

5.1 Voting Rights & Models of Behavior

5.2 Voter Turnout



Learning Intention

- I am learning about models of behavior and voter turnout.

Success Criteria



- I can identify the 4 political models explaining voting behavior.
- I can identify how structural barriers, political efficacy, and demographics can predict differences in voter turnout in the U.S.

Learning Intention

I am learning about models of behavior and voter turnout.

Success Criteria

I can identify a political models explaining voting behavior in 2022 Midterms and 2 reasons for low voter turnout

November 8/9, 2022

Agenda:

- 5.1-2 Models of Behavior & Voting Trends

Homework:

- Read 13.2-3 & 5.1 DV





What are forms of political participation?



Forms of Political Participation

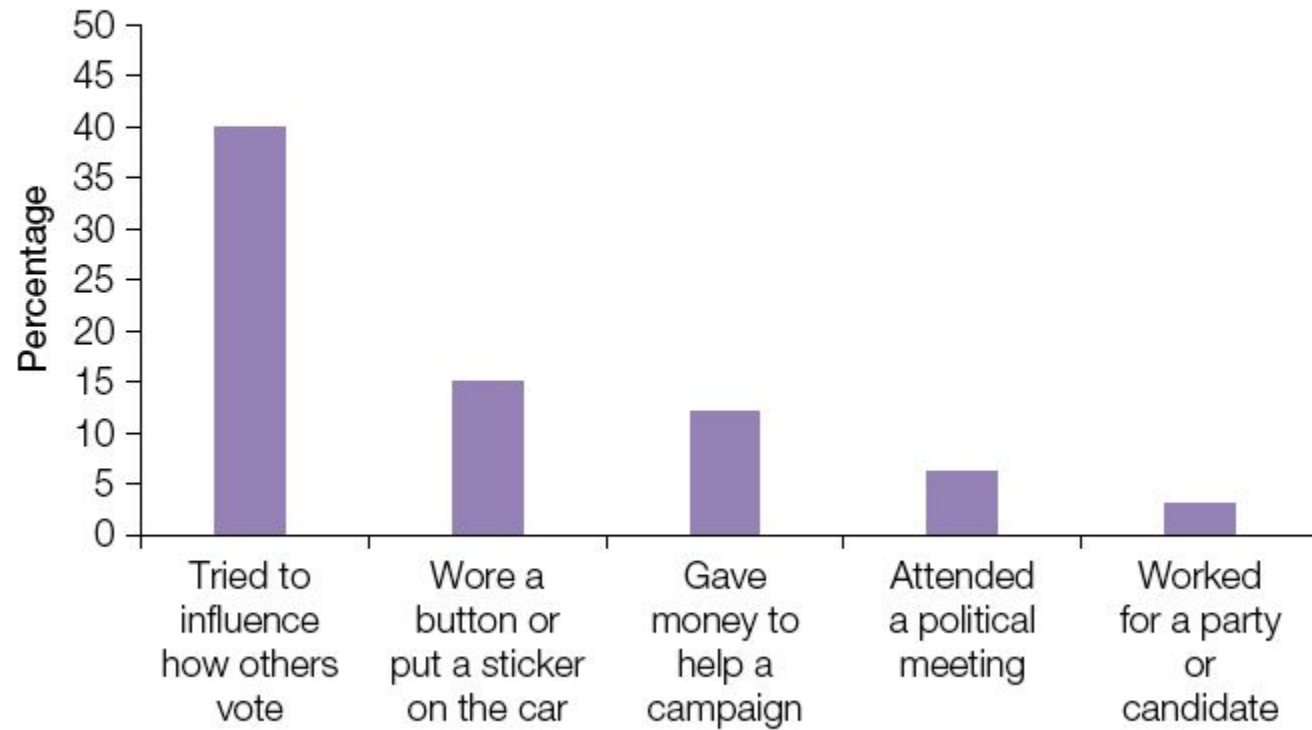
- Voting is NOT the only form of political participation
- **Linkage institutions** – channels that connect individuals with government, including elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media
- **Social movement** – the joining of individuals seeking social or political change with the goal of placing issues on the policy agenda
 - Protests, attend political meetings, contact elected officials, or reach out to other citizens to educate them





FIGURE 13.1

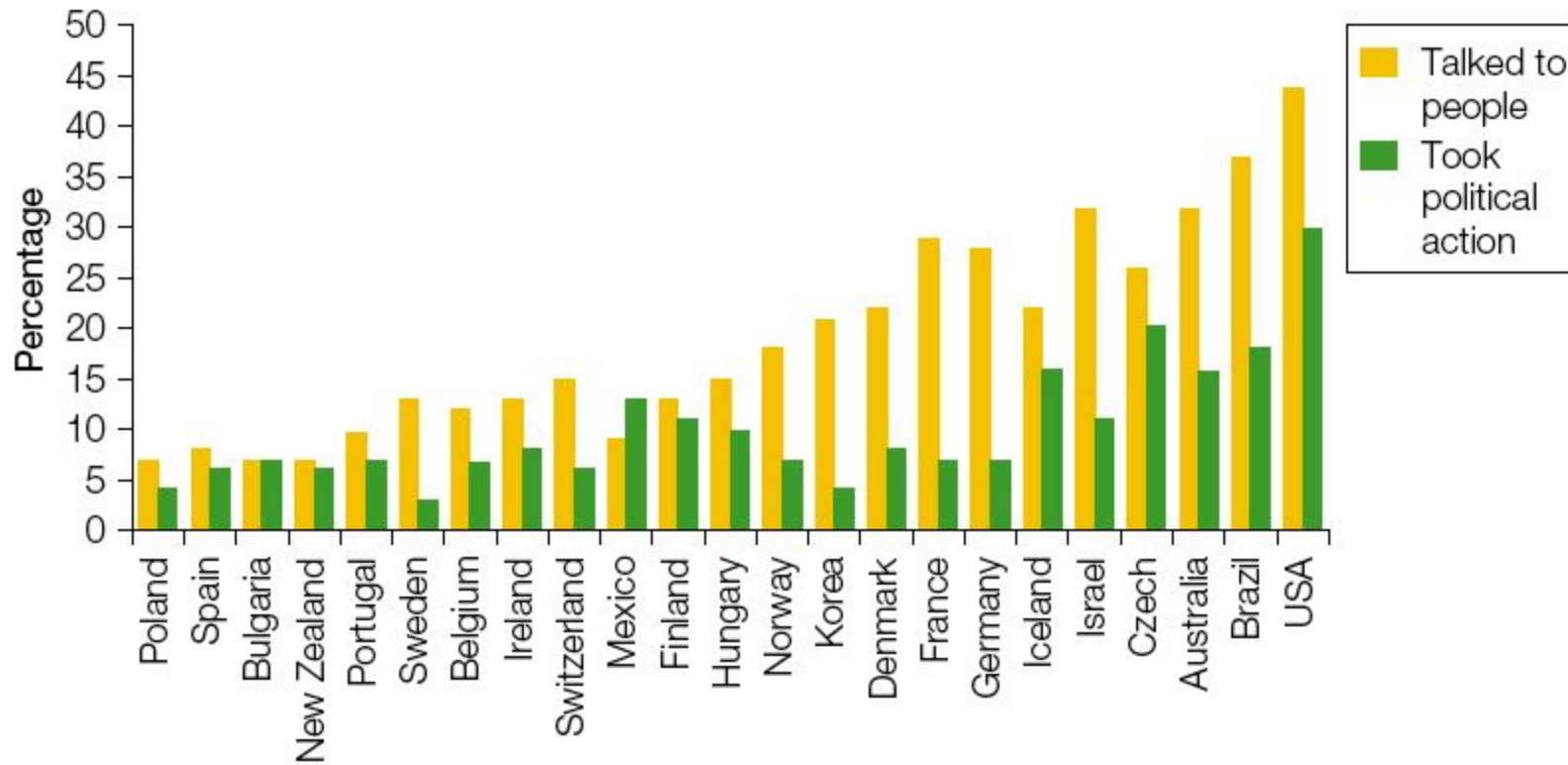
Americans' Participation in Elections outside the Voting Booth



Data from American National Election Study

FIGURE 13.2

Participation in Campaigns



Data from Steven Weldon and Russell Dalton, "Democratic Structures and Democratic Participation: The Limits of Consensualism Theory," *Elections and Democracy*, ed. Jacques Thomassen, Oxford University Press, 2014: Table 7.1, "Levels of Political Participation."



Factors That Shape Electoral Participation

- US toward the bottom of **voter turnout** in democratic states
 - the number of eligible voters who participate in an election as a percentage of the total number of eligible voters
- Why vote – or not?
 - Institutional factors
 - **Demographic characteristics:** measurable characteristics of a population, such as economic status, education, age, race or ethnicity, and gender.
 - Whether it's a presidential election year



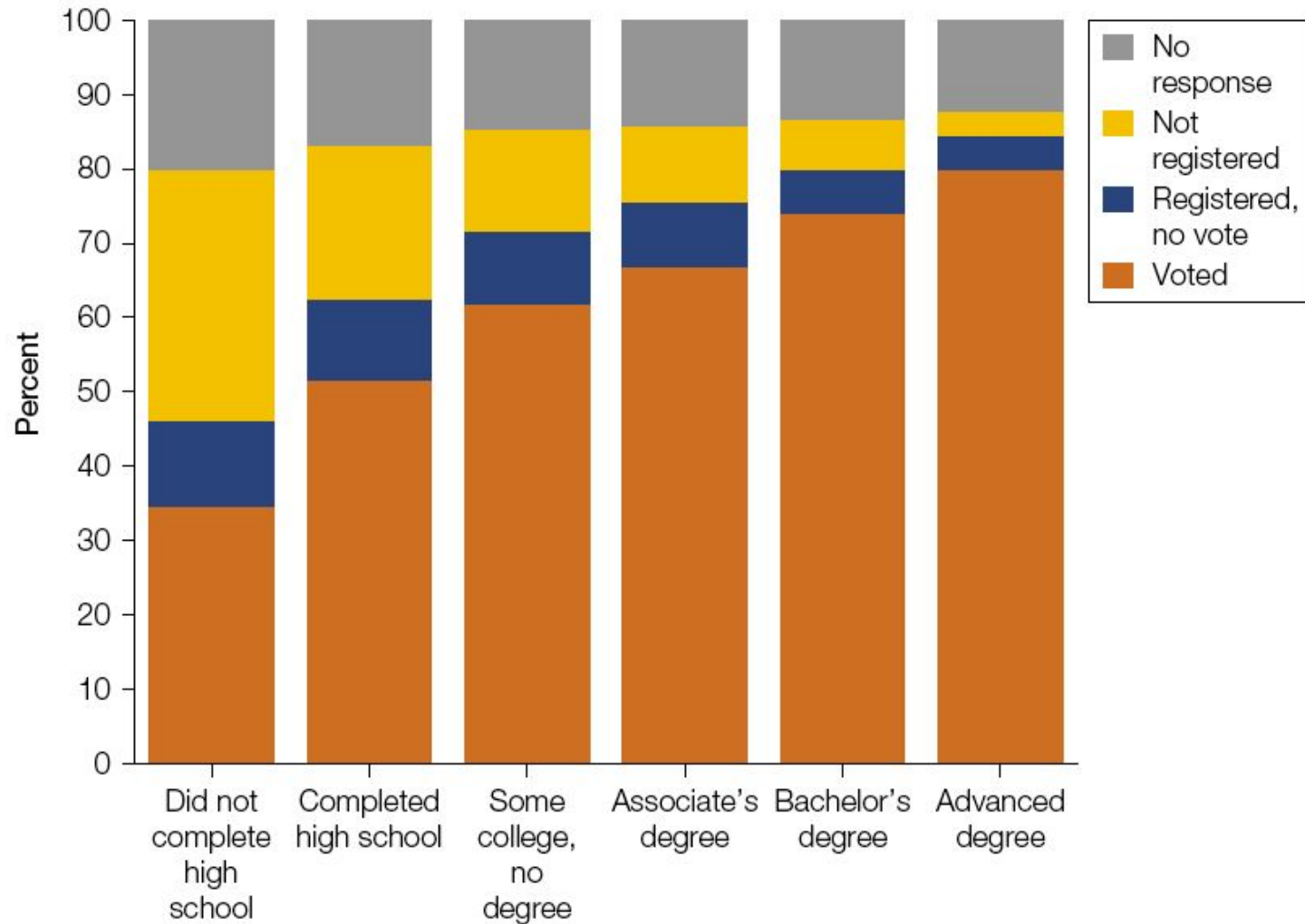
SES and Educational Attainment

- **Socioeconomic status (SES)** – a measure of an individual's wealth, income, occupation, and educational attainment
- Americans with higher levels of SES participate more in elections
 - Donate to campaigns
 - Join interest groups
- Higher levels of educational attainment are associated with higher incomes
 - Have more vested in the system, more likely to vote



FIGURE 13.3

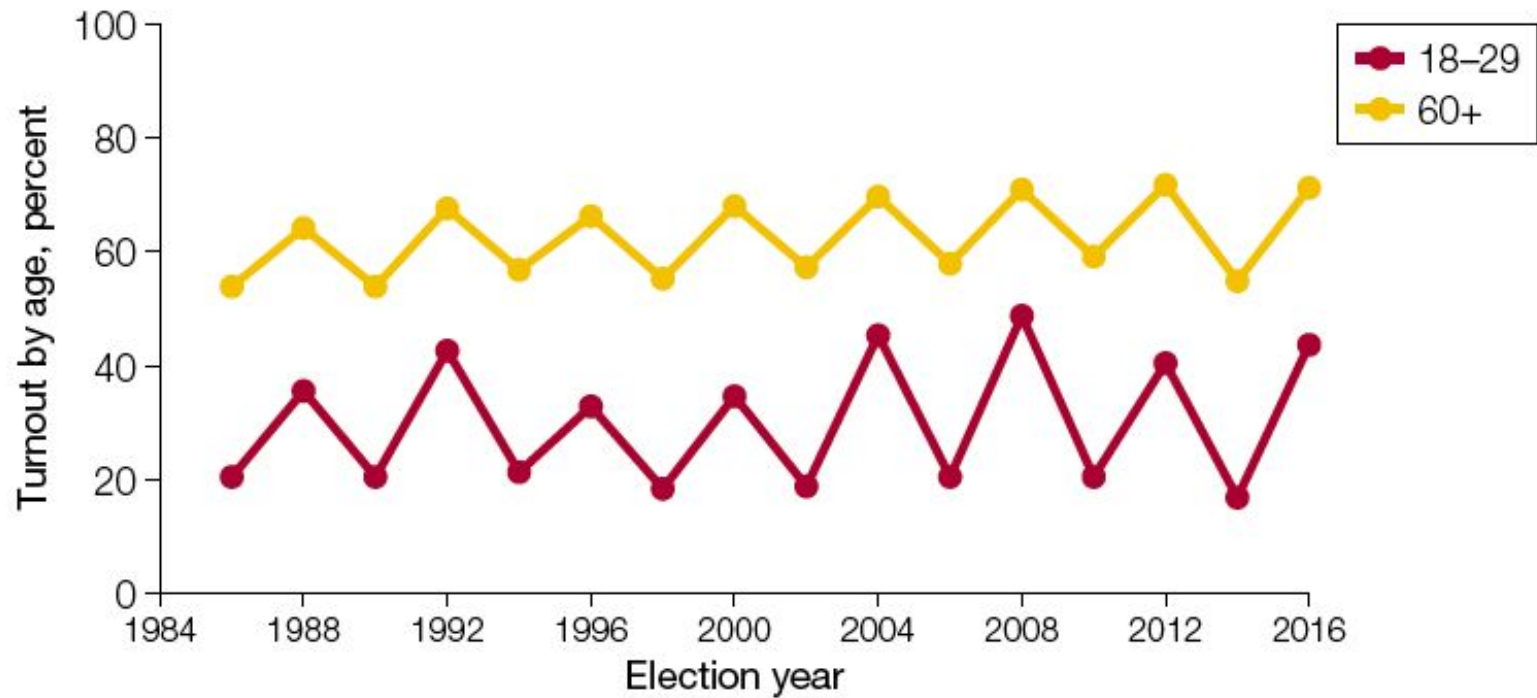
Voting and Registration by Educational Attainment in the United States, 2016



Data from Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

FIGURE 13.4

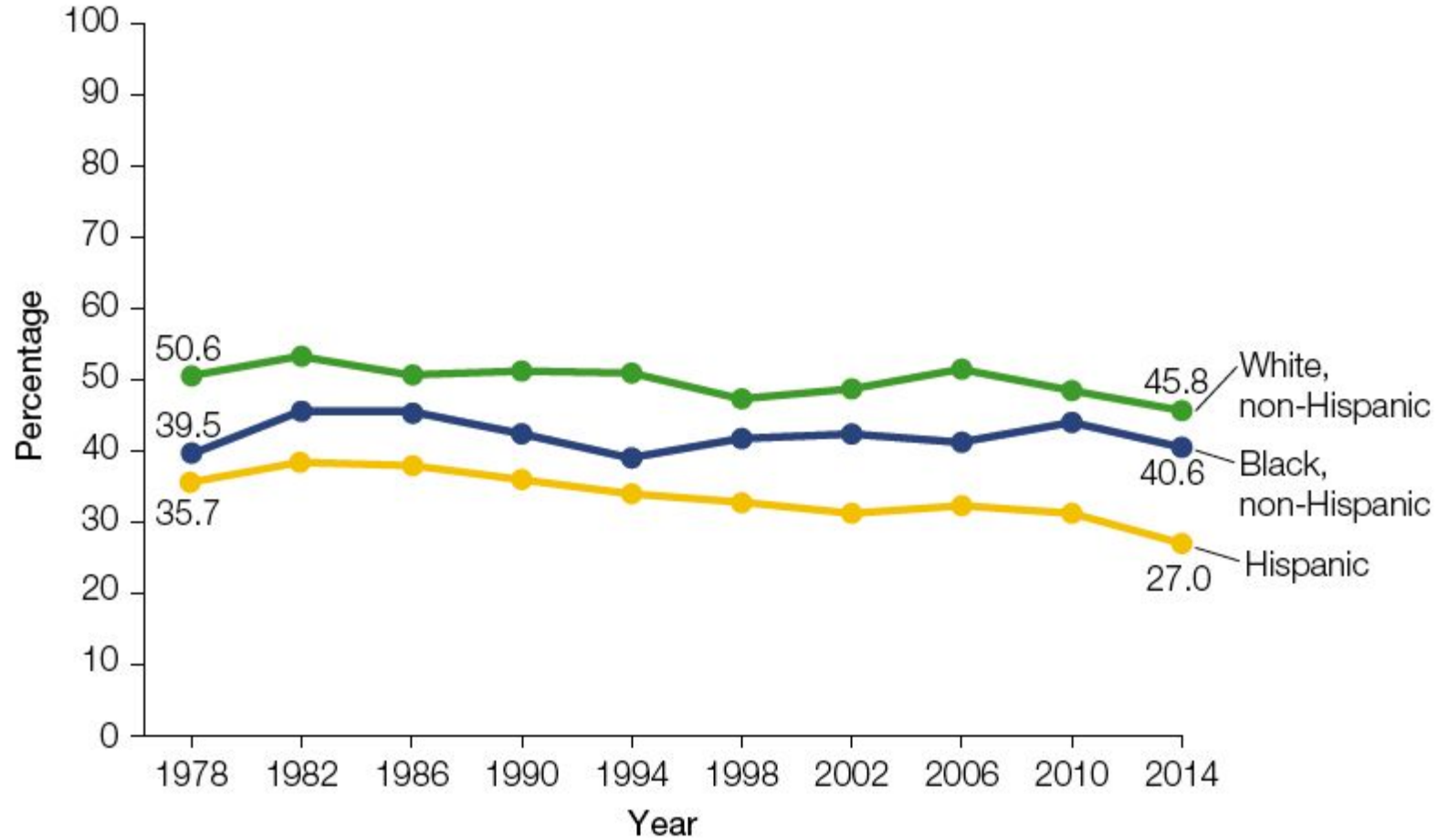
Historical Patterns of Voter Turnout Midterm and Presidential Elections, by Age



Data from U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 13.5

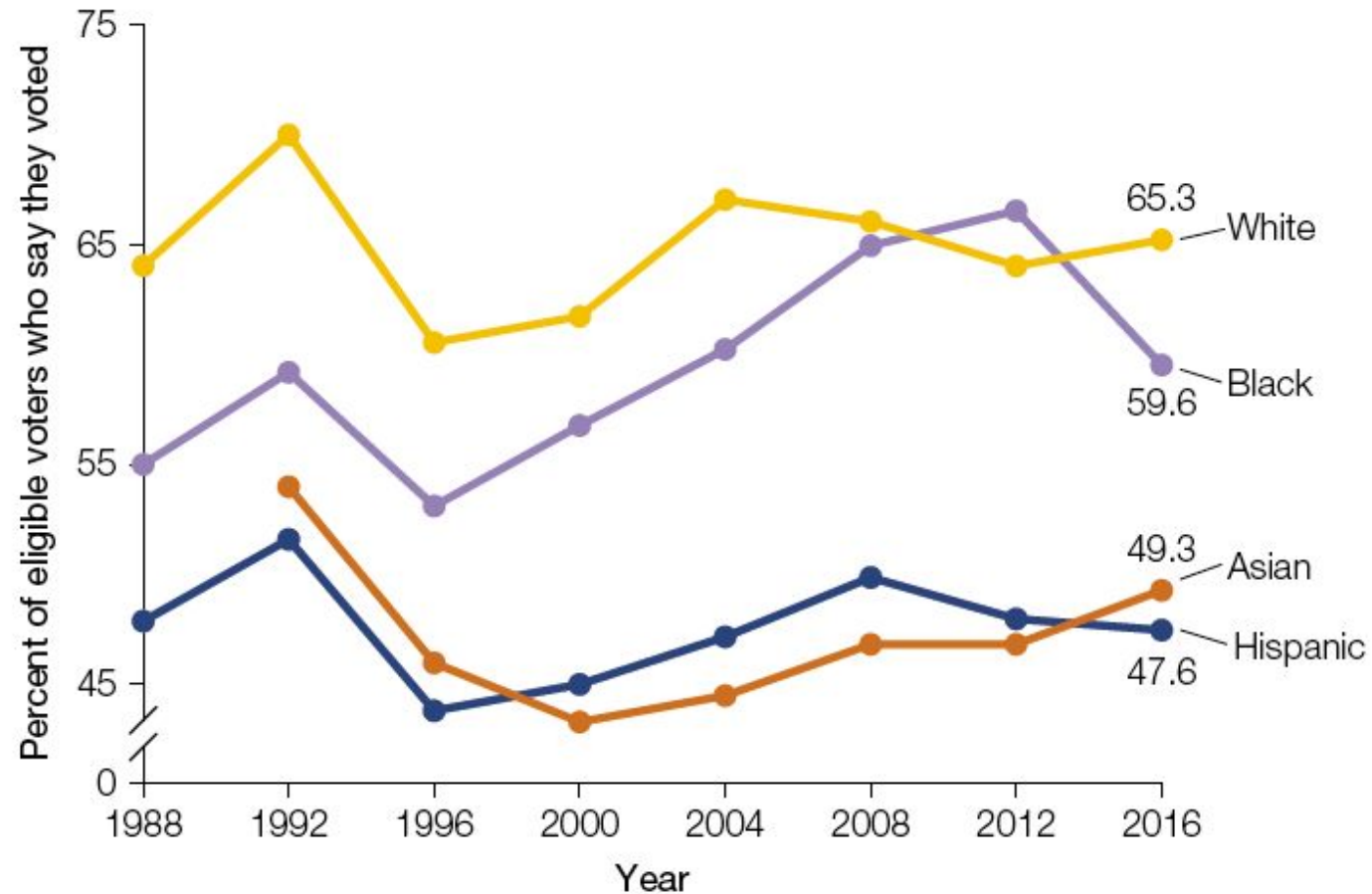
American Voter Turnout in Midterm Elections by Racial and Ethnic Identity



Data from U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 13.6

Voter Turnout by Racial and Ethnic Identity, 1988-2016



Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. The categories whites, blacks, and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Data for non-Hispanic Asians were not available in 1988.

Data from Pew Research Center



Candidate Characteristics and Voter Turnout

- The “Obama effect” – could be a cause for an increase in voter turnout among African Americans

TABLE 13.1 Effect of Candidate Characteristics on Americans' Choice of President

Percent of U.S. adults who would be more/less likely to support a candidate who . . .

Traits	More likely	Less likely	Wouldn't matter	Don't know
Has served in the military	50	4	45	1
Attended prestigious university	20	6	74	*
Is Catholic	16	8	75	1
Is an evangelical Christian	22	20	55	3
Is Jewish	8	10	80	2
Has longtime Washington experience	22	31	46	1
Has used marijuana in the past	6	20	74	1
Is Mormon	5	23	69	3
Is gay or lesbian	4	26	69	1
Had personal financial troubles	8	41	49	2
Had extramarital affair in past	3	37	58	2
Is Muslim	3	42	53	2
Does not believe in God	6	51	41	1

Data from Pew Research Center survey conducted January 7–14, 2016.

Partisan Attachment

- **Political mobilization** – efforts by political parties to encourage their members to vote
 - “Get out the vote” or GOTV
 - Recruit citizens to support a side
- Individuals are more likely to vote with the party they are registered with

Factors that influence voter choice in an election

- Party ID
 - Ideological orientation
 - Candidate characteristics
 - Contemporary political issues
 - Demographic traits
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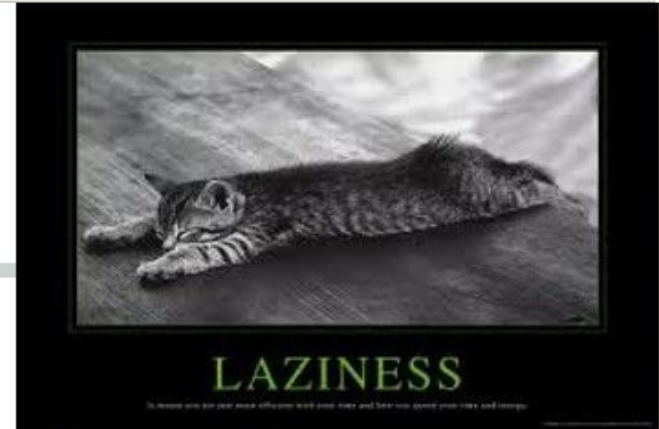




Reasons for Low Voter Turnout?



Reasons for Low Voter Turn Out



- **Lack of “good” choices**
- **Eligibility rules & registration requirements**
- **Alienation, apathy about politics (since the 1960s)**
- **Lack of voter mobilization and failure of political parties to help register low-income citizens**
- **The weather (yes, seriously!)**
- **Date & time of the year (Tuesday, during the week)**
- **Lack of Motivation**



Legal and Institutional Factors that Influence Voter Turnout



Voter Identification Laws in Effect in 2021

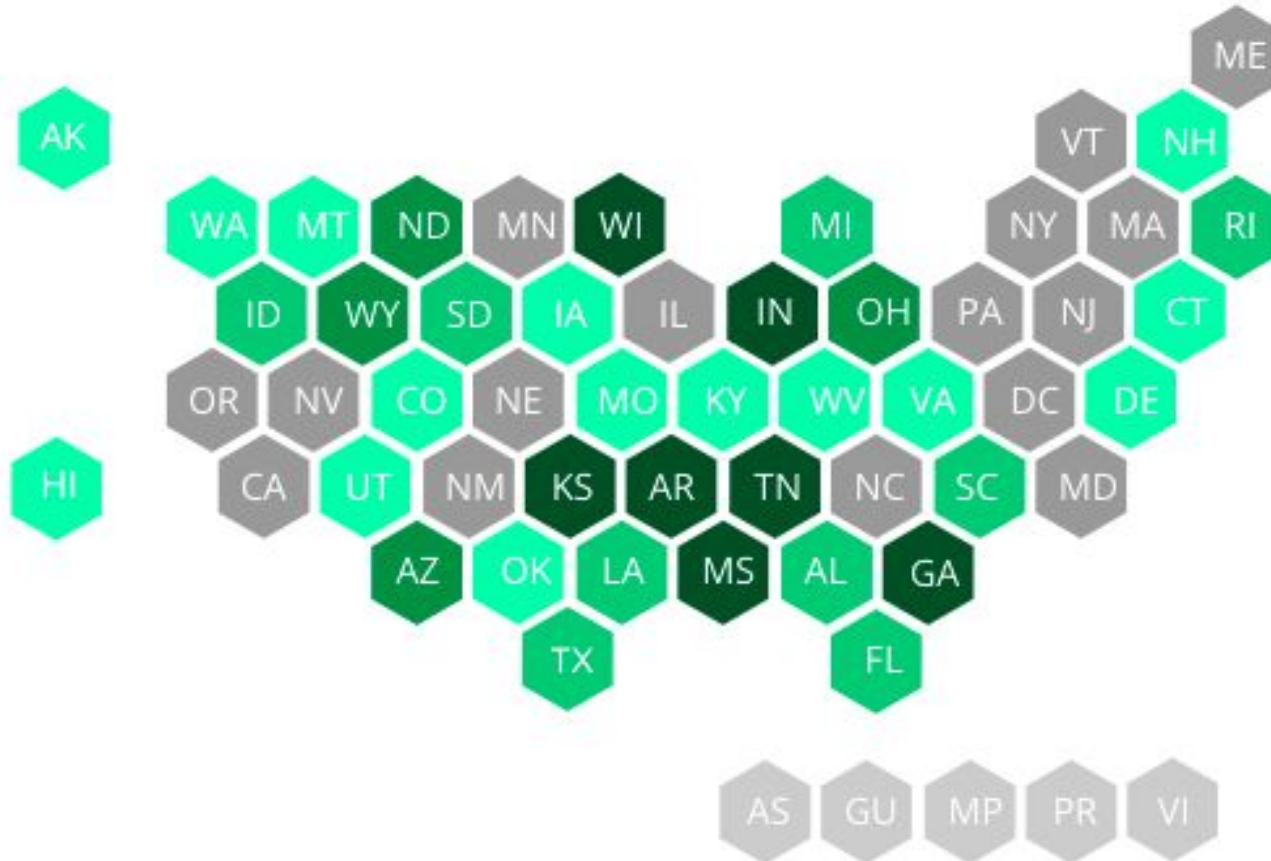
Strict Photo ID

Strict Non-Photo ID

Photo ID requested

ID requested; photo not required

No document required to vote



California

No document required to vote.

Vox
ID Law Study
Article

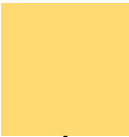
How Citizens Make Voting Decisions

- **Rational choice voting** – voting based on what a citizen believes is in his or her best interest
- **Retrospective voting** – voting based on an assessment of an incumbent's past performance
- **Prospective voting** – casting a ballot for a candidate who promises to enact policies favored by the voter in the future
- **Party-line voting** – voting for candidates who belong only to one political party for all of the offices on the ballot



Homework

Read 13.2 & 13.3
(chapter 13, sections
2-3) & watch DV 5.1 (3)



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November 9/10, 2022

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