



CENTER  
FOR THE FUTURE OF  
ARIZONA

# Civic Participation Data Profile



Geography:  
All Arizona Counties

Produced By  
The Center for the Future of Arizona

**The Arizona We Want Progress Meters**

<https://www.arizonafuture.org/>

5/1/2020

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## Civic participation is at the heart of our democracy.

**What success looks like:** Arizonans are informed, equipped, and empowered to participate in our democracy at all levels.



Civic Participation Progress Meter Partner:



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# Civic Participation

## The Arizona We Want

The Arizona We Want is a shared vision of success around what matters most to Arizonans that expresses their highest aspirations and hopes for the future. It is derived from what the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) has learned through careful listening to what Arizonans say about what matters most to them and their highest priorities. CFA's findings and analyses can be found in the three The Arizona We Want reports which you can access here (<https://www.arizonafuture.org/reports/>).

## The Arizona We Want Progress Meters

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters are an evolving, dynamic set of tools to measure the priorities that Arizonans identified of critical importance to the future of the state. The metrics were carefully considered and included with the criteria of being: easily understood; supported by publicly available, trusted, and regularly updated data; and, useful as a guidepost for assessing policy and practice. The Progress Meters may evolve over time with the input from Arizona's leaders, communities and technical experts. Learn more on our website at: <https://www.arizonafuture.org/az-progress-meters/overview/>

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters are defined by categories but in the real world none of these areas exist in isolation. Explore our data and feel free to connect with us at any time if you would like CFA to support you in identifying the best measures for advancing the priorities of your community.

# Civic Participation

## How Progress Meters were selected

The Arizona We Want Progress Meters were developed through the following milestones:

- CFA partnered with leading education organizations, with Expect More Arizona as lead partner, to develop and launch the Education Progress Meter, which engaged over 40 partners in its launch and has now been formally adopted by 60 cities and towns.
- CFA partnered with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) to use the nationally developed and recognized Civic Health Index to provide an array of metrics and data to track progress on two additional Progress Meters: Connected Communities and Civic Participation.
- CFA led an extensive process for developing metrics for the following Progress Meters: Jobs, Health & Well-being, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure. It engaged a Task Force, involved content experts, and held focus groups in using consensus-building around which metrics are most critical to track for each of the four meters. It followed this process with what has become a consistent practice in using critical readers statewide to provide feedback. Over 100 of 300+ critical readers rated metrics and provided feedback that culminated in the chosen measurements of each category.
- The Young Talent Progress Meter is still under development as it is being defined by Arizona's Young People. Learn more here! (<https://www.arizonafuture.org/az-progress-meters/young-talent/overview/>)

Throughout this process, careful consideration was given to the following criteria which must be met for metrics to be included in the Arizona We Want Progress Meters:

- They must be supported by publicly available, trusted, and regularly updated data;
- They must be understandable by most Arizonans;
- And they must be useful as a guidepost for assessing policy initiatives.

Many of our data sources do not provide data disaggregated to cities and counties, though some do. Because of this, in the event that data is not available, it will be provided at the most local level possible. Please reference the notes on each metric for details on how often data is updated, and at what geographic level the data is available.

## Using this Report

This local report is intended to provide timely and trusted data that can be used by communities to better inform them on how they are doing on what matters most to them. The Arizona We Want Local Progress Meter Profiles are intended to support the following objectives:

- Allow communities to compare themselves with their peers, and the state as a whole (where data is available)
- Track progress over time by reporting the value of indicators in previous years
- Support in the identification of priorities that can be the subject of targeted actions to improve conditions
- Explore the interconnections between the categories of The Arizona We Want priorities in pursuit of holistic and well-designed solutions

The Center for the Future of Arizona is engaging with a select group of communities in Community Conversations that are intended to support in advancing the objectives above. Please connect with us if you would like us to bring this process to you!

We appreciate hearing feedback and responding to inquiries about Progress Meters data, website and/or reports. Feel free to reach out to Ian Dowdy, Director of Progress Meters at [ian.dowdy@arizonafuture.org](mailto:ian.dowdy@arizonafuture.org).

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## Voter Registration and Turnout

Voter participation is essential to a healthy representative democracy that is responsive and works for all of us. Despite the importance of voter engagement, data has pointed to some troubling trends. According to a 2018 report from the Morrison Institute:

- In 2016, there were 2.1 million “potential voters” in Arizona who did not vote which translates to nearly half (45 percent) of otherwise eligible voters in Arizona.<sup>1</sup>
- The Economist Intelligence Unit, a research unit of The Economist magazine, annually releases its Democracy Index rankings for nations across the globe. An 8.0 to 10.0 score is deemed a “full democracy” by EIU. In 2017, for the second year in a row, the United States was deemed a “flawed democracy,” due in part to its lack of voter participation.<sup>1</sup>
- However, the 2018 midterm elections provide important benchmarks as Arizona saw the highest midterm participation in more than two decades.<sup>1</sup>

Voter participation is also measured by various sources in different ways—some report on turnout of registered voters, others report on turnout of eligible voters (those who could vote but may or may not have even registered), and some rely on survey data of how frequently voting-age individuals report on their own participation in elections.

The Civic Participation Progress Meters provide an array of these data points to provide a more comprehensive picture of voter engagement statewide, including information on the reasons why individuals did not participate if they reported not voting.

For example, nearly 1 in 5 Arizonan non-voters did not participate in 2016 because they felt their vote didn't matter, which is higher than the national average.

Voter participation sourced from Michael McDonald and the United States Elections Project are a calculation of eligible voters rather than registered voters as reported by most Secretary of State offices. Measuring the turnout of eligible voters is considered to be a better metric for participation as it will account for those who do not participate due to registration issues in addition to those who do not vote who are registered. More information can be found at <http://www.electproject.org/>.

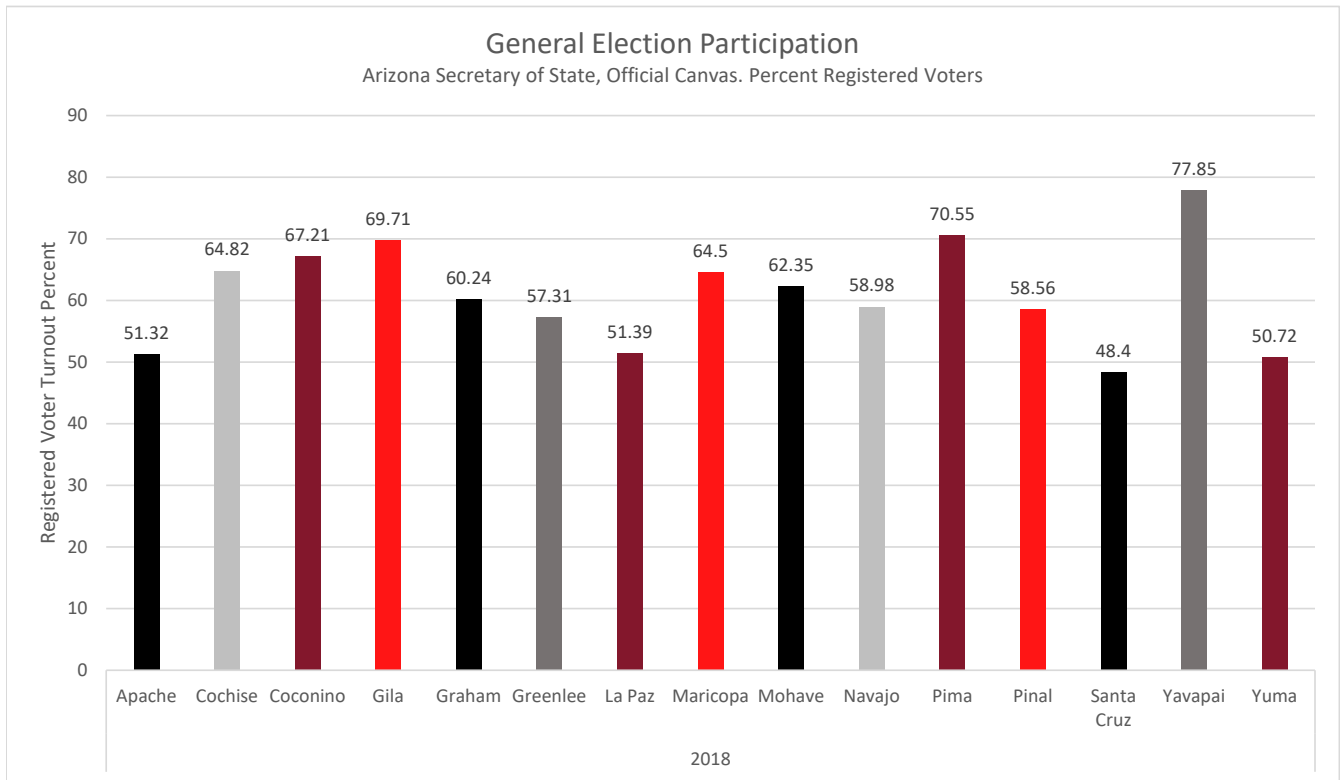
Sources:

1. NCoC Analysis of 2016 US Census Current Population Survey, Voting Supplement
2. Arizona Secretary of State, 2018 Midterm Election Data
3. US Elections Project McDonald, Michael P. 2019. <http://www.electproject.org/>

<sup>1</sup>[https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/sites/default/files/voter\\_crisis\\_report\\_-revised.pdf](https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/sites/default/files/voter_crisis_report_-revised.pdf) (Morrison Institute Arizona's Voter Crisis)

# Civic Participation

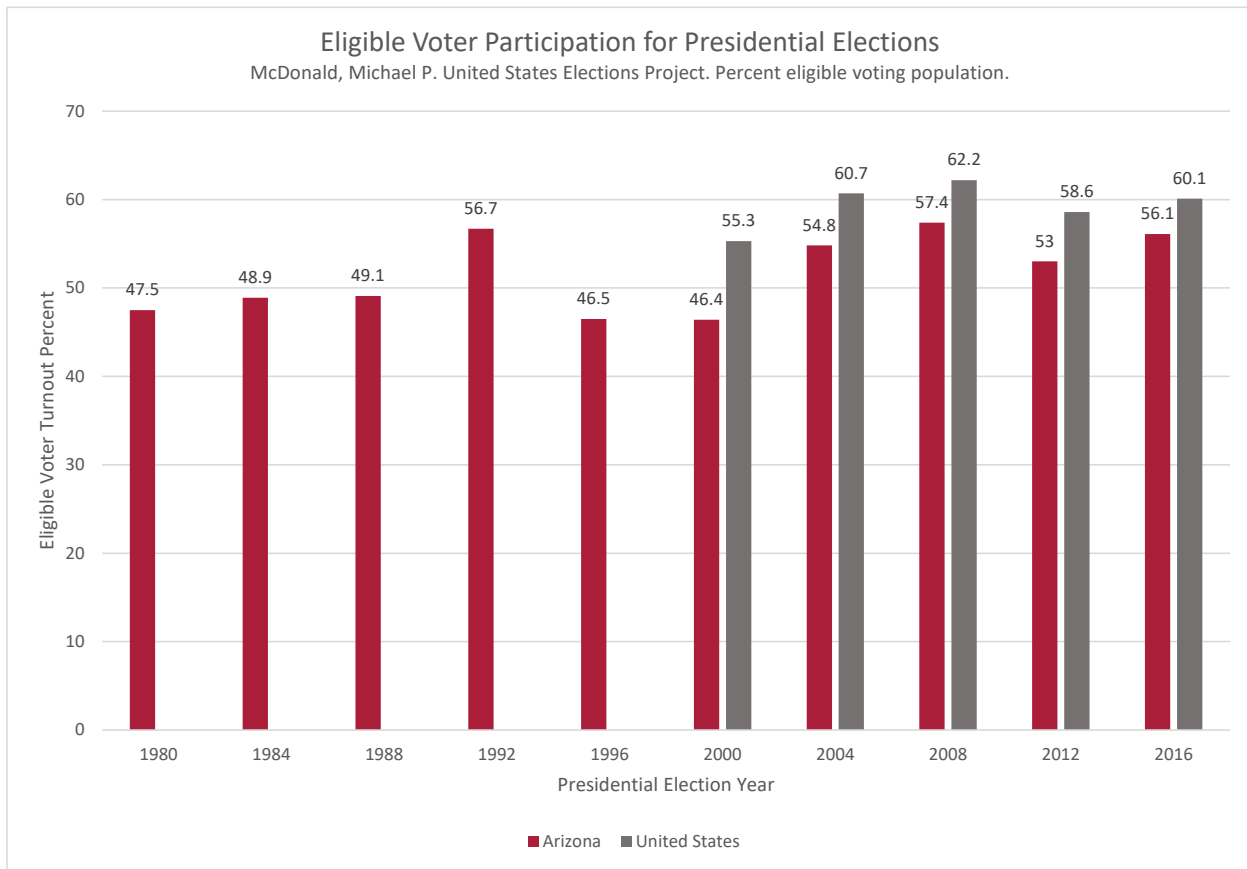
## General Election Participation





# Civic Participation

## Presidential Elections

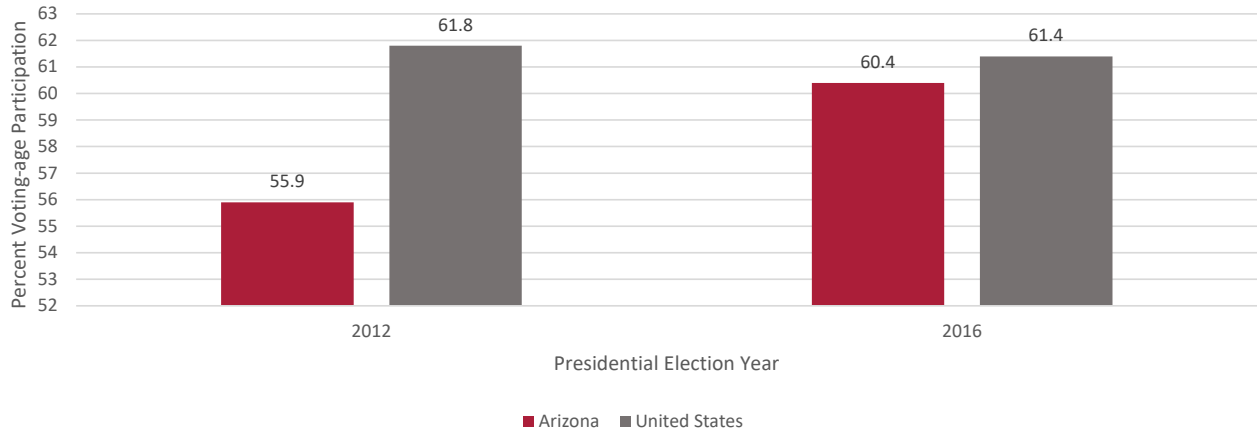


# Civic Participation

## Presidential Elections

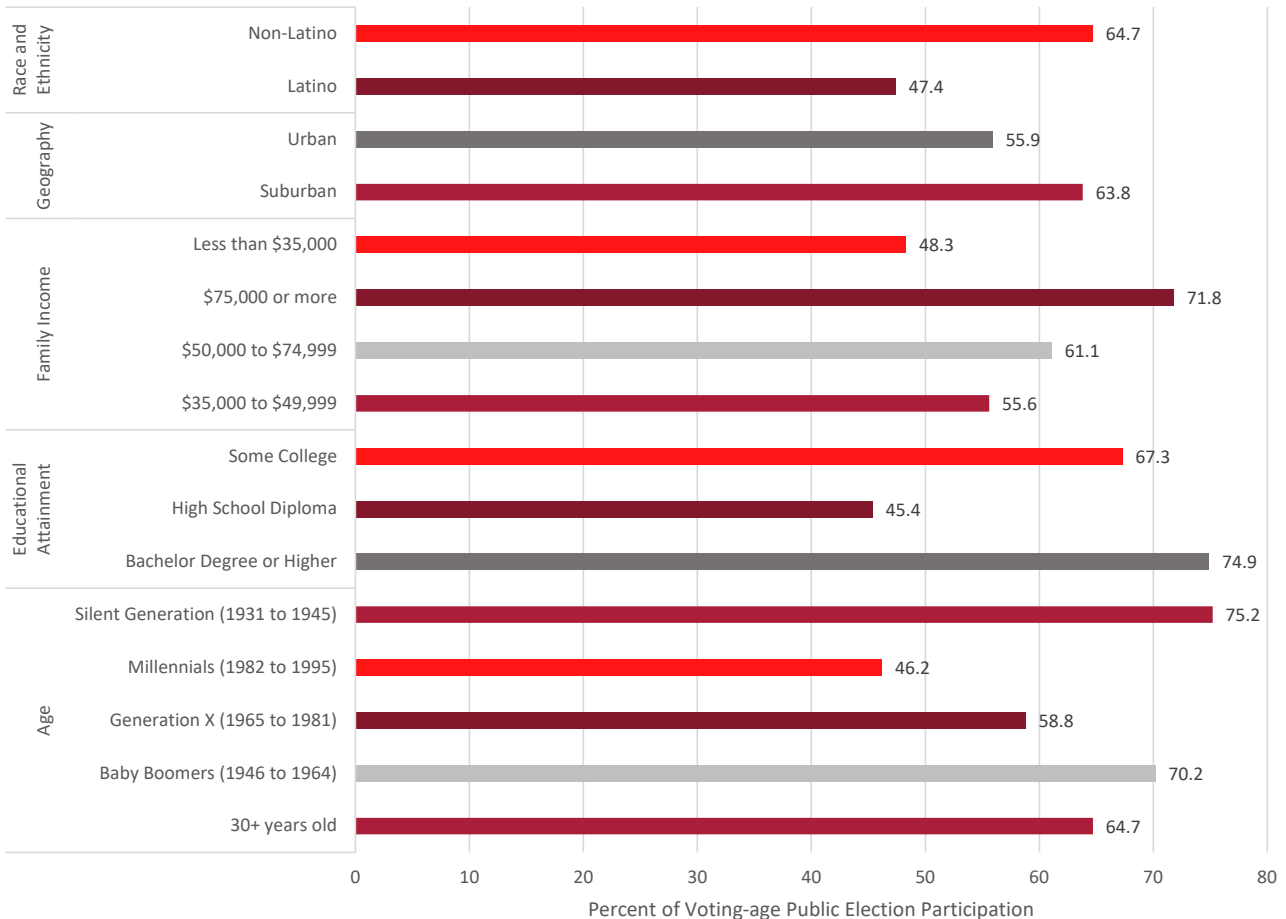
### Voting-age Arizona Voters Who Voted in the Presidential Election

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Current Population Survey (CPS) data. November Voting and Registration Supplement. Percent of voting-age public.



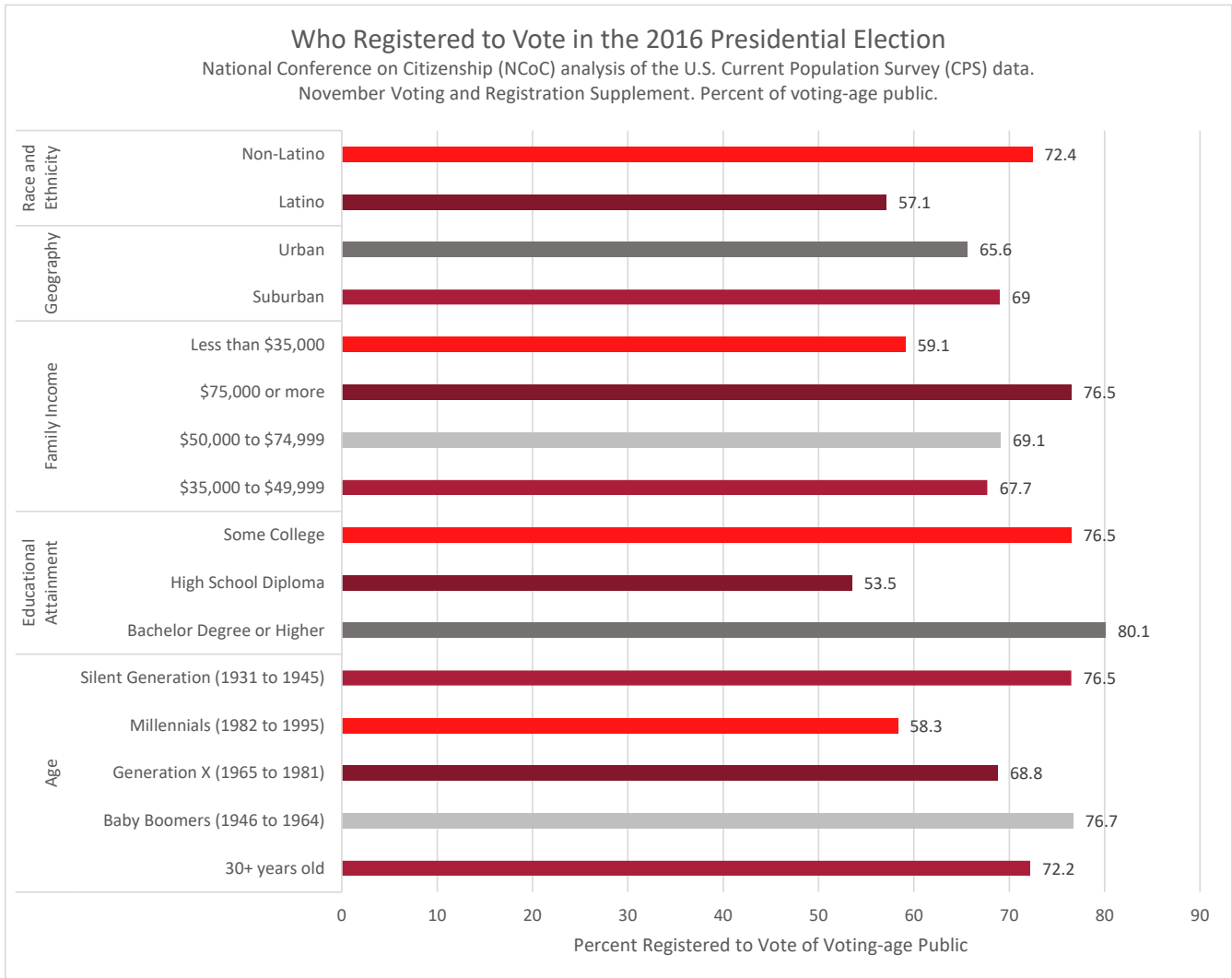
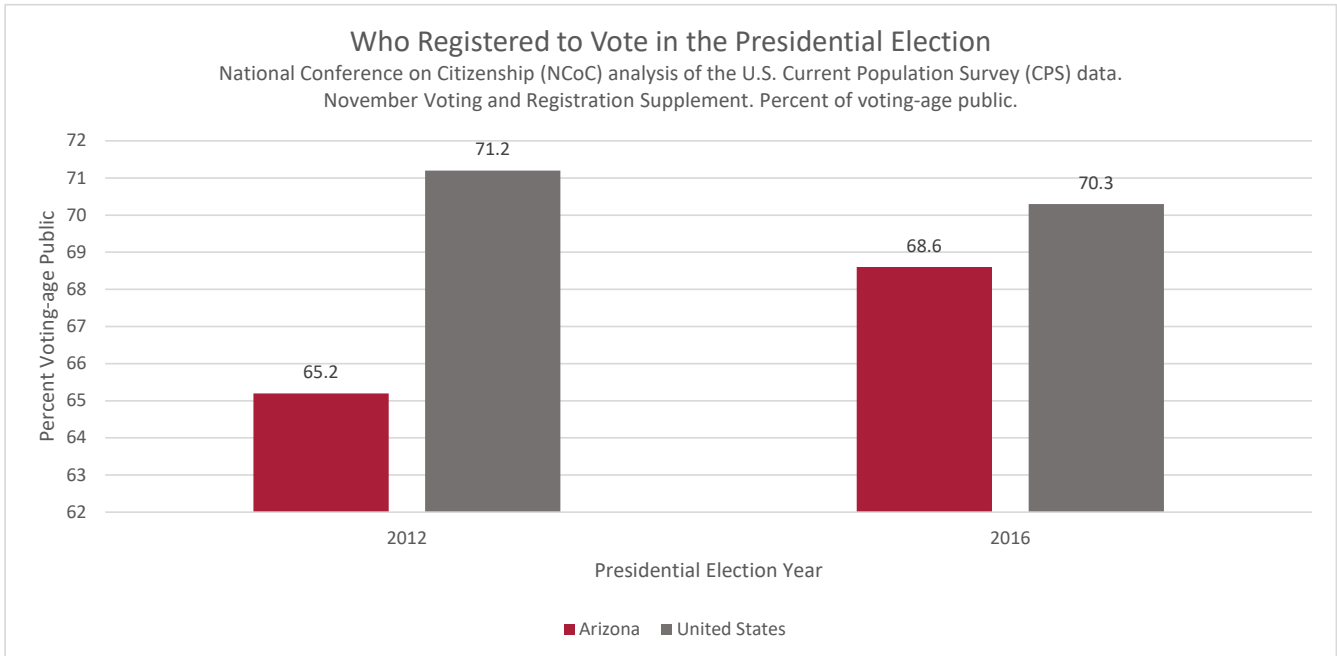
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# Civic Participation

## Presidential Elections



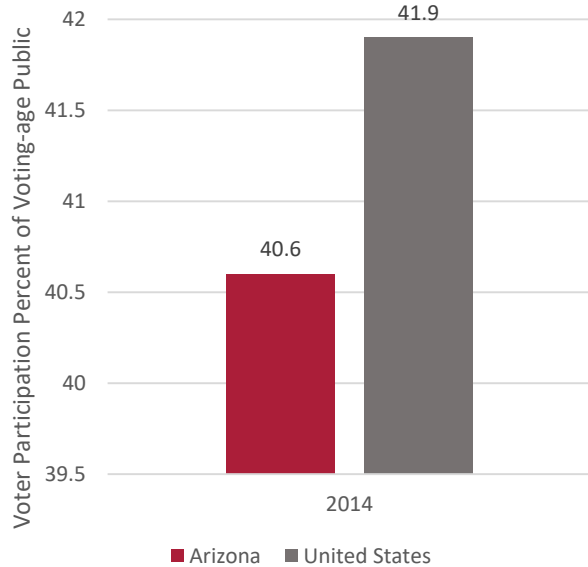
# Civic Participation

## Midterm Elections

### Arizona Voters Who Voted in the Midterm Election

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

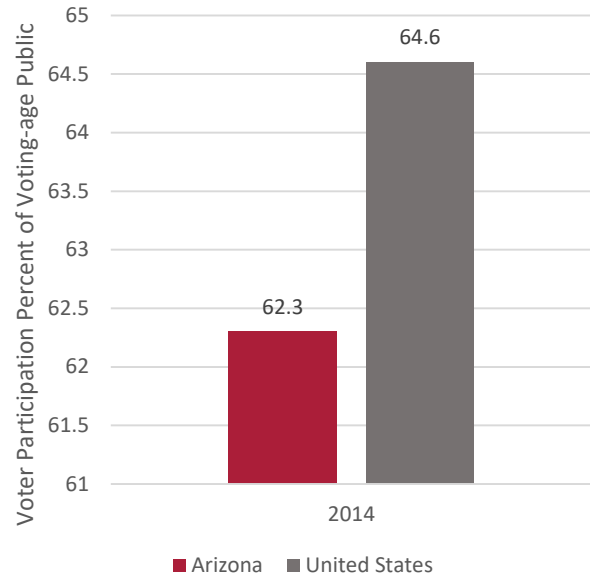
November Voting and Registration Supplement. Percent of voting-age public.



### Who Registered to Vote in the Midterm Election

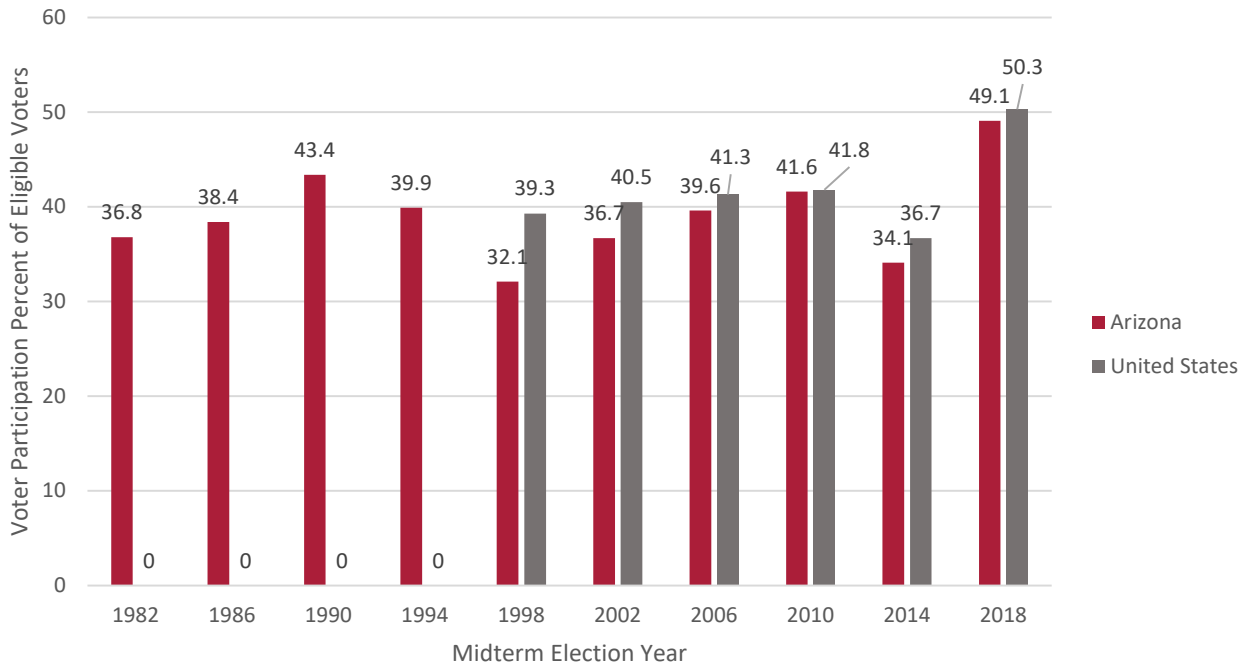
National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

November Voting and Registration Supplement. Percent of voting-age public.



### Eligible Voter Participation for Midterm Elections

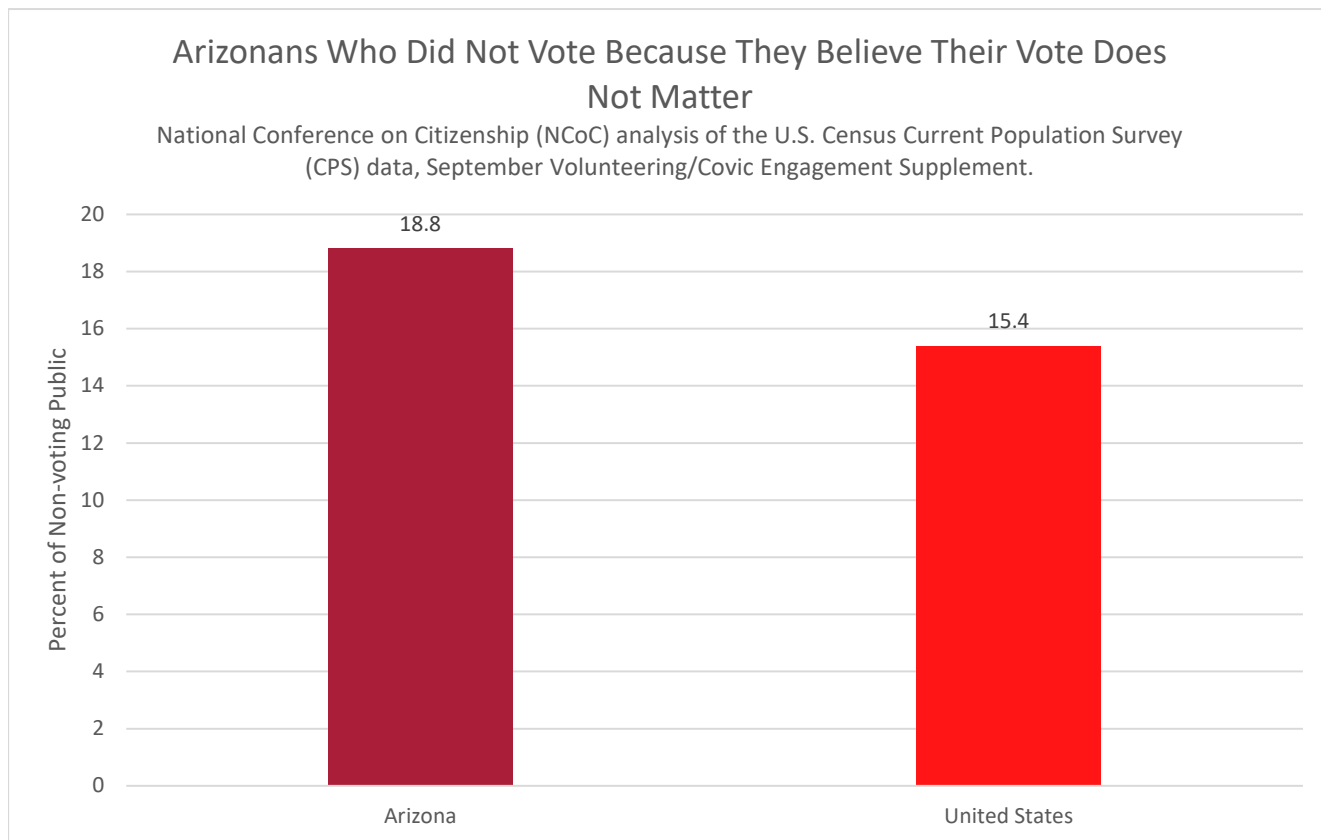
McDonald, Michael P. United States Elections Project. Percent of eligible voting population.



# Civic Participation

## Feeling that Vote Doesn't Matter

The American Community Survey questioned Americans who did not vote as to their reason. Of those who did not vote, the following said it was because they felt their vote would not make a difference.



## Confidence in Institutions

Our confidence in the major institutions that represent us and make our lives work is critical to a functional democratic society. The erosion of trust in these institutions can create challenges in public problem solving and have significant impacts on broader engagement in civic and democratic life.

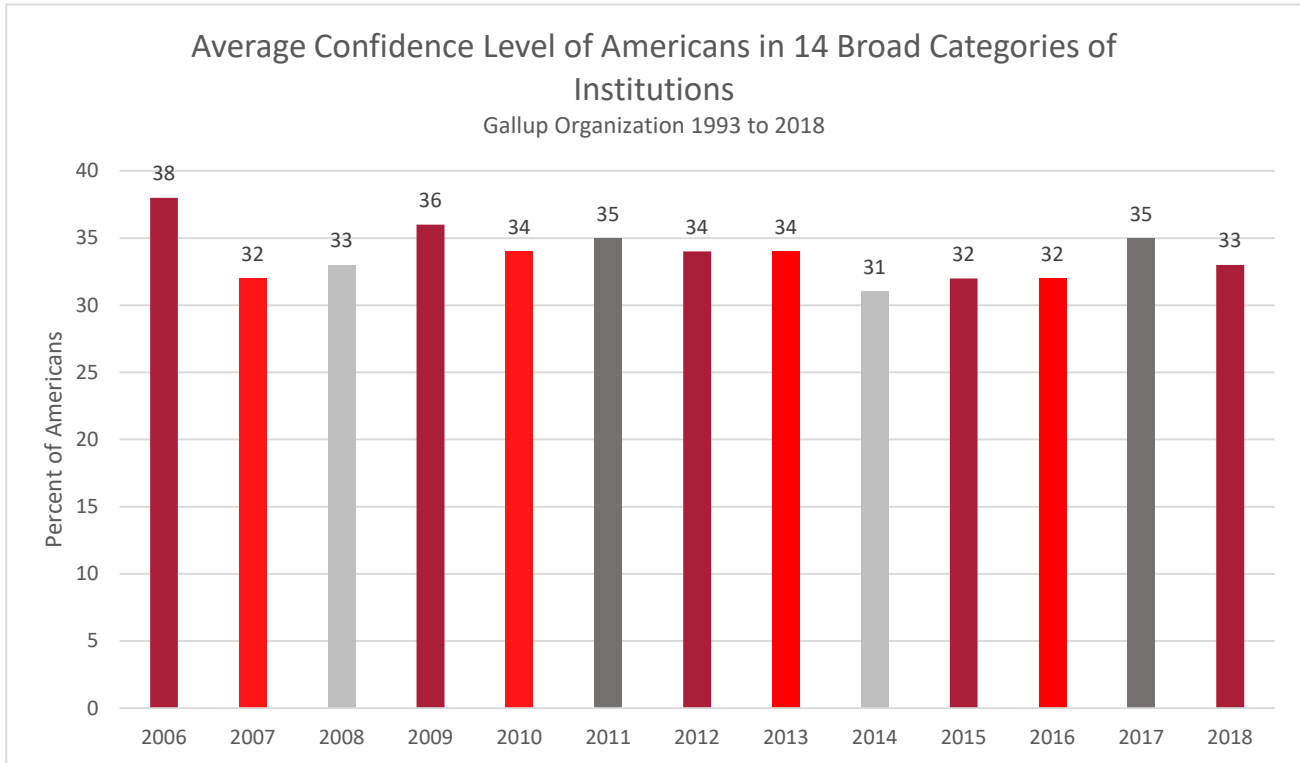
This metric compiles the average confidence levels of Americans in 14 major institutions that include military, police, church or organized religion, medical system, presidency, U.S. Supreme Court, public schools, banks, organized labor, criminal justice system, television news, newspapers, big business, and Congress. Some institutions have seen significant changes in confidence levels over the years, while others remain more stable.

Updated annually, aside from Arizona data, confidence in institutions is only available for the nation as a whole.

Source: Gallup Organization (1993-2017)

# Civic Participation

## Confidence in Institutions



## Contacting Public Officials

Engaging with public officials represents another way that Arizonans can make their voices and opinions heard and ensure that their needs and values are represented in government.

Only 11% of Arizonans reported that they contacted their public officials in 2017, on par with the national average. Tracking alongside this behavior, Gallup polling data from 2009 shows that only 10% of Arizonans feel like their elected officials represent their interests.

Education plays a larger role in this indicator: 3% of Arizonans with a high school degree have contacted their public officials in the past year, compared with 18.5% of those with a bachelor degree or higher.

Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

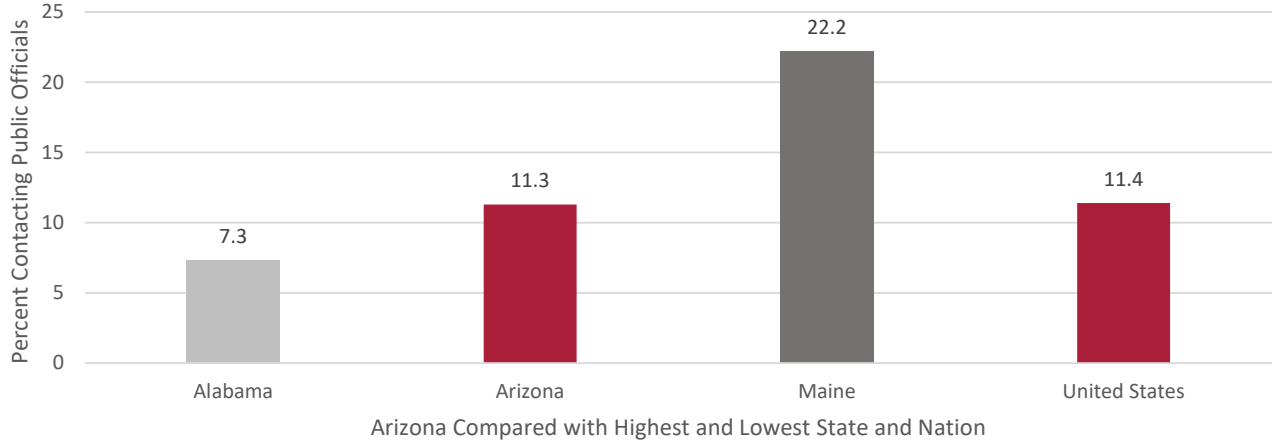


# Civic Participation

## Contacting Public Officials

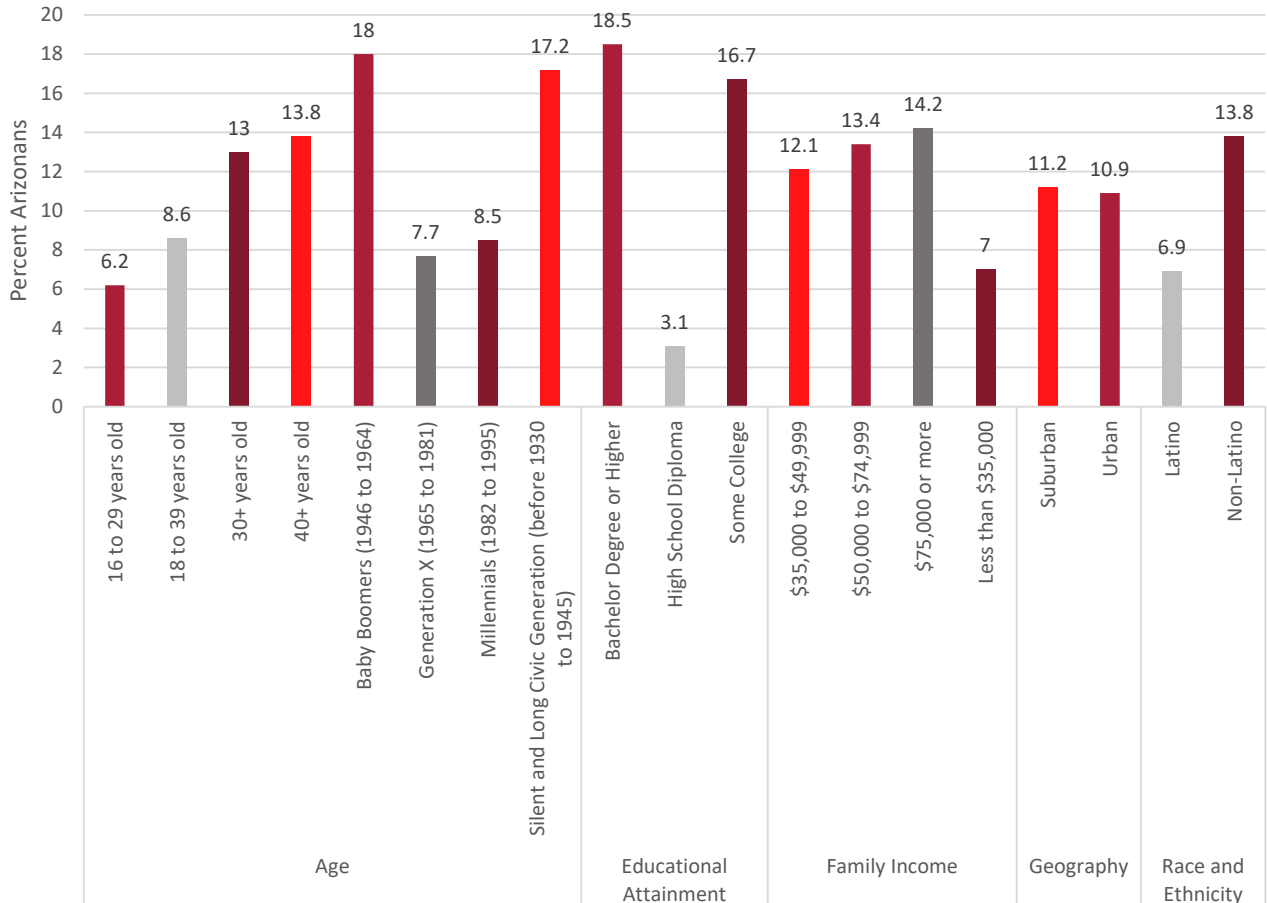
### Arizonans Who Contacted a Public Official in the Past Year

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement.



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## Discussing Politics

Discussing politics with family and friends can represent an important measure of social cohesion and of sharing information.

Arizonans trail the national average on this measure of civic life. However, Millennials engage in discussing politics at rates similar to the state average, and disparities across income, urbanicity and ethnicity are less stark compared with other civic indicators.

That said, as of 2017 Census data, education still plays an important role: ¼ of those with a high school degree are engaging compared with 42% of those with a bachelor degree or higher.

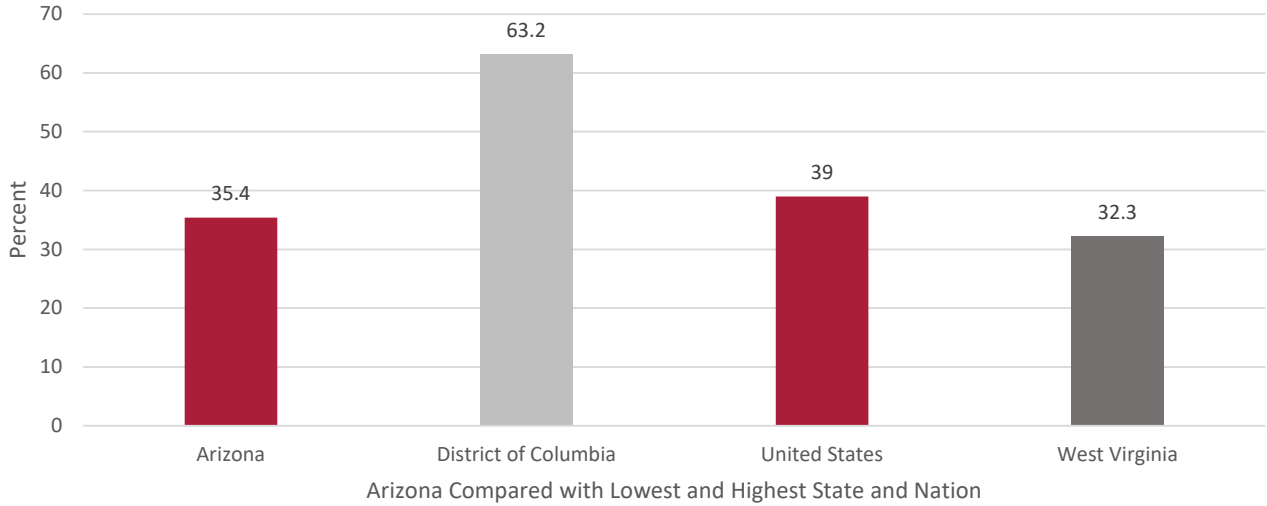
Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

# Civic Participation

## Discussing Politics

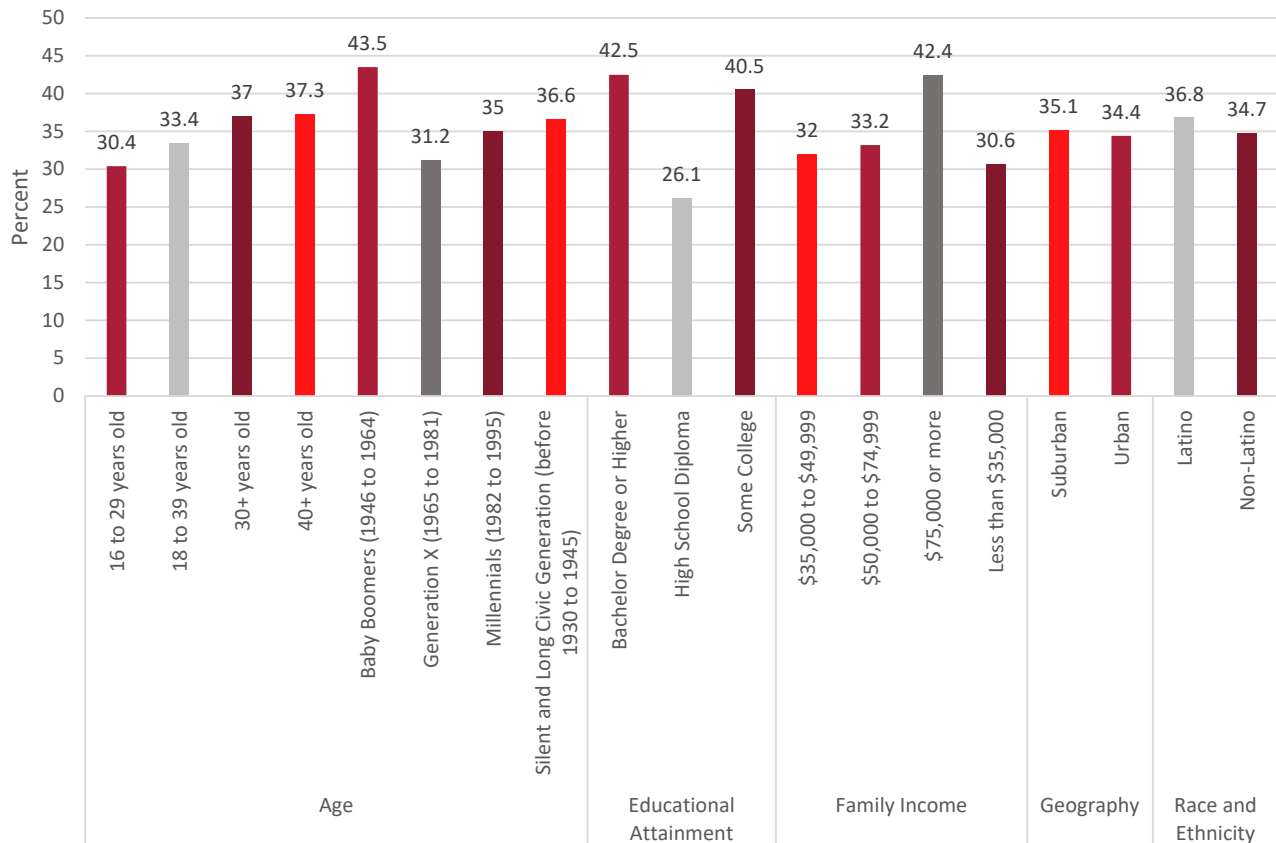
### Arizonans Who Frequently Discuss Politics with Family and Friends

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement.



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## Buying or Boycotting Products

One of the ways that members of a community can express their values and opinions is through purchasing power. This civic indicator might have implications for broader economic growth and well-being, as well. Research has demonstrated strong links between social cohesion and economic resilience. Furthermore, liking and caring about where one lives increases the odds that one will invest, spend, and hire there.<sup>1</sup>

In Arizona, we are leading the national average in this measure with more Arizonans choosing to boycott places or products based on their values than their national peers.

The data show that 18-29 year olds and those 30 years and older are engaging at similar rates in this way. However, there remain stark contrasts along lines of educational attainment, income, and ethnicity in the likelihood of Arizonans to express their values through purchasing power.

Source: NCoC Analysis of US Census Current Population Survey Civic and Volunteering Supplement (2017)

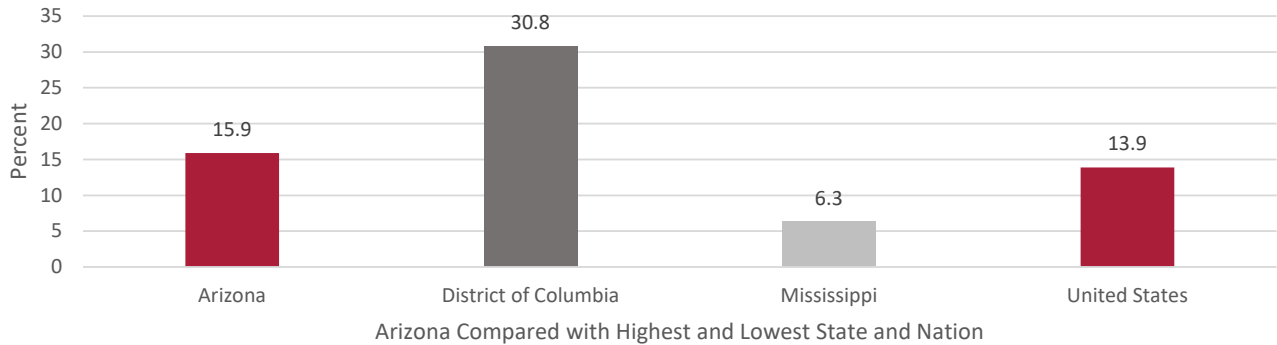
<sup>1</sup><https://ncoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2013EconomyCHI.pdf>

# Civic Participation

## Buying or Boycotting Products

### Arizonans Who Choose to Buy or Boycott Products Based Upon Their Values

National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data, September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement.



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