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Population Estimates and Projections

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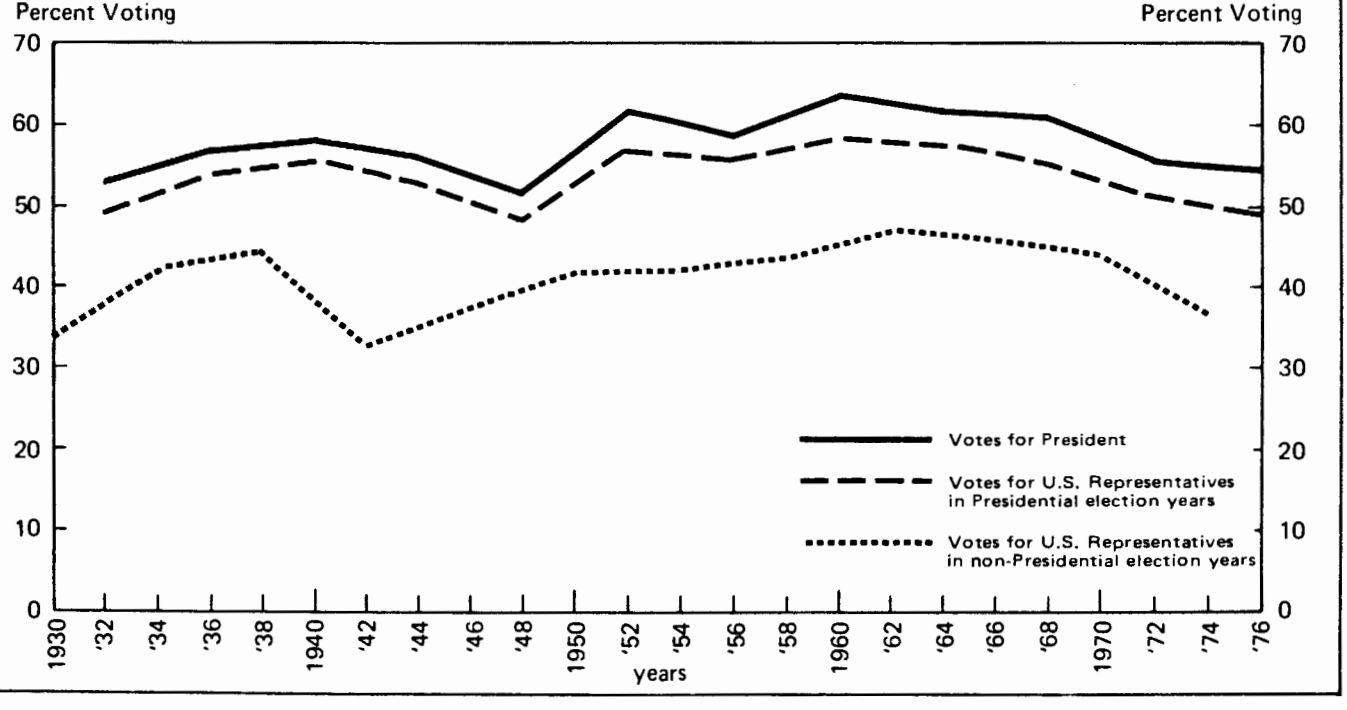
Projections of the Population of Voting Age for States: November 1978

This report presents projections of the November 1978 population of voting age for States, by race and broad age groups as a reference for the upcoming non-Presidential election. Included are estimates of the population of voting age and the percent casting votes in Presidential and Congressional election years in each State since 1960 and in the United States since 1930. The information on the number of votes cast in both Presidential and Congressional election years is published biennially by the U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House, in either **Statistics of the Presidential and Congressional Elections** or **Statistics of the Congressional Elections.**

As a result of the ratification of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the voting-age data shown in the tables of this report beginning with 1972 relate to persons 18 years old and over in all States and the District of Columbia, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in each State. They exclude population overseas—currently about 500,000 Armed Forces and 50,000 Federal civilian employees, plus their dependents of voting age—who would be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in their home State. All States and the District of Columbia permit members of the Armed Forces to register and vote by the absentee process. In 1968, the Congress amended the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 to permit all other U.S. citizens temporarily residing overseas to register or vote.[1]

[1] See U.S. Department of Defense, **Federal Voting Assistance Program,** 11th Report, December 1977. Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.

Figure 1. **Percent Casting Votes for President and U.S. Representatives: 1930 to 1976**



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For elections prior to 1972, the voting-age population included persons 21 years and over, except in Georgia and Kentucky (18 years and over), Alaska (19 years old and over), and Hawaii (20 years old and over).

FINDINGS

In the period between the general elections of November 1976 and 1978, the Nation's potential electorate will increase by 5.4 million persons (table 3). In November 1978, there will be 155 million[2] persons 18 years old and over in the United States, an increase of about 3.6 percent over 1976 (table A).

Since November 1970, the population of voting age has grown by 31 million or 25 percent. During this period, the total population of the United States increased by only 7 percent. The young adult population has been the most rapidly growing age group during the 1970's as a consequence of the large number of persons born during the post-World War II years. In addition, nearly 11 million of those who reached voting age since 1970 were brought into the voting-age population in 1972 by the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age in national elections to age 18. The population in ages 18 to 44 has grown by 16 million since 1970 (22 percent), while the population 45 years and over increased by 6 million, or only 10 percent. As a consequence, the median age of the voting-age population has declined from 43 years in 1970 (table 2) to 41 years by 1978.

Among the four regions of the country, the South and West will have the largest share of the Nation's voting-age population in 1978 for the first time in national elections, with 50.5 percent of the total (table 3). In 1970, the Northeast and North Central regions contained 52 percent of the voting-age population. The attraction of net inmigrants to the South and West at the expense of the Northern industrial States during the 1970's accounts for their increasing proportion of the Nation's potential electorate. Comparison of growth rates for each State with growth rates for the Nation as a whole reveals the extent to which the Nation's electorate has redistributed itself in the last few years. All 13 States in the West, 14 Southern States, and only 6 Northern States exceeded the national growth rate of 7.2 percent between 1974[3] and 1978 (table 2). Some 15 Northern States and 2 Southern States were growing more slowly, and the District of Columbia emerged with a smaller voting-age population in 1978 than in 1974.

Women have constituted more than half of the population of voting age in the United States since 1940. By 1970, they had increased their majority to 52.7 percent of the voting-age population (essentially 21 and over) and to 52.5 percent of the population 18 and over. They outnumbered men 18 and over in all States except Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, and North Dakota (table 2). The female share of the voting-age population has declined slightly since 1970, however, as the large increase in the number of young adults and the addition of 18-to-20 year olds (both with high sex ratios) have offset the effect of the continued growth of the older population.

Minority populations. The Nation's population of voting age includes 136 million Whites, approximately 16 million Blacks, and 3 million persons of other races—mostly American Indian and Asian Americans such as Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese (table 2). Both Blacks and other races are increasing their share of the voting-age population. This is particularly true of Asians, who have immigrated to the United States in large numbers since the middle 1960's. The Spanish origin population of voting age in the United States was estimated at 7 million persons in March 1978, according to the results of the Current Population Survey (CPS).[4]

The Black population, which comprises 10 percent of the total electorate, is considerably younger than the White population of voting age, due in large part to higher fertility rates among Blacks. The Black population constitutes a larger proportion of the South's population of voting age than of any other region (table 2). In the District of Columbia, Blacks are a majority of the electorate. In Mississippi, South Carolina, and Louisiana, they represent somewhat more than a quarter of the voting-age population.

Other racial minorities comprise only a small proportion of the voting-age population in the country. The greatest proportion of American Indians and Asian Americans are

[2] This figure includes about 4 million noncitizens residing in the United States.

[3] The last Federal election year without a Presidential contest.

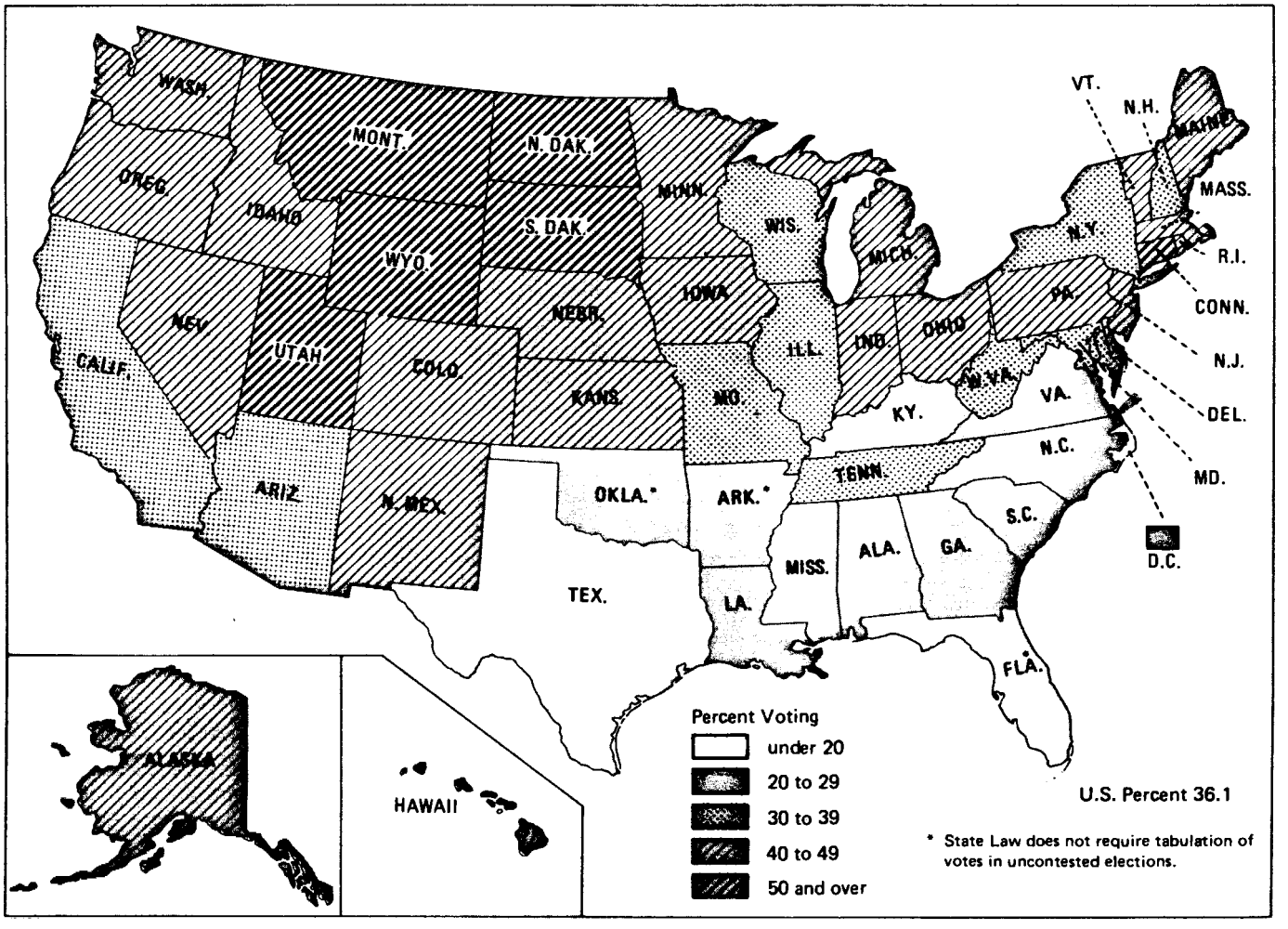
[4] See **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 328. Persons of Spanish origin were self-identified in the March 1978 CPS by a question on the person's origin or descent. Persons of Spanish origin were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Spanish origin.

Table A. Projections of the Population of Voting Age in the United States and Regions, by Race: November 1978

(In thousands)

Race	United States	Northeast	North Central	South	West
Total	155,492	35,806	41,154	50,100	28,432
White	136,600	32,179	37,501	41,372	25,539
Black and other races	18,892	3,627	3,643	8,729	2,893

Figure 2. **Percent of the Voting-Age Population Voting in the 1974 Congressional Elections**



found in the West, where they constituted 1 percent and 3 percent respectively, of the voting-age population in 1970.

Sixty percent of the population of Spanish origin live in the five Southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas), and are largely concentrated in metropolitan areas. Another 13 percent live in New York and 6 percent in Florida. The Spanish origin population includes a substantial number of young persons. In 1978, the median age of the Spanish origin voting-age population (35 years) was lower than the median age of the Black voting-age population (38 years) and the overall voting-age population in the United States (41 years).

Voting participation. Voter participation in the United States has traditionally been lower in non-Presidential elections than in years when a President was being elected. In the non-Presidential election of 1974, only 36 percent of the national voting-age population voted for U.S. Representatives, 18 percentage points below the Presidential vote in 1976 and 14 percentage points less than the Congressional vote in 1976 (figure 1). Part of the difference between the vote for President and Congress in any Presidential election year results from the nontabulation of Congressional votes in uncontested elections in a few of the Southern States. Nonetheless, most of the differential in non-Presidential election years may be attributed to lower levels of voter participation.

In the last non-Presidential election in 1974, Connecticut, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming were the only States with more than half of the voting-age population voting for Congress. South Dakota had the highest level of voter participation with 59 percent. At the other extreme, less than 19 percent voted in Florida and Texas, and four other Southern States had only 20 to 24 percent voting (table 4).

An analysis of voting statistics since 1960 has shown a great decline in voter participation, with the national level of voting in Presidential elections down from 63 percent in 1960 to 54 percent in 1976. Voting in non-Presidential elections indicates a similar pattern of decline moving from 46 percent in 1962 to 36 percent in November 1974 (table 4). This decline has been particularly notable since 1970, explained only partly by the broadening of the voting base to include persons 18 to 20, who have voted in much smaller proportions than the older voters.

Results from the CPS conducted after each national election provide additional detail on the characteristics of voters. The survey of 1976, for example, indicated that voter participation among Whites was substantially higher than for Blacks (about 12 percentage points) and about twice the rate

for persons of Spanish origin (table B). Voter participation in general rose with increased educational level and with increased age. Women are now voting with the same frequency as men. In 1976, 59 percent of the women of voting age reported themselves as voting compared with 60 percent of men. Younger women (under 45 years) voted at slightly higher rates than men and older women at somewhat lower rates.[5]

Population ineligible to vote. The population of voting age includes a relatively modest number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot vote, although the number has been appreciably smaller since 1972 due to shortened residence requirements. Aliens are the principal group of ineligible voting-age persons. It is estimated that there will be about 4 million aliens 18 years and over residing in the United States in November 1978, somewhat less than 3 percent of the total voting-age population.[6] In addition, somewhat more than 500,000 persons will be disenfranchised because they have been committed to prisions, mental hospitals, or other institutions.

METHODOLOGY

The projections of the population of voting age shown by State, age, and race for November 1978 were based on the 1970 population counts and provisional July 1, 1977 estimates of the resident population, by age for States.[7] The 1970 census base was adjusted slightly to reflect corrections to area counts made since the census tabulations, and to correct for the overstatement of other races and the centenarian population in the census.

The projections of the voting-age population for States shown by age for November 1978 were derived by extending the trend for the period April 1, 1970 to July 1, 1977, linearly for 1 year and 4 months. The projections by age for States obtained in this manner were adjusted to an independent national projection of the population by age for November 1, 1978.

The 1978 projections shown by race for each State were based on July 1, 1975 estimates of the population by race shown in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-23, No. 67, "Population Estimates by Race for States: July 1, 1973 and 1975."

The projections of the population of voting age were developed for race by assuming that the proportion 18 years of age and over in each State changed from 1970 to 1975 at the same rate as the United States and applying the estimated 1975 proportion to the 1975 race estimates to estimate a 1975 population 18 years and over. The 1970 and 1975 proportion of each State's population 18 years and over to the total for the United States was then extended linearly to November 1, 1978. As a last step, the projections were adjusted to the State age projections and to an independent national total by race for the age group.

The estimates of the resident population of voting age for each State for elections prior to November 1970 were based on intercensal estimates of the resident population of States published in **Current Population Reports**, Series P-25, No. 460. The proportion of the population of each State which was 21 years old and over (18 years and over in Kentucky and Georgia, 20 years and over in Hawaii, and 19 years old and over in Alaska) in the two consecutive censuses, was derived. Linear interpolation between the 1960 and 1970 census proportion provides an estimate for each State for each of the election years. These proportions were then

[5] **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 322, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1976," March 1978.

[6] Based on unpublished data from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to be included in the forthcoming **1977 Annual Report**.

[7] See **1970 Census of Population**, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, for each State, table 19 and **Current Population Reports**, Series P-25, No. 734.

Table B. Percent Reported Voting by Age, Sex, and Race: November 1976

(As reported in the Current Population Survey. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age	Total	White	Black	Spanish origin[1]	Men	Women
Total, 18 years and over.....	59.2	60.9	48.7	31.8	59.6	58.8
18 to 24 years.....	42.2	44.7	27.9	21.8	40.9	43.4
25 to 34 years.....	55.4	57.3	46.0	29.3	54.6	56.1
35 to 44 years.....	63.3	65.1	54.4	38.6	62.5	64.0
45 to 64 years.....	68.7	69.9	62.3	40.3	69.7	67.9
65 years and over.....	62.2	63.2	54.3	29.9	68.3	58.0

[1]Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 322, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1976," March 1978, table 2.

applied to the appropriate annual estimates of the intercensal population for States to yield estimates of the voting-age population. As a final step, these estimates were adjusted to an independent estimate of the voting-age population for the United States as a whole.

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROJECTIONS

The procedure for developing the age projections involves a 16-month extrapolation of age trends beyond the estimates for July 1, 1977. An evaluation of the procedure for developing population estimates for States by age appears in **Current Population Reports,** Series P-25, No. 734. The average percent error for the estimates of the voting-age population as shown by the test was 1.5 percent. The extrapolative procedure used to develop the age projections would be expected to have a larger error.

The method used to develop the estimates by race also involved an extrapolative technique, but of longer duration (2 years and 4 months). By virtue of this fact and the likelihood of less precision in the 1975 race estimates than in the 1977 age estimates, the projections by race are subject to much greater possible error than the detail by age. The 1975 estimates of the total Black population, however, were evaluated against an independent source, the Survey of Income and Education (SIE). The comparison revealed that the 1975 estimates and the results of the SIE are within normal sampling variance for the Black population. (See **Current Population Reports,** Series P-23, No. 67.)

The estimates contained here are designed primarily to provide approximate growth patterns and levels of the voting-age population by race. Small differences between figures, as well as small changes over time, should be interpreted cautiously.

RELATED REPORTS

The projections of the voting-age population for November 1978 are consistent with estimates of the population of States by age for July 1,1977, published in **Current Population Reports,** Series P-25, No. 734. The estimates for 1976 contained in the report supersede those published in **Current Population Reports,** Series P-25, No. 626. Estimates of the U.S. population by race and single years of age up to 1977 appear in Series P-25, No. 721.

Related data from the CPS on reported voting and registration in the national elections of November 1976 and 1974 are published in **Current Population Reports,** Series P-20, No. 322 and 293.

ROUNDING OF ESTIMATES

The estimates shown in the tables of this report have been rounded to the nearest thousand without adjustment to group totals which are independently rounded. The percentages are based on unrounded numbers.

Table 1. Projections of the Population of Voting Age by Age and Race for States: November 1978

(In thousands. Population 18 years old and over. Includes Armed Forces in each State)

Region, division, and State	Population of voting age	Age				Race	
		18 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over	White	Black
United States	155,492	28,832	58,696	43,858	24,105	136,600	16,198
REGIONS:							
Northeast	35,806	6,114	13,068	10,785	5,838	32,179	3,210
North Central	41,154	7,793	15,473	11,431	6,456	37,510	3,304
South	50,100	9,427	19,040	13,791	7,842	41,372	8,287
West	28,432	5,498	11,114	7,851	3,969	25,539	1,397
NORTHEAST:							
New England	8,922	1,608	3,303	2,563	1,448	8,573	289
Middle Atlantic	26,884	4,506	9,765	8,222	4,390	23,606	2,921
NORTH CENTRAL:							
East North Central	29,040	5,529	11,047	8,148	4,316	26,039	2,776
West North Central	12,113	2,264	4,426	3,283	2,140	11,472	529
SOUTH:							
South Atlantic	25,005	4,658	9,400	6,951	3,996	20,255	4,530
East South Central	9,780	1,804	3,725	2,698	1,552	8,075	1,661
West South Central	15,316	2,965	5,915	4,142	2,294	13,042	2,096
WEST:							
Mountain	7,070	1,444	2,751	1,919	958	6,703	156
Pacific	21,362	4,054	8,363	5,933	3,011	18,836	1,240
NEW ENGLAND:							
Maine	776	139	280	224	132	771	(S)
New Hampshire	614	106	244	167	96	610	(S)
Vermont	344	65	137	88	55	341	(S)
Massachusetts	4,230	780	1,554	1,201	695	4,052	147
Rhode Island	678	117	237	203	121	653	19
Connecticut	2,279	400	852	679	349	2,145	120
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:							
New York	12,967	2,178	4,802	3,885	2,102	11,132	1,622
New Jersey	5,305	877	1,944	1,656	828	4,647	591
Pennsylvania	8,611	1,452	3,018	2,681	1,460	7,828	707
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:							
Ohio	7,589	1,436	2,866	2,157	1,129	6,849	697
Indiana	3,752	711	1,440	1,037	564	3,483	256
Illinois	7,975	1,474	3,010	2,280	1,211	6,874	998
Michigan	6,405	1,276	2,497	1,766	867	5,625	736
Wisconsin	3,319	633	1,234	908	545	3,207	89
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:							
Minnesota	2,828	554	1,082	730	462	2,775	28
Iowa	2,057	359	744	576	378	2,026	28
Missouri	3,471	631	1,265	943	632	3,079	366
North Dakota	461	92	161	130	79	449	(S)
South Dakota	484	94	162	140	89	460	(S)
Nebraska	1,117	211	405	299	202	1,077	31
Kansas	1,694	323	607	465	298	1,605	71
SOUTH ATLANTIC:							
Delaware	418	86	161	116	55	360	56
Maryland	2,991	587	1,193	841	370	2,364	589
District of Columbia	499	99	200	129	71	161	329
Virginia	3,736	767	1,468	1,032	469	3,056	638
West Virginia	1,341	215	489	413	223	1,294	41
North Carolina	3,964	757	1,560	1,096	551	3,161	763
South Carolina	2,011	412	804	537	258	1,452	547
Georgia	3,543	701	1,441	929	472	2,696	830
Florida	6,502	1,033	2,084	1,858	1,526	5,712	736
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:							
Kentucky	2,457	455	934	678	389	2,283	165
Tennessee	3,107	549	1,210	870	479	2,668	426
Alabama	2,604	486	981	727	410	2,014	576
Mississippi	1,612	315	600	424	273	1,110	494
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:							
Arkansas	1,535	258	560	424	293	1,287	209
Louisiana	2,674	542	1,040	719	373	1,944	717
Oklahoma	2,043	367	755	564	358	1,842	131
Texas	9,063	1,798	3,560	2,434	1,270	7,968	1,040
MOUNTAIN:							
Montana	538	101	199	157	81	518	(S)
Idaho	597	115	228	168	86	588	(S)
Wyoming	290	58	109	87	36	280	(S)
Colorado	1,900	401	782	487	230	1,812	63
New Mexico	815	175	313	224	103	749	13
Arizona	1,642	310	614	451	266	1,519	44
Utah	827	197	323	205	102	810	(S)
Nevada	461	87	182	139	54	427	26
PACIFIC:							
Washington	2,651	499	1,052	703	398	2,520	58
Oregon	1,750	308	670	489	283	1,699	23
California	16,052	3,023	6,270	4,505	2,254	14,146	1,141
Alaska	272	78	124	60	10	225	(S)
Hawaii	637	146	248	177	67	246	10

S Numbers not shown where less than 10,000 living in States.

Table 2. Summary of Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population: November 1, 1978 and April 1, 1970

(Population 18 years old and over. Includes Armed Forces in each State)

Region, division, and State	Voting-age population as percent of total population	1978 projection						1970 Census					Percent change since 1974
		Percent of voting-age population						Percent of voting-age population				Median age	
		Under 25 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years and over	Black	Other races[1]	Spanish origin[2]	Asian Americans[3]	American Indians	Female		
United States	71.1	18.5	37.7	28.2	15.5	10.4	1.7	3.8	0.7	0.3	52.5	43.0	7.2
REGIONS:													
Northeast	72.7	17.1	36.5	30.1	16.3	9.0	1.2	3.9	0.4	0.1	53.4	44.3	3.7
North Central	70.8	18.9	37.6	27.8	15.7	8.0	0.8	1.9	0.2	0.2	52.5	43.3	5.3
South	70.5	18.8	38.0	27.5	15.7	16.5	0.9	4.4	0.2	0.3	52.5	42.3	9.4
West	71.0	19.3	39.1	27.6	14.0	4.9	5.3	9.7	3.0	0.9	51.4	41.5	10.8
NORTHEAST:													
New England	72.5	18.0	37.0	28.7	16.2	3.2	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.1	53.1	43.9	5.7
Middle Atlantic	72.7	16.8	36.3	30.6	16.3	10.9	1.3	4.7	0.5	0.1	53.5	44.5	3.1
NORTH CENTRAL:													
East North Central	70.5	19.0	38.0	28.1	14.9	9.6	0.8	2.1	0.3	0.1	52.5	42.9	5.0
West North Central	71.4	18.7	36.5	27.1	17.7	4.4	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.4	52.4	44.3	6.1
SOUTH:													
South Atlantic	71.6	18.6	37.6	27.8	16.0	18.1	0.9	2.0	0.2	0.2	52.4	42.2	9.0
East South Central	69.8	18.4	38.1	27.6	15.9	17.0	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	52.8	42.8	8.0
West South Central	69.2	19.4	38.6	27.0	15.0	13.7	1.2	10.3	0.2	0.6	52.3	42.2	10.9
WEST:													
Mountain	68.4	20.4	38.9	27.1	13.5	2.2	3.0	10.7	0.5	2.2	51.3	41.1	12.8
Pacific	71.9	19.0	39.2	27.8	14.1	5.8	6.0	9.3	3.7	0.5	51.4	41.7	10.2
NEW ENGLAND:													
Maine	70.5	17.9	36.1	28.9	17.1	0.2	0.4	(S)	0.1	0.2	52.4	44.5	8.6
New Hampshire	70.7	17.3	39.8	27.3	15.6	0.3	0.4	(S)	0.2	0.1	52.3	43.2	11.4
Vermont	70.3	18.9	39.7	25.5	15.9	(Z)	1.0	(S)	0.1	0.1	52.5	42.8	8.9
Massachusetts	73.0	18.4	36.7	28.4	16.4	3.5	0.7	(S)	0.4	0.1	53.8	44.1	4.4
Rhode Island	72.8	17.3	34.9	30.0	17.8	2.9	0.8	(S)	0.4	0.1	51.7	44.1	3.6
Connecticut	73.1	17.5	37.4	29.8	15.3	5.3	0.6	(S)	0.2	0.1	52.7	43.7	6.1
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:													
New York	72.6	16.8	37.0	30.0	16.2	12.5	1.6	6.3	0.7	0.1	53.7	44.1	2.1
New Jersey	72.2	16.5	36.6	31.2	15.6	11.1	1.3	3.5	0.3	0.1	52.9	44.1	4.6
Pennsylvania	73.1	16.9	35.0	31.1	17.0	8.2	0.9	0.8	0.2	(Z)	53.4	45.2	3.6
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:													
Ohio	70.9	18.9	37.8	28.4	14.9	9.2	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.1	52.9	42.9	4.0
Indiana	70.1	18.9	38.4	27.6	15.0	6.8	0.3	1.8	0.1	0.1	52.5	42.5	4.9
Illinois	70.8	18.5	37.7	28.6	15.2	12.5	1.3	3.0	0.5	0.1	52.7	43.3	4.8
Michigan	69.9	19.9	39.0	27.6	13.5	11.5	0.7	1.4	0.2	0.2	52.1	42.2	5.4
Wisconsin	70.8	19.1	37.2	27.3	16.4	2.7	0.7	(S)	0.2	0.3	52.1	43.7	7.4
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:													
Minnesota	70.7	19.6	38.3	25.8	16.3	1.0	0.9	(S)	0.2	0.5	52.2	43.2	7.5
Iowa	71.3	17.5	36.1	28.0	18.4	1.4	0.1	(S)	0.1	0.1	52.7	45.1	5.1
Missouri	72.0	18.2	36.4	27.2	18.2	10.5	0.8	(S)	0.2	0.1	53.1	44.6	5.0
North Dakota	69.9	19.9	34.9	28.1	17.0	0.4	2.2	(S)	0.1	1.6	49.9	43.9	8.4
South Dakota	69.9	19.3	33.4	28.8	18.3	0.4	4.7	(S)	0.1	3.5	51.1	45.2	5.6
Nebraska	71.0	18.9	36.2	26.8	18.1	2.8	0.9	(S)	0.2	0.4	52.3	44.5	5.8
Kansas	72.4	19.1	35.9	27.4	17.6	4.2	1.0	(S)	0.2	0.4	51.9	44.0	7.1
SOUTH ATLANTIC:													
Delaware	71.1	20.6	38.6	27.6	13.2	13.4	0.4	(S)	0.3	0.1	52.5	41.4	7.0
Maryland	71.6	19.6	39.9	28.1	12.4	19.7	1.3	(S)	0.5	0.1	52.2	41.2	7.5
District of Columbia	73.7	19.9	40.0	25.9	14.3	66.0	1.9	(S)	0.8	0.1	55.1	40.2	-3.0
Virginia	71.6	20.5	39.3	27.6	12.6	17.1	1.1	(S)	0.4	0.1	51.4	40.5	10.7
West Virginia	71.3	16.1	36.5	30.8	16.6	3.1	0.4	(S)	0.1	(Z)	52.9	45.2	8.1
North Carolina	70.8	19.1	39.4	27.7	13.9	19.3	1.0	(S)	0.1	0.7	52.1	40.8	7.8
South Carolina	68.7	20.5	40.0	26.7	12.8	27.2	0.6	(S)	0.1	0.1	51.9	40.1	9.1
Georgia	69.1	19.8	40.7	26.2	13.3	23.4	0.5	(S)	0.1	0.1	52.7	40.4	9.0
Florida	74.3	15.9	32.0	28.6	23.5	11.3	0.8	5.8	0.2	0.1	53.0	46.5	11.0
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:													
Kentucky	70.2	18.5	38.0	27.6	15.9	6.7	0.4	(S)	0.1	(Z)	52.1	43.0	7.6
Tennessee	71.2	17.7	38.9	28.0	15.4	13.7	0.4	(S)	0.1	0.1	53.0	42.6	8.7
Alabama	69.8	18.7	37.7	27.9	15.8	22.1	0.6	(S)	0.1	0.1	53.2	42.8	8.3
Mississippi	66.6	19.5	37.2	26.3	17.0	30.7	0.5	(S)	0.1	0.2	53.0	43.2	7.1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:													
Arkansas	70.3	16.8	36.5	27.6	19.1	13.6	2.5	(S)	0.1	0.1	52.8	45.5	8.1
Louisiana	67.4	20.3	38.9	26.9	13.9	26.8	0.5	(S)	0.1	0.1	52.6	41.5	9.5
Oklahoma	71.6	17.9	37.0	27.6	17.5	6.4	3.5	(S)	0.2	3.3	52.5	44.2	9.2
Texas	69.7	19.8	39.3	26.9	14.0	11.5	0.6	13.4	0.2	0.2	52.1	41.4	12.2
MOUNTAIN:													
Montana	69.6	18.8	37.1	29.1	15.0	0.3	3.4	(S)	0.2	2.9	50.6	43.6	8.8
Idaho	67.6	19.2	38.3	28.1	14.5	0.3	1.3	(S)	0.5	0.8	50.8	43.2	13.0
Wyoming	69.1	20.0	37.6	30.0	12.3	1.7	1.8	(S)	0.3	1.2	50.4	42.7	18.1
Colorado	70.6	21.1	41.2	25.6	12.1	3.3	1.3	8.4	0.6	0.4	51.5	40.2	11.1
New Mexico	66.7	21.5	38.4	27.5	12.6	1.7	6.4	2.6	0.3	5.7	51.6	40.1	13.6
Arizona	68.7	18.9	37.4	27.5	16.2	2.7	4.8	12.1	0.5	4.1	51.7	41.9	13.7
Utah	63.3	23.9	39.1	24.7	12.3	0.2	1.8	(S)	0.7	0.8	51.8	39.2	11.6
Nevada	70.0	18.8	39.4	30.1	11.7	5.7	1.8	(S)	0.7	1.4	49.4	40.5	18.2
PACIFIC:													
Washington	71.7	18.8	39.7	26.5	15.0	2.2	2.7	(S)	1.3	0.8	51.1	42.3	9.6
Oregon	72.1	17.6	38.3	27.9	16.2	1.3	1.6	(S)	0.7	0.5	52.1	44.1	10.7
California	72.2	18.8	39.1	28.1	14.0	7.1	4.8	9.8	2.8	0.4	51.7	41.6	10.0
Alaska	63.9	28.6	45.6	22.2	3.6	3.1	14.4	(S)	1.0	4.5	43.2	33.9	28.0
Hawaii	69.4	22.9	38.9	27.7	10.5	1.5	59.8	(S)	49.8	0.2	47.6	38.3	10.9

S Data not available where less than 100,000 persons of Spanish origin in State.
Z Less than .005.
[1] Other races is comprised principally of American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
[2] Persons whose origin or descent was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish. U.S. all-ages percentage is 4.5.
Dark ruled percentages for divisions and regions based on population all-ages.
[3] Includes persons indicating their race as Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino.

Table 3. Estimates of the Population of Voting Age by States: November 1960 to 1978

(In thousands. For years prior to 1972, population of voting age includes persons 18 years old and over in Georgia and Kentucky, 19 and over in Alaska, 20 and over in Hawaii, and 21 and over in all other States. Beginning 1972 comprises persons 18 years old and over in each State. Includes Armed Forces stationed in each State)

Region, division, and State	1978	1976	1974	1972	1970	1968	1966	1964	1962	1960
United States	155,492	150,127	145,035	140,068	124,498	120,285	116,638	114,090	112,952	109,672
REGIONS:										
Northeast	35,806	35,171	34,522	34,090	30,799	30,209	29,749	29,399	29,251	28,616
North Central	41,154	40,036	39,069	38,163	34,039	33,100	32,299	31,720	31,805	31,297
South	50,100	47,894	45,793	43,507	38,388	36,803	35,389	34,435	33,662	32,601
West	28,432	27,026	25,652	24,308	21,272	20,172	19,201	18,536	18,234	17,158
NORTHEAST:										
New England	8,922	8,666	8,438	8,237	7,337	7,128	6,955	6,833	6,781	6,609
Middle Atlantic	26,884	26,505	26,083	25,853	23,462	23,081	22,794	22,566	22,470	22,007
NORTH CENTRAL:										
East North Central	29,040	28,277	27,653	27,010	24,132	23,496	22,903	22,382	22,347	21,955
West North Central	12,113	11,759	11,416	11,153	9,907	9,604	9,396	9,338	9,458	9,342
SOUTH:										
South Atlantic	25,005	23,880	22,930	21,605	19,047	18,182	17,365	16,771	16,212	15,616
East South Central	9,780	9,410	9,052	8,711	7,841	7,610	7,431	7,302	7,194	7,087
West South Central	15,316	14,604	13,810	13,191	11,501	11,011	10,593	10,362	10,256	9,898
WEST:										
Mountain	7,070	6,635	6,270	5,797	4,858	4,590	4,388	4,295	4,189	3,947
Pacific	21,362	20,391	19,381	18,511	16,414	15,582	14,813	14,241	14,045	13,211
NEW ENGLAND:										
Maine	776	743	714	683	601	592	589	585	595	588
New Hampshire	614	578	551	520	452	427	408	398	391	376
Vermont	344	330	316	306	265	252	240	232	233	231
Massachusetts	4,230	4,133	4,054	3,968	3,538	3,459	3,391	3,349	3,333	3,266
Rhode Island	678	669	654	671	596	573	554	545	548	540
Connecticut	2,279	2,213	2,149	2,089	1,886	1,826	1,773	1,724	1,679	1,608
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:										
New York	12,967	12,863	12,701	12,663	11,543	11,450	11,403	11,324	11,247	10,965
New Jersey	5,305	5,187	5,070	4,997	4,507	4,358	4,232	4,142	4,089	3,919
Pennsylvania	8,611	8,455	8,312	8,193	7,412	7,273	7,159	7,100	7,135	7,122
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:										
Ohio	7,589	7,420	7,296	7,123	6,419	6,252	6,080	5,962	5,989	5,888
Indiana	3,752	3,653	3,577	3,496	3,104	3,003	2,915	2,845	2,836	2,799
Illinois	7,975	7,791	7,612	7,532	6,795	6,667	6,542	6,422	6,430	6,298
Michigan	6,405	6,220	6,077	5,868	5,200	5,032	4,885	4,719	4,665	4,598
Wisconsin	3,319	3,193	3,090	2,991	2,615	2,543	2,481	2,434	2,426	2,372
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:										
Minnesota	2,828	2,730	2,631	2,546	2,248	2,154	2,082	2,050	2,062	2,017
Iowa	2,057	2,007	1,958	1,936	1,712	1,673	1,641	1,625	1,661	1,666
Missouri	3,471	3,386	3,306	3,228	2,913	2,813	2,751	2,709	2,726	2,706
North Dakota	461	442	425	415	360	354	358	362	359	357
South Dakota	484	471	459	447	389	384	385	395	406	395
Nebraska	1,117	1,084	1,056	1,030	906	881	863	879	893	868
Kansas	1,694	1,639	1,581	1,553	1,380	1,346	1,316	1,318	1,352	1,334
SOUTH ATLANTIC:										
Delaware	418	404	390	378	326	314	301	292	284	272
Maryland	2,991	2,885	2,783	2,690	2,372	2,271	2,174	2,065	1,966	1,867
District of Columbia	499	507	515	530	483	495	506	513	527	513
Virginia	3,736	3,556	3,375	3,202	2,823	2,717	2,608	2,539	2,456	2,349
West Virginia	1,341	1,293	1,240	1,221	1,077	1,061	1,049	1,049	1,051	1,075
North Carolina	3,964	3,805	3,677	3,496	3,043	2,921	2,798	2,723	2,647	2,585
South Carolina	2,011	1,923	1,842	1,748	1,487	1,427	1,373	1,333	1,293	1,272
Georgia	3,543	3,391	3,251	3,098	2,985	2,851	2,717	2,634	2,546	2,507
Florida	6,502	6,116	5,856	5,242	4,451	4,124	3,839	3,623	3,442	3,176
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:										
Kentucky	2,457	2,376	2,284	2,204	2,136	2,063	1,996	1,964	1,950	1,950
Tennessee	3,107	2,974	2,859	2,758	2,410	2,325	2,254	2,212	2,165	2,110
Alabama	2,604	2,506	2,404	2,314	2,042	1,993	1,968	1,919	1,874	1,850
Mississippi	1,612	1,554	1,505	1,435	1,253	1,229	1,213	1,207	1,205	1,177
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:										
Arkansas	1,535	1,471	1,420	1,354	1,180	1,143	1,119	1,108	1,085	1,049
Louisiana	2,674	2,567	2,443	2,373	2,058	2,002	1,950	1,894	1,859	1,813
Oklahoma	2,043	1,963	1,872	1,809	1,605	1,540	1,489	1,471	1,478	1,431
Texas	9,063	8,603	8,075	7,655	6,658	6,327	6,035	5,889	5,832	5,605
MOUNTAIN:										
Montana	538	516	494	469	410	403	402	402	403	395
Idaho	597	559	528	491	418	397	384	379	385	377
Wyoming	290	269	245	229	198	190	184	192	193	192
Colorado	1,900	1,792	1,710	1,586	1,328	1,251	1,171	1,142	1,124	1,056
New Mexico	815	767	717	671	561	539	532	530	517	504
Arizona	1,642	1,527	1,444	1,295	1,056	975	917	878	836	760
Utah	827	780	741	699	583	551	530	512	506	479
Nevada	461	425	390	357	303	284	268	260	226	184
PACIFIC:										
Washington	2,651	2,546	2,419	2,306	2,078	1,975	1,833	1,754	1,774	1,727
Oregon	1,750	1,658	1,581	1,503	1,308	1,231	1,185	1,141	1,111	1,079
California	16,052	15,326	14,595	13,969	12,376	11,771	11,220	10,789	10,622	9,895
Alaska	272	256	213	197	178	166	158	153	148	139
Hawaii	637	605	574	536	473	439	417	404	390	371

Table 4. Estimates of the Percent Casting Votes for Presidential Electors and U.S. Representatives, by States: November 1960 to 1976

(Total votes cast as a percent of the population of voting age--For years prior to 1972, population of voting age includes persons 18 years old and over in Georgia and Kentucky, 19 and over in Alaska, 20 and over in Hawaii, and 21 and over in all other States. Beginning 1972 comprises persons 18 years old and over in each State.

Region, division, and State	Percent casting votes for Presidential electors[1]					Percent casting votes for U.S. Representatives[1]								
	1976	1972	1968	1964	1960	1976	1974	1972	1970	1968	1966	1964	1962	1960
United States	54.4	55.4	60.7	61.8	63.1	49.6	36.1	50.9	43.8	55.2	45.4	57.8	46.3	58.7
REGIONS:														
Northeast	55.9	58.5	63.7	66.7	70.4	52.0	41.0	54.9	48.8	59.0	51.8	63.0	54.1	67.7
North Central	60.3	60.7	67.1	70.0	73.4	56.8	41.7	58.0	50.1	63.4	50.9	67.6	53.7	70.5
South	48.4	46.1	52.0	47.6	44.7	40.6	24.6	38.2	30.2	42.2	29.9	40.8	26.1	32.5
West	54.1	59.4	61.7	65.9	66.6	51.5	41.7	57.1	50.4	59.3	54.6	64.1	52.5	63.5
NORTHEAST:														
New England	61.7	63.1	67.7	70.0	75.4	58.5	45.0	58.4	52.9	62.5	54.8	66.3	58.2	71.6
Middle Atlantic	54.0	57.1	62.4	65.8	68.9	49.9	39.7	53.8	47.6	57.9	50.8	62.1	52.8	66.4
NORTH CENTRAL:														
East North Central	59.4	60.3	66.8	70.0	73.3	55.5	40.6	57.0	50.3	62.9	51.2	67.4	55.1	70.5
West North Central	62.5	61.8	67.7	70.1	73.6	59.8	44.3	60.4	49.7	64.7	50.0	68.0	50.3	70.6
SOUTH:														
South Atlantic	47.6	45.9	51.8	48.3	44.9	39.9	25.6	38.9	31.6	44.9	30.5	41.2	26.1	39.6
East South Central	48.8	45.0	52.7	45.0	44.1	41.0	27.0	41.9	32.1	42.6	34.5	40.6	25.0	32.6
West South Central	49.4	47.0	52.0	48.4	45.0	41.6	21.5	34.6	26.5	37.5	25.8	40.4	25.9	35.0
WEST:														
Mountain	57.4	59.1	63.0	66.0	67.0	55.9	45.6	57.4	50.0	60.5	53.2	65.1	53.6	66.6
Pacific	53.0	59.6	61.3	65.6	66.5	50.1	40.4	57.0	50.5	59.0	55.0	63.8	52.1	63.1
NEW ENGLAND:														
Maine	65.0	61.1	66.4	65.1	71.7	63.6	49.5	60.5	52.9	64.9	53.1	63.2	48.0	69.5
New Hampshire	58.8	64.2	69.5	71.8	78.7	56.2	39.8	60.6	47.4	66.2	56.1	70.1	56.5	75.7
Vermont	55.7	60.8	64.0	70.4	72.4	56.0	44.5	60.8	57.5	62.3	56.7	70.5	52.0	71.8
Massachusetts	61.6	62.0	67.4	70.0	75.6	56.7	41.9	54.4	50.9	59.5	53.4	63.0	59.1	69.2
Rhode Island	61.4	62.0	67.2	71.6	75.2	58.2	46.5	57.8	54.6	63.7	57.9	68.5	58.1	72.7
Connecticut	62.6	66.3	68.8	70.7	76.1	60.9	50.2	64.7	56.8	66.1	56.6	70.2	61.5	75.8
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:														
New York	51.8	56.6	59.3	63.4	67.3	46.6	38.5	52.2	47.2	53.3	48.3	59.7	49.4	64.0
New Jersey	58.1	60.0	66.0	68.7	70.8	54.2	41.1	56.7	46.6	61.9	49.6	65.7	47.9	67.8
Pennsylvania	54.7	56.0	65.3	67.9	70.3	52.4	40.6	54.5	48.7	62.9	55.4	63.7	61.0	69.6
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:														
Ohio	55.4	57.5	63.3	66.6	70.7	51.8	40.4	53.9	47.4	58.2	46.0	62.6	50.1	65.3
Indiana	60.8	60.8	70.7	73.5	76.3	57.6	48.4	60.4	55.7	67.9	57.9	72.9	63.2	75.8
Illinois	60.6	62.7	69.3	73.2	75.5	56.0	37.3	58.2	51.3	66.3	57.1	71.2	55.9	73.1
Michigan	58.7	59.5	65.7	67.9	72.2	55.2	41.5	55.8	49.3	60.5	48.5	64.8	57.3	70.1
Wisconsin	65.8	62.0	66.5	69.5	72.9	61.4	38.7	60.2	50.7	64.5	46.5	67.7	51.3	70.1
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:														
Minnesota	71.4	68.4	73.8	75.8	76.4	65.7	46.3	66.4	59.4	71.2	58.6	74.2	58.4	75.1
Iowa	63.7	63.3	69.8	72.9	76.5	61.9	46.1	61.8	45.5	67.2	53.6	70.3	48.3	73.6
Missouri	57.7	57.3	64.3	67.1	71.5	56.2	36.6	56.8	41.1	61.2	38.0	65.6	44.5	68.1
North Dakota	67.2	68.0	70.1	71.4	77.9	65.5	54.9	65.1	58.4	64.8	55.0	68.8	60.3	71.8
South Dakota	63.9	68.7	73.2	74.1	77.6	62.7	59.4	67.3	60.4	70.7	58.4	72.8	62.3	76.3
Nebraska	56.0	55.9	60.9	66.4	70.6	55.5	42.4	55.2	49.5	59.3	54.6	63.8	49.9	66.9
Kansas	58.4	59.0	64.8	65.1	69.7	55.5	49.0	56.5	52.2	60.7	50.2	61.7	46.3	65.3
SOUTH ATLANTIC:														
Delaware	58.4	62.4	68.3	69.0	72.2	53.3	41.1	59.8	49.2	64.0	54.2	68.1	54.0	71.7
Maryland	49.6	50.3	54.4	54.1	56.5	45.6	31.4	45.3	37.3	44.9	35.2	49.0	36.6	52.5
District of Columbia	33.3	30.8	34.4	38.7	-	31.5	21.0	29.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia	47.7	45.5	50.1	41.1	32.8	41.1	27.4	39.7	32.0	46.7	26.2	36.6	18.2	27.2
West Virginia	58.1	62.4	71.1	75.5	78.0	52.1	33.5	59.0	40.7	67.1	47.1	73.4	58.4	76.3
North Carolina	44.1	43.4	54.3	52.3	52.9	41.3	26.9	38.6	30.6	47.9	32.7	47.9	30.9	50.4
South Carolina	41.7	38.6	46.7	39.4	30.4	40.7	28.1	36.1	28.7	44.0	26.5	32.9	20.3	25.8
Georgia	43.1	37.9	43.4	43.3	29.2	36.9	25.3	28.8	29.5	33.1	31.3	31.7	13.1	22.9
Florida[2]	51.5	49.3	53.0	51.2	48.6	34.0	18.1	36.9	28.1	42.9	27.5	39.1	27.3	39.3
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:														
Kentucky	49.1	48.4	51.2	53.3	57.6	41.6	29.7	44.7	22.2	41.9	33.9	48.6	32.4	46.8
Tennessee	49.6	43.6	53.7	51.7	49.8	42.1	31.5	40.0	41.0	43.6	35.5	46.8	28.0	30.5
Alabama	47.2	43.5	52.7	35.9	30.8	39.3	23.4	42.0	36.3	45.7	35.8	32.2	23.8	23.7
Mississippi	49.5	45.0	53.2	33.9	25.3	41.0	20.3	41.0	24.9	36.5	31.6	29.9	13.4	21.9
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:														
Arkansas[2]	52.2	47.9	53.3	50.6	40.8	22.9	29.8	13.8	14.7	26.1	26.1	11.7	16.7	36.0
Louisiana	49.8	44.3	54.8	47.3	44.6	39.5	22.4	28.6	17.6	31.4	28.0	31.7	18.6	28.7
Oklahoma[2]	55.6	56.9	61.2	63.4	63.1	54.4	27.0	45.2	42.1	52.6	42.7	57.1	42.3	58.6
Texas	47.3	45.3	48.7	44.6	41.2	42.6	18.4	37.7	27.5	37.9	20.8	44.4	25.8	36.4
MOUNTAIN:														
Montana	63.7	67.8	68.0	69.4	70.3	62.2	51.4	67.2	60.8	65.3	64.2	68.9	61.7	69.0
Idaho	61.0	63.1	73.3	77.2	79.7	61.1	47.4	61.5	56.0	69.6	65.6	75.1	66.1	77.0
Wyoming	58.2	63.8	67.1	74.2	72.7	56.5	51.7	63.8	58.6	65.0	64.7	72.4	60.5	69.8
Colorado	60.3	60.2	64.5	68.0	69.7	57.0	45.9	57.6	48.0	62.4	54.7	66.3	53.1	67.7
New Mexico	54.3	57.5	60.7	61.9	61.7	52.3	44.1	55.7	50.2	57.5	49.8	65.9	52.1	59.8
Arizona	48.6	50.5	49.9	54.8	52.4	47.7	37.7	45.9	38.1	47.5	39.7	52.5	41.7	49.6
Utah	69.4	68.4	76.7	78.2	78.2	69.7	55.8	71.7	63.9	75.5	57.9	77.3	62.7	77.1
Nevada	47.5	51.0	54.4	52.1	58.3	47.0	43.1	50.4	45.4	50.9	47.8	50.3	41.3	56.3
PACIFIC:														
Washington	61.1	63.8	66.0	71.7	71.9	56.0	40.6	56.5	49.2	61.0	51.2	68.2	49.7	65.1
Oregon	62.1	61.7	66.4	68.9	71.8	55.9	47.6	57.9	49.9	63.9	56.1	67.3	56.8	70.6
California	50.9	59.1	60.4	65.4	65.8	48.6	39.4	57.3	51.1	58.5	55.9	63.3	52.3	62.7
Alaska	48.2	48.2	49.9	43.9	43.7	46.1	45.1	48.2	44.9	48.3	41.8	43.9	40.9	42.5
Hawaii	48.2	50.4	53.8	51.3	49.7	48.6	45.2	51.3	44.0	55.3	49.9	56.9	49.9	49.2

- Represents zero.

[1]Based on votes cast as shown in U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House, Statistics of the Presidential and Congressional Election and Statistics of the Congressional Election.

[2]State law does not require tabulation of votes in uncontested elections.

Table 5. Participation in Elections for President and U.S. Representatives: 1930 to 1976

(Numbers in thousands. As of November 1. Includes Armed Forces. Prior to 1960, excludes Alaska and Hawaii)

Year	Population of voting age[1]	Vote cast				Year	Population of voting age[1]	Vote cast			
		For President	Percent of voting-age population	For U.S. Representatives	Percent of voting-age population			For President	Percent of voting-age population	For U.S. Representatives	Percent of voting-age population
1930	73,623	(X)	(X)	24,777	33.7	1954	102,075	(X)	(X)	42,580	41.7
1932	75,768	39,732	52.4	37,657	49.7	1956	104,515	62,027	59.3	58,428	55.9
1934	77,997	(X)	(X)	32,256	41.4	1958	106,447	(X)	(X)	45,818	43.0
1936	80,174	45,643	56.9	42,886	53.5	1960	109,672	68,838	63.1	64,133	58.7
1938	82,354	(X)	(X)	36,236	44.0	1962	112,952	(X)	(X)	51,261	46.3
1940	84,728	49,900	58.9	46,951	55.4	1964	114,090	70,645	61.8	65,886	57.8
1942	86,465	(X)	(X)	28,074	32.5	1966	116,638	(X)	(X)	52,900	45.4
1944	85,654	47,977	56.0	45,103	52.7	1968	120,285	73,212	60.7	66,109	55.2
1946	92,659	(X)	(X)	34,398	37.1	1970	124,498	(X)	(X)	54,173	43.8
1948	95,573	48,794	51.1	45,933	48.1	1972	140,068	77,625	55.4	71,188	50.9
1950	98,134	(X)	(X)	40,342	41.1	1974	145,035	(X)	(X)	52,397	36.1
1952	99,929	61,551	61.6	57,571	57.6	1976	150,127	81,603	54.4	74,419	49.6

X Not applicable. [1] Population 18 and over beginning 1972; prior to 1972 population 21 and over except population 18 and over in Georgia since 1944, 18 and over in Kentucky since 1956, 19 and over in Alaska, and 20 and over in Hawaii.

Source: For voting data: U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House Statistics of the Presidential and Congressional Election and Statistics of the Congressional Election; and Elections Research Center, Washington, D.C., America Votes (copyright).

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