

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Progressives Beware: High Turnout Now Favours The Right](#)

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**Tweet:** Higher turnout elections used to favor Democrats; however, in 2016 and 2020 "the more people nudged from abstention to voting, the higher Trump's vote share." @jburnmurdoch

**Summary:** In US elections from the 1960s to 2000, the wealthy and well-educated voters who turned out come rain or shine were natural Republicans. Conversely, the wider the segment of society casting ballots, the more of them from lower socio-economic groups and the bluer the political environment. This age-old pattern has been turned on its head by the political realignment brought by Donald Trump's arrival in 2016. Before Trump, economically marginalised groups leaned left. Today they lean increasingly rightward. The result is that the partisan turnout gradient has reversed. Now, the graduate-heavy voter pools in lower-turnout elections tend to benefit Democrats, and a larger, more working-class electorate no longer means a bluer one. At the time of Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 victories, the typical "marginal abstainer" — someone who came close to voting but stayed home — leaned more Democratic than the average voter. By 2016 this had reversed, and the more people nudged from abstention to voting, the higher Trump's vote share. Related: The Road to A Political Realignment in American Politics and Consistent Signs of Erosion in Black and Hispanic Support for Biden and The Shape Of Polarization in America

**Primary Topic:** Politics

**Topics:** Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Weekly

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