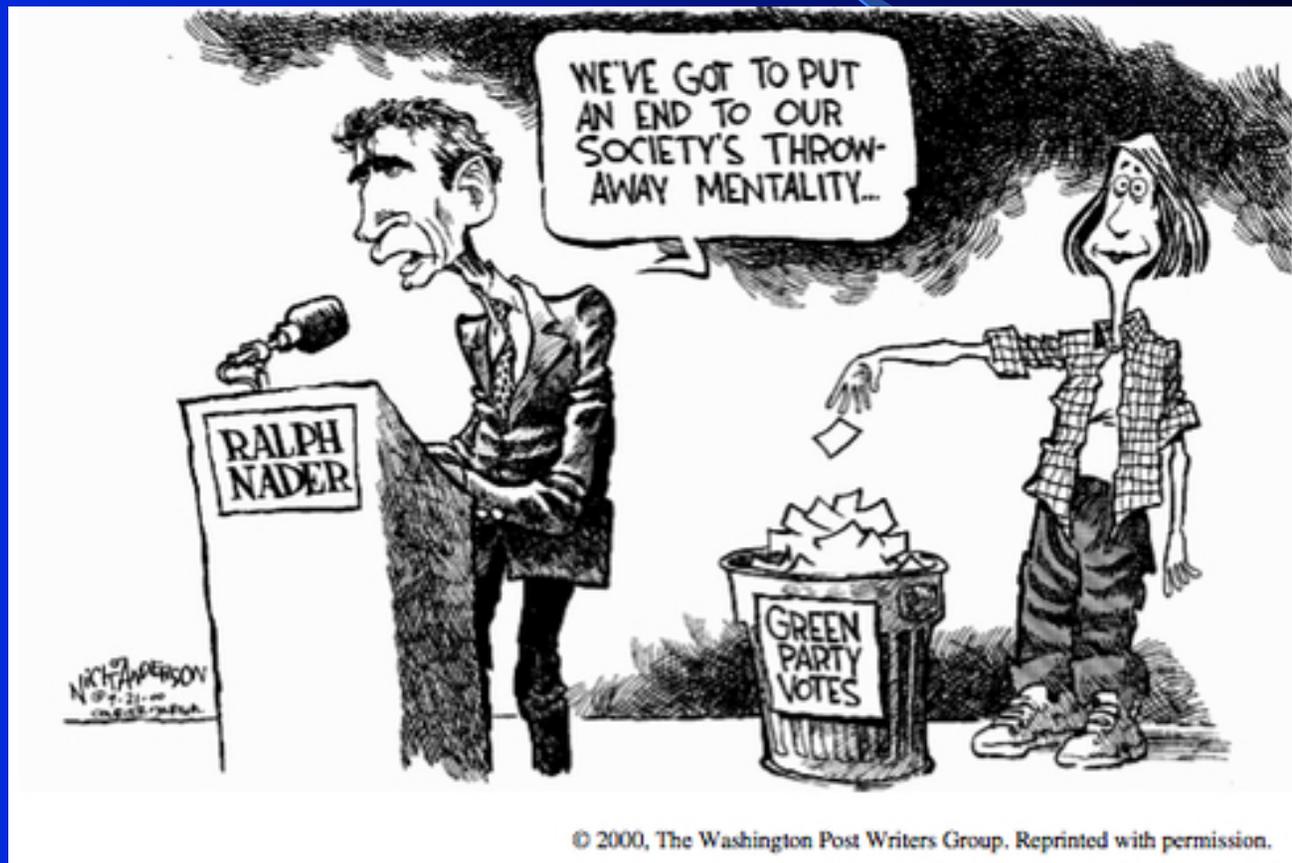
TABLE 10.3

Presidential Vote in 2000 by State Representation in the Electoral College (in percents)

	BUSH	GORE	NADER	OTHERS
Electoral votes <7	52.5	42.3	3.7	1.5
7-18	48.9	47.6	2.5	1.0
>18	45.7	50.7	2.7	0.9

Source: Calculated by the authors from official election returns.

Minor Parties and the Electoral College...



Understanding Elections and Voting Behavior

- The greater the policy differences between candidates, the more likely voters will be able to steer government policy by their choices.
- But this is unlikely—candidates do not always clarify their positions
- Candidates who vow to continue popular policies are more likely to win elections.

What is Retrospective Voting?

Retrospective voting:

-Is when voters cast a vote based on what a candidate has “done for them lately.”

- Those who feel worse off are likely to vote against incumbents.
- When the economy / employment is bad, politicians are vulnerable.

FRQ Voting

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