

Table 2-1 Turnout in Presidential and House Elections, 1930 - 2020 (percentage of voting age population)

Year	Presidential elections	House elections	Year	Presidential elections	House elections
1930		33.7	1976	55.1	50.3
1932	56.3	49.7	1978		39.5
1934		41.4	1980	54.7	49.3
1936	62.2	53.5	1982		42.2
1938		44.0	1984	56.0	50.2
1940	65.2	55.4	1986		38.2
1942		32.5	1988	53.1	47.6
1944	58.4	52.7	1990		38.1
1946		37.1	1992	58.1	53.6
1948	53.3	48.1	1994		40.5
1950		41.1	1996	51.5	48.2
1952	63.4	57.6	1998		37.6
1954		41.7	2000	54.3	50.2
1956	61.2	55.9	2002		37.2
1958		43.0	2004	60.7	55.3
1960	64.9	58.5	2006		38.7
1962		49.2	2008	61.6	57.6
1964	62.8	59.0	2010		40.1
1966		49.3	2012	58	56.1
1968	61.9	56.3	2014		34.9
1970		48.4	2016	59.3	57.1
1972	56.6	51.4	2018		48.1
1974		40.0	2020	66.1	64.9

Note: For all presidential elections and House elections 1962-2004, turnout is computed using the number of citizens eligible to vote in the United States. For House elections before 1962, it is computed using the voting age population (including non-citizens). For the 2006 elections and future editions of Vital Statistics on Congress, turnout is of voting-eligible population (VEP.) The voting-eligible population is the population that is eligible to vote. Counted among the voting-age population are persons who are ineligible to vote, such as non-citizens, felons (depending on state law), and mentally incapacitated persons. Not counted are persons in the military or civilians living overseas.

Some data from earlier years/previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

Source: For House elections 1930-60, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office). For presidential elections and House elections 1962-2004, numbers were provided by Curtis Gans of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate at American University. From 2006 to 2018, the VEP was calculated by Michael McDonald found at <http://www.electproject.org/> and calculated against the Federal Election Commission voting data found at <http://www.fec.gov>. For 2020, the VEP was calculated by Michael McDonald and calculated against the MIT Election Data + Science Lab voting data found at <https://electionlab.mit.edu>.