



THE AMERICAN VOTING PARTICIPATION AMONG AGE GROUPS

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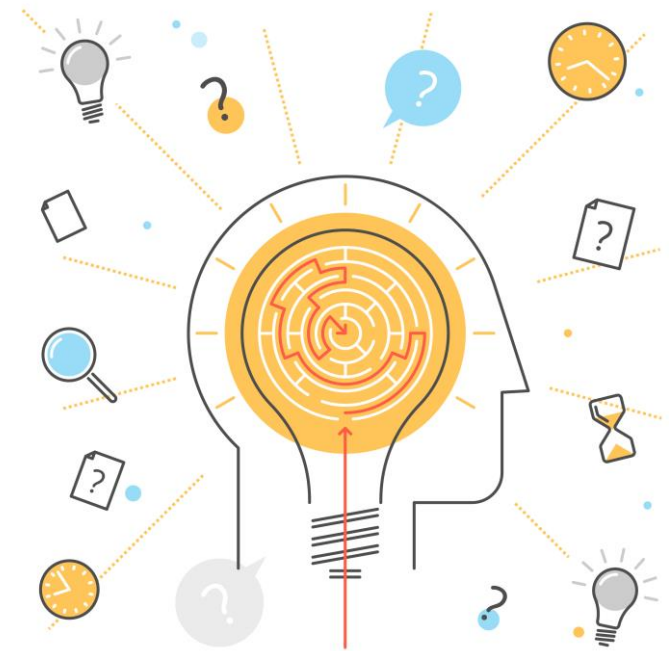
RESEARCH QUESTION & ITS IMPORTANCE

- “*Why are older Americans (i.e., senior citizens ages fifty-five and up) are more likely to vote than younger Americans (i.e., ages forty-five and under)?*”
- The importance of this research question is because American voter participation has varied from time to time.
- Research has demonstrated that older Americans are more likely to cast a vote, while younger Americans are more qualified to vote.
- Even though there is no clear explanation as to why voter participation has varied overtime, the age of American voters is a considerable factor.

HYPOTHESES

H_0 : In terms of age, the older an American gets, the more likely they are to participate in voting.

H_a : Age does not impact the participation of voters in America.



TIME & SCOPE

Time

- To assist answering my research question, I researched articles, journals, and statistical data from 1962 – 2008.
- Will also mention data from the most recent presidential elections including 2016 and 2020.

Scope

- This scope was developed to help create a better perspective of the elections and the voter turnout in the from the past to present.
- Objectives of this research is to help identify the reasonings behind voter participation of specific age groups.

QUALITATIVE APPROACH

- I used a qualitative approach for my research because identifying the factors of voter participation of younger and older Americans helps explain the concepts better with:
 - Examples
 - Definitions
 - Types
 - Subjectiveness
 - Importance
 - Analysis

MAJOR ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

- A. Voting Participation in America
- B. Younger (Generation) Voters
- C. Older (Generation) Voters
- D. Ideology and Demographics of Voters
- E. Increasing Voter Turnout

TOPIC A – VOTER PARTICIPATION IN AMERICA

- Voting participation has been a constant issue in the American democracy.
- Since 1960, voter turnout has declined in local, gubernational, and general (i.e., presidential) elections. (Abramson & Aldrich)
- A reason the voter participation imbalance is because of the community and civic competence that has been impinged during elections. (Strate, Parrish, Elder, Ford)
- Americans do become discouraged from the candidates that are running in the elections because they feel as though that they are not relatable.

TOPIC B – YOUNGER (GENERATION) VOTERS

- Today, younger Americans are the most encouraged people to vote because of their profound intellect. The voting participation of younger Americans has created biases from others to say that “The policies and political information are least applied to them.”
- Due to the low political knowledge of younger Americans, campaign officers tend to focus on them through all media outlets, especially social media. (Kaid, McKimney, Tedesco)
- However, the Internet, specifically social media, tend to have more of a neutral effect on political participation for younger Americans.



TOPIC C – OLDER (GENERATION) VOTERS

- Factors that play a role in older Americans voting participation are social security, healthcare, retirement, and influence of other older adults.
- Older Americans do not want to jeopardize their benefits and think that the youth are not good interpreters of those benefits.
- Characteristics from the candidates also play role in older voter participation.
- Older voters tend to have an advantage over younger because of the voting registration rules and eligibilities.





“DON’T VOTE” VIDEO

TOPIC D – IDEOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS OF VOTERS

- The ideology and demographics (i.e., race, gender, education) of voters also play a role in voting participation.
- Ideologies tend to align with political parties such liberals are more likely to be apart of democratic party and conservatives are more likely to be apart of the republican party.
- Conservatives have more of a structured and persistent cognitive styles whereas liberals are more responsive to informational complexity, ambiguity, and novelty. (Amodio, Jost, Master, Yee)
- With these ideologies, they historically have aligned with the race of voters too.

TOPIC D – IDEOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS OF VOTERS

- Demographics also play a substantial role in the way younger and older Americans vote. During this research, we analyzed the demographics of race, gender, and level of education.
- Historically Caucasian (White) voters most likely to vote than any race. Also, since 1984, women have voted more than men in the U.S. Presidential Elections. (Igielnik)
- Minorities such as African-Americans (Black), Hispanic, and Asian voters are more likely to vote democratically.
- It has been proven that more educated Americans are more likely to vote, and those tend to be older Americans.
- <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/18/men-and-women-in-the-u-s-continue-to-differ-in-voter-turnout-rate-party-identification/>

TOPIC E – INCREASING VOTER TURNOUT

- In every election, Americans are encouraged more and more every year to vote. No matter if it's the primary election or general election, each vote counts and in this democracy, citizens have the right to vote.
- To increase voter turnout among young Americans, it can be deemed as stressful because some younger Americans do not possess the political knowledge compared to older Americans.
- In order to increase their turnout rates, researches say it's best for younger Americans to have a plan rather than be encouraged by people. (Nickerson & Rogers)

EXPECTED FINDINGS

- I expect to find an accurate answer as to why older Americans tend to vote/participate more in elections than younger Americans.
- I also expect to determine methods to increase voter participation in younger Americans and provide more voter turnout in elections soon.
- I feel this research will be extensive enough to answer the question and help provide a more precise answer to how age can play a crucial role in voting in America.
- Even though there is no straight forward answer as to why voter participation varies over time, we are discovering more reasonings as why and how citizens vote.



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