

Political Participation

Wilson Chapter 6

Low Voter Turnout?

- low turnout of voters in the U.S., compared to _____?
 - when turnout of _____ voters is compared, the U.S. does very well
 - usual mistake is to compare the % of U.S. _____ voting with the % of European _____ voters voting

Voter _____

- common explanation of low turnout
- real problem is low _____ rates
- proposed solution: _____ drives
 - this will not help those who are not registered

Causes of Nonregistration

- Registration has _____ in U.S.
 - Many European countries registration is _____ and costless.
- _____ Law of 1993
 - took effect in 1995
 - increased registration nationwide
 - Election day _____ was less depressed in states that implemented this law or had election-day registration.
 - Has not effected two-party balance in registration
 - more _____ registered

Figure 6.1: Sources of Voter Registration Application, 1995-1996

Participation other than Voting

- by other measures, Americans may _____ in politics more than Europeans
- Important question: how do different _____ of participation affect the government?

Rise of the American Electorate

- From state to _____ control
- Voting _____

From State to Federal Control

- Initially, states decided _____ could vote and for which offices
 - led to wide _____ in federal elections
- Congress has since reduced state _____ through law and constitutional amendment
- 1842 law: House members elected by _____

Expansion of Suffrage

- _____ = the right to vote
- women (_____ Amendment - 1920)
- blacks (_____ Amendment - 1870)
 - poll tax eliminated (_____ Amendment - 1964)
- 18-20 year olds (_____ Amendment - 1971)
- Popular election of Senators (_____ Amendment - 1913)

Black Voting Rights 1

- 15th Amendment _____ by Supreme Court
 - declared that it did not confer a _____ to vote
 - **Amendment XV - Race no bar to vote. Ratified 2/3/1870. History**
 - 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be _____ or _____ by the United States or by any State on account of _____, color, or previous condition of servitude.
 - 2. The _____ shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Black Voting Rights 2

- _____ states then used evasive stratagems to keep blacks from voting
 - _____ test
 - _____ tax
 - White _____
 - _____ clauses
 - Intimidation
- Most of these _____ were ruled out by Supreme Court

Black Voting Rights 3

- 1965 _____
 - increased black vote over next ____ years
 - Suspended literacy tests
 - Appointed federal _____ who could order the registration of blacks
 - Criminal penalties were set for interfering with the right to vote

Women's Voting Rights

- Several _____ states permitted women to vote by 1915
- 19th Amendment was ratified in _____
- No dramatic changes in electoral _____ or in public policy resulted from the amendment

Youth Vote

- Voting Rights Act of 1970
- 26th Amendment was ratified in _____
- Younger voters
 - _____ electoral turnout
 - _____ levels of civic participation
 - no particular _____ affiliation

Suffrage Notes

- National standards now govern most aspects of voter _____
- 23rd Amendment
 - ratified in _____
 - gave _____ of _____ residents the right to vote in presidential elections

Voting Turnout 1

- Debate about declining percentages of _____ adults who vote:
 - two theories:
 - Real decline caused by lessening popular _____ and decreasing party _____
 - Apparent decline, induced in part by the more _____ ballot counts of today
 - Parties once printed the ballots
 - Ballots were cast in _____
 - Parties controlled the counting

- Rules regarding voter eligibility were easily circumvented
- _____ ballot began to be adopted in 1910

Voting Turnout 2

- Most scholars see some real decline due to several causes:
 - Registration is more _____
 - longer _____ requirements
 - educational qualifications
 - _____
 - _____ has to occur far in advance of elections
 - Continuing drop after 1960 cannot be explained

Voting Turnout 3

- some scholars believe that non-voters _____ voters, so their absence has little effect on electoral outcomes

Figure 6.2: Voter Participation in Presidential Elections, 1860-1996

Who participates in politics?

- _____ of participation
- The _____ of participation
- The _____ of participation rates

Forms of Participation 1

- _____ the commonest form of political participation
 - but 8 to 10 % of citizens report voting regularly when they have not

Forms of Participation 2

Verba & Nie's 6 forms

- _____
 - Rarely vote or contribute to political organizations, or discuss politics
 - little education
 - low income
 - young
 - many blacks
 - ____ percent

Forms of Participation 2

Verba & Nie's 6 forms

- Voting _____
 - older
 - less educated
 - low income
- _____
 - vote and campaign
 - more education
 - _____ in politics
 - identify with a party
 - take strong positions

Forms of Participation 2

Verba & Nie's 6 forms

- Nonpartisan _____ Activists

- communalists
- local focus

- _____ Participants

- don't vote or participate in campaigns or political organizations
- do contact politicians about problems

Forms of Participation 2

Verba & Nie's 6 forms

- _____
 - _____ in all forms of politics
 - highly _____
 - high income
 - middle age
 - ____ percent

Causes of Participation 1

- Those with _____ or political _____ are more likely to vote
- _____-goers vote more because church involvement develops the skills associated with political participation
- Men and women vote at the _____ rate
- Black participation is _____ than that of whites overall
 - but _____ is true when we control for _____

Causes of Participation 2

- no _____ between distrust of political leaders and not voting
- As turnout has declined, registration barriers have been _____ and so they cannot account for the differences

Causes of Participation 3

- several small factors decrease turnout
 - More _____, blacks, and other minorities in population are pushing down the percent of eligible adults who are registered
 - _____ are less effective in mobilizing voters
 - Remaining _____ to registration have some discouraging effects
 - Voting is compulsory in other nations
 - Possible feeling that elections do not _____

Causes of Participation 4

- Democrats & Republicans fight over solutions
 - No one really knows who would be _____ by increased turnout
 - Nonvoters tend to be _____, _____, or _____
 - But an increasing percentage of college graduates and white-collar workers are also not voting
 - Hard to be sure that turnout efforts produce gains for either _____
 - Jesse _____ in 1984 increased registration of southern whites even more than southern blacks

Causes of Participation 5

- meaning of participation rates
 - Americans vote _____, but participate _____
 - Other forms of _____ are becoming more common
 - Some forms of participation are more common here than in other countries
 - Americans elect _____ officials and have more _____
 - U.S. turnout rates are heavily skewed to _____ status persons