

INCREASING VOTER TURNOUT: WHAT WORKS?

Voter turnout varies greatly by state. From early voting to polling place accessibility, what practices influence voter turnout in the states?

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THE "STATES" OF VOTER TURNOUT

In the most recent nationwide elections for the 35 countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, or OECD, the United States placed **27th** in voter turnout.

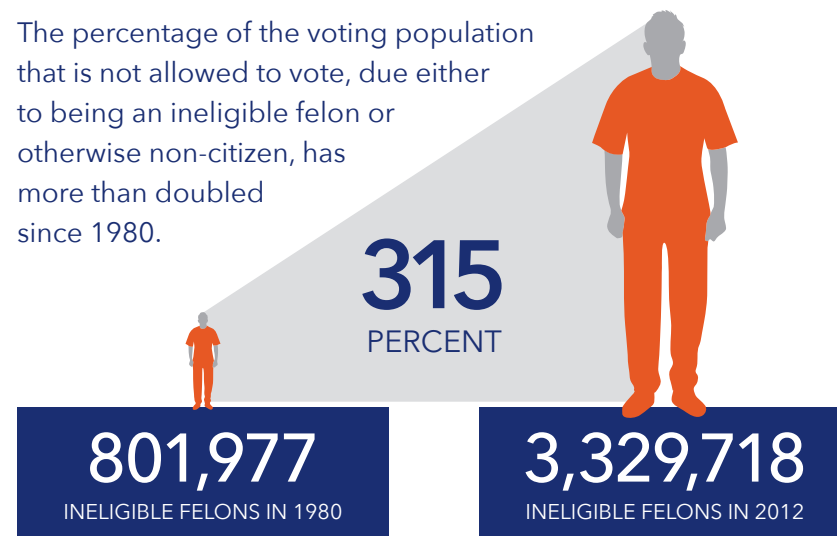
Since 1972, turnout has been, on average,



The percentage of the voting-eligible population that voted was



The percentage of the voting population that is not allowed to vote, due either to being an ineligible felon or otherwise non-citizen, has more than doubled since 1980.



1	BELGIUM 2014*
2	SWEDEN 2014
3	SOUTH KOREA 2017
4	DENMARK 2015
5	AUSTRALIA 2016*
6	NORWAY 2013
7	NETHERLANDS 2017
8	ICELAND 2016
9	ISRAEL 2015
10	NEW ZEALAND 2014
11	FINLAND 2015
12	ITALY 2013
13	FRANCE 2017
14	GERMANY 2013
15	MEXICO 2012*
16	AUSTRIA 2013
17	UNITED KINGDOM 2016
18	HUNGARY 2014
19	CANADA 2015
20	GREECE 2015*
21	PORTUGAL 2015
22	SPAIN 2016
23	CZECH REPUBLIC 2013
24	SLOVAKIA 2016
25	IRELAND 2016
26	ESTONIA 2015
27	2016
28	LUXEMBOURG 2013*
29	SLOVENIA 2014
30	POLAND 2015
31	JAPAN 2014
32	LATVIA 2014
33	CHILE 2013
34	SWITZERLAND 2015*
35	TURKEY 2017*

*National law makes voting compulsory. Also, one Swiss canton has compulsory voting.

✓ ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

Of the top seven states that had the highest turnout among eligible voters in the 2012 presidential election, six allowed election day registration. Every state that allows election day registration had a higher turnout than the U.S. average in 2012.



✓ CONVENIENCE MATTERS

According to *Convenience Voting* by Paul Gronke, Eva Galanes-Rosenbaum, Peter A. Miller, and Daniel Toffey, efforts to increase convenience for voters have the most impact in low intensity elections. They found that, "Convenience voting has a small but statistically significant impact on turnout, with most estimates of the increase in the 2-4 percent range." Convenience voting across the country is made up mostly of various types of early voting, a practice allowed in 34 states.



✓ VOTING CENTERS INCREASE TURNOUT

According to *Engaging the Unengaged Voter: Vote Centers and Voter Turnout* by Robert M. Stein and Greg Vonnahme of Rice University, voting centers "increase voter turnout generally, and among infrequent voters in particular." Voting centers are "centrally located to major population centers (rather than distributed among residential locations)" and allow any individual from the county to vote regardless of if they know their precinct. This contrasts from precinct-voting stations, where individuals are required to know which one applies to them before voting.



✓ MAIL IT IN

In *Voting by Mail: Turnout and Institutional Reform in Oregon*, Sean Richey of Georgia State University found that "... Oregon's turnout increases by around 10 percentage points of registered voters in both presidential and midterm elections due to voting-by-mail reform." He went on to conclude that "these results suggest one of the reasons that the United States has comparatively low turnout is due to its more onerous voting procedures." Infographics Data Source: Pew, United States Election Project

