

Texas Election Turnout by Voting Age Population

Year	2016	2012	2008	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984	1980	1976	1972
Major Candidates	Trump / Clinton	Obama / Romney	Obama / McCain	Bush / Kerry	Bush / Gore	Clinton / Dole	Clinton/Bush/Perot	Bush / Dukakis	Reagan / Mondale	Reagan / Carter	Carter / Ford	Nixon / McGovern
Percent of VAP that voted	46.5	43.7	45.6	46.1	44.3	41.0	47.6	44.3	47.6	45.6	46.1	44.9
Percent of registered voters that voted	59.4	58.6	59.5	56.6	51.8	53.2	72.9	66.2	68.3	68.4	64.8	66.6

The **voting age population (VAP)** refers to the total number of persons of voting age regardless of citizenship, military status, felony conviction or mental state. The Bureau of the Census is the source for the VAP estimates.

Since the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, non-voters cannot be removed from registration rolls of a county until two federal elections have been held. So, for instance, if a person moved in December 2012 from one county to another, that person could be counted as a non-voter in the previous county of residence through the general election of November 2016.

These are called “suspense voters” on county rolls and have affected the statistical reports of the percentage of registered voters participating in elections.

In the early 1970s, various election reforms were enacted by the Legislature, including eliminating the requirement for an annual registration and allowing for a continuing voter registration system.

The presidential elections have a larger voter turnout than off-year and state elections. — RP

Sources: Federal Election Commission and the Texas Secretary of State office.