EQ #10- What is Voter Turnout?
How do different groups vote?

Warm-Up –
Amendments Chart

Describe the **Voting Rights** gained AND **year passed** for each of the following.

Amendment   What?   When?

1   15th Amendment

2   19th Amendment

3   24th Amendment

4   26th Amendment

5   Describe THREE reasons you think voter turnout in US is low.

Four Corners

- Eugene is a progressive community where people are not judged negatively based on race, gender, religion or disability.

What are the typical voting %?

- **Voter turnout –** Is how many cast votes out of all eligible voters in an election

- **Is lower in US than many other democracies—usually below 60%** in most elections.

- Turnout is higher for **presidential elections** (which take place every 4 years) and much lower on all other elections.
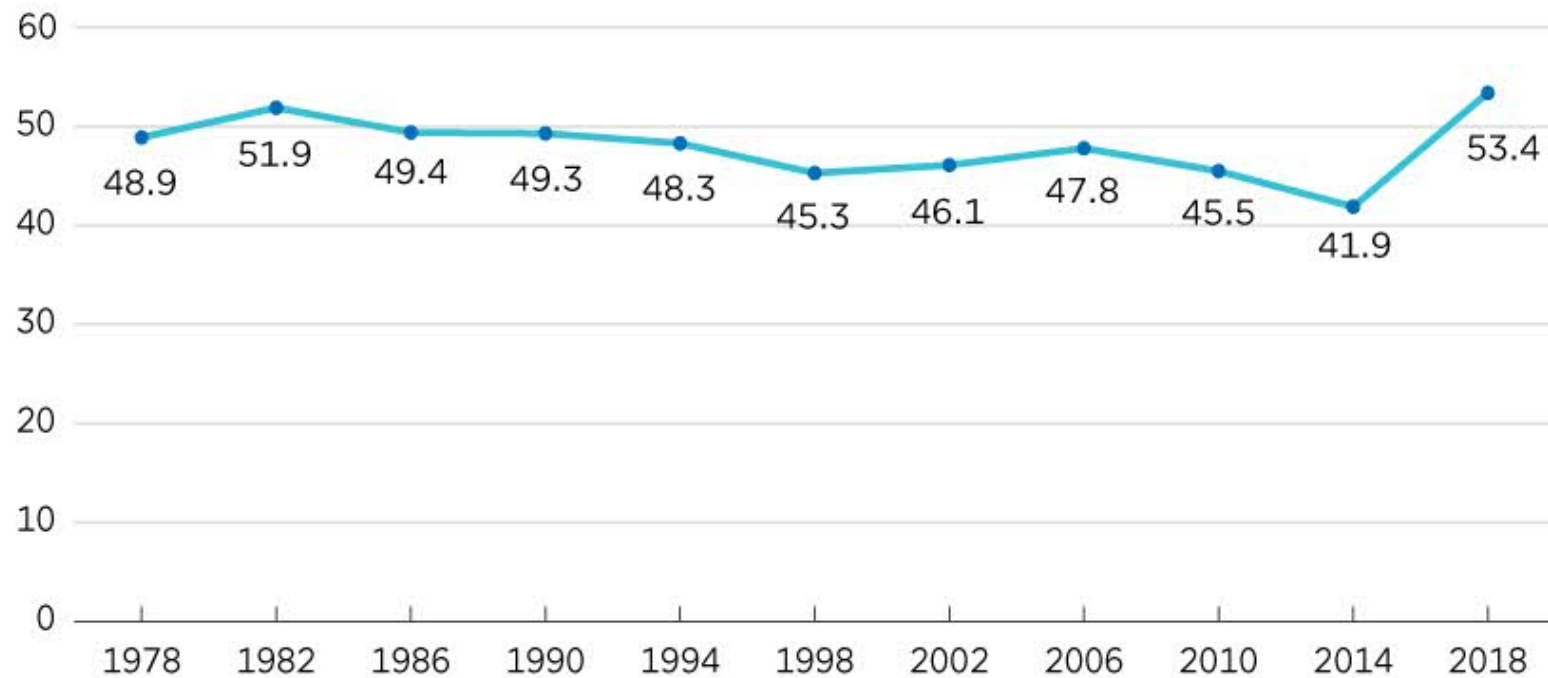
What is Voter Turnout in US?

- Turnout in Mid-term elections is even LOWER (40% or below).

- **Mid term Elections –**
- Take place every two years between Presidential elections.
- Elect members to the House and some Senators

Midterm Election Turnout

National Voter Turnout: Midterm Elections 1978-2018
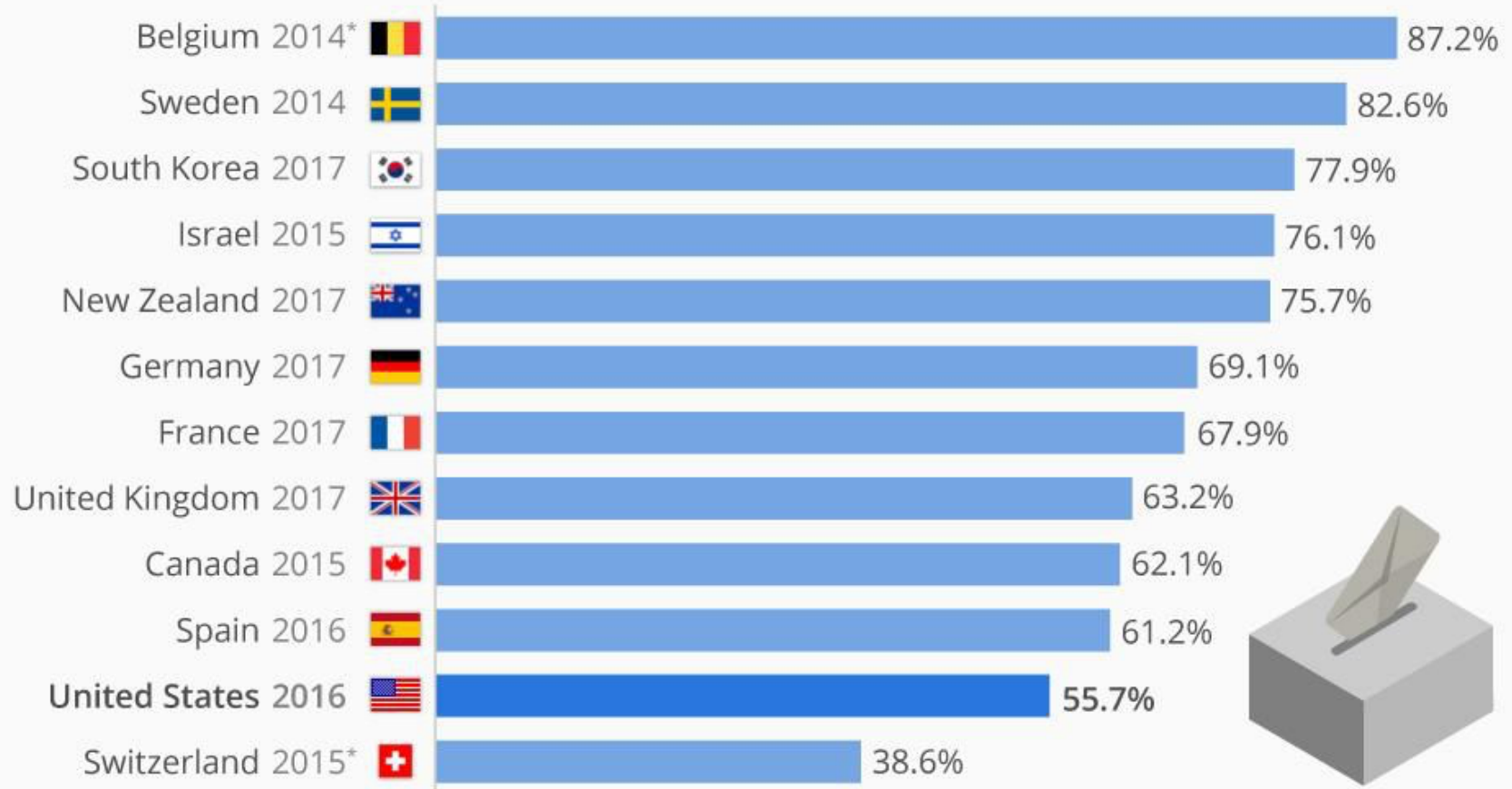(Percentage of the citizen voting-age population that voted)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplements: Midterm Elections 1978-2018.

Voting Turnout History

Year	Total V.A.P.	Total REG*	% REG of V.A.P *	Turnout	% TO of V.A.P.
1960	109,672,000	63,854,789 *	58.22%	68,838,204	62.77%
1964	114,090,000	73,715,818 *	64.61%	70,644,592	61.92%
1968	120,328,186	81,658,180 *	67.86%	73,211,875	60.84%
1972	140,776,000	97,283,541 *	69.11%	77,718,554	55.21%
1976	152,309,190	105,024,916 *	68.96%	81,555,789	53.55%
1980	164,597,000	113,036,958 *	68.67%	86,515,221	52.56%
1984	173,936,000	124,184,647 *	71.18%	92,652,842	53.27%
1988	182,628,000	126,381,202 *	69.20%	91,594,809	50.15%
1992	189,044,000	133,821,178 *	70.79%	104,426,659	55.24%
1996	196,498,000	146,211,960 *	74.40%	96,277,634	49.00%
2000	205,815,000	156,421,311 *	76.00%	105,405,100	51.21%
2004	215,694,000	174,800,000 *	79.00%	122,295,345	56.70%
2008	225,499,000	TBD	TBD	131,313,820	58.23%
2012	235,248,000	TBD	TBD	129,085,403	54.87%

How U.S. Voter Turnout Measures Up

Share of voting age population that voted in the most recent national election

Country	Turnout
Belgium 2014*	87.2%
Sweden 2014	82.6%
South Korea 2017	77.9%
Israel 2015	76.1%
New Zealand 2017	75.7%
Germany 2017	69.1%
France 2017	67.9%
United Kingdom 2017	63.2%
Canada 2015	62.1%
Spain 2016	61.2%
United States 2016	55.7%
Switzerland 2015*	38.6%

* National law makes voting compulsory, though not necessarily enforced. In addition, one Swiss canton has compulsory voting.

Source: Pew Research Center

Forbes **statista**

United States National VEP Voter Turnout
1789-2014

Voting Turnout Trends

- This is another data table that's super interesting.

- http://infogram.com/voter-turnout-1g43mnr3kj79pzy

Who doesn't vote in the U.S.? (6.4)

Non-voting Voters

- These are the many <u>voters who vote in an election, but not for all the offices or measures on the ballot</u>

Who doesn't vote in the U.S.

Cannot Voters:

• Some "non-voters" are actually <u>unable to vote because they're disabled</u>, they are <u>not legal residents</u> or their <u>religious beliefs prevent them from voting</u>

Who Doesn't Vote in the U.S.?

Actual Nonvoters:

- Those <u>voters who are eligible and able but don't vote</u>

- Over 100 million eligible to vote in 2016 election did not!

Why don't people vote?

- *What factors affect voting turnout?*

**Political Efficacy**- the degree to which one feels his/her vote matters and makes a difference.

- People with high political efficacy vote. Those with low, do not.

Activity- Voter Turnout

- Use the LEFT side of your INB
- "Fair Vote Voter Turnout"
- **Use the non-partisan website *Fair Vote***
  http://www.fairvote.org/
  voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101

USE the handout to guide your analysis of
  the site and answer questions in INB.

Fair Vote Q's

- 1. Describe the overall trends in voter turnout in US elections. List FIVE key points.

- 2. What affects voter turnout rates? Describe THREE things.

- 3. Who is likely to vote in terms of demographic background?

- 4. How can we increase voter turnout in the U.S.? Should we? Explain.

Thursday

- Who votes and who doesn't? Why?
- What are the common barriers to better voter turnout in the US?
- How do different demographic groups vote? What are the patterns?

Rules that can Reduce Voter Turnout

- **1. Registration requirements** – 49 States require registration before elections. Is an extra burden on voters.

- Most states require registration ahead of time (2-4 weeks usually).

- Some states now offer same-day registration to help.

Rules that can Reduce Voter Turnout

- **2. Tuesday election days** - Is a work day; popular times create long lines; polls open 8-8, typically.

- This day is established by Constitution so would require an amendment to change!

- If the candidates' stance on issues is seen as dramatically different, turnout is better

Who Votes?

- Review the handout of **Turnout Graphs** that capture data about who votes.

- For each graph, **write ONE true statement that is proven by the data on the graph AND ONE effect of that data.**

1. Race / ethnicity
2. % of white population
3. Age
4. Education

Non-Voters

Non voters are likely to:

- Have <u>LESS **education**</u>—HS diploma or less
- Be <u>younger than 35</u>
- Live in <u>rural</u> areas rather than urban cities
- Be <u>unmarried</u>
- Be <u>unskilled / lack formal job training</u>
- Are more often <u>men</u> than women

Voter Behavior (6.5)

- **Voter Behavior-**is measured by <u>election results</u>, <u>research polls</u>, and <u>studies of political socialization</u>

- **Political socialization**- <u>Influences that shape our political values and beliefs</u>

  – **Family**, <u>school, religion, peers, culture</u>

Sociological Factors

- **Income & Occupation**: <u>Wealthier Americans tend vote more often than others.</u>

- ***Education level**: <u>The higher your education, the more likely you are to vote</u>;

- **Gender**: <u>Women are more likely to vote </u>than men.

- **Married people -** <u>vote at higher rates than single</u>

*This is BEST overall predictor

Sociological Factors

- **Age**: <u>Younger voters vote D</u> more often than R

- **Religious**: <u>Evangelical Christians vote Republican</u>; no religion vote D more often.

- **Ethnic Background-** <u>Minorities vote overwhelmingly for Democrats</u>

- **Geography**: <u>Rural voters are more likely Republicans</u>, regardless of income level; <u>city dwellers vote D</u>

- **Family, other group affiliation**: Families vote similarly

*No one of these factors taken alone is a good predictor

Psychological Factors

- **<u>Party Identification</u>**: A strong connection to a party over time is the single **<u>best indicator</u>** of how a person will vote
  - **<u>Straight Ticket Voting</u>**-Voting consistently for ONE party over the other

- **Candidates**: A <u>candidate's personality and image can be important influences</u>

- **Issues**: <u>Values issues (abortion, same sex marriage, etc.) often sway voters</u>

Gender Gap Activity

1. What is the **gender gap**? Explain in your own words.

2. How is this gap relevant to Democrats and Republicans in general/most elections? Cite TWO ways.

3. What key issues do men and women disagree on? Cite THREE examples.

4. Why do you think the gender gap exists?