

Nonvoters Are No Longer More Inclined to Favor the Democrats Than Are Voters

<u>Vote or preference</u>	<u>Nonvoters (%)</u>	<u>Voters (%)</u>
1960		
Democratic vote or preference	51	49
Republican vote or preference	49	51
Other vote or preference	—	1
1964		
Democratic vote or preference	80	67
Republican vote or preference	20	32
Other vote or preference	—	—
1968		
Democratic vote or preference	45	41
Republican vote or preference	40	48
Other vote or preference	15	12
1980		
Democratic vote or preference	47	39
Republican vote or preference	45	51
Other vote or preference	8	10
1984		
Democratic vote or preference	39	41
Republican vote or preference	61	58
Other vote or preference	—	1
1988		
Democratic vote or preference	44	47
Republican vote or preference	54	52
Other vote or preference	1	1
1992		
Democratic vote or preference	49	47
Republican vote or preference	30	34
Other vote or preference	21	19

Source: Surveys by the Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, American National Election Studies.

Should Americans Be Scolded for Non-Voting?

“No country can approach the United States in the frequency and variety of elections, and thus in the amount of electoral participation to which its citizens have a right. No other country elects its lower house as often as every two years, or its president as frequently as every four years. ...No other has as wide a variety of nonrepresentative offices (judges, sheriffs, attorneys general, city treasurers, and so on) subject to election. Only one other country (Switzerland) can compete in the number and variety of local referendums; only two others (Belgium and Turkey) hold party ‘primaires’ in most parts of the country. The average American is entitled to do far more electing—probably by a factor of three or four—than the citizen of any other democracy. Thus, although the turnout rate in the United States is below that of most other democracies, American citizens do not necessarily do less voting than other citizens; most probably, they do more. ”

Source: Ivor Crewe, “Electoral Participation” in David Butler, Howard Penniman, and Austin Ranney, eds., *Democracy at the Polls: A Comparative Study of Competitive National Elections* (Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute, 1981), pp. 236-262.