



Population Estimates and Projections

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PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE, FOR STATES: NOVEMBER 1974

This report presents projections of the population of voting age for States by race and broad age groups for the general election of November 1974. Also, included are estimates of the population of voting age and percent casting votes for President and Congress since November 1960. The information on number of votes cast for both Presidential and Congressional years was published by the U.S. Congress, Clerk of the House, Statistics of the Presidential and Congressional Elections and Statistics of the Congressional Elections. Appendix tables show current residence requirements and selected voter information.

Beginning in November 1972, the population of voting age includes all persons 18 years old and over as a result of the ratification of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The data shown in the tables of this report for November 1972 and 1974 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 (about 500,000 Armed Forces, 50,000 civilian employees, plus their dependents of

voting age) who would be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in their home State.

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

The Nation's electorate will reach 145 million persons in November 1974--an increase of 20 million persons or 16 percent since 1970, the last congressional election in a nonpresidential election year. Much of the growth in the voting population between 1970 and 1974 (nearly 12 million) can be attributed to lowering the voting age requirement to age 18 beginning with the Presidential election of November 1972.

The black population, which comprises 10 percent of the total electorate, will be considerably younger than the white population of voting age, due in large part to higher fertility rates among blacks. In November 1974, a larger proportion of blacks of voting age (23 percent) will be under 25 years old compared with only 18 percent of whites.

Table A. Black Population as a Percent of the Voting-Age Population in the United States and Regions, by Age: November 1974

Age	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
18 years and over.....	10.1	8.5	7.6	16.5	4.6
Under 25 years.....	12.3	10.4	9.4	19.8	5.7
25 to 44 years.....	10.7	10.3	8.4	16.0	5.1
45 to 64 years.....	9.1	7.1	6.8	15.7	4.0
65 years and over.....	8.0	5.1	5.3	15.2	2.9

There has been a general decline in voter participation in nonpresidential election years since November 1962, from 46.3 percent to 43.8 percent in November 1970.

Outside the South, there was a general decline in voter participation in each of the regions during the last three nonpresidential election years. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 encouraged greater voting participation in the South and its peak participation occurred in 1968.

Table B. Percent Casting Votes for U.S. Representatives in Non-presidential Election Years for Regions: 1962 to 1970

Region	1970	1966	1962
United States.	43.8	45.4	46.3
Northeast.....	48.8	52.2	54.1
North Central...	50.1	50.9	53.7
South.....	30.2	29.9	26.1
West.....	50.4	54.0	52.5

Falling participation rates are evident throughout most of the divisions and States. Of the 24 States that had 50 percent or more of their voting-age population voting in 1966, eight dropped below the 50 percent mark between 1966 and 1970. In the Congressional election of 1970, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska had more than 60 percent of the population voting, nearly 20 percentage points above the national average. Less than 20 percent voted in the States of Arkansas and Louisiana.

Traditionally, voter participation in congressional elections has been higher in presidential election years than in "off" years. In 1970, the last nonpresidential election year only 44 percent of the total voting-age population cast votes for representatives-- 8 percentage points lower than the 1972 congressional vote and 11 percent below the presidential vote.

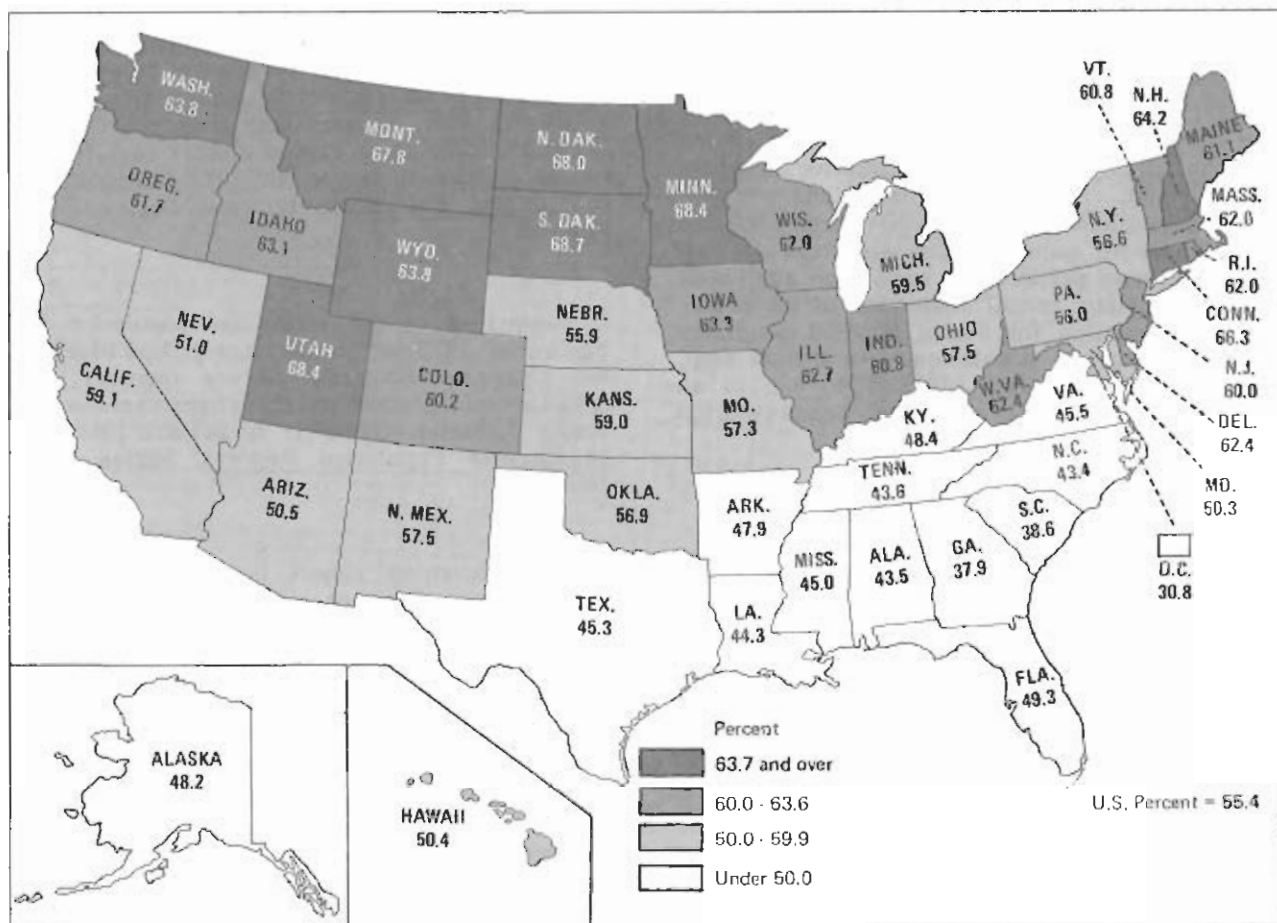
The population of voting age includes a considerable number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot register to vote, although the number of such persons is appreciably smaller than in past elections. Among these persons are aliens. On the basis of the 1970 percentage, about 3.2 million aliens of voting age will be residing in the United States in November 1974 (Table 2). Some other persons are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to prison, mental hospitals and other institutions. It is estimated that about 780,000 persons would be disenfranchised in 1974 because they are institutional inmates. The length of residence required by all States to establish eligibility in general elections, which at one time was as much as 2 years in Mississippi, is no longer a legal requirement.¹ Currently, States require a residence of only 30 to 60 days to complete whatever administrative tasks are necessary to prevent election fraud. See appendix table A-1 for current State residence qualifications.

¹In March of 1972, in the case of *Dunn V. Blumstein*, 405 U.S. 330, the United States Supreme Court abolished such requirements in State and local elections when it struck down Tennessee's one-year State and 3 month county requirements as unconstitutional. The Voting Rights Act Amendment of 1970 eliminated the residency requirement as a precondition to voting for President and Vice-President of the United States.

Table C. Percent Casting Votes for U.S. Representatives and for Presidential Electors for Regions: November 1960 to 1972

Region	U.S. Representative				Presidential electors			
	1972	1968	1964	1960	1972	1968	1964	1960
United States....	50.9	55.2	57.8	58.7	55.4	60.7	61.8	63.1
Northeast.....	54.9	59.2	63.5	67.7	58.5	63.9	67.3	70.4
North Central.....	58.0	63.4	67.6	70.5	60.7	67.1	70.0	73.4
South.....	38.2	42.2	40.8	32.5	46.1	52.0	47.6	44.7
West.....	57.1	59.0	63.2	63.5	59.4	61.3	65.0	66.6

Percent of the Voting-Age Population Voting in 1972 Presidential Election



METHODOLOGY

The projections of the population of voting age by State for November 1974 by age and race were based on complete count 1970 population by age and race published in table 19 of the 1970 Census of Population, Characteristics of the Population, for each State, and provisional July 1, 1973 estimates of the total resident population by age for States published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 518. The census counts were adjusted slightly to agree with National and State totals used for apportionment purposes (U.S. total 203,235,298) and to correct for the overstatement of the "other races" population and of centenarians in the census.

The projections of the voting-age population for States, by age, for November 1974 were derived by extending the trend on the July 1, 1972 and 1973 estimates for 1 year and 4 months. The projections by age for States obtained in this manner were adjusted to add to a national projection of the population, by age.

In developing the estimates by race for each State, the 1960 and 1970 racial proportions in each age group were projected to November 1974 on the assumption that the patterns would continue into the current decade, but at about half the rate experienced during the 1960's. There is some evidence for this assumption since net interstate migration patterns differ considerably by race as indicated by the 1970 census. Between 1960 and 1970, there was net out-migration of blacks from the South while whites were experiencing net in-migration. However, since 1970, Current Population Survey data suggest that net in-migration of whites have continued, but at reduced rates, while net out-migration of blacks has largely disappeared.

These proportions were then applied to the appropriate estimate by age to yield estimates of the voting-age population by race. As a final step the sum of the estimates by age and race for each State were adjusted to equal an independent estimate of the national population by race and age.

The estimates of the population of voting age for States for each election 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 and over (18 and over in Kentucky and Georgia; 20 and over in Hawaii and 19 and over in Alaska) in the two consecutive censuses was derived. Linear interpolation and extrapolation between the 1960 and 1970 census provided an estimate for each State for each of the election years. These proportions were then 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 add to an independent estimate of the voting-age population for the United States as a whole.

LIMITATIONS OF ESTIMATES

Since the procedure for developing the age projections involves a short-term extrapolation of age trends beyond the estimates for July 1, 1973, these numbers should be used with some discretion. The procedures used to develop the projections by race and age given here are substantially weaker than those used to prepare the overall age detail. The figures are designed primarily to provide gross 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 estimates of the voting-age population for November 1974 are consistent with estimates of the population of States by age for July 1, 1973 published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 518. Related data from the Current Population Survey on reported voter registration in the election of November 1972 are published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253.

Estimates of the voting-age population for November 1972 for limited age groups based on the Current Population Survey together with detailed information on the characteristics of young potential voters (18 to 24) are published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 230.

A forthcoming report in Series P-20 will show survey data on voter participation and registration, by race and sex for the United States and regions for the upcoming general election.

ROUNDING OF ESTIMATES

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