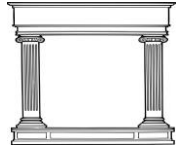


# *Servus Publicus*



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## AMERICAN VOTING TRENDS: A COMPLEX CONUNDRUM

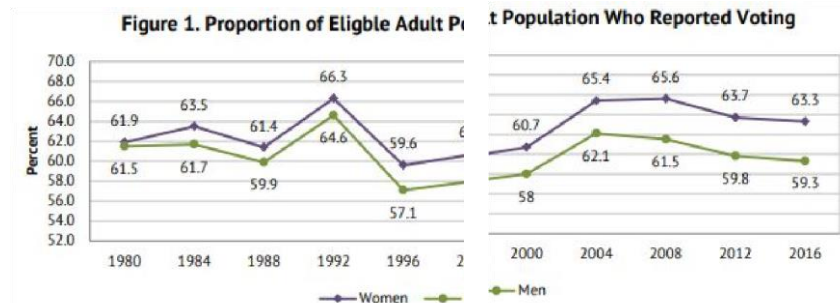
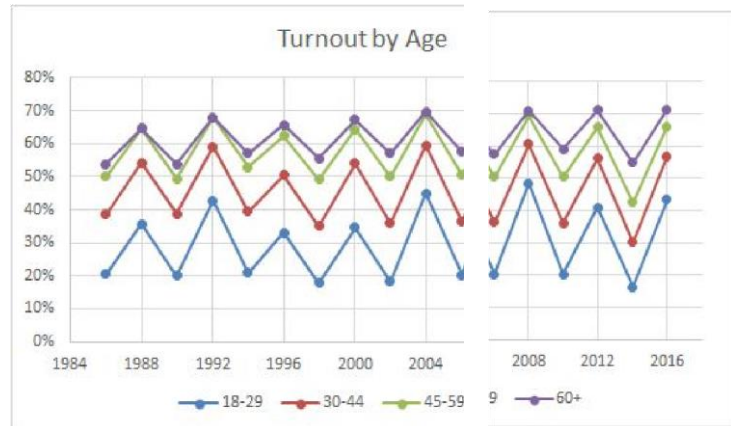
By EXAMPLE STUDENT

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Reported voter turnout in 2016 for the United States of all eligible populace was 56% compared to 87% of registered voters. This is just one aspect of the complexities of Voting Trends. What else is there to understand?

### Voter Turnout Demographics:

A major component of understand American Voting Trends is to look at the demographics of those voting. This can be broken down by Age, Gender, and Ethnic Group.

When looking at voter turnout by age, the older groups have higher turnout rates, with greater than 70% for the 60+ age group in the 2016 elections; this can be compared against the greater than 40% voter turnout of the 18-29 age group. The 45-59 age group voter turnout is only ever slightly less than the 60+ age group; in 2016 it was only slightly below 70%.



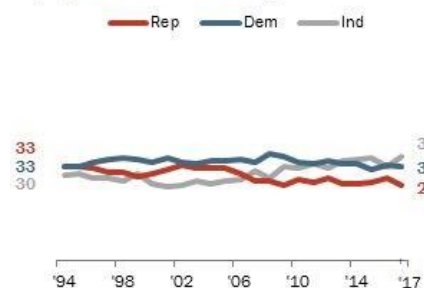
The 30-44 age group falls right below eligible female voters have participated influence. 45-59, but with a slightly larger gap, at compared to their eligible male Evangelical and Protestant sub-60% voter turnout in 2016. The counterparts. In older age groups, Christians and Mormons have tended gap between age groups is largest for there are more females than males, to be more Republican (81%, 58%, youth 18-29, however. Generally, while on average, the ratio of men to and 61% in 2016 election) while those voter turnout by age group has varied women is 1:1. of other faiths, Judaism, Hispanic little since 1984 when accounting for Religious and ethnic background do Catholicism, and other religions have lower turnout in odd years, save for indeed affect voter turnout, albeit to a tended to be more Democratic. lower turnout for all in 2014. Being lesser extent that age group and **Political Beliefs:** that those age 19-34 make up 21% of gender. In 2016, the percentage of Of all Americans, polling places the US population, youth now have a Blacks voting (60%) nearly equaled 35% of the population self-identifying tremendous number of people voting. that of Whites, at 65%. Hispanics and as Conservative, 35% self-identifying When looking at voter turnout by other races combined both voted at as Moderate, and 26% self-identifying Gender, there has been a clear gap in 45% of their population. Whites still as Liberal, Conservative having participation between the two genders. remain a significant portion of the declined compared to previous years Since 1980, a higher percentage of electorate and still wield significant with the latter two climbing. In terms

of registered voters, however, only 26% are registered Republicans, 33% are registered Democrats, and 37% are Independent.

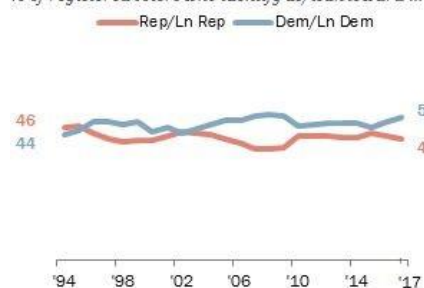
Non-white populations generally vote Democrat in large numbers, and despite recent attempts at shakeup, they generally remain solidly Democratic.

### Democrats hold slightly wider edge in leaned party affiliation than 2015-16

% of registered voters who identify as ...



% of registered voters who identify as/lean toward ...



Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Annual totals of Pew Research Center survey data (U.S. adults).

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### Feelings About Government:

Americans have had generally low trust in government since the 1990s, recovering until the early 2000s, whence it began to decline to its current 18% of those surveyed trusting Washington always or most of the time. High trust in government has not really existed since the >70% survey reports in the 1960s.

A significant portion of Americans don't just distrust the government, but also believe it is the active enemy of the people. Pew Research reports in 2015 stated that 27% of registered voters saw the government as the enemy, a whopping 8 point climb from previous studies in 1996. More than half of the electorate is frustrated with government, a fourth sees them as the enemy, and less than a fifth are satisfied. These are shocking statistics that signify a need for change somewhere, be it in government or the media or society.

Many wonder why there are some who are not even actively engaged in politics. Some may attribute this lack of engagement to a general feeling of apathy, which holds true among younger age groups, and some would

attribute it to the complexity of politics in the United States, which some studies have found to actually be untrue. A

Hamilton College study found that only 7.2% of young people aged 18-24

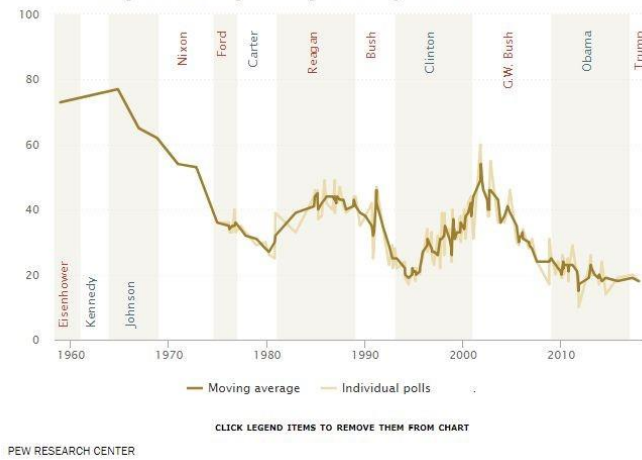
believed youth disengagement from politics was caused by complexity. The vast majority attributed lack of political participation to politicians' negative campaign and lack of concern for the issues dearest to young people.

When it comes to the rest of America, however, there are many who believe politics are too complicated, but this is not the core of the issue.

### Takeaways:

Voter participation is a cornerstone of a well-functioning democratic form of government, and it is important that America works on improving its political system to combat the trend of declining voter participation and get more people politically engaged and believing in government. This applies not only to federal elections and participation, but to local and state levels, also.

% who trust the govt in Washington always or most of the time



Presidential vote by religious affiliation and race

	2000		2004		2008		2012		2016		Dem change '12-'16
	Gore %	Bush %	Kerry %	Bush %	Obama %	McCain %	Obama %	Romney %	Clinton %	Trump %	
Protestant/other Christian	42	56	40	59	45	54	42	57	39	58	-3
Catholic	50	47	47	52	54	45	50	48	45	52	-5
White Catholic	45	52	43	56	47	52	40	59	37	60	-3
Hispanic Catholic	65	33	65	33	72	26	75	21	67	26	-8
Jewish	79	19	74	25	78	21	69	30	71	24	+2
Other faiths	62	28	74	23	73	22	74	23	62	29	-12
Religiously unaffiliated	61	30	67	31	75	23	70	26	68	26	-2
White, born-again/evangelical Christian	n/a	n/a	21	78	24	74	21	78	16	81	-5
Mormon	n/a	n/a	19	80	n/a	n/a	21	78	25	61	+4

Note: "Protestant" refers to people who described themselves as "Protestant," "Mormon" or "other Christian" in exit polls; this categorization most closely approximates the exit poll data reported immediately after the election by media sources. The "white, born-again/evangelical Christian" row includes both Protestants and non-Protestants (e.g., Catholics, Mormons, etc.) who self-identify as born-again or evangelical Christians.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of exit poll data. 2004 Hispanic Catholic estimates come from aggregated state exit polls conducted by the National Election Pool. Other estimates come from Voter News Service/National Election Pool national exit polls. 2012 data come from reports at NBCNews.com and National Public Radio. 2016 data come from reports at NBCNews.com and CNN.com.

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