**Despite Minnesota’s high voter turnout, youth and minority participation declined**

As Minnesota and the rest of the country look toward cascades of upcoming off-year political races and midterm elections, the most recent presidential contest’s aftermath is still revealing new data about who voted – and who didn’t.

Minnesota is known for its high voter turnout – <a href=” <http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-had-the-nation-s-highest-voter-turnout-again-here-s-one-reason-why/416247753/>”>it lead the nation again in 2016</a> – but the state saw notable drops in participation among young voters and minorities.

The <a href=”https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html”>Voting in America survey from the U.S. Census Bureau</a> paints a picture of stark declines among black voters and younger voters, particularly in important battleground states where thin margins helped propel President Donald Trump’s historic electoral victory back in November.

The survey shows 2016 turnout among Minnesotans aged 18 to 24 dropped nearly 7 percent compared to 2012. And while the black vote was up in Minnesota, the overall minority vote crashed by about 6 percent.

The Census survey has some higher than usual margins of error on the state level, preventing a deeper dive into the weeds, but there are still useful overall trends to draw from the data.

Nationally, the black vote declined about 7 percent compared to 2012, while Hispanic turnout increased by a single point between elections, despite immigration being a hot topic during the campaign.

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The survey data shows the overall minority vote in 28 states and Washington D.C. declined, including in Minnesota where the race was closer than expected and battlegrounds like Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Michigan and North Carolina where Trump won by narrow margins.

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Millennial turnout -- those aged 18 to 34 -- had a slightly uptick in turnout nationally, but fell in 19 states including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan and Florida.

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Minnesota is about 75 percent white with a median age of 37, so these declines among younger and minority voting seemingly contributed to to an overall state voter turnout decrease of only a point between 2012 and 2016.

Though Sec. Hillary Clinton (D) barely won historically blue Minnesota by about two points.

And with 2018 midterms on the horizon, along with several local and off-year races yet to come in 2017, it’s worth noting Minnesota’s midterm election turnout has dropped about 14 points since 2002.

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