ARIZONA’S VOTER CRISIS

presented by

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION & Morrison Institute for Public Policy

Arizona State University

(Updated Content: July 5, 2018, 3:30 p.m.)
U.S. VOTER PARTICIPATION IS ERODING

% of Voting-Age Population Turnout

Belgium (2014)*
Sweden (2014)
Denmark (2016)*
Australia (2017)
South Korea (2017)
Netherlands (2017)
Israel (2015)
New Zealand (2017)
Finland (2015)
Hungary (2018)
Norway (2017)
Germany (2017)
Austria (2017)
France (2017)
Mexico (2012)*
Italy (2018)
Czech Republic (2018)
U.K. (2017)
Canada (2015)
Portugal (2015)
Spain (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Ireland (2016)
Estonia (2015)
United States (2016)*
Luxembourg (2013)*
Slovenia (2014)*
Poland (2015)
Chile (2017)
Latvia (2014)*
Iceland (2017)
Japan (2017)
Turkey (2017)
The U.S. Flawed Democracy
Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy “Index”

U.S. Score 7.9
Tied with Italy, behind South Korea
Canada is ahead with 10

Measured by lack of citizens participation, including voting.
Arizona Ranks 43rd in the Nation when it comes to voter turn out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARIZONA’S VOTER LANDSCAPE

4.8M
Total adult (18 or older) citizens in AZ 4,800,436

3.46M
Total registered voters 3,466,359

2.57M
Total who voted in 2016 general election 2,572,719
IN 2016

• 2.6 million ‘Arizona Voters’ cast their votes

• 2.1 million ‘Potential Arizona Voters’ did not exercise their right to vote

• 45% of eligible voters did not vote in the election!
A small group is making decisions for the whole.

The Primary Election is mostly ignored.
ARIZONA’S VOTER PARTICIPATION

% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS - 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%

18-20 21-25 26-30 31-35 36-40 41-45 46-50 51-55 56-60 61-65 66-70 71-75 76-80 81-85 86+
ARIZONA’S VOTER PARTICIPATION

% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS - 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy
Arizona State University
Traditionally age has determined voter behavior.
70% in the 2016 Presidential General Election compared to 46-60% non-presidential years.

20 - 30% in the 2016 Presidential Primary Election.
Local elections have more immediate impacts, yet turnout rates are among the lowest.

AUGUST 25, 2015
CITY OF PHOENIX CITYWIDE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL ELECTION

21% Voter Turnout
“Voters don’t determine elections, non-voters do.”
The contradiction:

“The Millennial Generation will entirely recast the image of youth from downbeat and alienated to upbeat and engaged.”

- Neil Howe & William Strauss

Millennials, Adults Age 20-35, Represent:

- 32.3 percent of the adult population
- 25 percent of registered voters
- 19.45 percent of ‘cast’ votes
ARIZONA VOTER PARTICIPATION
VOTING CORRELATES TO EDUCATION LEVEL

National Bachelor’s Degree Attainment Rate
30%

Arizona Bachelor’s Degree Attainment Rate
28%
Voters are not like ‘non-voters’

- Voters are richer, whiter and older than other Arizonans.
- Only a portion are making decisions for the whole.
- The less well educated, poorer, non-white citizen feels alienated from the democratic process and yet needs the most representation.
The non-Hispanic Caucasian population is declining.

Replacement voters are needed for disappearing voters.
ARIZONA’S VOTER PARTICIPATION
MAKING A STATEMENT BUT NOT MAKING AN IMPACT

INDEPENDENT VOTERS

2016 ELECTION

- 1.1 Million Registered PNDS: independents
- 1.2 Million Registered Republicans
- 1.0 Million Registered Democrats

- Did Not Vote
  - 457,592
- Voted in Both
  - 115,303
- Voted in Primary ONLY
  - 2,357
- Voted in General ONLY
  - 620,773
As a nation, and as a state, we are not passing down our cultural value of voting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why People Say They Don't Vote</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No time / too busy</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t want to</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of town</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgot</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not registered</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t like the candidates</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t know I could vote</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t know how to vote</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REGISTERED VOTERS WHO DID NOT VOTE SAID:

• Voters are emotionally disconnected
• Lack of sufficient news media coverage
• Process is too complex
• Low level of trust
• Lack of faith in the system
• Lack of candidate options
• Lack of identification with candidates
• Lack of understanding
NURTURE THE VOTER PIPELINE

• More engagement
• Early exposure to voting
• More guidance and actionable steps
• More education on the process
• More easy-to-use tools
ARIZONA’S VOTER CRISIS NEEDS ATTENTION

- Protect voter trust
- Report more on candidates, initiatives & ballot measures
- Make voting a family affair
- Prioritize civics in the classroom
- Engage in real dialogue with voters
- Implement policies that are fair
- Give real access to voters
The right to vote didn’t come easy. Restoring its role in our lives won’t be easy. But together, it is achievable.