

# Interesting Facts

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I  
VOTE?!



- American electorate (potential voters) is about 206 million
- About 55% vote

# Interesting Facts

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## **One vote does make a difference..**

- In 1800, Thomas Jefferson won the presidency with just one vote in the House of Representatives after a tie in the Electoral College.
- In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the U.S. Presidency by the equivalent of less than one vote in each precinct.
- The margin between Bush and Gore was down to 537 votes, the election hinged on whether or not the undervotes (ballots that showed no vote for president) would be examined by hand or not. It just so happened that the counties that used punch cards favored Gore, so any manual recount would likely have favored Gore.

# I. The Constitution and the Right to Vote

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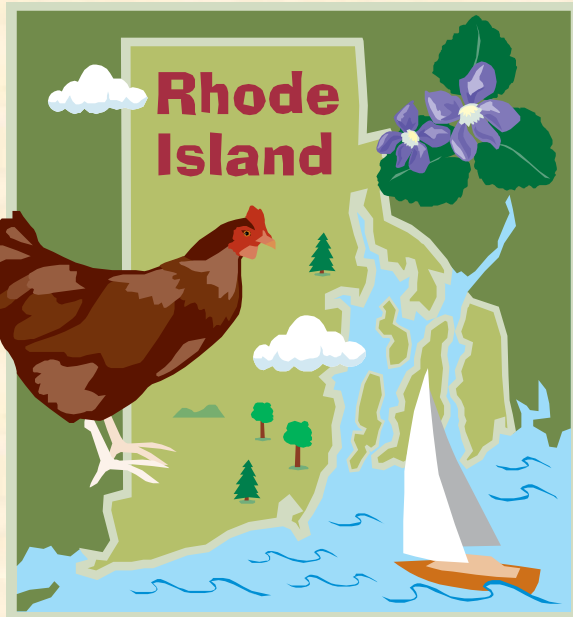
1. 1789- White men with property over 21
2. 1850-nearly all adult white males
3. 1870-all men over 21 (15<sup>th</sup> amendment)
4. 1920-all men and women over 21 (19<sup>th</sup> amendment)
5. 1971-all men and women over 18 (26<sup>th</sup> amendment)





Over time , states dropped the requirement that voters must own property.

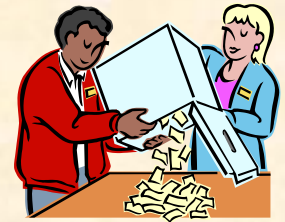
**Some states acted faster than others. New York got rid of the property requirement in 1821.**



**Rhode Island did not change until 1880!**

# III. Voter Qualifications Among the States

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## A. Citizenship and Residence (all states based on these)

### 1. Citizenship

- Aliens (one who is not a citizen) are generally not allowed to vote, although it is not prohibited by the Constitution
- Only 1 state constitution, Minnesota, draws a distinction between native-born and naturalized citizens (requires one to have been a citizen for 3 months)

# Citizenship and Residence

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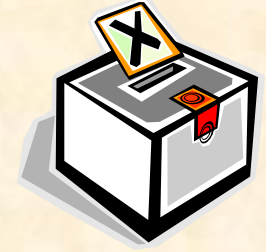


## 2. Residence

- All states have residence requirements in order to prevent election fraud and ensure that citizens have had time to familiarize themselves with relevant political issues before voting
- Texas- 30 days
- In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled that no state can require a waiting period of longer than 30 days
- Almost all states deny the vote to transients

# Citizenship and Residence

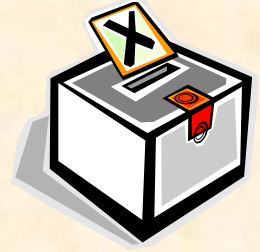
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## 3. Age

- The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment sets 18 as the cap on the minimum age for voting in any election (1971)
- Some states did this earlier.
- Vietnam helped 18 year olds get the right to vote

# B. Other Qualifications



1. **Registration/enrollment**
  - All states, except North Dakota, require registration
  - Preventative to fraud
  - Supposed to be very easy
  - 1993 Motor Voter Act- may register when you renew your drivers license

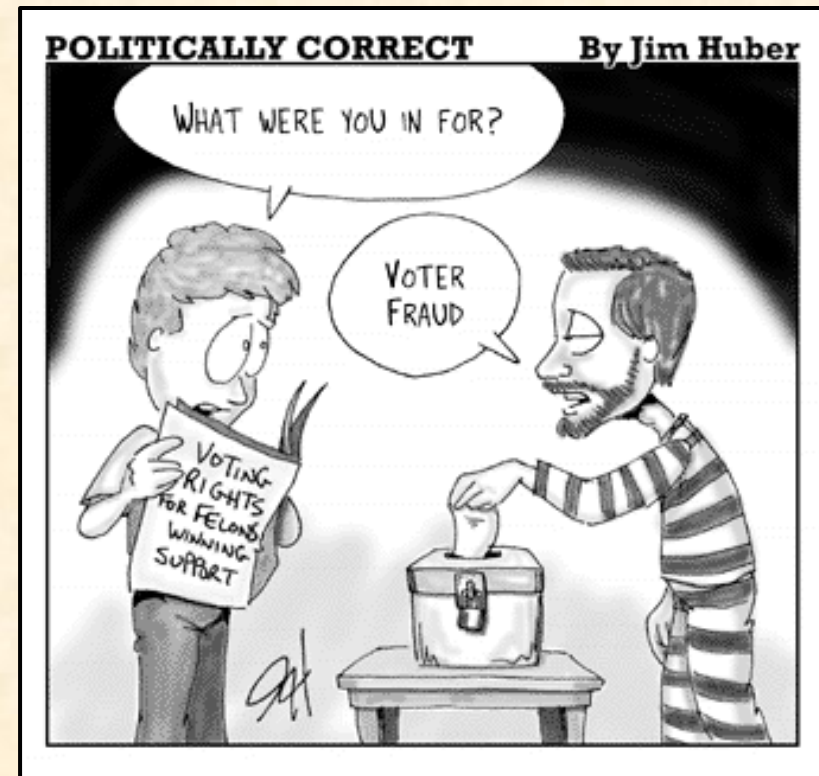


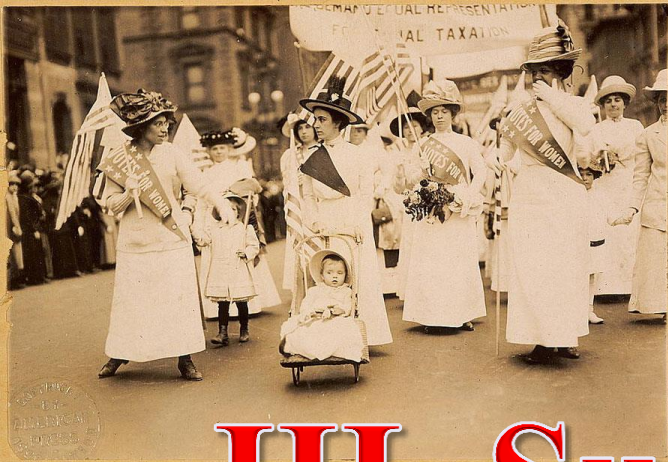
# Other Qualifications



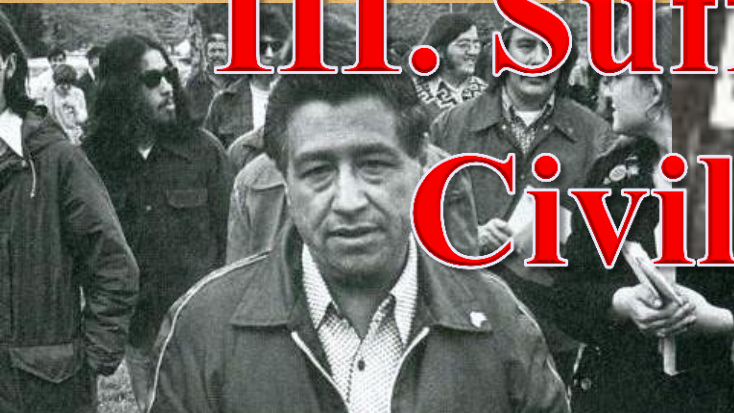
## 2. Who may not vote

- People in mental institutions
- Anyone who has been found mentally incompetent
- Those convicted of serious crimes (felonies)
- [Where can felons vote?](#)



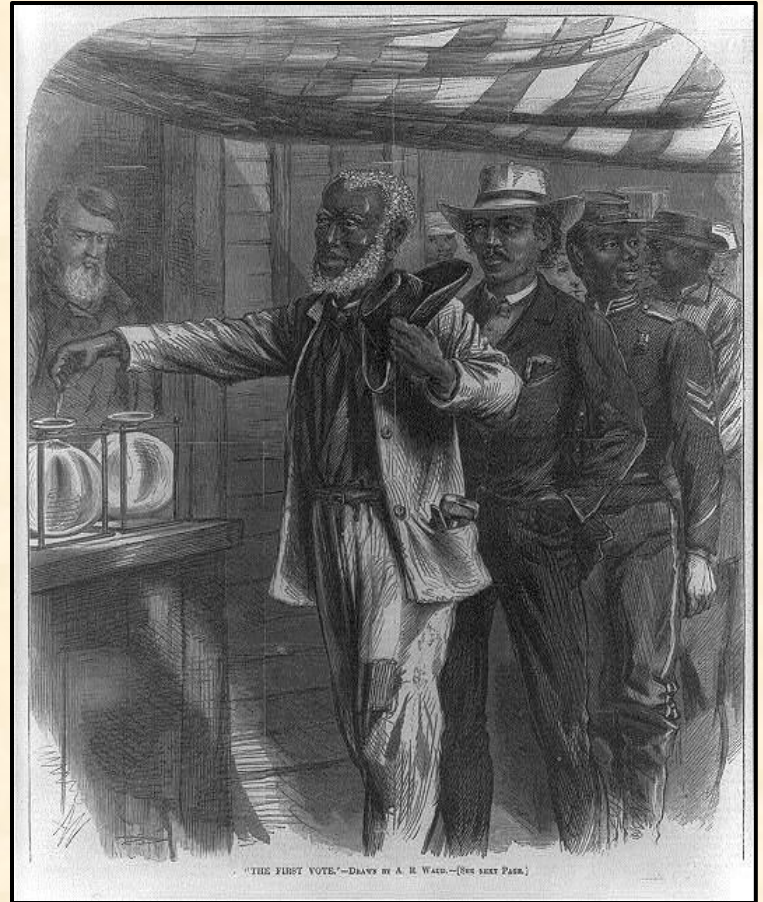


# III. Suffrage and Civil Rights



# A. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment

1. The right to vote may not be denied because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude
2. Gave newly freed slave men the right to vote



# A. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment



## 3. Not practiced because of:

- **Violence** (4,743 lynchings in America 182-1968)
- **Social pressures**
- **Literacy tests registration laws**
- **Poll taxes (banned in 24<sup>th</sup> amend)**
- **“white primaries”**
- **Gerrymandering (drawing lines in districts to limit voting strength of one group)**
- **Grandfather clause**

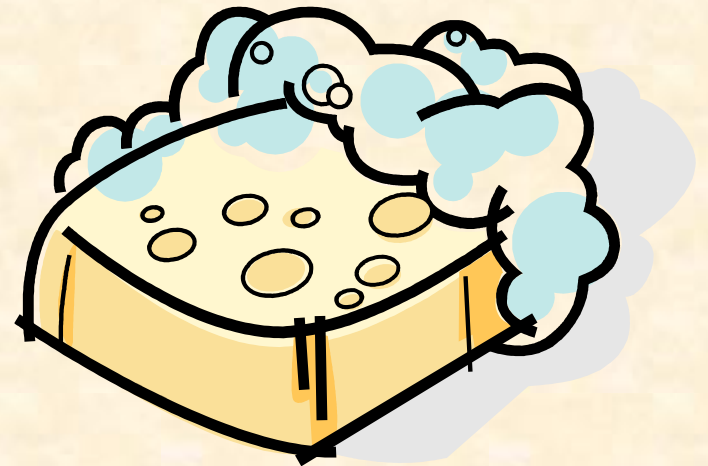
*“By the way, what’s the big word?”*



**This poll test asks voters to correctly guess the number of cotton balls in a jar before they are allowed to vote.**



**Other tests asked voters to guess the number of bubbles in a bar of soap!**



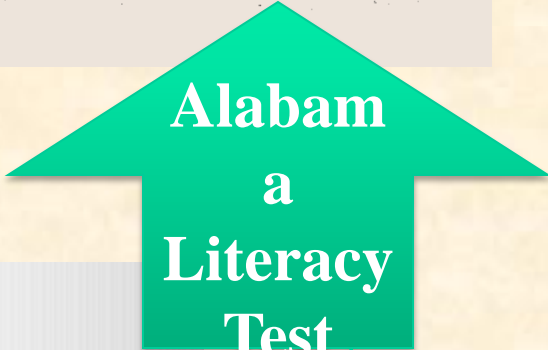
1. In what year did the Congress gain the right to prohibit the migration of persons to the states? 1808
2. Who is the commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States? The President
3. Which of the Parts above, of the United States Constitution, deals with the federal government's authority to call the state militia into federal service? Part 1
4. The president is forbidden to exercise his authority of pardon in cases of impeachment.

## Examples of Literacy Tests

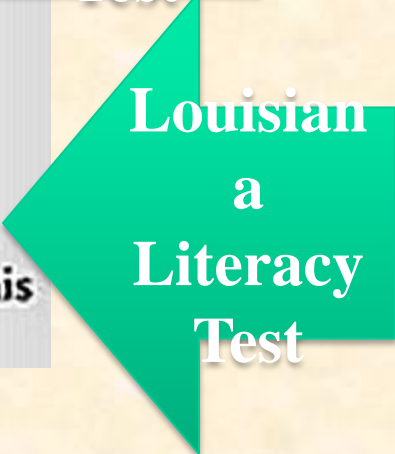
20. Spell backwards, forwards.

21. Print the word vote upside down, but in the correct order.

22. Place a cross over the tenth letter in this line, a line under the first space in this sentence, and circle around the last the in the second line of this sentence.



Alabam  
a  
Literacy  
Test



Louisian  
a  
Literacy  
Test

The *Poll Tax* required voters to pay for the ability to vote.

Democracy's Turnstile



1932

\$1.50 POLL TAX RECEIPT N<sup>o</sup> 286

COUNTY OF SUMTER, ALA., 193

RECEIVED OF *John C. [unclear]* MALE OR FEMALE

the sum of ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, for Poll Taxes due by him for 1932.

District or Ward No. Color Precinct No. Last Year This Year

COUNTERSIGNED BY *John Brandon* State Auditor. *[Signature]* Tax Collector.

BRUSH PRINTING CO., MONTGOMERY, 1934

Most Southern African Americans were poor sharecroppers that were heavily in debt to landowners.

\$1.50 = \$23.00  
1932 = Today

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

— Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*

*Mr. Doris A. McKain*

**\$1.50** Poll Tax Receipt No. 1257

COUNTY OF MADISON, ALA. *1-30* 192*2*

RECEIVED OF *Mr. W. W. McKain*

the sum of ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, for Poll Taxes due by him for 1921.

District or Ward No. *2* Color *W* Precinct No. Last Year *1* This Year *1*

COUNTERSIGNED BY

*H. F. Lee* State Auditor. *J. M. Phelan* Tax Collector.

1921

BROWN PRINTING CO. MONTGOMERY

This receipt is furnished in pursuance of Section 910, Compiled General Laws of Florida, 1927.—  
ERNEST AMOS, Comptroller

**POLL TAX RECEIPT**

STATE OF FLORIDA }  
DUVAL COUNTY }

**1932**

No. 6177

Received of *Florida Hewitt* *5-3-34*, 193*2*  
the sum of ONE DOLLAR in payment of his or her Capitation or Poll Tax for the year A. D. Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Two (1932)

Color *C* Sex *F* Age *32* No. Election District *99*

Residence Address: *1226 W. 8th*

*R. H. Carruth*  
Tax Collector for Duval County.

Rose Ptg. Co.—Tallahassee, 733





# A. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment



## 4. 1940-50s- Supreme Court strikes down laws- slow process

- 1944- *Smith v. Allwright*

- U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Texas's Democratic party could not restrict membership to whites only and bar blacks from voting in the party's primary.

## 5. 1960s- civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King

- launched a voter registration drive in Selma, Alabama. For seven weeks, King led hundreds of Selma's black residents to the county courthouse to register to vote. Nearly 2,000 black demonstrators, including King, were jailed
- "Segregation's got to fall ... you never can jail us all."

## March on Washington

"I know you are asking today, 'How long will it take?' ...  
How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever."



“We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

— Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*

# B. The Civil Rights Act of 1964

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1. **Outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin**
2. **States could not use voter registration in an unfair manner**



*LBJ shaking hands with MLK after signing Civil Rights Act*

# C. The Voting Rights Act of 1965

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1. Made 15<sup>th</sup> amendment really true
2. No poll taxes, literacy tests, etc.
3. Justice department clears elections valid
4. Also applies to “language minorities”



*Over 10,000 Take to the Streets in Support of the Voting Rights Act, 2005*

# D. Texas Voter ID Law

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- Voters are now required to present an approved form of photo identification in order to vote in all Texas Elections.
  - Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
  - Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
  - Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
  - Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
  - United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
  - United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
  - United States passport



- New Texas Voter ID Law

## Many Texas voters lack photo IDs

The Texas voter ID law, which remains under review by the Justice Department and by federal courts, could affect as many as 2.4 million registered voters if approved for 2012 elections. Estimated number of voters who may lack drivers' licenses or state-issued IDs in the state's largest counties:

County	Registered voters	Voters with no photo ID (with percentage of total)	
		Low estimate *	High estimate **
Harris	1,881,312	111,532 (6%)	144,000 (8%)
Dallas	1,103,074	78,185 (7%)	110,000 (10%)
Bexar	863,645	71,078 (8%)	100,000 (12%)
El Paso	368,425	48,768 (13%)	140,000 (38%)

\* Low estimates include voters who did not supply DPS ID information on voter registrations and whose names did not match any DPS ID data.

\*\* Includes all voters whose names did not match 2012 DPS ID data.

Source: Chronicle analysis of comparisons conducted by the secretary of state using voter registration records and DPS 2012 records

RANKING INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY 2012



### IMPORTANT Things You NEED

#### WHO DOESN'T HAVE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED ID?

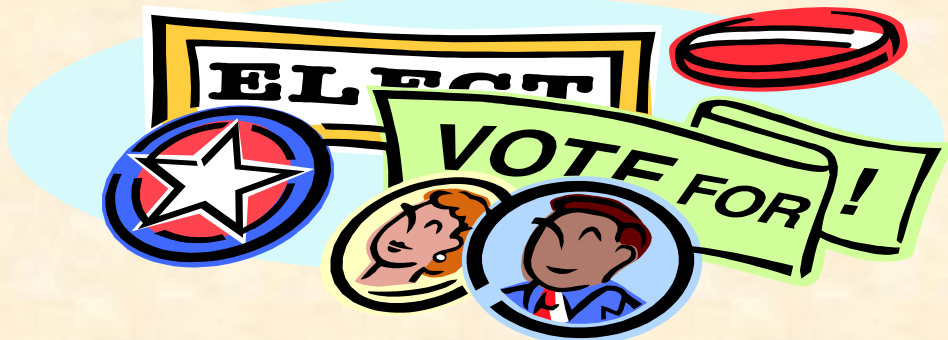
-  **25% AFRICAN AMERICANS**
-  **20% ASIAN AMERICANS**
-  **19% LATINO AMERICANS**
-  **18% CITIZENS AGE 18-24**
-  **15% CITIZENS <35K ANNUAL INCOME**

Drive a VOLT

Use your CREDIT CARD

DO NOT VOTE for the most POWERFUL MAN in the WORLD

# IV. Nonvoting



# A. The Size of the Problem

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1. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  of eligible voters participate in presidential elections
2. About  $\frac{1}{3}$  of eligible voters participate in off-year elections
3. Little recognized aspects of the problem:
  - More vote in federal elections than state or local
  - “ballot fatigue”- people stop filling out their ballot
  - More vote in general elections than in primaries or special elections



# B. Why People Don't Vote

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## 1. “Cannot Voters”

- **17 million Americans can't vote**
- **Aliens, mentally or physically handicapped, people in prison**
- **Religious beliefs**
- **Discriminatory electoral practices**



# B. Why People Don't Vote

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## 2. Actual Nonvoters

- **Convinced elections will not effect them**
- **Satisfied with the current system**
- **Distrust of political system, no sense of political efficacy (influence in politics)**
- **Bad weather, cumbersome procedures, “time zone” fallout**
- **Voter registration responsibility lies with individual not government**



*John Stossel Clip- Vote or  
Die?*

*Do you think Stossel has a  
point or bad analogies?*

# Registration and Voting in the World's Parliamentary Elections

	Average Voter Turnout*	Compulsory Voting <sup>†</sup>	Automatic Registration <sup>‡</sup>
Australia	81.7%	Yes	No
Austria	72.6	No	Yes
Belgium	83.2	Yes	Yes
Canada	54.6	No	Yes
Denmark	83.1	No	Yes
Finland	65.2	No	Yes
France	59.9	No	No
Germany	75.3	No	Yes
Greece	89.0	Yes	No
Ireland	66.7	No	Yes
Israel	84.4	No	Yes
Italy	84.9	Yes	Yes
Japan	59.0	No	Yes
Netherlands	70.1	No	Yes
New Zealand	72.5	No	No
Norway	73.1	No	Yes
Spain	73.8	No	Yes
Sweden	77.7	No	Yes
Switzerland	34.9	No	Yes
United Kingdom	57.6	No	Yes
United States	46.6	No	No

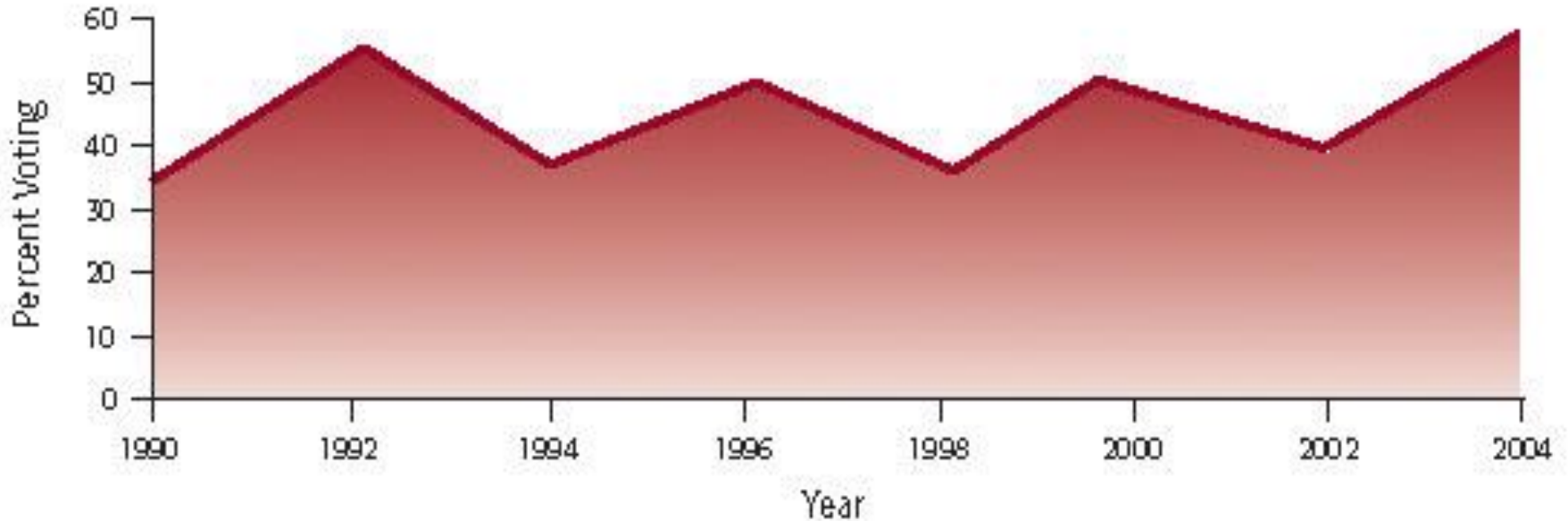
\*Percentage of turnout for total voting age population (VAP).

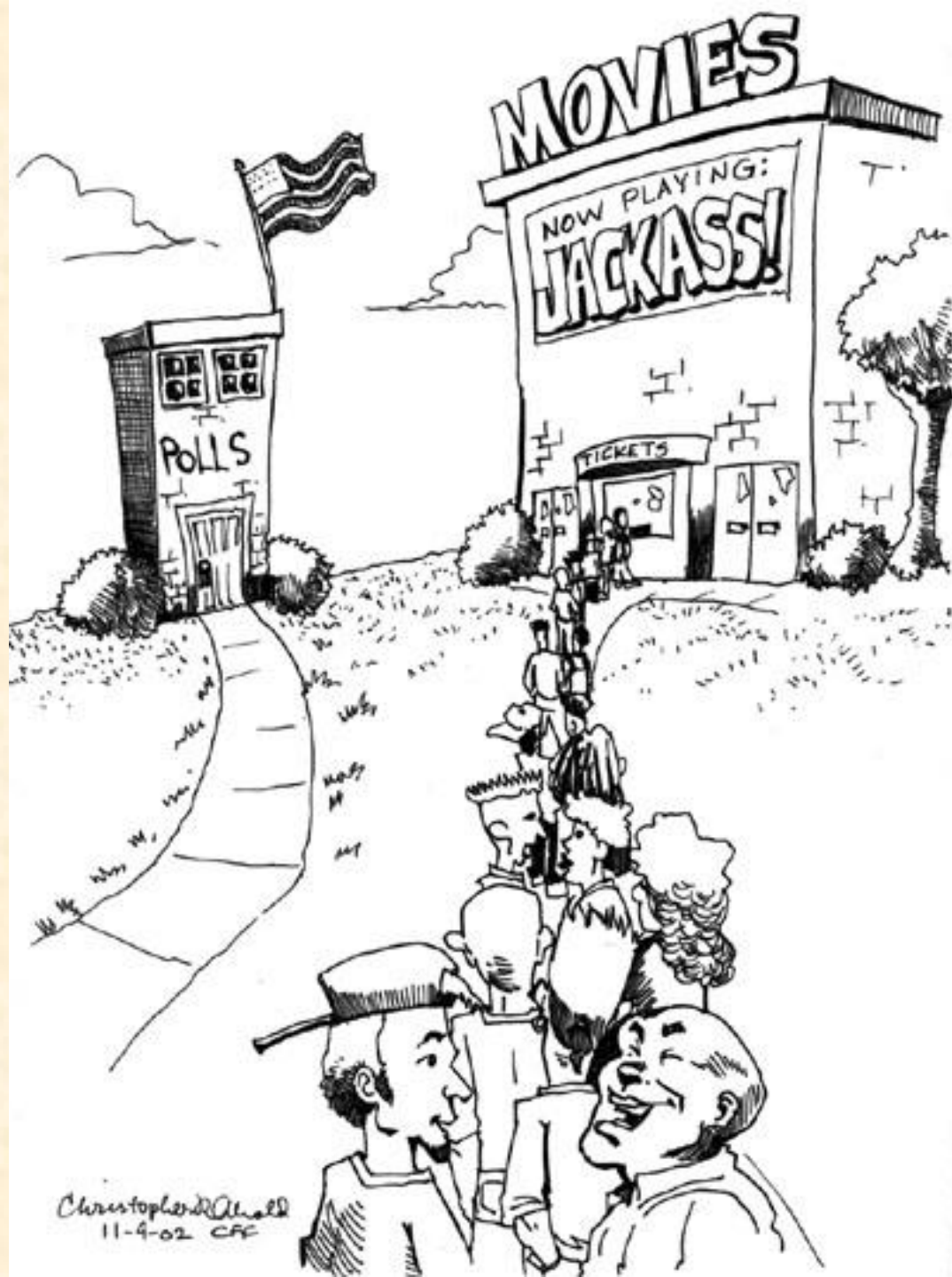
<sup>†</sup>In a *compulsory voting* system, registered voters have to vote or suffer some penalty, such as a small fine.

<sup>‡</sup>Automatic registration uses another form of citizen identification, such as a national identity card or a driver's license.

SOURCE: Richard S. Katz, *Democracy and Elections* (Oxford University Press, 1997), pp. 234–235; International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, "Voter Turnout from 1945 to Date: A Global Report on Political Participation," at [www.idea.int/voter\\_turnout/voter\\_turnout.html](http://www.idea.int/voter_turnout/voter_turnout.html).

### 3. Voter Turnout in Presidential and Midterm Elections, 1990-2006





Christopher R. Caldwell  
11-4-02 CAC

# Why People Don't Vote

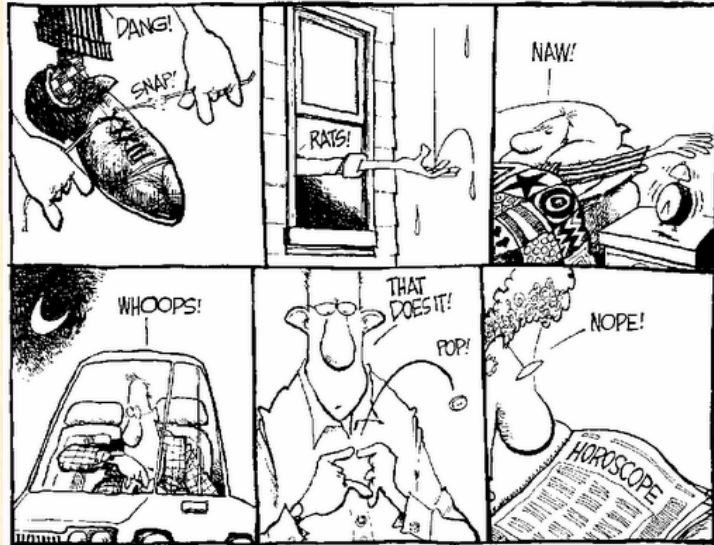
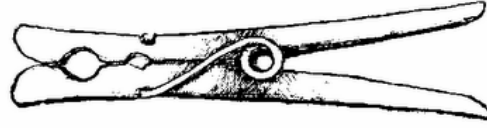
Too busy, conflicting schedule	19.9%
Illness or disability	15.4
Other reason	10.9
Not interested	10.7
Did not like candidates or campaign issues	9.9
Out of town	9.0
Don't know or refused	8.5
Registration problems	6.8
Forgot to vote	3.4
Inconvenient polling place	3.0
Transportation problems	2.1
Bad weather conditions	0.5

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SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Reasons for Not Voting, by Sex, Age, Race and Hispanic Origin, and Educational Attainment: November 2004," at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/voting/cps2004.html>

JIM BREMAN  
AN AMERICAN  
BUSINESS  
FINE

# VOTE ANYWAY.



JIM BREMAN  
AN AMERICAN  
BUSINESS  
FINE



TOP REASONS PEOPLE DON'T VOTE



TOP REASON PEOPLE DO



# HOW TO INCREASE VOTER TURNOUT...



# **VI. Elections**

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## **A. The Administration of Elections**

- 1. Most election law is state law**
- 2. Congress sets the time, place, and manner of Congressional Elections**

## **B. When Elections Are Held**

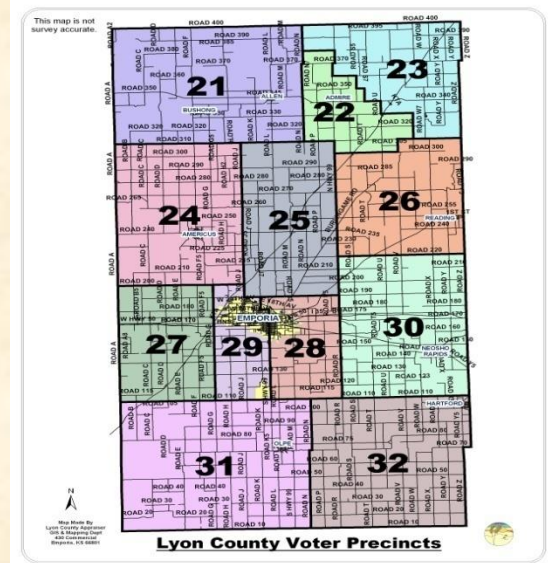
- 1. First Tuesday after first Monday in November of every even numbered year**

# VI. Elections



## C. Precincts and Polling Places

1. State law restricts the population size of voting districts, or precincts
2. Precinct election boards ensure that elections are held in an orderly manner, and each political party sends poll watchers to watch for election fraud.



# CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

## N.J.S.A. 19:57-1 et seq.

*You Must Apply for an Absentee Ballot for Each Election*

I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (CHECK ONE)

- Primary       General       Municipal       Special  
 Local School       Regional School       Voc. Tech. School  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ To be held on \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

SPECIFY

### CHECK & COMPLETE

I live in the  City  Town  Township  Borough  Village of \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY / ZIP CODE / PHONE

Mail my Ballot to the Following Address:

STREET ADDRESS

MUNICIPALITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

### Check Reason for Ballot

N.J.S.A. 19:57-3

I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because:

- I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day. DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Of illness or temporary physical disability  
 I am permanently and totally disabled, State reason \_\_\_\_\_  
     \* I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year.  
 Observance of a religious holiday on election day  
 Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day  
 Of nature and hours of my employment on election day

*Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct*

SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN THE REGISTRY BOOK

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME

\*\*\*\*\*  
 If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger

I designate \_\_\_\_\_  
 (NAME OF MESSENGER)

(SIGNATURE OF VOTER)

Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee. (MESSENGER MUST BE A FAMILY MEMBER OR A REGISTERED VOTER, N.J.S.A. 19:57-4)

SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER

STREET ADDRESS      MUNICIPALITY      ZIP CODE

Please Note: A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by mail up to 7 days prior to the election. He or she may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00 p.m. the day before the election. Applications are to be returned to the County Clerk in the County of your last domicile in New Jersey. *County Clerk listing on next page.*

\*Permanently and totally disabled voters have the option of indicating on an application for an absentee ballot that they would prefer to receive an absentee ballot for each election that takes place during the remainder of the calendar year.



