

Belgium

“decades of mandatory voting in Belgium has turned voting into a shared “civic duty.””

“Citizens receive a voting card two weeks before elections that states that they could be fined for not voting.”

“Belgium also encourages **high turnout by holding European elections on the same day as regional and federal elections**, which voters tend to be more invested in”

“Supporters of compulsory voting say it increases participation in elections, especially for marginalized groups that typically don’t vote. They say it prevents interest groups from paying people not to vote, gives more legitimacy to democratic institutions, and is **cheaper and more effective** than other methods of voter outreach.

But others believe that forcing citizens to vote goes against the very idea of democracy. They worry it fosters resentment against the political system, and encourages people to vote “**randomly**” or cast **blank or null votes**.”

“ Sweden does not have compulsory voting. Yet 87% of its voting population turned out for parliamentary elections **last year**—in part **because of the country’s investment in voter participation and flexible voting regulations** (Sweden allows voters to return to a polling station and **vote a second time** if they’ve changed their mind, for example.)”

<https://qz.com/1605690/european-election-belgiums-voter-turnout-rate-is-an-outlier/>

Sweden

“Elections for the European Union parliament were held in May, and then the **joint elections for local, regional and national Swedish parliaments** were held in September.”

“use of our very **generous voting regulations**—we permit early voting, voting by mail, and even second voting. What’s second voting? People who voted early can go to a polling station on Election Day and change their vote in person; When people do this, the vote in the polling station is accepted and the advance vote declared invalid.”

“**automatic voter registration**—you don’t have to sign up yourself. And we have been aggressive in making sure that **voters who were not born in Sweden** but have lived here for three years (**non-citizens with residency can vote in local and regional elections**) **are on the rolls.**”

“organized meetings with Somali-Swedish women, **translated the Democracy Passport into Arabic**, and **invited new voters to participate in walks** we organized and **staffed with interpreters** to the offices of elected officials, political parties and interest groups.”

after these measures, went from 82% to 87%

<https://time.com/3558705/boost-voter-turnout-sweden-america/>

California

“provides for a significant expansion of so-called conditional voter registration, which allows a new voter to cast a ballot that is counted after eligibility is determined during the 30-day vote-counting period after an election”

““This simply enfranchises more people to vote,” said state Sen. Tom Umberg (D-Santa Ana), the author of the new law. “The presidential race is one thing, but **this is going to make an even bigger difference in turnout for local races.**””

“Sixteen states, along with the District of Columbia, already allow election day voter registration. Supporters have argued the laws boost turnout, as some **voters become energized by political campaigns only after registration deadlines have passed.**”

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-08/californians-register-to-vote-any-polling-place-2020-new-law>

AVR - automatic voter registration upon first interaction with government agency once eligible

turnout of automatically registered voters typically lower than those who registered themselves

“all new voters there **received two or three reminders of their registration status** in the thick of campaign season — first, when they registered at a government agency; second, when they received confirmation of their registration in the mail; and, in D.C., third, when they **received the usual pre-election postcard.**”

“ We can’t know how many of these voters would have registered (or updated their registrations) without AVR. For one thing, new eligible voters are created every day as people turn 18 or become citizens, and many of them could be captured by AVR before they get around to registering themselves to vote.”

“ AVR appears to deserve at least some of the credit for this boost in civic participation. For example, according to **Colorado state election officials, the state saw a big increase in the number of people registering to vote at the DMV after spring 2017, which they attribute to the implementation of AVR.** A [report](#) by the Brennan Center for Justice, an advocacy group that supports AVR (among a number of other causes), found that AVR was directly responsible for increased registration rates in several states. And then there’s the **behavioral economics of it all.** Reed College professor Paul Gronke told FiveThirtyEight that social science research has generally found that an **opt-out system (like AVR) is more effective than an opt-in one** (like having to actively register yourself).”

JURISDICTION	AVR VOTERS	AVR	OVERALL TURNOUT RATE*
		TURNOUT RATE	
Colorado	107,206	44%	68%
D.C.	4,184	54	46
Oregon	219,262	42	70
Rhode Island	3,245	47	48

Vermont**

2,058 to 11,754

8 to 44

57

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/automatic-voter-registration-summary>

^^ states that have approved AVR

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-happened-when-2-2-million-people-were-automatically-registered-to-vote/>

Canada

“CASA rolled out its **Get Out the Vote campaign this fall, with 20,900 votes pledged by the first week of October**. It’s joined by other student-led initiatives like the **National Student Letter signed by dozens of student associations to highlight the election issues that are critical to student voters**. And after a successful pilot project that saw 70,000 students cast a ballot at some 40 campus-based Elections Canada offices, the federal agency will run its Vote on Campus program at over 115 campuses across the country this year, with the potential to reach 1.3 million students.”

“The potential impact of the student voter is augmented this year by the fact that young adults between 18 and 38, who encompass a key age demographic in universities, are the single largest voting bloc in the country – comprising 37 percent of the electorate – based on data by Elections Canada. **But that potential will need to be matched with an equal amount of motivation.**

“It’s hard to predict what the [voter] turnouts are going to be, but I get a sense that there doesn’t appear to be real excitement yet about this election,” said David Coletto of Abacus Data. **“Younger voters need a unifying reason to go out and vote ... and so far, this election seems like it has been a mishmash of policies without an overarching narrative.”**

““Not only are students interacting more with various campaigns like ours, but there’s also a **much greater accessibility for them to vote on campus and not have to take the time to drive back to their hometown to vote**. It’s all making a big difference.””

<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/campus-initiatives-seek-to-maintain-trend-of-growing-turnout-among-youth-voters/>

Texas

“If we get [young] folks to vote in two to three elections, they become lifelong voters,” he said. “And so this election, after that massive growth in 2018, it is going to be critical to creating that habit for young voters.”

“close election made it easier to raise money for efforts aimed at getting even more young people and people of color to vote”

“Rae Martinez, who works for a youth voter engagement effort called Texas Rising, said investing in young voters in Texas has largely fallen to nonprofits because campaigns see it as a bad investment.”

<https://www.texastribune.org/2019/09/24/young-texas-voter-turnout-exploded-2018-some-want-it-even-bigger-2020/>

