

# 10.3/10.4 Voting Trends / Voting Process

*Government and Politics*

# Essential question for this unit

- *What is the role of the people in Government?*

# Review Right to Vote

- [History of the Vote](#)
- Universal criteria
  - citizenship, residence and age
- MN voting eligibility requirements
- Registration process

# Voting Trends

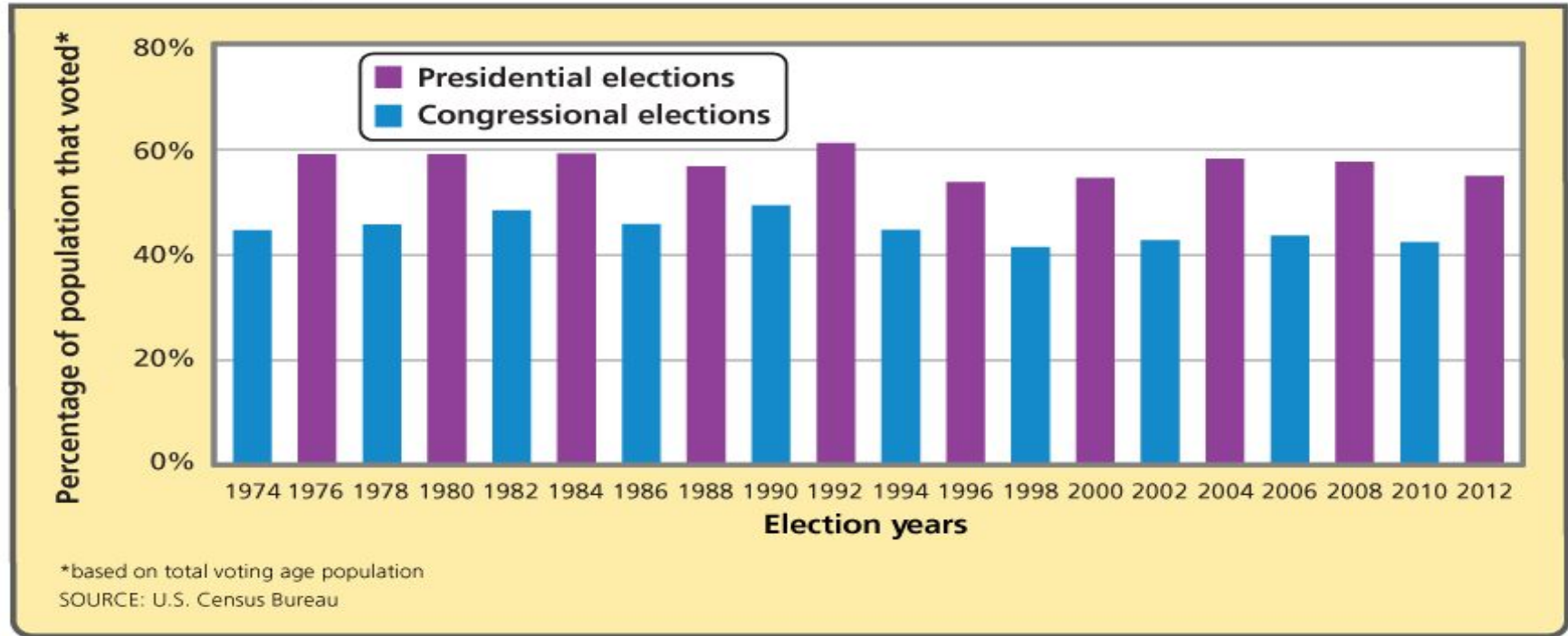
- Voting is one of the ways individuals can affect public policy. By doing so they are fulfilling one of the most important responsibilities of citizenship!

# Voter turnout in the United States

## Quick numbers

- Election Day 2012 = 56.5 % voted
  - more than 102 million persons nonvoting!
- **2010 off-year elections - congressional elections held in the even-numbered years between elections** = 42%

## Voter Turnout, 1974–2012

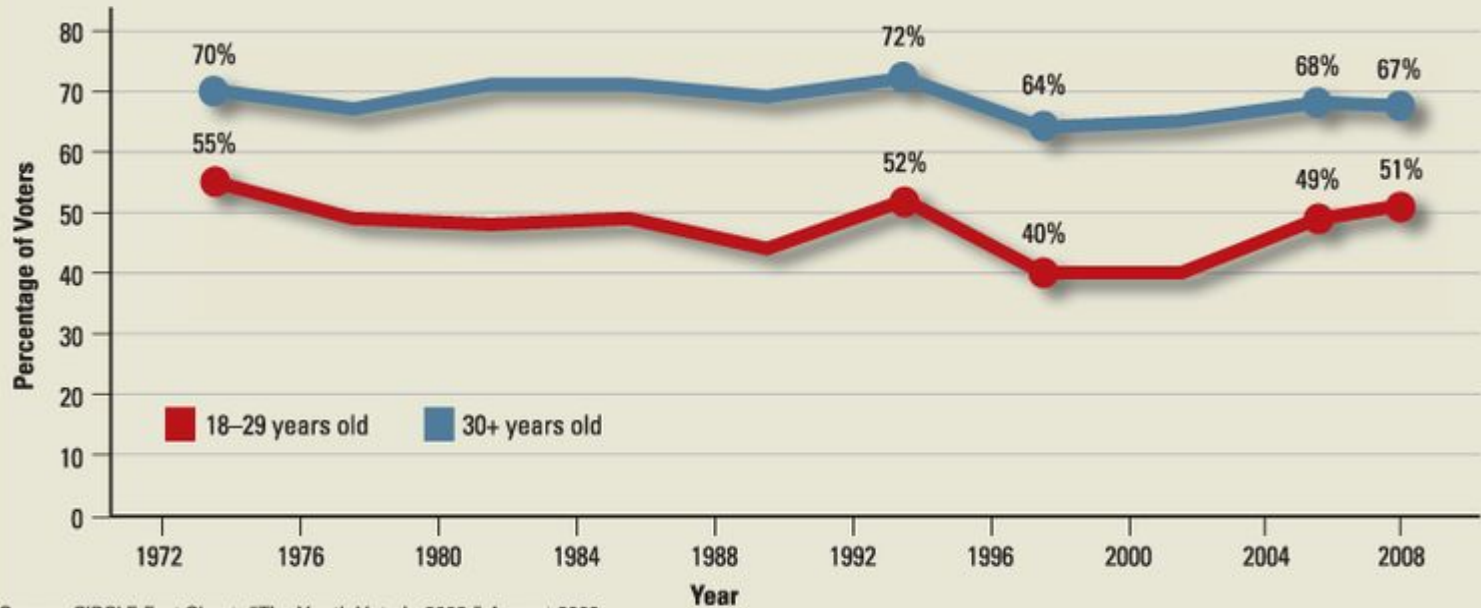


This graph is based on the U.S. population aged 18 and over. What can you conclude about voter turnout in presidential as opposed to off-year elections from this graph?

## Voting Rates of Older and Younger Americans

Young adults do not vote at the rate that older Americans do. The result may be an age bias among lawmakers, who are more responsive to the voters who elected them.

### Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections, 1972–2008



Source: CIRCLE Fact Sheet, "The Youth Vote in 2008," August 2009.

# Where does Minnesota rank?

Top-ten turnout states in past three presidential elections						
	State	2004	State	2008	State	2012
1	Minnesota	78.4%	Minnesota	77.8%	Minnesota	75.7%
2	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>72.5%</b>
3	Maine	73.8%	New Hampshire	71.7%	Colorado	70.3%
4	Oregon	72.0%	Colorado	71.0%	New Hampshire	70.1%
5	New Hampshire	70.9%	Maine	70.6%	Iowa	69.9%
6	Iowa	69.9%	Iowa	69.4%	Maine	68.1%
7	Alaska	69.1%	Michigan	69.2%	Virginia	66.4%
8	South Dakota	68.2%	Alaska	68.0%	Massachusetts	66.3%
9	Washington	66.9%	Oregon	67.7%	Maryland	66.2%
10	Ohio	66.8%	Missouri	67.6%	Michigan	64.7%
Turnout is pct of eligible voters voting (source: US Elections Project)						



# Voter turnout issues

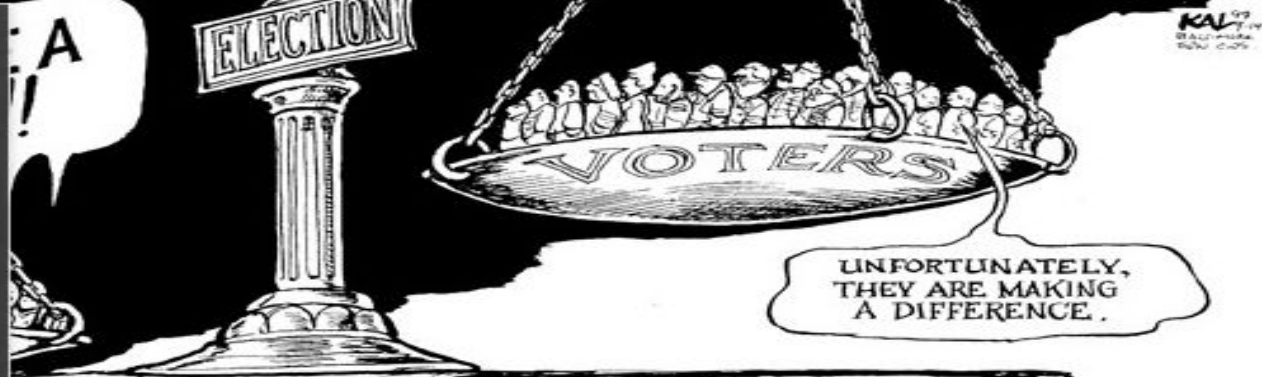
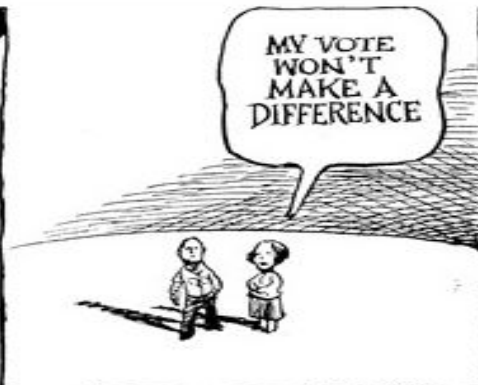
- **ballot fatigue - the farther down the ballot an office is, the fewer the number of votes that will be cast for it**
- Mandatory voting?! **Should you be forced to vote**
  - what do you think?
  - **What do other countries think?**

# Why people do not vote

- Why so many nonvoters?
- Why, even in a presidential election, is there only half the population participating?
- What do you think are the reasons?

# Why people do not vote

- Possible reasons (tends to be a combo of factors)
  - cannot vote: ex. resident aliens)
  - actual nonvoters: various reasons such as no sense of **political efficacy - feeling that you can influence politics**)
  - Time-Zone Fallout and Other Factors: such as long lines at polling places
  - Comparing Voters and Nonvoters



1999 Kevin KAL Kallaugher, The Baltimore Sun, www.kaltoons.com

Many voters believe that their vote does not matter. However, the cumulative effect of non-voting can be substantial. If most Americans fail to vote, then election results do not represent the will of the majority.

# Influences on voters and voting behavior

- How do those who do vote behave? What prompts many to vote most often for Republicans and many others to support the Democratic Party?
- Studying voter behavior
  - **political socialization - the process by which people gain their political attitudes and opinions**
  - **Video - political socialization**

# Political Socialization

## Gender and Ethnicity

Gender and ethnic identity affect our political loyalties. Men are more likely to vote Republican than women. Black voters are more likely than white voters to cast ballots for Democrats.

## News Media

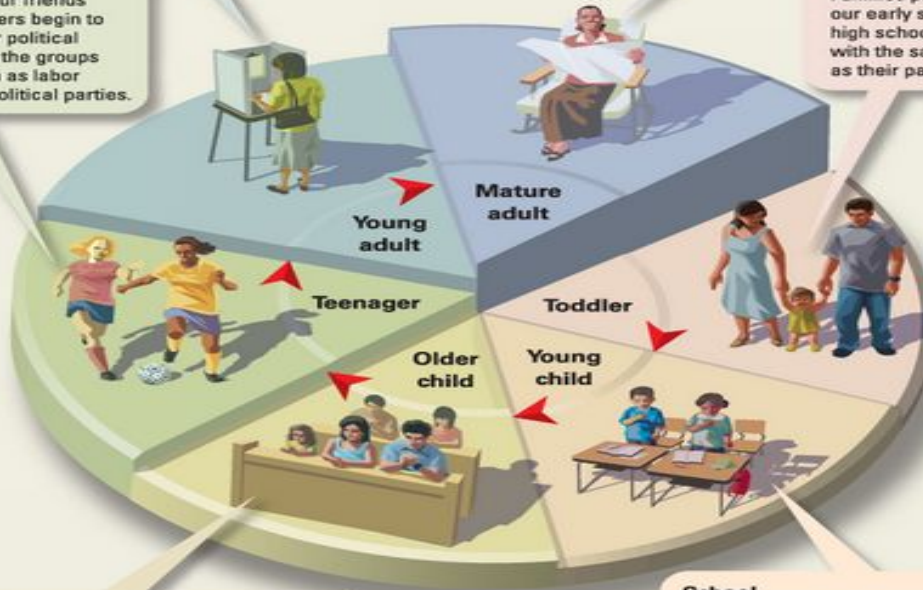
The news media influence what we pay attention to as adults. The effects of the media vary with our reading and viewing habits.

## Peer Groups

As we age, our friends and co-workers begin to influence our political views. So do the groups we join, such as labor unions and political parties.

## Family

Families play a large role in our early socialization. Most high school seniors identify with the same political party as their parents.

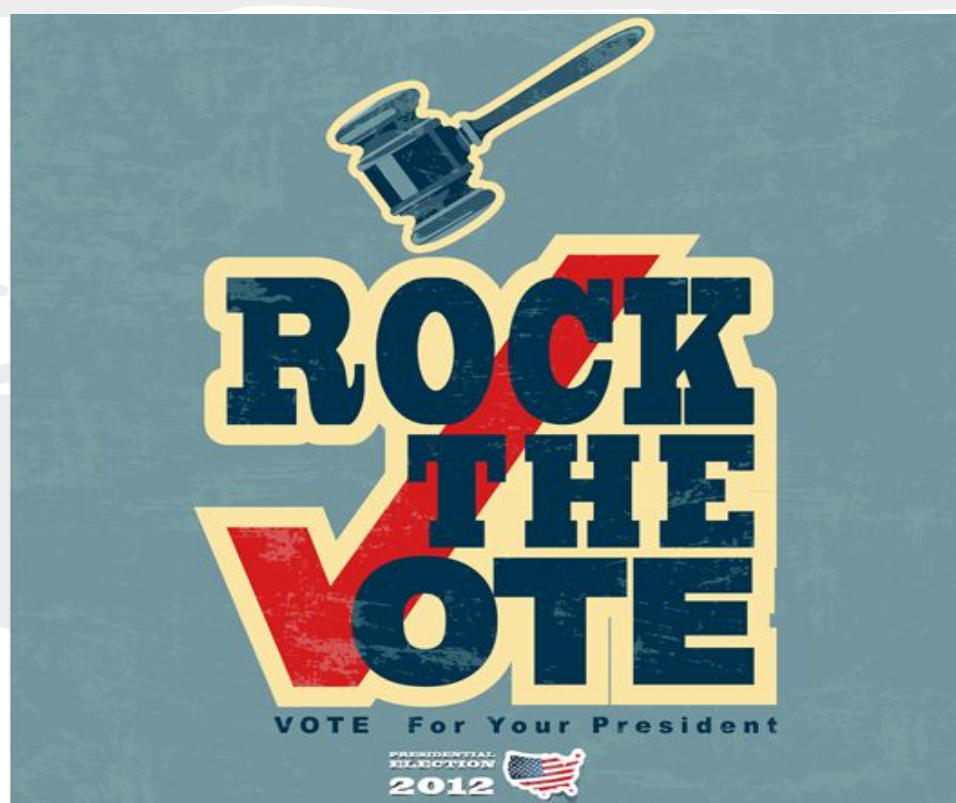


## Religion

Religious teachings help shape political values. People may have more conservative or more liberal views based on their religious beliefs.

## School

Schools teach us to love our country, respect the law, and value our rights. The more education Americans get, the more likely they are to participate in politics.



[Rock the Vote](#) is a nonpartisan organization that uses music, popular culture, and technology to engage young people and involve them in the political process.

# Sociological factors and political attitudes

Using data from past elections, you can draw conclusions of the American voter in terms of a number of sociological factors. Each voter tends to possess more than one.

- Income and Occupation
- Education
- Gender, Age
- Religion, Ethnic Background
- Geography
- Population Shifts
- Family and Other Groups



## Voter Support by Income and Education, 2012 Election

		OBAMA	ROMNEY
INCOME	Less than \$50,000*	60%	46%
	\$50,000 to \$99,999	46%	52%
	\$100,000 or more	44%	54%
EDUCATION	High school or less	52%	46%
	Some college	49%	48%
	College graduate	47%	51%
	Postgraduate	55%	43%

SOURCE: NEP Exit Poll

\*annual income in U.S. dollars

This exit poll categorizes voters based on income and education. According to the text, did the actual vote reflect this preliminary data? Explain.

# Psychological factors and political attitudes

There are factors beyond sociological impacting a person's attitudes. You must also take into account a number of psychological factors. That is, you must look at the voters' perceptions of politics: how they see and react to the parties, the candidates, and the issues in an election.

- Party Identification
- Candidates and Issues



Family is a big factor in how a person tends to vote. Statistics show that this baby will likely vote Democratic upon turning 18.

# Precincts, Polling Places and Ballots

## The voting process

- A precinct is a voting district. Where do I vote?
- A polling place—the place where the voters actually vote in/near a precinct.
- Increase in early voting
  - **absentee voting - process by which citizens could vote without going to their polling places on election day**

# Precincts, Polling Places and Ballots

The voting process

- **Help America Vote Act of 2002** - is a federal program that reformed aspects of the United States election system after the 2000 election issues.
  - Democratic government cannot possibly hope to succeed unless its elections are free, honest and accurate. Making sure the administration of election is effective is crucial to government success



A Maryland voter casts her ballot ten days before election day. By 2013, thirty-two States allowed early voting, some as much as six weeks early.

STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA NOVEMBER 8, 2012			STATE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:		
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:			INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:		
FEDERAL OFFICES	STATE OFFICES	COUNTY OFFICES	FEDERAL OFFICES	STATE OFFICES	COUNTY OFFICES
<b>PRESIDENT &amp; VICE PRESIDENT</b> VOTE FOR ONE TEAM	<b>STATE SENATOR</b> DISTRICT #1 VOTE FOR ONE	<b>SOUTH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 3</b> VOTE FOR ONE	<b>U.S. REPRESENTATIVE</b> DISTRICT 1 VOTE FOR ONE	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b> VOTE FOR ONE	<b>SOUTH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 5</b> VOTE FOR ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> MITT ROMNEY AND PAUL RYAN Republican	<input type="checkbox"/> ANA SALAS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> TIMOTHY WALKER Republican	<input type="checkbox"/> JILL CARLSON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> BARI SOLOMON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> CHIP CRIVELLO Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> MARK STONE Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> GARY JOHNSON AND JILL GOODY Libertarian Party	<b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE</b> DISTRICT #88 VOTE FOR ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> JAMES L. ORNSTAD Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLY HAY Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> JAMES HARRIS AND MELBA DE LUCA Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALINA PALMER Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> RICHARD (GEORGE) BERTON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE AUDITOR VOTE FOR ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> FRANK LLOYD AND JILL CLAYTON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> CAROLYN LAUNE Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLY HAY Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> PATRICK "PAT" ANDERSON Republican	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN PETERSON Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> DEAN MORSE AND JOHN FRANK-PHYLAND Constitutional Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> TIM LITZ Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 7 VOTE FOR ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> REBECCA OTTO Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
<input type="checkbox"/> ALL OTHER AND CHIEF HONORARY Secretary	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS</b> Please to vote on any constitutional amendments, mark the oval(s) next to any you support.	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> PILLA DEVI SREYI Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> JANE YODER Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ROGER J. BERNETT Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> KERRY RALLINGER Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLY HAY Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> ATTORNEY GENERAL VOTE FOR ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7B VOTE FOR ONE	<input type="checkbox"/> BILL DARR Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> TONY GILLES Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> CHRIS BARON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAVIS SILVERS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> LOU SWANSON Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> KERRY CALVERT Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DAVID J. BOCK Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat
		<input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT L. MOLINS Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLY HAY Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLY HAY Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBRA L. TAYLOR Democrat

Sample Ballots

# Review/Reflection

- Review voting trends, process and political socialization