

# ***American Government***

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## *Voters and Voter Behavior*



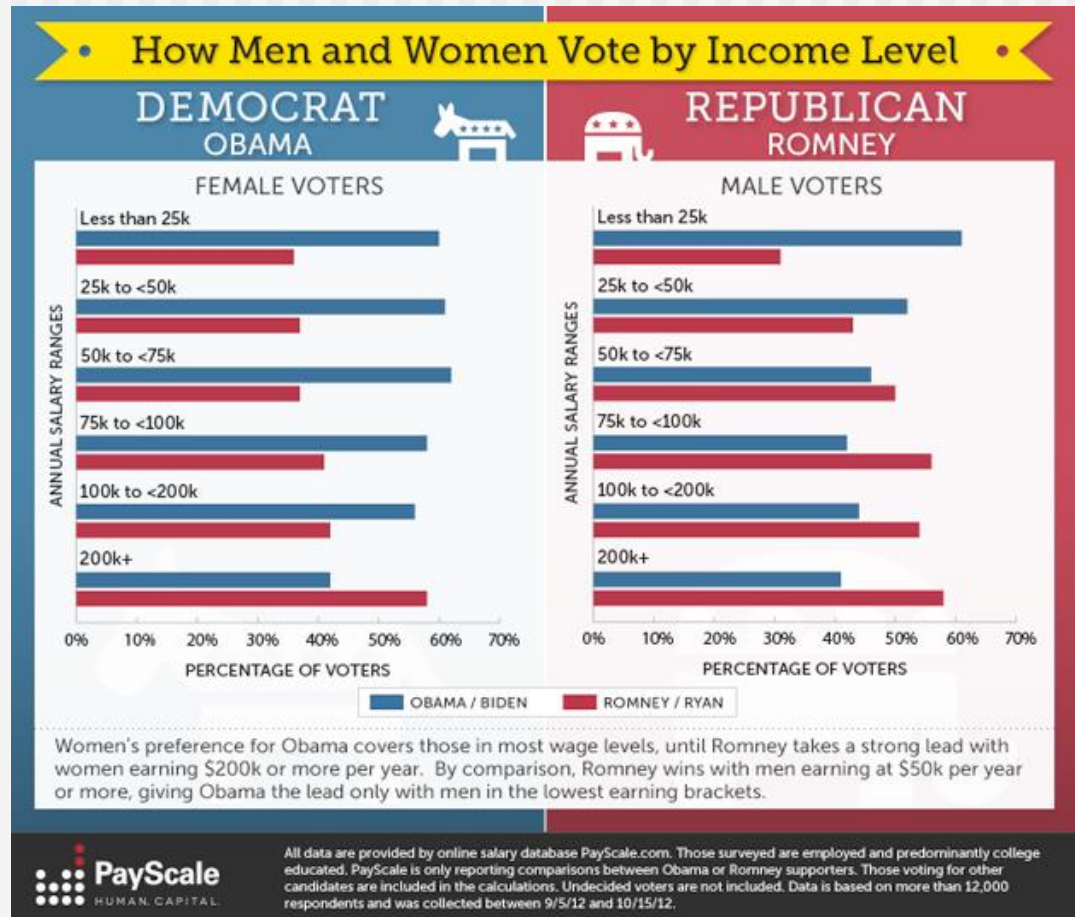
# I.) Factors Affecting Voter Behavior:

## A.) The Sociological Factors:

### INCOME/OCCUPATION

Democrats:  
Lower income

Republicans  
Upper Income

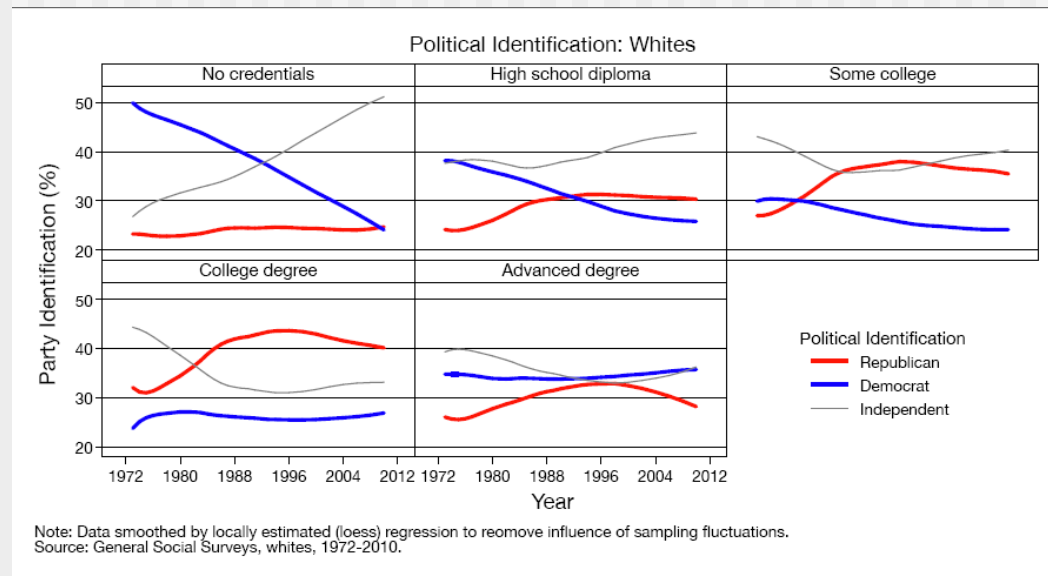


# Education



## Education:

- High School: Rep.
- College: Rep.
- Grad School: Dem.



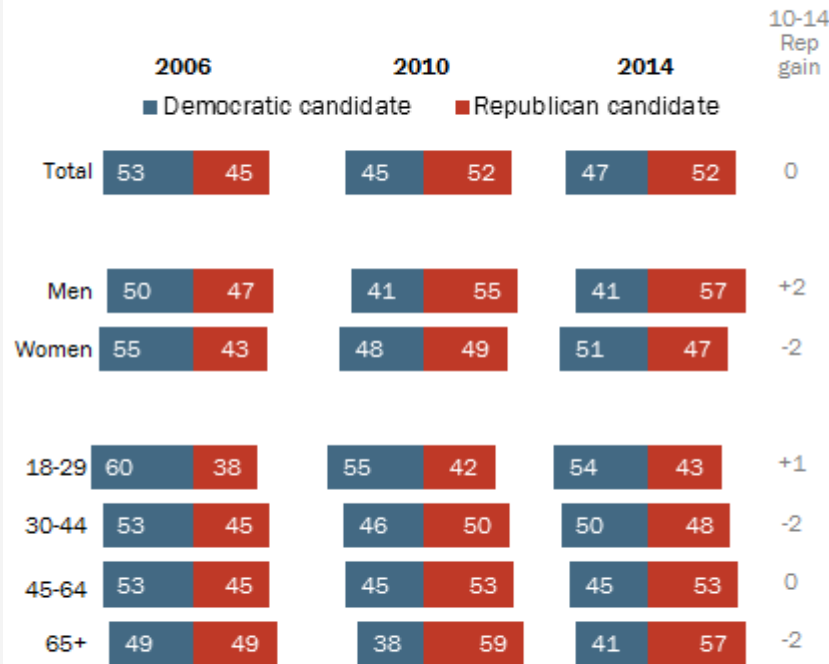
# GENDER

MEN: tend to vote Rep.

WOMEN: tend to vote Dem.

## Men, Older Americans Key to GOP's Victory

% who say they voted for the \_\_\_ in the election for House of Representatives



Exit poll conducted by Edison Research for the National Election Pool, as reported by NBC and the New York Times.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

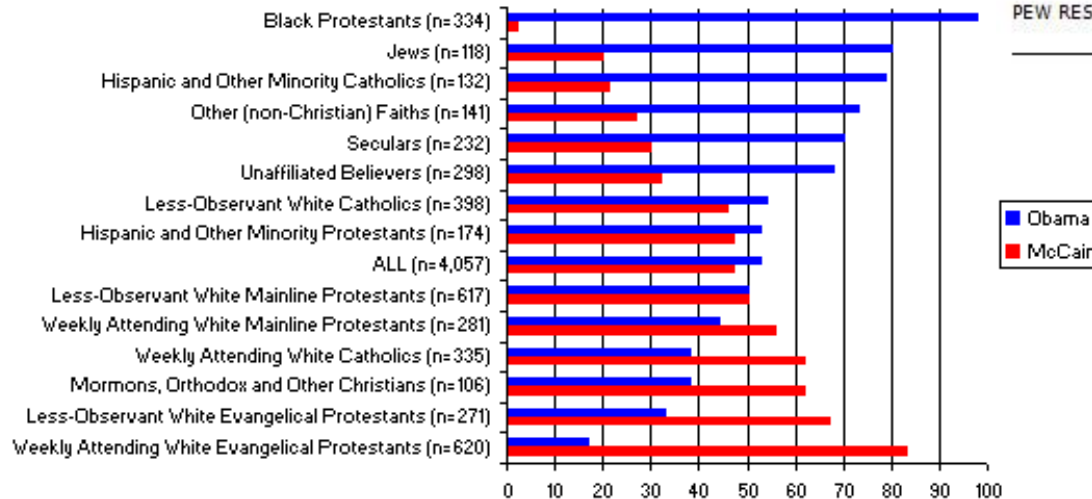
# RELIGION

## Trends in Party Identification by Religion

Among registered voters

	2008		2011		Rep gain
	Rep/ Lean Rep	Dem/ Lean Dem	Rep/ Lean Rep	Dem/ Lean Dem	
	%	%	%	%	
All voters	39	51	43	48	+4
Protestant	45	46	50	43	+5
White Protestant	55	36	61	31	+6
Evangelical Prot.	65	28	70	24	+5
Mainline Prot.	45	45	51	39	+6
Black Protestant	5	89	6	88	+1
Catholic	37	53	43	48	+6
White Catholic	41	49	49	42	+8
Mormon	68	19	80	17	+12
Jewish	20	72	29	65	+9
Unaffiliated	25	64	27	61	+2
Atheist/Agnostic	18	72	21	71	+3
Nothing in particular	27	60	30	56	+3

## Religious Groups and the 2008 Presidential Vote



Based on registered voters. Source is aggregated surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Figures read across, with the percentage not identifying with or leaning toward either party not shown.

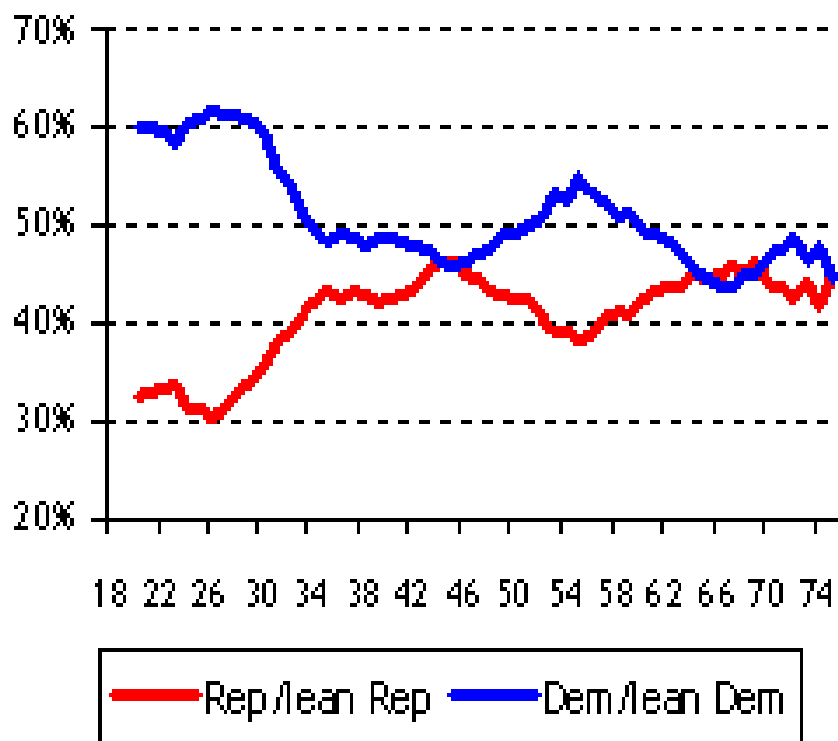
PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE

# AGE

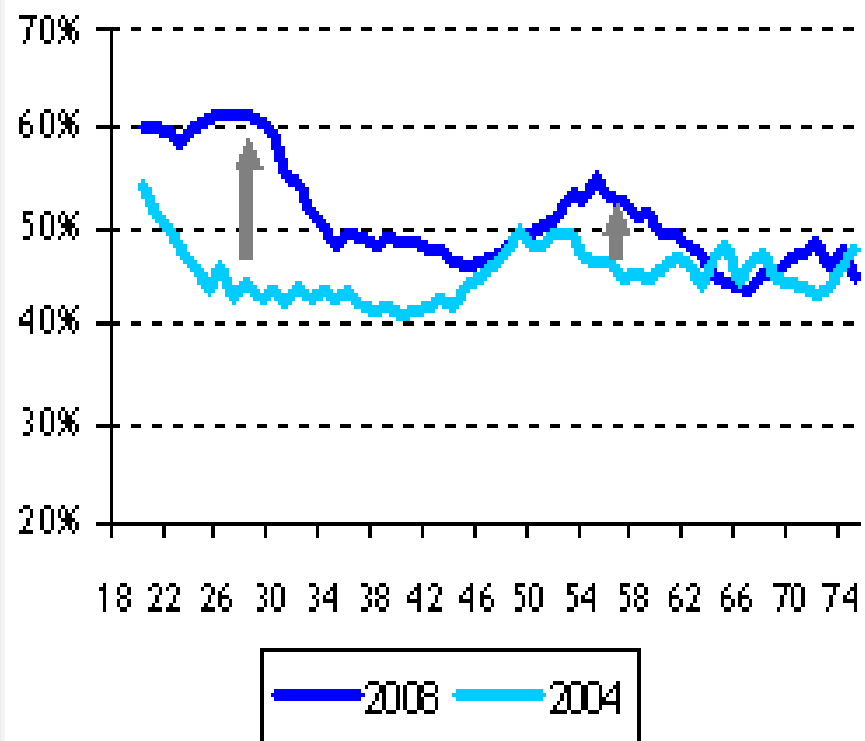


## Age and Party Identification Among Registered Voters

### Party Identification in Late 2008



### Percent Democratic: 2004 and 2008

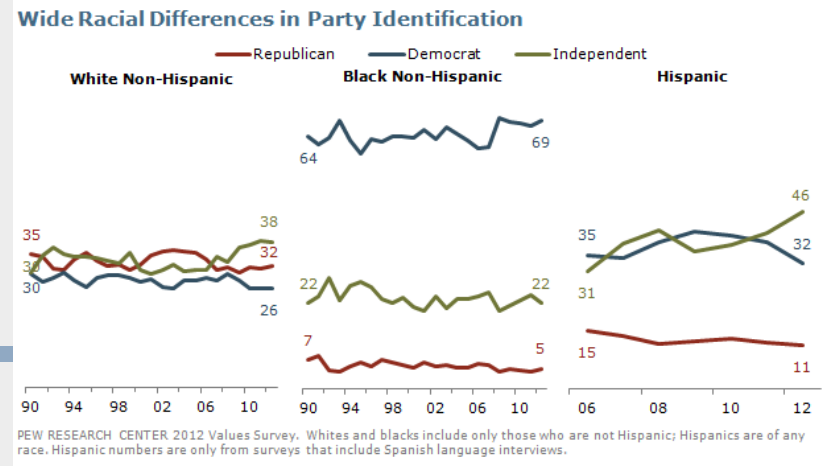


# ETHNICITY

**White: more likely than nonwhites to vote Rep.**

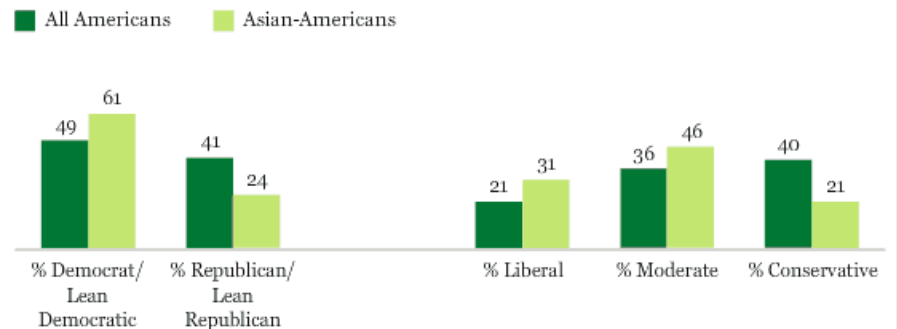
**Nonwhite: more likely than whites to vote Democratic.**

**Blacks are the most loyal Democratic voters.**

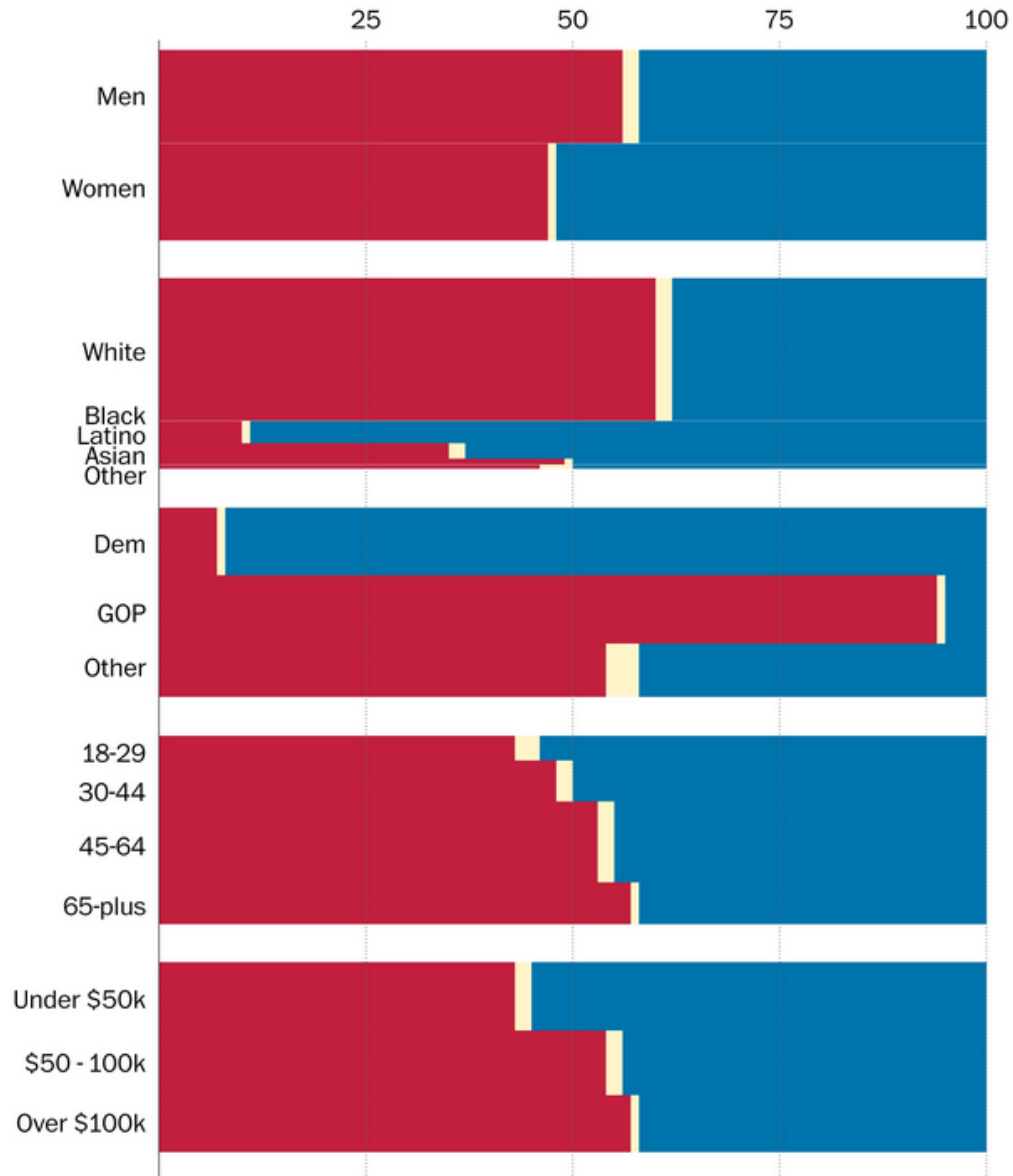


*Political Views of Asian-Americans, Compared to the National Average*

Based on 2009 Gallup Daily tracking



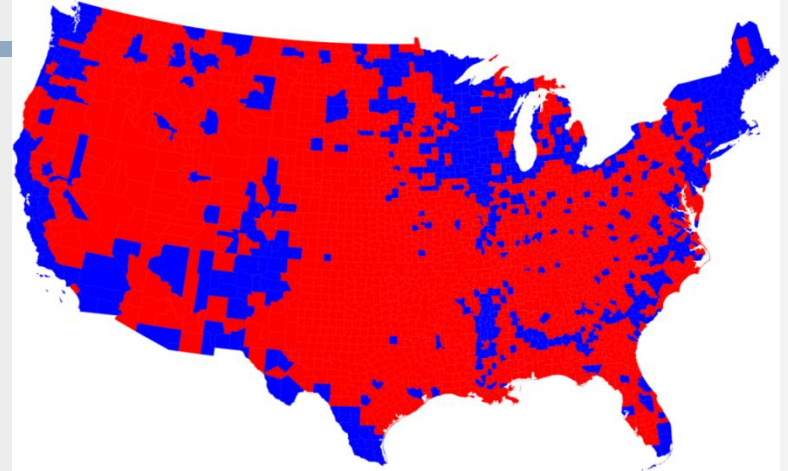
# 2014





# GEOGRAPHY

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- A. Solid South: traditionally Democratic, but now Republican.
- B. Great Plains: Republican
- C. Rocky Mountain region: Republican
- D. New England: traditionally Republican, but increasingly Democratic in recent years
- E. Great Lakes region: Democratic trend.
- F. Sunshine West: Battleground- leaning De,
- G. Urban vs. rural

• B.) OTHER FACTORS:

• A.) Political party affiliation.

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1. Probably the strongest predictor of voting.
2. However, more people probably “vote the man, not the party” than in the past.
3. Straight ticket voting: decline in recent years.
4. Split ticket voting: increase in recent years.

## **II. The Right to Vote**

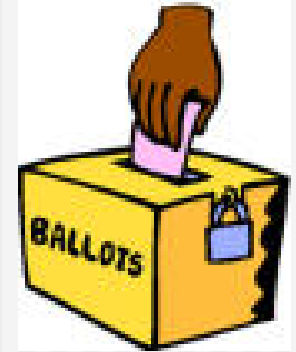
A. Constitutional Basis: The Constitution contains little about the right to vote and leaves most suffrage qualifications to the States. Here are a few provisions:

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- If can vote for st. leg., can vote in nat'l elections
- Can't deprive b/c of race: \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment
  - Why was this an ineffective solution?
- Can't deprive b/c of gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment
- Citizens of D.C. can vote in Pres. Elections \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment
- Can't require a poll tax: \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment
- Can't deprive 18 or older: \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment

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- The franchise has been extended in two major ways:
    - (1) elimination of arbitrary restrictions
    - (2) Federal Government's increased involvement in voting matters

## **B.) Federal Laws**



1.) The Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960

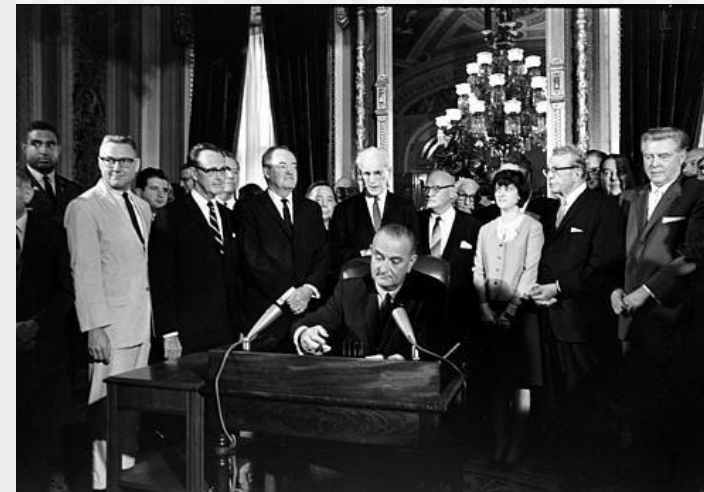
2.) The Civil Rights Act of 1964

3.) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its Amendments

- *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013)

- voter fraud

4.) Motor Voter Law-



## III. Rules

- **Every State requires that voters be both citizens and residents.**

### **FOR CALIFORNIA:**

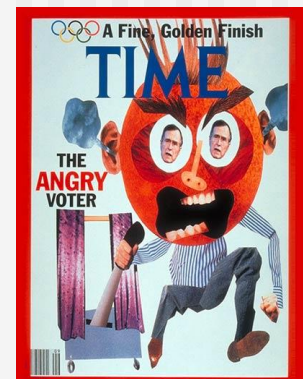
- You may register to vote if you meet the following criteria:
- You are a United States citizen
- You are a resident of California
- You are at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the next election)
- You are not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony
- You have not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to register and vote
- Deadline to register in CA: \_\_\_\_\_

# *IV. Study of Voter Behavior*

- Elections- the medium of airing stance on issues and candidates through the ballot booth
- Public Opinion Polls- the way to measure the electorate's views

Millions of Americans do vote and their votes are influenced by a number of psychological and sociological factors.

- Sociological factors: that impact voting can include a voter's income, occupation, education, age, and gender, as well as family, friends, and coworkers.
- Psychological factors: are the ways a voter sees the parties, candidates, and issues in an election.

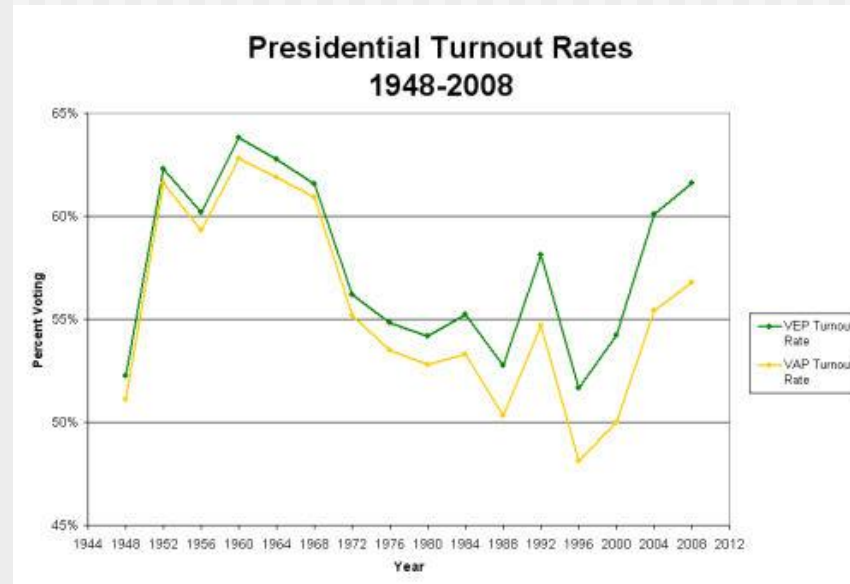


# V.) Nonvoting:

“Idiotes” from Greek, referring to those who did not participate in the political life of Athens.

## A.) Size of Problem-

- Presidential Elections: 1/2 (on-year elections)
- Off-year elections: 1/3 (mid-term elections)

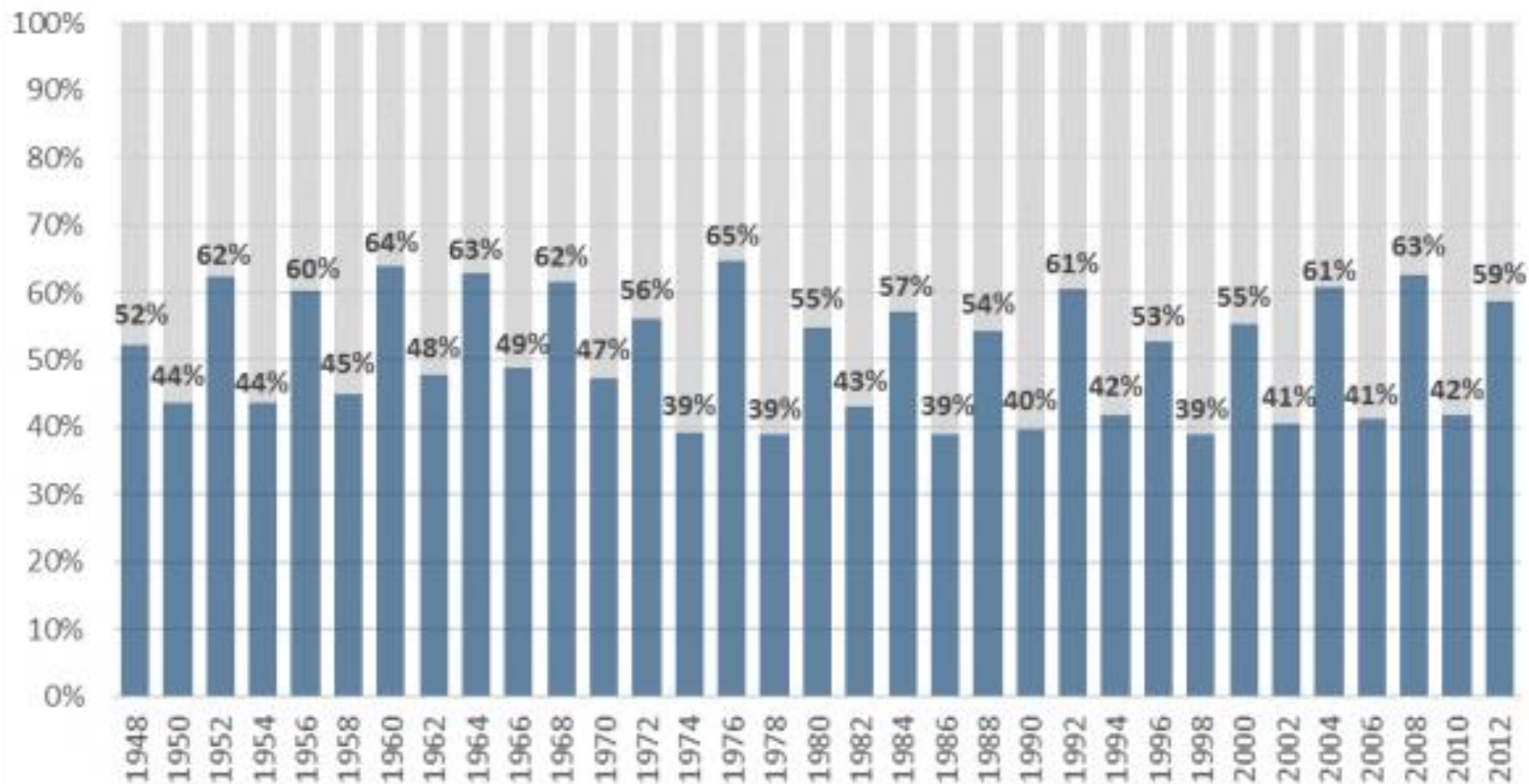




# Voter Turnout By Country (eligible voters)

Country	Compulsory	N <sup>e</sup>	Turnout
 Malta	N	8	94%
 Chile	Y	2	93%†
 Austria	N	9	92%
 Belgium	Y	12	91%
 Italy	N****	9	90%
 Luxembourg	Y	7	90%
 Iceland	N	10	89%
 New Zealand	N	12	88%
 Denmark	N	14	87%
 Germany	N	9	86%
 Sweden	N	14	86%
 Greece	Y (not enforced)	10	86%
 Venezuela	N*	7	85%
 Czech Republic and Slovakia	N	6	85%
 Argentina	Y	12	83%
 Brazil	Y	9	83%
 Netherlands	N**	7	83%
 Australia	Y	19	81%
 Costa Rica	N	8	81%
 Norway	N	9	81%
 Romania	N	2	81%
 Bulgaria	N	2	80%
 Israel	N	9	80%
 Portugal	N	9	79%
 Finland	N	10	78%
 France	N	9	76%
 United Kingdom	N	9	76%
 South Korea	N	11	75%
 Ireland	N	11	74%
 Canada	N	12	74%
 Spain	N	6	73%
 Japan	N	12	71%
 Poland	N	7	71%
 Estonia	N	2	69%
 India	N	6	66%
 Hungary	N	6	66%
 Russia	N	2	61%
 Pakistan	N	6	51%
 Switzerland	N	8	54%
 United States	N	18	48%***

## Turnout of U.S. Voting Eligible Population, 1948-2012



# B.) WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE

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## 1.) Cannot Voters:

- a. people in mental institutions
- b. people declared mentally incompetent
- c. convicted felons
- d. in prison
- e. dishonorably discharged veterans
- f. homeless

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## 2.) Non- Voters

- a. Political Efficacy
- b. Apathy
- c. Dealignment
- d. Lack of knowledge

### 3.) Other Factors:

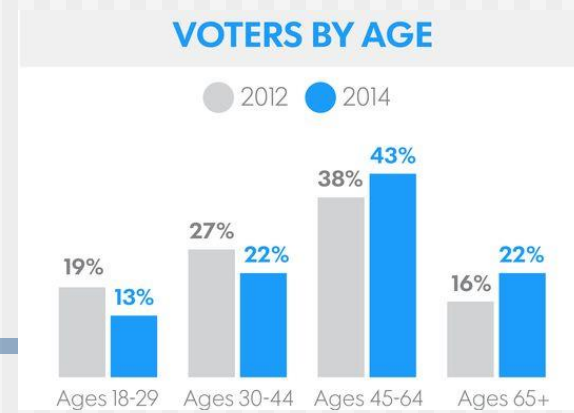
Time-zone fallout

Weather

Ballot fatigue (can't complete ballot)



## C. Those Who Vote vs. Non-voters



- 1.) Age: older you are more likely to vote
- 2.) Socio-Economic: Higher social-economic level more likely to vote
- 3.) Gender: women more likely to vote than men
- 4.) Degree of Competition: more competition = more voting

## D. Possible Reforms

**Fair Representation Voting** for legislative elections would allow for outcomes that better represent the diverse beliefs of the electorate, and could therefore combat the low voter turnout that we see in many winner-take-all plurality districts, where choices are limited.

**National Popular Vote** (NPV) for president, which would make every vote in every state equally valuable in every election, would expand presidential campaigns from just ten states to all 50. As voter turnout is markedly lower in states that receive no presidential campaign attention, the reallocation of campaign resources to include non-battleground states would likely increase turnout in those states.

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**Instant Runoff Voting** (IRV) for other single seat offices like mayor and governor would better represent the views of third party and independent voters, as more candidates would be inclined to run. Therefore, voters who might not feel that their views are represented in a two-party race would turn out to the polls to support their preferred candidate.

**Universal Voter Registration** would modernize voter registration in the United States, making government responsible for maintaining accurate and complete voter rolls, shifting our system from its current opt-in structure to an opt-out structure.