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ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, FOR STATES: NOVEMBER 1960

About 107.0 million civilians will be old enough to vote in the November 1960 general election, according to estimates released by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This figure includes all civilians 21 years of age and over for the 50 States and the District of Columbia, as well as civilians 18 to 20 years of age for Georgia and Kentucky, 19 and 20 years of age for Alaska, and 20 years of age for Hawaii. These four States permit persons under 21 in the ages mentioned to vote. Not included are approximately 1.9 million members of the Armed Forces of voting age, both at home and abroad, and an unknown number of civilians abroad, some of whom would be eligible to vote.

Women of voting age, estimated at 56.1 million, outnumber men by about 5.2 million. If members of the Armed Forces of voting age were included, this difference would be about 3.4 million.

The civilian population of voting age includes a great many persons who, although old enough to vote, cannot do so. There are about 2¾ million aliens of voting age in the United States. Among citizens of voting age, there are some persons who have not satisfied State requirements as to residence, registration, or payment of poll taxes. Some others are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, or other institutions. Eligibility to vote is determined by State laws, which vary in many respects. There are a substantial number of persons of voting age in the District of Columbia who lack voting residence in any State.

About 400,000 civilian residents of Alaska and Hawaii will be eligible to vote in a presidential election for the first time. In addition, about 8.4 million civilians (3.9 million men and 4.5 million women) in the other 48 States and the District of Columbia will have reached voting age since the 1956 election. The net increase in the number of civilians of voting age since 1956 is about 4.2 million (1.8 million men and 2.4 million women), or 4.1 percent.

The total vote cast for presidential electors in 1956 was 62,027,000, or 60.4 percent of the civilian population of voting age (table 1). A similar turnout of voters in 1960 would mean that about 64½ million votes would be cast. The percentage of the voting-age population casting votes for United States Representatives in 1956 and 1958 amounted to 57.3 percent and 43.6 percent, respectively.

The distribution of the civilian population of voting age by States is shown in table 2. The population is distributed by usual residence as defined by the Census of Population rather than by voting residence.

The rank of States according to the civilian population of voting age corresponds

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closely to the rank of States according to total population. Thus, New York has the largest voting-age population (10,788,000), followed by California (9,219,000), Pennsylvania (7,102,000), Illinois (6,244,000), Ohio (5,833,000), and Texas (5,329,000). The State with the smallest voting-age population is Alaska (83,000).

There is a national average of 199,000 civilians of voting age for each of the 537 presidential electors to be chosen in November 1960. The average varies greatly from State to State, however. Florida has 310,000 civilians of voting age per elector and California has 288,000. On the other hand, Alaska has 28,000 civilians per elector, Nevada has 58,000, Wyoming has 62,000, and Vermont 77,000. It should be noted that the reallocation of electors among the States on the basis of the 1960 Census will not be effective until the 1964 election.

Table 1.--CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, 1940 TO 1960, AND VOTES CAST FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, 1940 TO 1958

Year (November)	Civilian population of voting age[1]	Vote cast for presidential electors[2]		Vote cast for United States Representatives[2]	
		Number	Percent of civilian population of voting age	Number	Percent of civilian population of voting age
1960	106,974,000	...	...	...	...
1958	104,603,000	...	...	[3]45,606,000	43.6
1956	102,726,000	62,027,000	60.4	58,886,000	57.3
1954	100,223,000	...	...	42,580,000	42.5
1952	98,133,000	61,552,000	62.7	57,571,000	58.7
1950	97,023,000	...	...	40,430,000	41.7
1948	94,877,000	48,834,000	51.5	46,142,000	48.6
1946	92,018,000	...	...	34,398,000	37.4
1944	[4]90,599,000	[5]47,976,000	53.0	45,103,000	49.8
1942	82,851,000	...	...	28,074,000	33.9
1940	84,319,000	49,820,000	59.1	46,951,000	55.7

[1] Population 21 years old and over in the 48 States and the District of Columbia in all years, plus population 18 to 20 years in Georgia for 1944 to date, 18 to 20 years in Kentucky for 1956 to date, 19 years and over in Alaska in 1960, and 20 years and over in Hawaii in 1960.

[2] A small part of the vote was cast by persons in the Armed Forces. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1959, tables 445, 446, and 452; ibid.: 1958, table 440.

[3] Alaska election total of 49,000 in November 1958 not included.

[4] Total population including Armed Forces overseas. Civilian population was 81,024,000.

[5] Vote cast by civilians was 45,285,000. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Election: 1944, Nos. 3 and 5.

METHODOLOGY

The estimate of the civilian population of voting age for the United States as a whole is based on data from the 1950 Census; data on births and deaths provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics, United States Public Health Service; data on immigration and emigration provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice; and data relating to the Armed Forces provided by the Department of Defense. This estimate does not take account of any results from the 1960 Census; data by age for the Nation as a whole are not yet available from this census. However, it does not seem likely that the estimate will prove greatly out of line with the census results.

The estimates of the distribution of the voting-age population by States take account of the preliminary counts of the population of all ages for States from the 1960 Census as well as incomplete tabulations of the population by age for about half the States. For the other States, the proportions of the civilian population 21 years of age and over were obtained by extrapolating the estimated proportions 21 and over by States as of July 1958.[1] These latter estimates were obtained by carrying forward the 1950 Census data for this age group in each State, allowing for

[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 214, "Estimates of the Civilian Population by Broad Age Groups, for States and Selected Outlying Areas: July 1, 1958," March 24, 1960.

births, civilian deaths, net civilian international and interstate migration, and net movement of civilians into the Armed Forces, between April 1, 1950, and the estimate date.

Previous estimates of the civilian population of voting age for the election years of the last decade[2] are not consistent with the estimates for 1960 shown in this report, principally because the former estimates take no account of the results of the 1960 Census.

[2] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 100, 143, and 185.

Table 2.--ESTIMATES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF VOTING AGE FOR STATES, 1960, AND PERCENT CASTING VOTES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, 1956

(Each estimate has been independently rounded to the nearest thousand from figures computed to the last digit; hence, the sums of parts shown may differ slightly from the totals shown)

Region, division, and State	Number, November 1, 1960[1]	Percent casting votes, 1956[2]	
		For presidential electors	For U.S. Representatives
United States	106,974,000	[3]60	[3]57
REGIONS:			
Northeast	28,242,000	68	66
North Central	30,987,000	69	66
South	31,564,000	42	36
West	16,181,000	[3]66	[3]63
NORTHEAST:			
New England	6,525,000	74	71
Middle Atlantic	21,718,000	66	64
NORTH CENTRAL:			
East North Central	21,754,000	69	66
West North Central	9,233,000	69	66
SOUTH:			
South Atlantic	15,092,000	42	39
East South Central	6,944,000	40	33
West South Central	9,527,000	42	35
WEST:			
Mountain	3,766,000	67	65
Pacific	12,415,000	[3]66	[3]63
NEW ENGLAND:			
Maine	574,000	65	54
New Hampshire	367,000	75	71
Vermont	230,000	69	69
Massachusetts	3,230,000	75	72
Rhode Island	533,000	74	72
Connecticut	1,590,000	77	76
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:			
New York	10,788,000	65	64
New Jersey	3,827,000	70	67
Pennsylvania	7,102,000	65	64
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:			
Ohio	5,833,000	65	59
Indiana	2,784,000	72	72
Illinois	6,244,000	72	69
Michigan	4,519,000	67	65
Wisconsin	2,373,000	67	65
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:			
Minnesota	2,003,000	68	70
Iowa	1,669,000	74	70
Missouri	2,651,000	67	62
WEST NORTH CENTRAL--Con.			
North Dakota	350,000	67	60
South Dakota	388,000	72	71
Nebraska	857,000	66	62
Kansas	1,315,000	68	65
SOUTH ATLANTIC:			
Delaware	264,000	72	71
Maryland	1,819,000	55	51
District of Columbia	492,000	...	...
Virginia	2,244,000	34	34
West Virginia	1,085,000	72	70
North Carolina	2,521,000	48	42
South Carolina	1,227,000	25	21
Georgia	2,342,000	30	27
Florida	3,099,000	48	40
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:			
Kentucky	1,876,000	57	52
Tennessee	2,079,000	46	33
Alabama	1,825,000	29	22
Mississippi	1,163,000	22	18
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:			
Arkansas	1,029,000	40	26
Louisiana	1,770,000	37	23
Oklahoma	1,399,000	64	61
Texas	5,329,000	38	33
MOUNTAIN:			
Montana	387,000	72	70
Idaho	372,000	77	74
Wyoming	186,000	69	67
Colorado	1,007,000	70	66
New Mexico	491,000	62	60
Arizona	680,000	50	48
Utah	469,000	76	75
Nevada	174,000	64	63
PACIFIC:			
Washington	1,703,000	71	66
Oregon	1,089,000	68	67
California	9,219,000	65	62
Alaska	83,000	...	...
Hawaii	321,000	...	...

[1] The population figures for all States relate to civilians 21 years and over except the following: Georgia and Kentucky, 18 years and over; Alaska, 19 years and over; Hawaii, 20 years and over.

[2] Based on votes cast as shown in Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1959, table 446, p. 347, and table 452, p. 352 and on estimates of the population, of voting age in November 1956, as shown in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 143.

[3] Alaska and Hawaii are excluded.

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