CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Estimates

Series P-25, No. 325
January 25, 1966

PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE NOVEMBER 1966 AND 1968

This report presents projections of the population of voting age in the United States for November 1966 and 1968, the dates of the next two general elections, and the corresponding estimates of the population of voting age for November 1964, when the last general election was held. Projections are also presented of the number of persons on November 1966 and 1968 who will have reached voting age since November 1964. Separate figures are given in each case for men and women and for whites and nonwhites.

About 114.4 million persons in the United States, including Armed Forces overseas, were old enough to vote in the general election of November 1964. This figure includes persons 18 to 20 years of age residing in Georgia and Kentucky, persons 19 and 20 years of age in Alaska, and persons 20 years of age in Hawaii, in addition to the population 21 years of age and over for the 50 States and the District of Columbia. These four States permit persons under 21 in the ages noted to vote. Also included are an estimated 2.1 million members of the Armed Forces who were of voting age in November 1964. The population of voting age is expected to increase to about 117.0 million in November 1966 and to about 120.7 million in November 1968 (table 1). The corresponding figures for the civilian population of voting age

Table 1.--ESTIMATED AND PROJECTED POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, BY COLOR AND BY SEX: NOVEMBER 1, 1964, 1966, AND 1968

(In thousands. Population 21 years old and over, except as follows: 18 years and over in Georgia and Kentucky, 19 years and over in Alaska, and 20 years and over in Hawaii. Includes 50 States and the District of Columbia in all years)

Color and sex	Total population including Armed Forces overseas			Total resident population[1]			Civilian resident population[1]		
	1964	1966	1968	1964	1966	1968	1964	1966	1968
Total	114,370	116,988	120,652	113,795	116,383	120,048	112,184	114,837	118,501
Male	55,178	56,283	57,945	54,605	55,682	57,344	53,013	54,155	55,817
Female	59,192	60,705	62,707	59,190	60,702	62,704	59,171	60,682	62,684
White	102,658	104,909	108,119	102,135	104,359	107,570	100,655	102,943	106,153
Nonwhite	11,712	12,079	12,533	11,659	12,024	12,478	11,529	11,894	12,348

[1] Total resident population includes Armed Forces stationed in the United States but excludes those stationed outside the United States. Civilian resident population excludes all Armed Forces. See text for assumption regarding Armed Forces in future years.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, 15 cents.
Annual subscription (Series P-20, P-23, P-25, P-27, P-28 summaries, P-60, and P-65, combined), $4.00; foreign mailing, $5.25.

are as follows: 112.2 million (November 1964), 114.8 million (November 1966), and 118.5 million (November 1968). In the latter projections, which exclude Armed Forces at home and abroad, it is assumed that the size and age distribution of the Armed Forces will remain at the same levels as in 1965. Not included in any of the above figures are civilian citizens of the United States residing overseas, some of whom are eligible to vote. In November 1964, an estimated one-quarter million dependents of members of the Armed Forces or civilian citizen employees of the U.S. Government and their dependents of voting age were residing overseas.

The population of voting age includes a great many persons who are old enough to vote but cannot do so for many reasons. Among these persons are aliens. About 3.4 million aliens registered under the requirements of the Immigration and Naturalization Act with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in January 1965; the majority of these are usual residents of the United States and of voting age. Among citizens of voting age, many are unable to vote because they have not satisfied State requirements as to registration or as to length of residence in the State, county, and election precinct.[1] Some others are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals, or other institutions. All States permit persons in the Armed Forces and their dependents to vote by absentee ballot, but several States do not permit absentee voting by mail by civilians. State requirements relating to the payment of poll taxes, as a prerequisite for voting in national elections, were abolished just before the general election in 1964 by the 24th Amendment to the Constitution. Many persons are still not able to vote because they do not meet other requirements called for by State laws, such as the requirement to pass literacy or other tests.[2]

Votes cast for presidential electors in 1964 represented 61.8 percent of the total population of voting age. Votes cast for U.S. Representatives in that year constituted 57.6 percent of the total. In 1962, the last year when a general election was held but no president was elected, only 45.9 percent of the total population of voting age cast a vote for a U.S. Representative.

Of all persons of voting age in November 1964, 51.8 percent were women and 48.2 percent were men (table 2). The excess of women over men in the population of voting age, amounting to 4.0 million in 1964, is likely to increase in the future. By 1968, women of voting age may comprise 52.0 percent of the voting-age population and exceed the number of men of voting age by 4.8 million.

---

[1] Currently more than two-thirds of the States require a residence in the State of at least 1 year, and most of the remaining States require a residence of at least 6 months. Moreover, in nearly all States advance registration is required.

Although persons of voting age in the District of Columbia were eligible to vote for the first time in a general election in 1964, a substantial number of persons of voting age in the District lack voting residence in the District or in any State.

[2] Literacy and other voting tests and devices are subject to suspension under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in those States or political subdivisions of States where less than half the population of voting age were registered to vote or voted in the general election of 1964. As a result, such tests and devices are no longer applicable in the States of Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia, and in selected counties of certain other States, particularly North Carolina.

Table 2.--PERCENT DISTRIBUTION AND INCREASE OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, BY COLOR AND BY SEX: NOVEMBER 1, 1964 TO 1968

(Numbers in thousands. Total population including Armed Forces overseas)

Color and sex	Percent distribution			Increase					
	November 1, 1964	November 1, 1966	November 1, 1968	1964 to 1968		1964 to 1966		1966 to 1968	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	6,282	5.5	2,617	2.3	3,665	3.1
Male	48.2	48.1	48.0	2,768	5.0	1,105	2.0	1,662	3.0
Female	51.8	51.9	52.0	3,515	5.9	1,512	2.6	2,002	3.3
White	89.8	89.7	89.6	5,461	5.3	2,251	2.2	3,211	3.1
Nonwhite	10.2	10.3	10.4	821	7.0	367	3.1	454	3.8

The nonwhite population of voting age, which numbered 11.7 million in 1964, is expected to grow one-third more rapidly than the white population of voting age between 1964 and 1968--7.0 percent for the nonwhite population as compared with 5.3 percent for the white population. As a result, the proportion nonwhite among potential voters will show a slight rise from 10.2 percent to 10.4 percent between 1964 and 1968.

The number of persons who will be old enough to vote in the 1966 and 1968 elections who were not old enough to vote in November 1964 is estimated at about 5.7 million in 1966 and 12.6 million in 1968.

Table 3.--PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION REACHING VOTING AGE SINCE NOVEMBER 1, 1964, BY COLOR AND BY SEX: NOVEMBER 1, 1966 AND 1968

(In thousands. Total population including Armed Forces overseas)

Color and sex	November 1, 1966	November 1, 1968
Total	5,689	12,569
Male	2,867	6,332
Female	2,822	6,236
White	4,980	11,044
Nonwhite	709	1,525

The figures in this report are based on estimates of the population of the United States by age, color, and sex, for July 1, 1965, and earlier years published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 321, and special projections of the midyear population 21 years and over, by sex and color, for the next several years. (To insure complete consistency with the latest current estimates, the projections available in Series P-25, No. 286, were not used for this purpose.) These estimates and projections, in turn, were based on data from the Census of 1960; statistics and estimates of births and deaths provided by the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Public Health Service; statistics on immigration and emigration provided by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, supplemented by data on passenger movement from Puerto Rico to the mainland as reported by the Government of Puerto Rico; and figures relating to the Armed Forces provided by the Department of Defense.

The estimates of the voting-age population for November 1964 were developed directly by interpolation between the current estimates of population for July 1, 1964, and July 1, 1965, adjusted to include the population of voting age under 21 years in the special States. The projections of voting-age population were derived by carrying forward the July 1, 1965, population in the appropriate age cohorts to July 1 of each year, 1966 to 1969, on the basis of allowances for deaths and net immigration, and interpolating to the election dates. The projections of the total resident and civilian resident population of voting age for 1966 and 1968 were derived from the total including Armed Forces overseas by subtracting an allowance for Armed Forces overseas and total Armed Forces, respectively. For this purpose, the arbitrary assumption was made that the size, geographic distribution, and age, sex, and color composition of the Armed Forces on July 1, 1965, would remain unchanged in the next few years.

The estimates of the voting-age population of the United States for November 1964 shown in this report supersede the corresponding estimates shown in Series P-25, No. 315, and Series P-23, No. 14. The former report also presents estimates of the civilian population of voting age for the United States as a whole for 1920 to 1962. The latter report presents estimates of voting-age population for States in 1964 and 1960.

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE