

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN VOTER TURNOUT *

In recent elections, voter turnout rates for women have equaled or exceeded voter turnout rates for men. Women, who constitute more than half the population, have cast between four and seven million more votes than men in recent elections.

VOTER TURNOUT IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

In every presidential election since 1980, the proportion of eligible female adults who voted has exceeded the proportion of eligible male adults who voted (see Figure 1). In all presidential elections prior to 1980, the voter turnout rate for women was lower than the rate for men. The number of female voters has exceeded the number of male voters in every presidential election since 1964 (see Figure 2).

Figure 1. Proportion of Eligible Adult Population Who Reported Voting

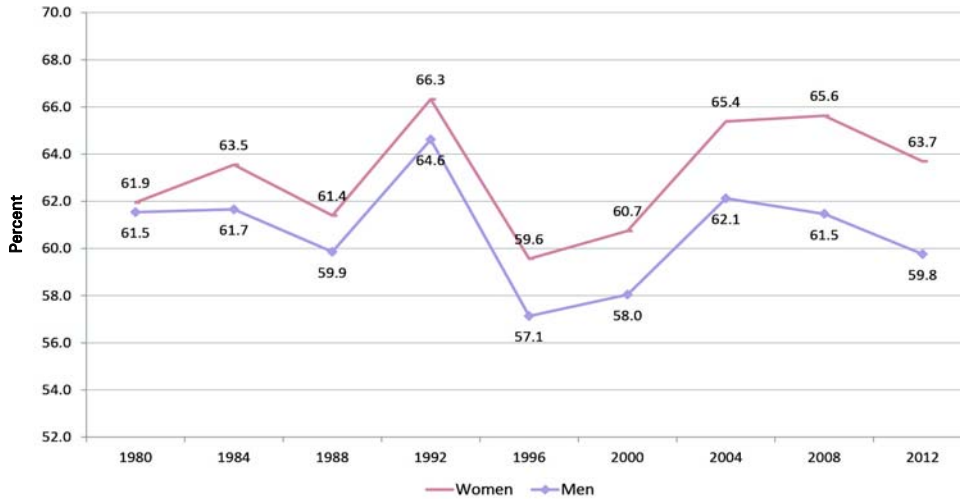
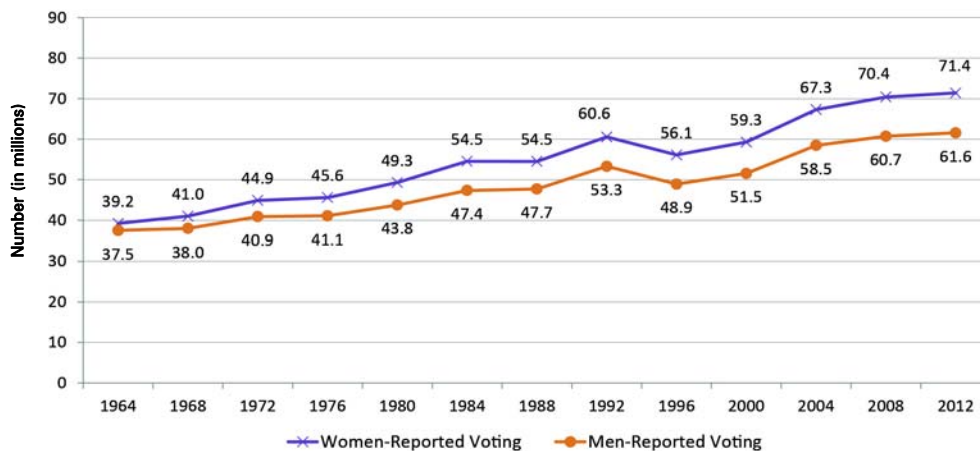


Figure 2. Number Who Reported Voting



* Data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1964" and subsequent reports for all years through 2012. These figures are from post-election responses to supplementary questions in the monthly Current Population Survey for a sample of households in November of each election year. Respondents to the survey report their own voting activity and that of other members of their household. The sample systematically over-reports both voting and registration by several million people. In years prior to 1996, the questions used to determine citizenship measures were asked in different ways and the U.S. Bureau of the Census advises some caution in direct comparison across these years.

In years prior to 2000, the U.S. Bureau of the Census listed only three categories under "Race": Black, Hispanic and White. Their figures double-counted some Hispanic individuals who were also included as Black or White; thus, for years prior to 2000, the "number who reported voting" figure in the first table on this fact sheet is lower than the total reached by adding the "number who reported voting" figures for Black, Hispanic and White voters in the second table. Beginning in 2000, the Bureau of the Census separates out non-Hispanic Black voters and non-Hispanic White voters from Hispanic voters; the post-2000 figures also include Asian/Pacific Islanders for the first time. Hence, the pre-2000 numbers are less precise and are not directly comparable to the post-2000 figures.

A note to users of this information: Please credit the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN VOTER TURNOUT (CONTINUED)

Among younger citizens (18-44), a higher proportion of women than men voted in 2012, 2008, 2004 and 2000; the pattern is reversed among older voters (75 and up).

	% of Eligible Adult Population Who Reported Voting		Number Who Reported Voting (in millions)			% of Eligible Adult Population Who Reported Voting		Number Who Reported Voting (in millions)	
	Women	Men	Women	Men		Women	Men	Women	Men
2012					2008				
18-24 yrs.	44.5	37.9	6.2	5.2	18-24 yrs.	52.0	45.1	6.7	5.8
25-44 yrs.	60.5	53.9	21.6	18.3	25-44 yrs.	63.1	56.8	22.7	19.6
45-64 yrs.	69.5	66.1	27.5	24.5	45-64 yrs.	71.0	67.2	26.8	23.9
65-74 yrs.	72.7	74.4	9.0	8.2	65-74 yrs.	72.6	72.2	7.7	6.5
75 yrs. up	67.6	73.6	7.1	5.3	75 yrs. up	64.9	72.2	6.5	4.8
2004					2000				
18-24 yrs.	49.7	43.8	6.2	5.4	18-24 yrs.	38.2	34.0	4.6	4.0
25-44 yrs.	63.0	57.2	22.9	19.9	25-44 yrs.	58.3	53.7	21.8	19.0
45-64 yrs.	71.2	69.1	24.8	22.5	45-64 yrs.	69.1	66.4	20.7	18.6
65-74 yrs.	71.8	74.9	6.9	6.1	65-74 yrs.	71.3	73.4	6.7	5.8
75 yrs. up	65.8	72.8	6.4	4.5	75 yrs. up	62.3	73.0	5.5	4.2

Among Asians/Pacific Islanders, Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites, the number of female voters in recent elections has exceeded the number of male voters. While the difference in voter turnout rates between the sexes is greatest for Blacks, women have voted at higher rates than men among Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites in the last eight presidential elections; in 2000, the first year for which data are available, Asian/Pacific Islander men voted at a slightly higher rate than Asian/Pacific Islander women. Since 2004, Asian/Pacific Islander women have voted at rates equal to or higher than rates for Asian/Pacific Islander men.

NOTE: The U.S. Census Bureau has revised race and ethnicity categorizations over time, making direct comparisons by category difficult from year to year. The categories listed here have been chosen to try to best encompass the same populations from year to year. Since 2004, the U.S. Census Bureau reported each racial category "alone" or "in combination." The numbers reported here reflect only the "alone" categories. For more information about these categories, see www.census.gov/population/race/.

	% Eligible Voting Population		Number Who Reported Voting	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
2012				
Asian/Pacific Islander	48.5	46.0	2.1 million	1.8 million
Black	70.1	61.4	10.4 million	7.4 million
Hispanic	49.8	46.0	6.0 million	5.2 million
White, non-Hispanic	65.6	62.6	51.8 million	46.3 million
2008				
Asian/Pacific Islander	47.5	47.6	1.8 million	1.6 million
Black	68.1	60.5	9.4 million	6.7 million
Hispanic	51.8	47.9	5.1 million	4.6 million
White, non-Hispanic	67.9	64.2	53.1 million	47.0 million
2004				
Asian/Pacific Islander	46.2	42.0	1.5 million	1.3 million
Black	63.4	55.8	8.3 million	5.7 million
Hispanic	49.4	44.8	4.1 million	3.5 million
White, non-Hispanic	68.4	65.9	52.5 million	47.1 million
2000				
Asian/Pacific Islander	42.5	44.3	1.1 million	1.0 million
Black	59.7	53.0	7.6 million	5.3 million
Hispanic	46.1	43.9	3.3 million	2.7 million
White, non-Hispanic	63.0	60.6	47.1 million	42.4 million
1996				
Black	56.1	49.1	6.7 million	4.7 million
Hispanic	46.4	41.3	2.7 million	2.2 million
White	60.6	58.5	48.1 million	43.1 million
1992				
Black	59.2	53.9	6.6 million	4.8 million
Hispanic	49.4	47.0	2.3 million	1.9 million
White	67.8	66.4	52.9 million	47.6 million
1988				
Black	55.9	50.5	5.9 million	4.2 million
Hispanic	46.3	45.5	2.0 million	1.8 million
White	62.5	61.2	47.7 million	42.7 million
1984				
Black	60.7	54.1	6.1 million	4.2 million
Hispanic	48.6	47.2	1.7 million	1.4 million
White	64.2	62.8	47.7 million	42.4 million

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN VOTER TURNOUT (CONTINUED)

VOTER TURNOUT IN NON-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Since 1986, the proportion of eligible female adults who voted has exceeded the proportion of eligible male adults who voted, reversing the historical pattern of higher turnout rates for men than for women.

Non-presidential Election Year	% of Eligible Voting Population		Number	
	Who Reported Voting		Who Reported Voting	
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
2010	46.2	44.8	50.6 million	45.4 million
2006	48.6	46.9	51.0 million	45.1 million
2002	46.6	45.6	47.1 million	41.8 million
1998	45.7	44.9	43.7 million	39.4 million
1994	48.5	48.2	45.0 million	40.7 million
1990	48.0	47.5	43.3 million	38.7 million
1986	48.4	48.2	42.2 million	37.7 million
1982	50.5	50.9	42.3 million	38.0 million
1978	47.0	48.2	36.3 million	33.3 million
1974	N/A	N/A	32.5 million	30.7 million
1970	N/A	N/A	33.8 million	32.0 million
1966	N/A	N/A	31.8 million	30.7 million

VOTER REGISTRATION

Women outnumber men among registered voters.

	Number Reporting They Are Registered Voters			
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
2012	81.7 million	71.4 million	1994	63.3 million
2010	72.9 million	64.9 million	1992	67.3 million
2008	78.1 million	68.2 million	1990	60.2 million
2006	72.4 million	63.4 million	1988	63.5 million
2004	75.7 million	66.4 million	1986	59.5 million
2002	68.7 million	59.4 million	1984	62.1 million
2000	69.2 million	60.4 million	1982	56.3 million
1998	65.4 million	57.7 million	1980	55.7 million
1996	68.0 million	59.7 million		