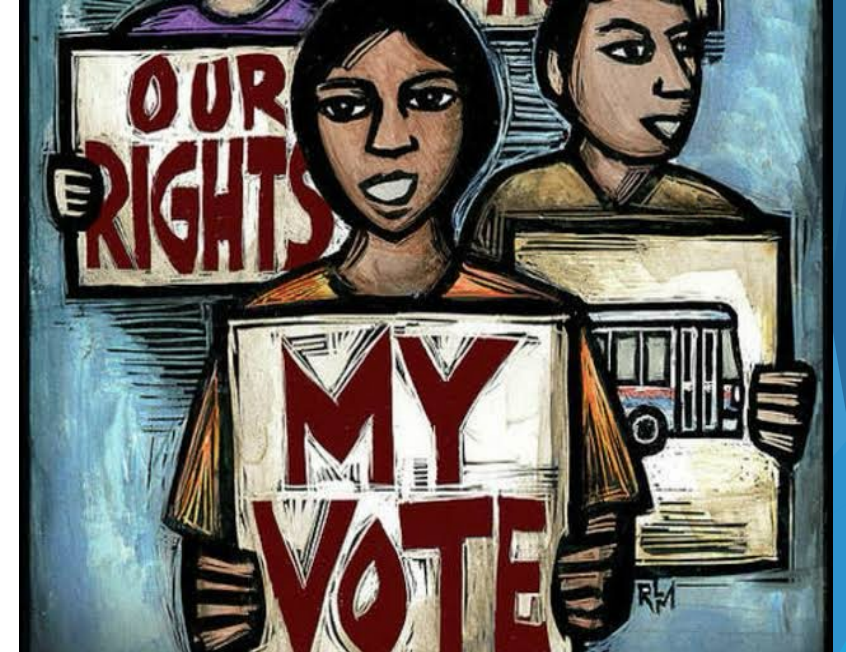


Why Voting is Important: Understanding the Power of Civic Participation



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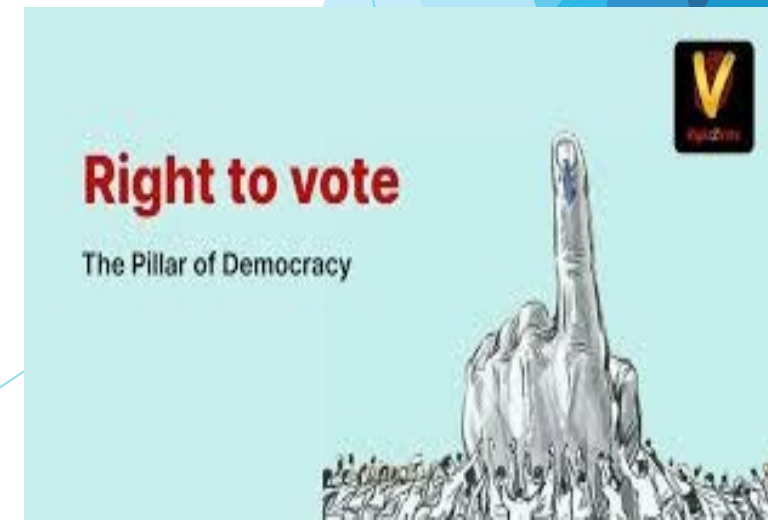
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Introduction

- Voting is a fundamental part of a democratic society
- It allows citizens to have a voice in government
- Every election shapes the direction of a nation
- Understanding its importance encourages participation

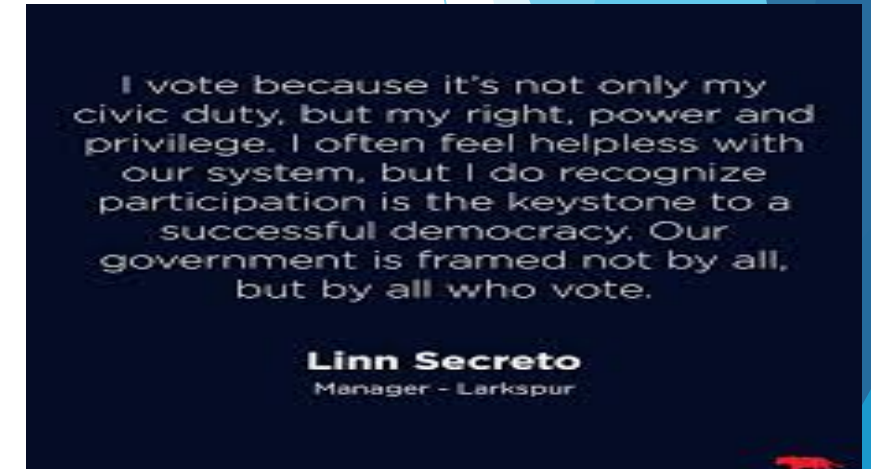


Why Voting Is Important

- Understanding the power of voting in society



- Voting as a Civil Duty



What Is Voting In America?

- ▶ Voting is the process of choosing leaders and policies
- ▶ Citizens elect officials at local, state, and federal levels
- ▶ Protected as a constitutional right for eligible citizens



Voting Impacts Social Issues

- ▶ Elections influence laws on education, healthcare, and equality
- ▶ Public policies reflect voters' priorities
- ▶ Issues like climate change, civil rights, and public safety are shaped by voting
- ▶ Voting helps communities advocate for change



Voting Is the Pillar of Democracy

- ▶ Democracy means people have a voice
- ▶ Voting allows citizens to participate in government
- ▶ Leaders represent the people who vote



Discussion Question

- Why is citizen participation important in a democracy?



Voting Impacts Our Present and Future

- Decisions made today affect future generations
- Policies on economy, environment, and education have long-term effects
- Voting helps shape the direction of society
- Encourages responsible citizenship



Voting Protects Human Rights

- ▶ Voting helps safeguard freedoms and liberties
- ▶ Leaders elected can strengthen or weaken rights
- ▶ Ensures accountability in protecting civil rights
- ▶ Empowers marginalized voices
- ▶ Influences laws about fairness and justice
- ▶ Gives people a say in who makes decisions

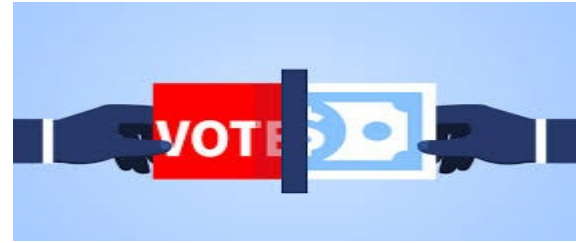


Voting Is a Right and a Historical Milestone

- ▶ Voting rights were not always available to everyone
- ▶ Many people worked to expand voting access
- ▶ Voting is a right that was earned over time
- ▶ Many people fought for the right to vote
- ▶ Participating honors that history
- ▶ Voting Rights Act of 1965



Voting Has Financial Impacts



- ▶ Elected officials decide taxes and government spending
- ▶ Impacts jobs, wages, and economic policies
- ▶ Affects funding for schools, infrastructure, and public services
- ▶ Influences cost of living and economic stability



Every Vote Counts

- ▶ Elections can be decided by very small margins
- ▶ Each vote contributes to the outcome
- ▶ Collective participation strengthens democracy
- ▶ No vote is insignificant



When We Don't Vote, Others Vote for Us

- ▶ Elections still happen even if some people don't vote
- ▶ Decisions are made by those who participate
- ▶ Not voting means less representation

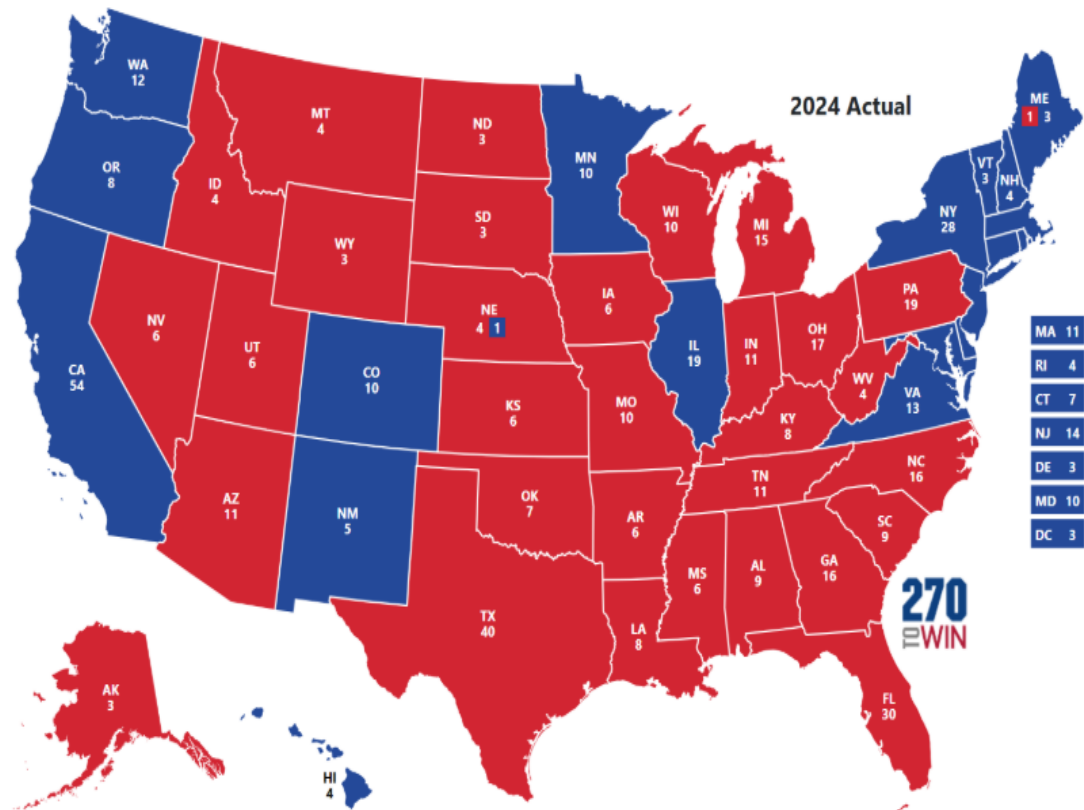


Activity

- Analyze and discuss the voting participation data on the next two slides comparing the last two presidential elections and the most recent mayoral election in Detroit, MI.
- What does it demonstrate regarding voter participation and its significance?

2024 Election Results

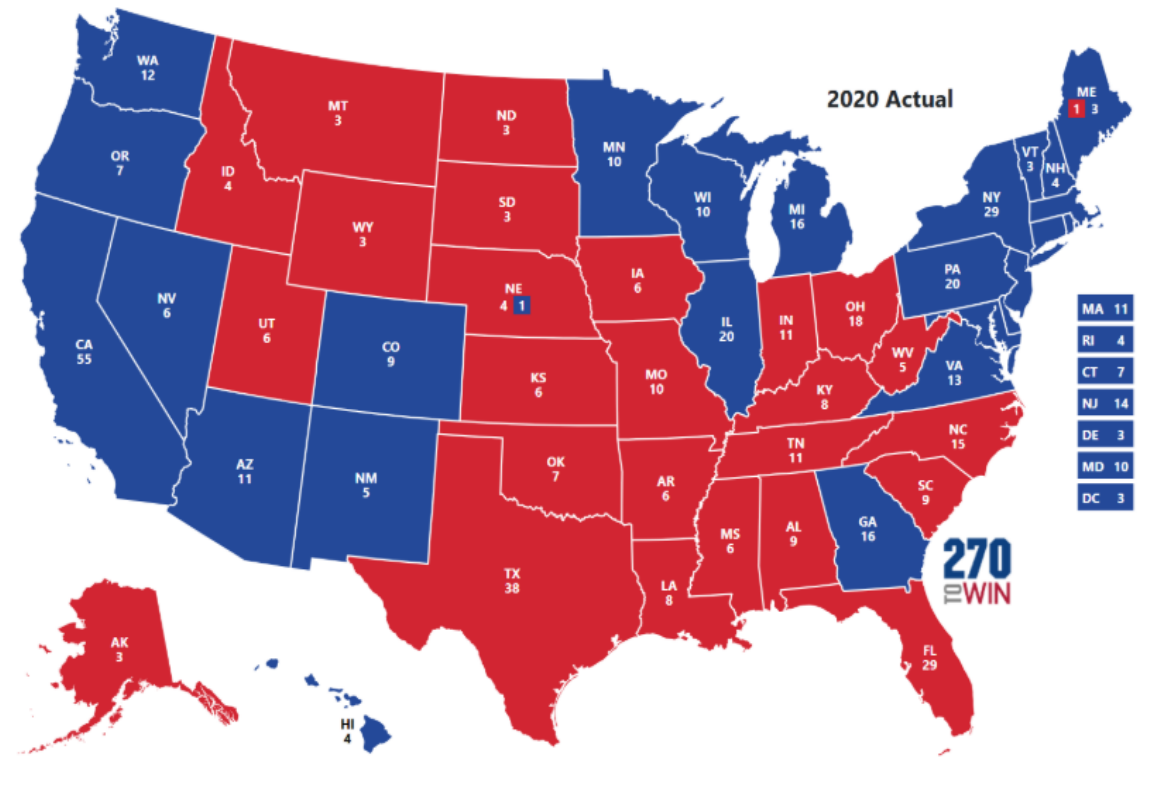
	Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓	Donald J. Trump	Republican	312	77,303,569
	Kamala D. Harris	Democratic	226	75,009,233



Total Popular Votes: 152,312,802 out of 173, 850,000 registered voters.

2020 Election Results

	Candidate	Party	Electoral Votes	Popular Votes
✓	Joseph R. Biden	Democratic	306	81,268,867
	Donald J. Trump (I)	Republican	232	74,216,747
	Jo Jorgensen	Libertarian	0	1,865,720



Total Popular Votes: 157,351,334 out of 168, 310, 000 registered voters.

2025 Mayoral Election in Detroit, MI.

ELECTION REPORTING STATUS

INCOMING BALLOTS

Early Voting

● Fully Reported

Election Day

● Fully Reported

Pre-Process Absentee

● Fully Reported

Absentee

● Fully Reported

PRECINCTS REPORTING

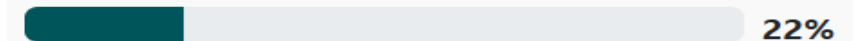


Election Night Complete **430**

[View status for each precinct](#)

ELECTION STATISTICS

VOTER TURNOUT



Ballots Cast **115,518**
Registered Voters **519,270**

Mayor - City of Detroit

Vote for 1

Vote Method Follow

Candidate	Percentage	Votes
Solomon Kinloch Non Partisan	22.46%	25,725
Mary Sheffield Non Partisan	77.02%	88,229
Write-in	0.52%	601

Precincts reporting **430/430** as of *5 months ago*

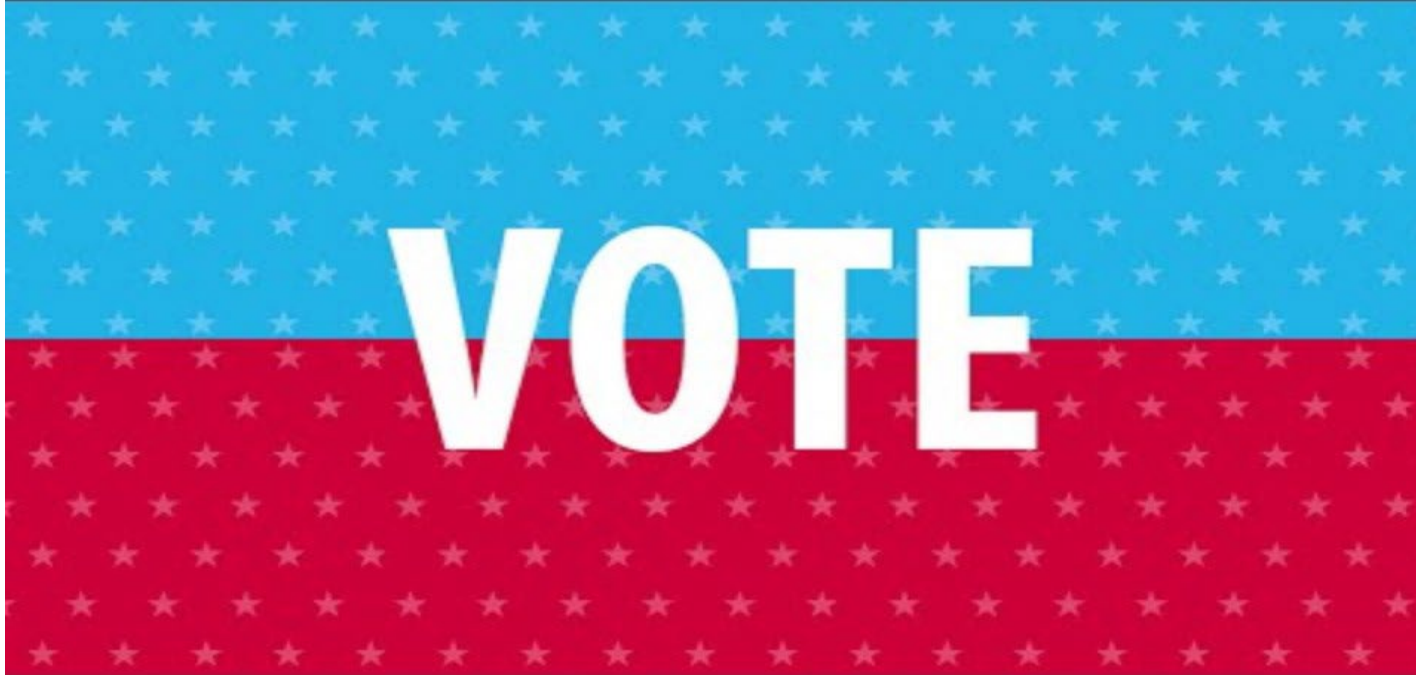
[View results by precinct](#)

Project 25



Discussion Questions

- Based on the data previous data and the Project 25 video, what happens when everyone does not exercise their right to vote?
- How can a person's non-participation in the voting process impact their future?



Why Voting Matters - Summary

- Empowers individuals to influence government
- ▶ Shapes laws, policies, and leadership
- ▶ Protects rights and freedoms
- ▶ Strengthens communities and democracy



Discussion/ Questions

- What social, economic, and political factors contribute to voter apathy or low voter turnout?
- Which strategies are most effective in increasing voter participation, and why do they work?
- How do personal values, societal needs, and current events influence the issues an individual prioritizes when voting?