CITIZENS PROJECT 2022 VOTING SURVEY RESULTS

12/28/2022

compiled by Nadia Fischer
From September through December of 2022, Citizens Project volunteers and staff surveyed the residents of House District 17 either door to door or at community events. See Appendix A for the survey questions.

**Part I. Demographics**

Of the 331 people who responded to the survey, 173 (52%) identified as female, 149 (45%) as male, one (.3%) as male and female, two as non-binary (.6%), and six (1.8%) gave no response or responded N/A. In terms of age range, 50 (15%) of the respondents identified themselves as being between 18 and 24, 104 (31.4%) between 25 and 34, 103 (31.1%) between 35 and 49, 50 (15.1%) between 50 and 64, and 21 (6.3%) as 65 or over. Three respondents left the question blank. One respondent listed not being old enough as a reason they did not vote in November.

To the question “What race do you consider yourself?”, 77 people (23.3%) identified themselves as African, African American, Black, Black African, or Black American, designated here as Black / African American. 127 people (38.4%) identified as White, European or Caucasian (Caucasian, below), and 84 (25.4%) identified as Latino, Latina, Latinx, Hispanic, or Mexican (Hispanic / Latino, below). 15 people (4.5%) identified multiple races or identified themselves as mixed or multiracial (Multiracial, below); 6 (1.8%) identified as Asian or Pacific Islander (Asian / Pacific Islander), and 3 (.9%) identified as Native American. 19 people (5.7%) chose not to respond or responded with terms such as “American” or “human”.

![Charts showing age and gender demographics](chart.png)
The majority of respondents (73.8%) indicated that their first language was English, while 17.2% indicated Spanish as their first language. Of the remaining responses, three listed East Asian languages (Korean, Tagalog and Filipino), three listed European languages (German and Portuguese), and two listed African languages (Somali and Twi). Two respondents indicated Creole and French as their first language, and one listed Native American, without specifying the specific language. Five respondents left the question blank.

As this question applies to voting issues, nearly a quarter of the persons surveyed speak a language other than English as their primary language, which clearly has a significant impact on their comfort with the ballot box.
Part II. Survey Questions: Overall

This section shows the total number of responses to each survey question without regard to demographics. The information from these responses will be discussed in more detail below.

The first table details several initial Yes/No questions. All 331 respondents are included in the totals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>(blank)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you registered to vote?</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you affiliated with any political party?</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you in a committed relationship?</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you vote in the November 2018 midterm election?</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you vote in the November 2020 presidential election?</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you vote in the primaries in April 2022?</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The responses here support the conclusion that most people are far more likely to vote in presidential elections than in midterms or primaries. The data also indicates that while voter registration is high among the surveyed participants, party affiliation is significantly lower. It is unclear what effect being in a committed relationship has upon voter data.

The questions in the second table ask participants to rank their answers on a scale of 1 to 5, in which 1 means not at all and 5 means extremely strongly. The first question below depends on the respondent’s answer to the political party affiliation question, which significantly reduced the number of responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1 - Not at all</th>
<th>2 - Slightly</th>
<th>3 - Somewhat</th>
<th>4 - Very</th>
<th>5 - Extremely</th>
<th>Total # of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On a scale of 1 to 5, how attached do you feel to the party you are affiliated with?</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How important are local elections to you?</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the likelihood you’ll vote in the next election?</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of respondents (66.5%) rated local elections as very important or extremely important, and most (63%) also indicated a high likelihood that they would vote in the next election, presumably the 2022 midterms in November, which indicates a substantial increase in at least the intent to vote in local elections.
Question 13 asked respondents, “What are some challenges to voting you have experienced?” Because this question asked those surveyed to check all that applied, the responses are not totals out of a whole, but indicate the number of people who checked each response. Schedule conflicts and forgetting when to vote seem to be the primary reasons people cited as challenges to voting, though a significant number of respondents stated not trusting mail-in ballots as an issue. Given that 74.6% (214 total) of those surveyed stated that the ease of mail-in ballots was a positive factor in encouraging them to vote in November, the lack of trust for mail-in ballots is surprising. Those 42 respondents may correlate to the 72 people who responded negatively to that issue in question 15.

Question 14 asked respondents, “If you chose not to vote in November, how much did each of these factors play into that decision?” The table below describes responses to that question. Because the question specifically refers only to those who did not vote, the total number of responses is included for reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>1 - Not at all</th>
<th>2 - Very little</th>
<th>3 - Somewhat</th>
<th>4 - A lot</th>
<th>5 - Would Keep Me from Voting</th>
<th>Total # of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political ads too annoying</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t find information on the candidates</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>29.1%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t find information on the ballot measures</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many ballot measures</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t see any candidates who represent me or my interests</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The responses to these questions appear to indicate that political advertising and information availability are generally not significant factors in preventing people from voting, while having candidates who represent the voters and their interests seem to be a more significant factor. More research is needed to determine exactly what forms of representation would meet that need, specifically whether the desired representation takes the form of demographics (age, race, gender, etc.), political views, or something else. It should be noted that approximately one third of responses consistently fell in the neutral response (3 – Somewhat), which makes it difficult to draw significant conclusions.

Question 15 asked, “If you did choose to vote in November, how much would or did these factors play into that decision?” The table below describes responses to that question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>1 - Not at all</th>
<th>2 - Very little</th>
<th>3 - Somewhat</th>
<th>4 - A lot</th>
<th>5 - Makes Me Want to Vote</th>
<th>Total # of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How easy it is to mail in a ballot</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot measures that matter to me</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about local government</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates on the ballot who represent me</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information about candidates that is clearly written and easy to access</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information about ballot measures that is clearly written and easy to access</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about who represents me at the state or local level</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The steadily decreasing number of respondents on these questions may be an indicator of question fatigue, where participants become less willing to read and answer questions the longer the survey continues. The data indicates that easily accessible and clearly written information about both candidates and ballot measures as well as candidates who represent the voters are the most significant factors in influencing a vote. The responses indicate that concern for local issues and ballot measures do drive voters to the ballot box, while the ease of mail-in voting in Colorado may be the reason for the evenly distributed answers to that question.
Questions 16-21 ask respondents to agree or disagree with the statements listed below. The numbers described below include all 331 survey participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>(blank)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My vote matters.</td>
<td>81.9%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ballot measures are written in a way that is easy to understand.</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The polling locations are intimidating.</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel comfortable at the ballot box.</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local elections matter.</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The responses to these questions are almost overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of respondents showing a high level of comfort with voting and reporting a strong sense of the importance of the voting process. Given that the ballot measures in Colorado are written at a 30th grade level, according to Ballotpedia.org, it is reasonable that fewer people reported them being easy to understand.

Questions 21 and 22 offered an opportunity for open-ended responses. Question 21 stated: “What would make you more likely to vote in November?” Of those who responded to the first question (more than 45% left the question blank or responded with some version of “nothing”, “not applicable” or “I don’t know”), 14.3% responded that they were definitely going to vote, and another 15.6% indicated that better information or more representative candidates would increase the likelihood of voting. A significant number (7%) indicated a sense...
of hopelessness or lack of faith in the system, and a similar number of respondents (6.1%) stated that they could not vote due to registration or immigration issues. Several other respondents (6.1%) referenced issues with time or scheduling or the voting process, with multiple references to the ease of mail-in ballots. Some respondents referenced specific political issues such as houselessness, women’s rights, legalizing mushrooms or inflation.

Question 22 asked: “Why do you think your neighbors might not vote?” Many of the responses demonstrated markedly negative attitudes towards their neighbors, referring to them as lazy, ignorant or uneducated, and two responses referenced drugs or alcohol as a reason for not voting. More than half of the respondents (51.1%) left the question blank or stated that they did not know or care. 18.7% of respondents indicated that their neighbors did not vote due to a lack of faith in the system or a belief that their vote did not matter (10.1%), and another 3.6% indicated a lack of representation as a major issue. 8.6% listed apathy or a lack of interest, and 8.9% indicated a lack of knowledge or information as a significant factor. 7.8% of respondents indicated that their neighbors were too busy or too tired with work, or that they were lacking significant resources such as postage or transportation to the ballot box. 2.1% mentioned their neighbor’s legal status or language barrier as a factor. 1.8% stated that their neighbors do vote.
Part III. Survey Questions by Race, Age and Gender

For the sake of clarity and ease of interpretation, we have charted the responses to survey questions described below by age, race and gender, and included only the three largest race categories (Caucasian, Black/African American, and Hispanic/Latino) represented by the survey.

Are you registered to vote?

The percentage of respondents who reported being registered to vote increased consistently with age, regardless of race, though Hispanic / Latino respondents were less likely to be registered to vote overall than those of other races.

Are you affiliated with any political party?
Caucasian respondents were more likely to report a party affiliation (44.9%), while Black / African American respondents reported a lower likelihood (35.1%), and Hispanic / Latino respondents were the least likely to be affiliated with a political party (19.5%). Respondents in other race categories were unlikely to report a party affiliation (31.4%). Respondents over the age of 50 were significantly more likely to report a party affiliation (68.9%), while those under 50 were much less likely to be affiliated with a political party (27.8%).

On a scale of 1 to 5, how attached do you feel to the party you are affiliated with?

Women overall appear to have higher rates of attachment to their political party affiliation (72.7% rated their attachment as a 4 or 5, compared to 55.9% of men), with women over 50 showing the highest percentage of respondents reporting high rates of attachment to their political party.

Are you in a committed relationship?
Based on answers to the survey questions, the relationship status of respondents did not appear to have a significant impact on either their voting record or their likelihood of voting in the next election.

Did you vote in the November 2020 presidential election?

Did you vote in the November 2018 midterm election?

Did you vote in the primaries in April of 2022?
The three previous graphs show fairly consistent reported voting records across demographics. Hispanic/Latino respondents were less likely to vote in all three elections, Caucasians were the most likely to vote in all three elections, and the 2020 presidential election had the highest rates of voting overall. Older respondents were more likely to vote than younger ones, regardless of race.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how important are local elections to you?

The vast majority of respondents indicated that local elections are at least somewhat important to them, while Caucasian women over 35 and Black/African American men between 35 and 49 seem to be more likely to rate local elections as extremely important.

Question 14 asked respondents, “If you chose not to vote in November, how much did each of these factors play into that decision?”

a. Political ads too annoying
b. Can’t find information on the candidates

c. Can’t find information on the ballot measures

d. Too many ballot measures
e. I don’t see any candidates who represent me or my interests

Of the issues in question 14, most of the responses appear to be fairly evenly distributed across demographic categories. As discussed above, the issue of finding candidates that represent their interests seems to hold the most weight with candidates regardless of race, age, or gender.

Question 15 asked, “If you did choose to vote in November, how much would or did these factors play into that decision?” The responses to these questions appear to be very consistent across demographic categories.

a. How easy it is to mail in a ballot
b. Ballot measures that matter to me

c. Concern about local government

d. Candidates on the ballot who represent me
e. Information about candidates that is clearly written and easy to access

f. Information about ballot measures that is clearly written and easy to access

g. Concern about who represents me at the state or local level
Questions 16-20 ask respondents to agree or disagree with the statements listed below.


Question 17. The ballot measures are written in a way that is easy to understand.

Question 18. The polling locations are intimidating.
Question 19. I feel comfortable at the ballot box.

The above questions do not seem to indicate significant differences in age, race or gender, with the exception of question 17, “The ballot measures are written in a way that is easy to understand.” The graph for this question appears to correlate closely with the graphs reporting actual voting patterns (p. 9), which seems to indicate that people who do vote are more likely to disagree that the ballot measures are easy to read, whereas those who report not voting tend to report that they are easy to read. Of people who voted in the November 2020 presidential election, 58% agreed that the ballot measures were easy to read, and 41% disagreed. Of people who did not vote in that election, however, 69% of people agreed that they were easy to read, and only 27% disagreed. This supports the conclusion that people who did vote are less likely to think ballot measures are readable.
Question 23 asks, “What is the likelihood you'll vote in the next election?”

Caucasian women of all ages report as being the most likely to vote in the next election, whereas people who identify as Hispanic or Latino appear to be the least likely to vote.

Since almost 13% of respondents did not fall into the three race categories (Black / African American, Caucasian and Hispanic / Latino) that were broken down in more detail, no significant conclusions were drawn about that group, which included multiracial, Native American, and no response. Their data was, however, included in the overall conclusions.

In conclusion, the primary challenges to voting seem to be based on time, which includes challenges with work and scheduling as well as forgetting when to vote. Language and citizenship were considered a major factor in willingness to vote as well. Concern about being represented, both by candidates and by ballot issues, were a major factor in attitudes about voting. When broken down by demographics, most of the responses were fairly evenly distributed across race, age and gender.
APPENDIX A

Citizens Project Voting Survey 2022

1. What is your age range?
   - 18-24
   - 25-34
   - 35-49
   - 50-64
   - 65+

2. What race do you consider yourself?

3. What is your gender?

4. What is your first language?

5. Are you registered to vote?
   - Yes
   - No

6. Are you affiliated with a political party?
   - Yes
   - No

7. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning not at all attached and 5 meaning strongly attached, how attached do you feel to the party you are affiliated with?
   
   1  2  3  4  5

8. Are you in a committed relationship?
   - Yes
   - No

9. Did you vote in the November 2020 presidential election?
   - Yes
   - No

10. Did you vote in the November 2018 midterm election?
    - Yes
    - No

11. Did you vote in the primaries in April 2022?
    - Yes
    - No
12. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning not at all important and 5 meaning extremely important, how important are local elections to you?

1 2 3 4 5

13. What are some challenges to voting you have experienced? Please check all that apply.

☐ Transportation not convenient
☐ I don’t know where to vote
☐ I don’t trust mail-in ballots
☐ I have schedule conflicts
☐ I can’t read or write
☐ Ballots are not written in my primary language
☐ I forget when to vote
☐ Other

14. If you chose not to vote in November, how much did each of these factors play into that decision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political ads too annoying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t find information on the candidates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can’t find information on the ballot measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many ballot measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t see any candidates that represent me or my interests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. If you did choose to vote in November, how much did each of these factors play into that decision?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How easy it is to mail in a ballot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot measures that matter to me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern about local government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates on the ballot who represent me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information about candidates that is clearly written and easy to access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information about ballot measures that is clearly written and easy to access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My vote matters.
   - [ ] Agree
   - [ ] Disagree

17. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The ballot measures are written in a way that is easy to understand.
   - [ ] Agree
   - [ ] Disagree

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The polling locations are intimidating.
   - [ ] Agree
   - [ ] Disagree

19. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I feel comfortable at the ballot box.
   - [ ] Agree
   - [ ] Disagree

20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Local elections matter.
   - [ ] Agree
   - [ ] Disagree

21. What would make you more likely to vote in November?

22. Why do you think your neighbors might not vote?

23. What is the likelihood you’ll vote in the next election?
   1 – Definitely Will Not
   2 – Probably Will Not
   3 – Not Sure
   4 – Probably Will Vote
   5 – Definitely Will Vote