

OHIO POPULATION NEWS

Issue 31

Gwendolyn Zugarek

Who is Voting in Ohio? The Changing Composition of Voters

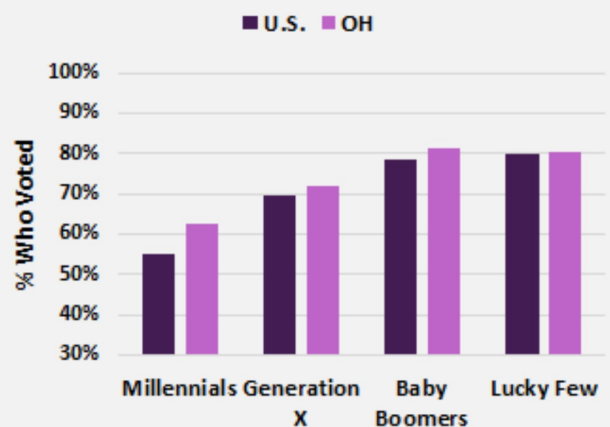
Millennials Least Likely to Vote

Millennials had the lowest voter turnout for the 2012 presidential election among citizens aged 18 years of age and older (Figure 1). While 81% of both the Lucky Few and the Baby Boomer Ohioans voted in the most recent presidential election, only 72% of those from the Generation X cohort cast a vote. Nationally, 55% of Millennials voted in 2012. But Millennials in Ohio participated in the 2012 presidential election at higher rates than their counterparts across the nation (63%).

Cohort Breakdown (birth yrs; age in 2016)² :

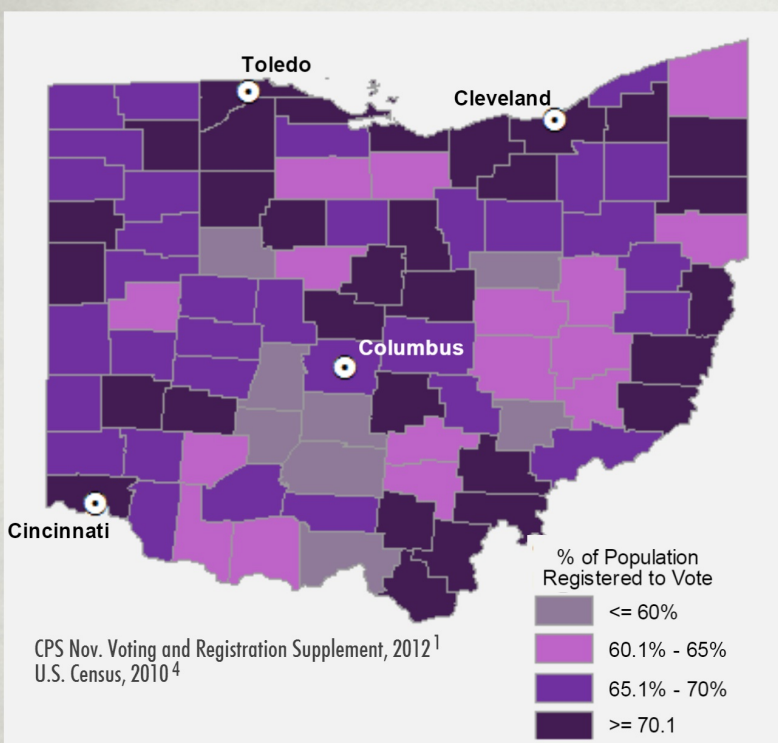
- ✓ Millennials: 1981-2000; 16-35 yrs old
- ✓ Generation X: 1965-1980; 36-51 yrs old
- ✓ Baby Boomers: 1946-1964; 52-70 yrs old
- ✓ Lucky Few³ : Before 1946; 70+ yrs old

Figure 1. Citizens Who Voted in 2012 Presidential Election by Cohort, U.S.-Ohio Comparison



CPS Nov. Voting and Registration Supplement, 2012¹

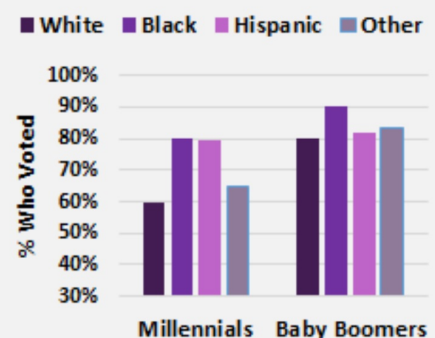
Proportion of County Registered



In Ohio, Wood County has the highest proportion of its population registered to vote, at 83.1%, and Holmes County has the lowest proportion, at 43.9%. Eight counties have less than 60% of their population registered to vote, leaving many potential voters untapped.

Voters by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 2. Citizens Who Voted in Ohio, by Race/Ethnicity & Cohort



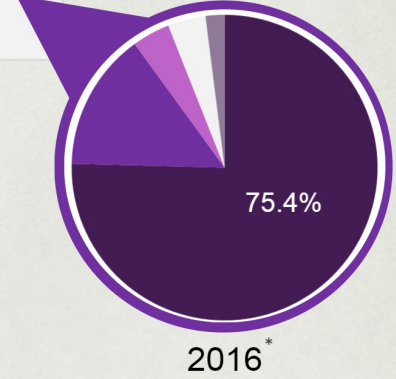
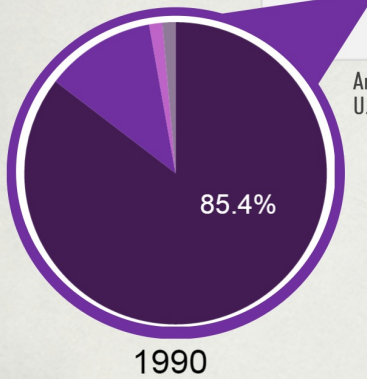
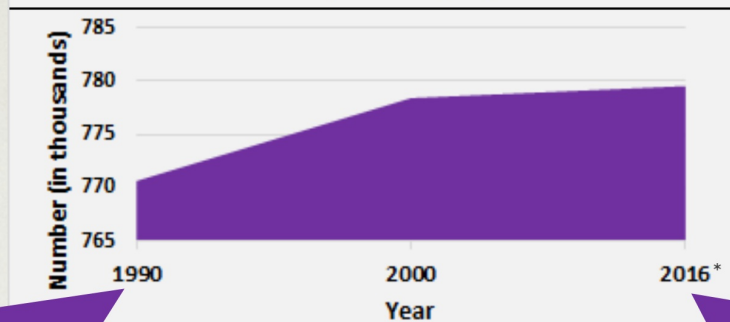
CPS Nov. Voting and Registration Supplement, 2012¹

In 2012, 86.9% of all black voters in Ohio participated compared to 73.2% of their white counterparts.¹ Among Baby Boomers, blacks have the highest rate of voter participation with little differences among other race/ethnic groups (Figure 2). While black Millennials had a lower voter turnout than their Boomer counterparts, they and Hispanic Millennials had a 33% higher turnout than white Millennials.

Questions or comments? E-mail the CFDR at cfdr@bgsu.edu and visit www.bgsu.edu/cfdr for the latest information on upcoming events.

Changes in New Voter Composition and Participation

Figure 3. Changing Number of New Voters (18-22 yrs) in Ohio



American Community Survey, 2013⁵
U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000⁴

*Projections using 2013 data

Racial/Ethnic Distribution

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- All Other Groups

As more of the Millennial generation moves toward voting age, they become new potential voters (they were not old enough to vote in the 2012 presidential election). We estimate that in 2016 there will be nearly 780,000 new voters aged 18-22 in Ohio, representing 8.3% of the adult population in 2016.

The new voters are more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity in 2016 than new voters were in earlier decades or compared to other current generations. One-quarter of new voters will be a racial/ethnic minority in 2016, compared to only 15% of 18-22 year olds in 1990. Similarly, only 15% of today's Baby Boom generation is a racial/ethnic minority. These shifts may influence voting patterns; in the 2012 election, black and Hispanic Millennials were more likely to vote than their white counterparts, and they were more likely to vote Democrat.⁶

- Sources:
- 1- Current Population Survey, Nov. Voting and Registration Supplement, 2012.
 - 2- Keeter, S. & P. Taylor. 2009. "The Millennials." Pew Research Center.
 - 3- U.S. Census, 1990, 2000, & 2010
 - 4- American Community Survey, 2013
 - 5- Carlson, Elwood. 2008. "The Lucky Few: Between the Greatest Generation and the Baby Boom." Springer.
 - 6- "Diverse Electorate: A deeper look into the Millennial Vote." The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement

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