















Voting Terms

- suffrage the right to vote
- enfranchise to be given the right to vote
- electorate the group of people who can vote

If You Don't Vote, DON'T COMPLAIN!

- Voting lets your voice and your opinions be heard in gov't
 - You elect someone to speak for you (someone whose values you agree with)

 It is your duty as a citizen to vote and participate in the gov't you live under

Be an INFORMED Voter

- Stay informed and know the candidates, issues, and current events before you vote!
- Be a responsible citizen and know about your gov't!

Voting Qualifications

- You must be:
 - A U.S. citizen
 - 18 years old
 - Registered to vote
 - A resident of the state you are registered in

Corruption and Voting

- Throughout history, many methods were used to keep people from voting:
 - <u>Literacy tests</u> people had to prove they were able to read before they could vote
 - Gerrymandering voting districts would be redrawn to keep certain people from voting
 - Poll taxes people had to pay to vote
 - Voter I.D.s* people are required to show photo
 I.D.s at the polls in many states (*current issue)

Expanding Suffrage

- Originally, only white men with property could vote
- 15th Amendment (1870) enabled all men to vote regardless of race or color (enforced by Voting Rights Act of 1965)
- 19th Amendment (1920)— all women could vote
- 26th Amendment (1971)— minimum voting age is 18 years old

Voter Behavior

- Nonvoters the population of people who don't vote
- Out of the 219 million people eligible to vote in 2012, 99 million people <u>DID NOT VOTE</u>.
 66 million didn't even bother to REGISTER.

WHY??

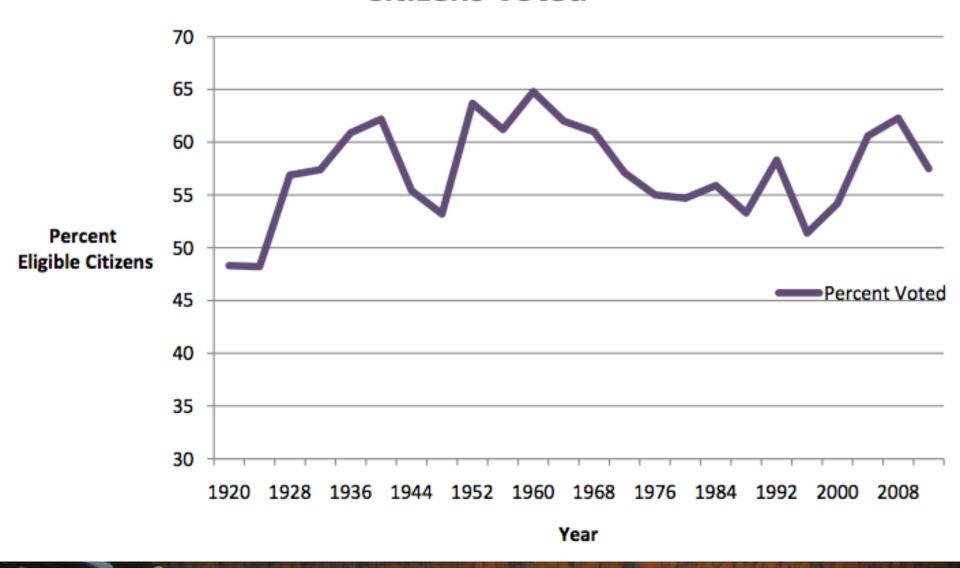
Who are they?

- "Cannot" Voters includes people who are not citizens, too ill to vote, in mental institutions, or imprisoned
- Nonvoters qualified, healthy citizens who still don't vote
 - Ex: only 58% of the eligible voting population voted in the 2012 election

1. Turnout Trend: The number and percentage of eligible citizens who voted for President in elections since 1920.

YEAR	Citizens Eligible	Vote Percent of E	ligible Voted	Pct. Pt. Adj Pct * Dif. Voted
2012	218,959,000	126,000,000 (est.)	57.5	-4.8
2008	208,323,000	131,304,357	62.3	2.4
2004	201,780,000	122,265,430	60.6	6.4
2000	194,327,000	105,399,313	54.2	2.8
1996	187,437,000	96,277,872	51.4	-6.9
1992	179,048,000	104,428,377	58.3	5.0
1988	171,855,000	91,594,805	53.3	-2.6
1984	165,727,000	92,659,600	55.9	1.2
1980	158,111,000	86,515,221	54.7	-0.3
1976	148,419,000	81,555,889	55.0	-2.1
1972	136,228,000	77,718,554	57.1	-3.9
1968	119,955,000	73,211,875	61.0	-1.0

Turnout Trend 1920 - 2012 Percent Eligible Citizens Voted



Why don't they vote?

- "No matter who wins, I'll still be okay."
- "I don't trust ANY politicians."
- "My vote doesn't matter; it won't change the election."
 - Political Efficacy the belief that you and your vote make a difference in the government
- "I don't have the time."
- "I don't care about politics/the government."

Who is MOST likely to vote?

People who:

- -are native-born U.S. citizens
- -are at least high school graduates (especially college grads)
- -are 45+ years in age
- -are married
- -have incomes of \$50,000-\$100,000 or more per year
- -have voted before
- -identify with a particular political party

Studying Voter Behavior

- Determined by previous election stats, polls, and political socialization
- Political Socialization How you develop your political views
 - Family
 - School
 - Mass Media (TV, internet, radio, etc.)
 - Religion
 - Peers/Friends

Voting Trends by Single Factors

• 1.) AGE

- -the older you are = more likely you are to vote
- -younger voters tend to vote Democrat, older ones vote Republican

Table 399. Voting-Age Population—Reported Registration and Voting by Selected Characteristics: 1996 to 2010

[198.2 represents 198,200,000. As of November. Covers civilian noninstitutional population 18 years old and over. Includes aliens. Figures are based on Current Population Survey (see text, Section 1 and Appendiand differ from those in Table 397 based on population estimates and official vote counts)

					Percent reporting they voted								
Cha	aracteristic		Presidential election years				gressional tion years						
		1996	2000	2004	2008	2002	2006	2010					
Total 1	31.2 33.4 43.1 54.9	54.7 28.4 35.4 43.7 55.0 64.1 67.6	58.3 41.0 42.5 46.9 56.9 66.6 68.9	41.0 41.0 42.5 46.6 46.9 48.5 56.9 55.2 66.6 65.0		43.6 17.1 21.9 28.3 40.1 54.3 60.5	16.4 22.0 26.9 37.7 51.1						
2012	2012		Group		Obama			Romne					
All Voters		Pct.		51%			47%						
Age	18-29	19			60			37					
	30-44	27	27 38		52			45					
	45-64	38			47			51					
65 & over		16			44			56					

2.) RELIGION

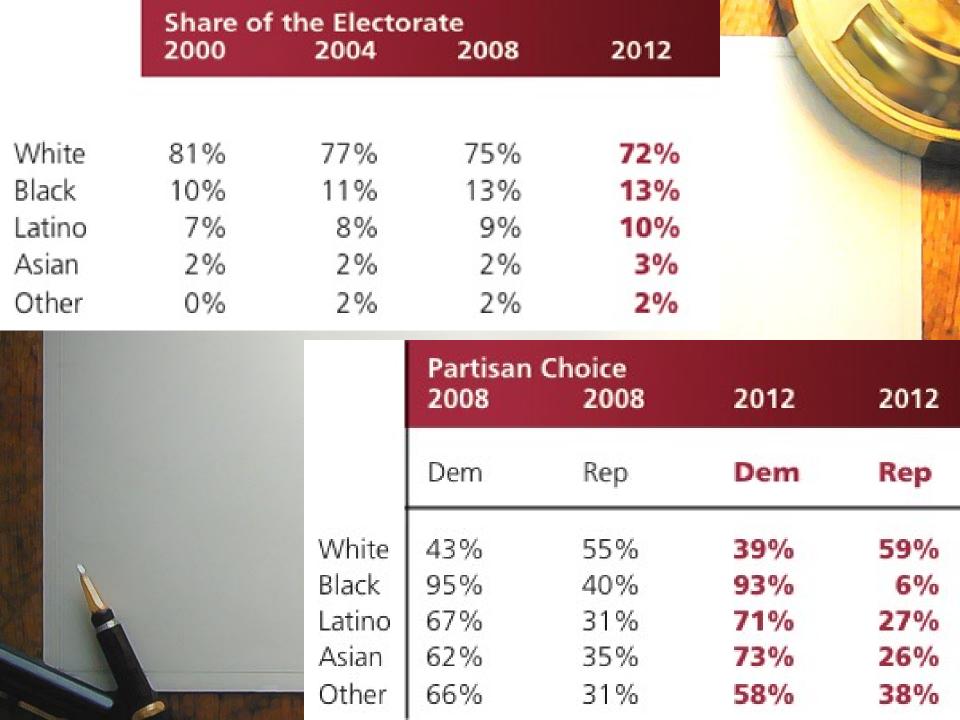
- Protestants (non-Catholics) tend to vote Republican
- Catholics, Jews, and non-religious populations tend to vote Democrat

Presidential Vote by Religious Affiliation and Race

	20	000	20	2004		800	2012	
	Gore	Bush	Kerry	Bush	Obama	McCain	Obama	Romne
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TOTAL	48	48	48	51	53	46	50	48
Protestant/Other Christian	42	56	40	59	45	54	42	57
White Prot/Other Christian	35	63	32	67	34	65	30	69
Born-again/evangelical	n/a	n/a	21	79	26	73	20	79
Non-evangelical	n/a	n/a	44	55	44	55	44	54
Black Prot/Other Christian	92	7	86	13	94	4	95	5
Catholic	50	47	47	52	54	45	50	48
White Catholic	45	52	43	56	47	52	40	59
Hispanic Catholic	65	33	65	33	72	26	75	21
Jewish	79	19	74	25	78	21	69	30
Other faiths	62	28	74	23	73	22	74	23
Religiously unaffiliated	61	30	67	31	75	23	70	26
Mormon	n/a	n/a	19	80	n/a	n/a	21	78

3.) ETHNICITY / RACE

- White populations usually vote GOP, minorities usually vote Dem.
- Whites tend to vote more than minorities



4.) INCOME / EMPLOYMENT

- Incomes over \$50,000 a year usually vote
 GOP, lower incomes vote Dem.
- Employed people vote more than unemployed people do

	2012	Group	Obama	Romney		
INCOME	<\$50,000	41	60	38		
	\$50,000-90,000	31	46	52		
	\$100,000 & over	28	44	54		

	Percent reporting they voted							
	Presidential election years				Congressional election years			
[1996	2000	2004	2008	2002	2006	2010	
Employed	55.2 37.2	55.5 35.1	60.0 46.4	60.1 48.8	42.1 27.2	43.9 28.0	42.5 31.6	
Not in labor force	54.1	54.5	56.2	55.5	44.2	44.3	42.3	

• 5.) EDUCATION

 People with a HS diploma or higher tend to vote more than those without one

	Percent reporting they voted								
	Presidential election years					Congressional election years			
	1996	2000	2004	2008	2002	2006	2010		
School years completed:									
8 years or less	28.1	26.8	23.6	23.4	19.4	17.1	15.8		
Less than high school graduate	33.8	33.6	34.6	33.7	23.3	22.8	20.8		
High school graduate or GED 5	49.1	49.4	52.4	50.9	37.1	37.6	35.2		
Some college or associate's degree	60.5	60.3	66.1	65.0	45.8	47.3	44.4		
Bachelor's or advanced degree		72.0	74.2	73.3	58.5	59.5	57.1		
2012							(1) (1)		

	2012	Group	Obama	Romney
EDUCATION	Some HS	3	64	35
	HS graduate	21	51	48
	Some college	29	49	48
	College graduate	29	47	51
	Postgraduate study	18	55	42

• 6.) GEOGRAPHY

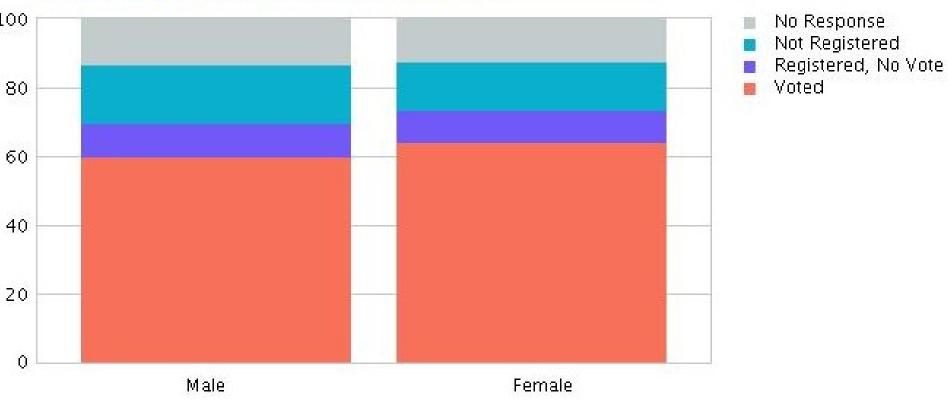
- Cities tend to vote Democrat, while rural areas vote Republican
- Some states have higher turnout rates depending on registration, politics, etc.

STATE	TURNOUT		STATE	TURNOUT		STATE TURNO	UT	RANK '12 ('08
		′12 (′08)			12 (108)			12 (00
Minnesota	76.1%	1 (1)	Missouri	63.1%	18 (7)	Rhode Island	58.6%	35 (31)
Wisconsin	73.2%	2(2)	New Jersey	62.6%	19 (19)	Kansas	58.1%	36 (28)
Colorado	71.1%	3 (5)	Delaware	62.0%	20 (37)	Nevada	57.2%	37 (43)
New Hampshire	70.9%	4 (4)	Connecticut	61.5%	21 (14)	South Carolina	57.1%	38 (42)
lowa	70.2%	5 (6)	North Dakota	61.1%	22 (23)	Utah	56.0%	39 (48)
Maine	69.2%	6(3)	Louisiana	61.0%	23 (32)	Indiana	56.0%	40 (38)
Virginia	66.9%	7 (11)	Idaho	60.9%	24 (27)	California	55.9%	41 (33)
Maryland	66.8%	8 (12)	Vermont	60.9%	25 (18)	Kentucky	55.9%	42 (40)
Massachusetts	66.6%	9 (20)	Nebraska	60.8%	26 (30)	New Mexico	54.9%	43 (39)
Michigan	65.3%	10 (8)	Mississippi	60.3%	27 (35)	New York	53.6%	44 (41)
North Carolina	65.2%	11 (21)	South Dakota	60.1%	28 (25)	Arizona	53.3%	45 (46)
Ohio	65.2%	12 (16)	Pennsylvania	59.9%	29 (26)	Tennessee	52.6%	46 (44)
Washington	65.0%	13 (15)	Alabama	59.5%	30 (34)	Arkansas	51.0%	47 (49)
Oregon	64.3%	14 (9)	Illinois	59.3%	31 (29)	Texas	50.1%	48 (47)
Montana	63.6%	15 (17)	Wyoming	59.3%	32 (24)	Oklahoma	49.6%	49 (45)
Florida	64.0%	16 (13)	Alaska	59.2%	33 (10)	West Virginia	46.8%	50 (50)
DC	63.3%	17 (22)	Georgia		34 (36)	Hawaii	44.5%	51 (51)



- Women tend to vote more than men do
 - Women tend to vote Democratic, men Republican

Voting and registration by sex in United States: 2012



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

Party Identification

- The loyalty of people to a particular political party
- Straight-ticket voting voting for candidates from only one party on your ballot
- Split-ticket voting voting for candidates from both parties on your ballot

Independents

- People who don't identify with any political party
- Especially important in close elections (can help tip the election to help one side win)

Voting on State Measures

- Initiative voters want to change their state laws and petition to put it on the ballot/send to state legislature
 - VOTERS start the process with petitions

- Referendum state legislature sends a measure/possible law for voter approval on ballot
- Ex: changes to a state constitution must be approved by the state's residents

 Recall - lets voters remove/replace a gov't official before they finish their term in office