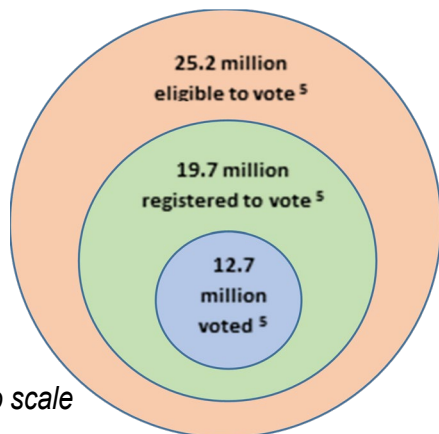


CA 2018 General Election Key Facts

- ❖ California ranked 31st among the 50 states for eligible voter turnout at 49.6%.⁴
- ❖ Registered voter turnout ranged from 76.0% in the Central/Southeast Sierra region to 58.2% in the San Joaquin Valley (Figure 1).⁵



Reasons for Low Voter Participation

- ❖ Lack of culturally relevant communication to mobilize minority populations.⁶
- ❖ Low trust in government is a top reason for not registering to vote.⁷
- ❖ Time constraints is a top reason for not always voting.⁷

Vulnerable Groups and Voting

The Every Vote Counts Act (SB 759) was enacted in 2018 to provide voters—especially those with disabilities, and non-English speakers—an opportunity to correct or verify signature mismatches on their mail-in ballots.⁸

In California, anyone serving a prison sentence or on parole is prohibited from voting. The imprisonment rate is disproportionately high among African American and Latino men.⁹ Increasing awareness about voting eligibility after completing prison sentences could help improve voter participation in these vulnerable groups.¹⁰

Visit the [HCI website](#) for more data on voter registration and participation.

Contact us

HCI OHE@cdph.ca.gov

Voting and Health

Healthy Communities Data and Indicators
Project (HCI) Office of Health Equity

How Voting is Important to Health

Voter participation is an important measure of civic engagement. Civic engagement can improve health by building social capital, defined as resources that individuals and groups access through social networks, providing a mutual benefit. Engaging in meaningful civic activities can also help individuals develop a sense of purpose and decrease feelings of social isolation.¹

Who is Eligible to Vote in California?

To register to vote in California, you must be:

1. A United States citizen and California resident;
2. ≥18 years old on Election Day;
3. Not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction;
4. Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.²

Disparities in Voter Registration

Are apparent across age, race/ethnicity and educational level.

Age

92.3% of eligible adults aged 65+ are registered voters, compared to 77.5% of eligible younger adults aged 18-24.³

Race/Ethnicity

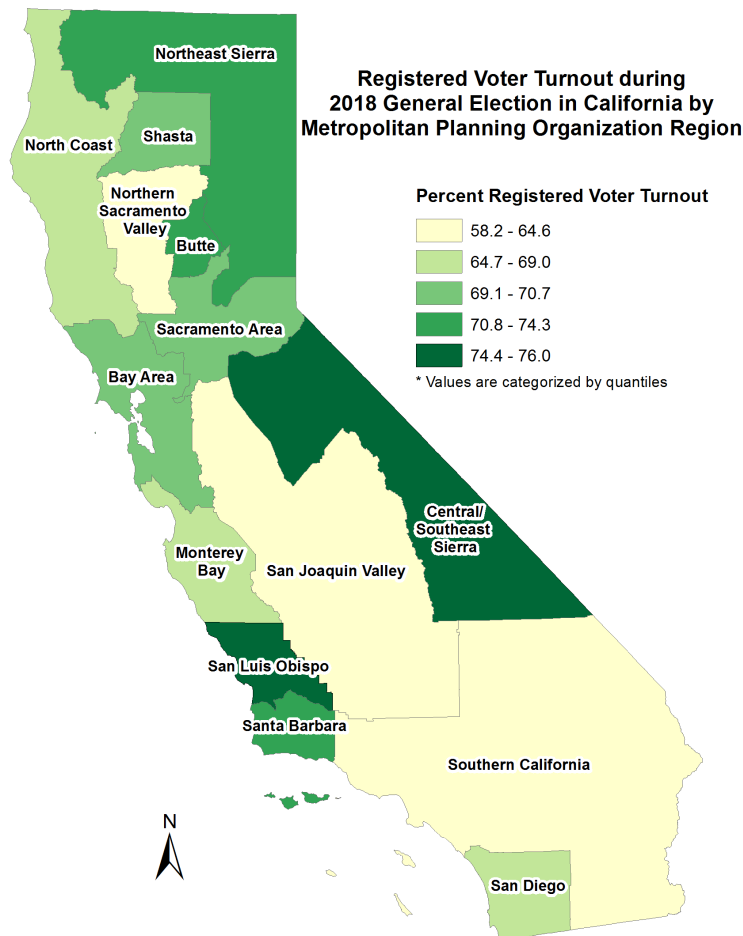
Asian/Pacific Islanders and Latinos have the lowest percentages of registered voters among those eligible (83.0% and 85.7% respectively) compared to Whites (91.5%).³

Educational Level³

Less than High School	76.5%
High School	81.7%
Some College	89.0%
Bachelor's Degree	93.8%
Graduate School	95.9%

*"Some College" includes vocational school or possession of an Associate's Degree.
"Graduate School" includes possession of a Master's or Doctorate Degree.*

Figure 1.



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