

ACTIVITY: INCOME AND TAXES

In your groups:

- 1) Review the facts on the next few pages.
- 2) List the questions you have.
- 3) Select one fact that you think will be the most useful to share with others to highlight the importance of voting in this year's election.
- 4) Identify someone to record the group's answers and report back to the entire group the fact the group chose and why.

Definition of Income and Taxes

INCOME is what we're paid for our work. For most people, income includes paychecks, earnings from self-employment, and interest on a savings account.

Some people also directly get dividends (basically the same as interest) from shares of stock they own, either directly or through a 401(k) or profit-sharing plan.

TAXES pay for public services including schools, public parks, libraries, roads, police, prisons, courts, health and welfare benefits and the operation of the government.

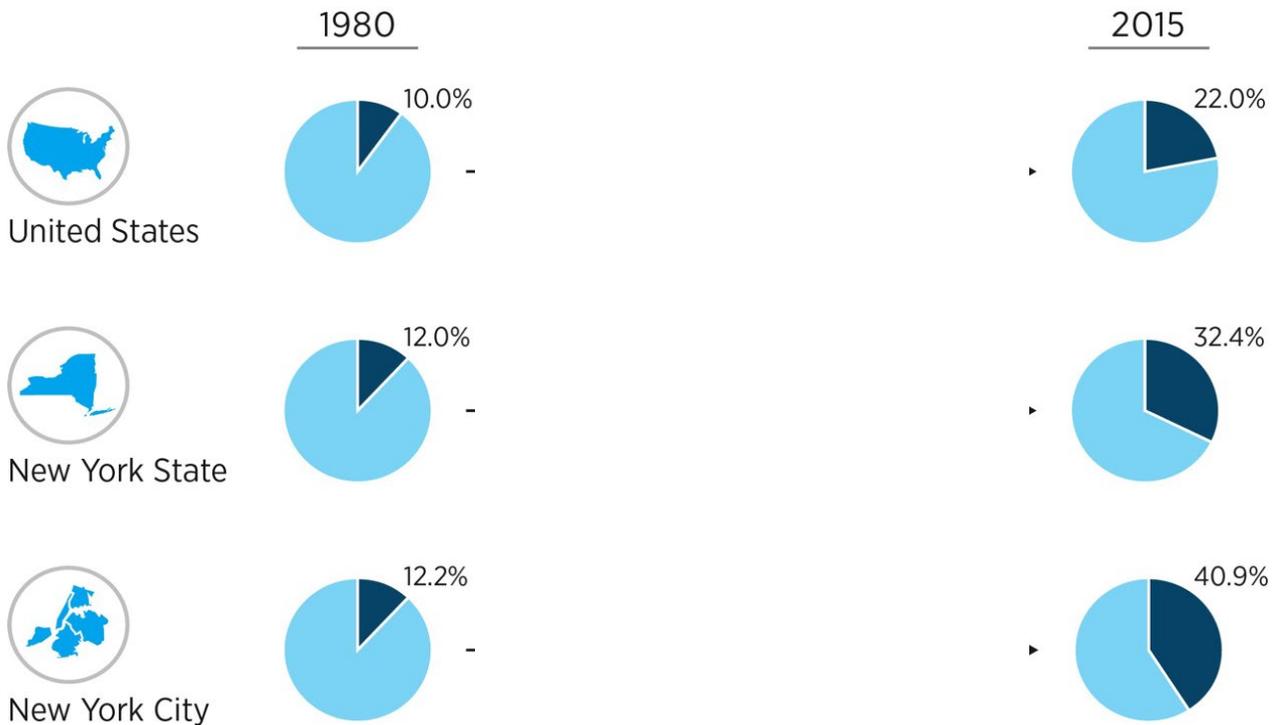
Sources of local and state TAXES are personal income tax, property tax and sales tax.

A PROGRESSIVE TAX imposes a higher percentage rate on taxpayers who have higher incomes.

A REGRESSIVE TAX imposes a higher percentage rate on taxpayers who have lower incomes.

FACT #1

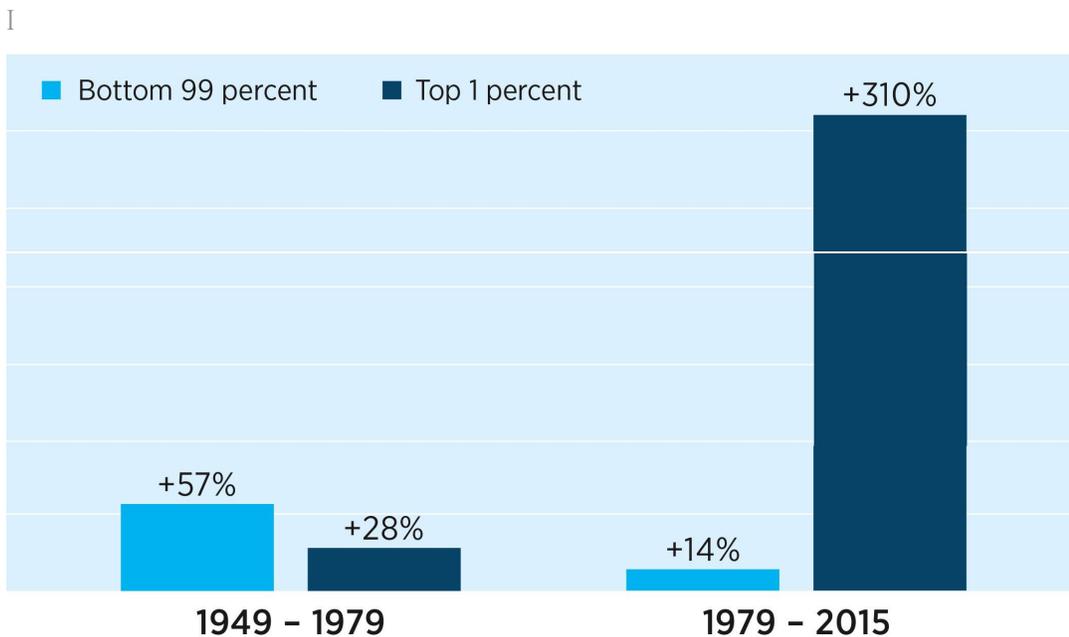
SHARE OF ALL INCOME GOES TO THE TOP 1 PERCENT



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Policy Brief, March 2017

FACT #2

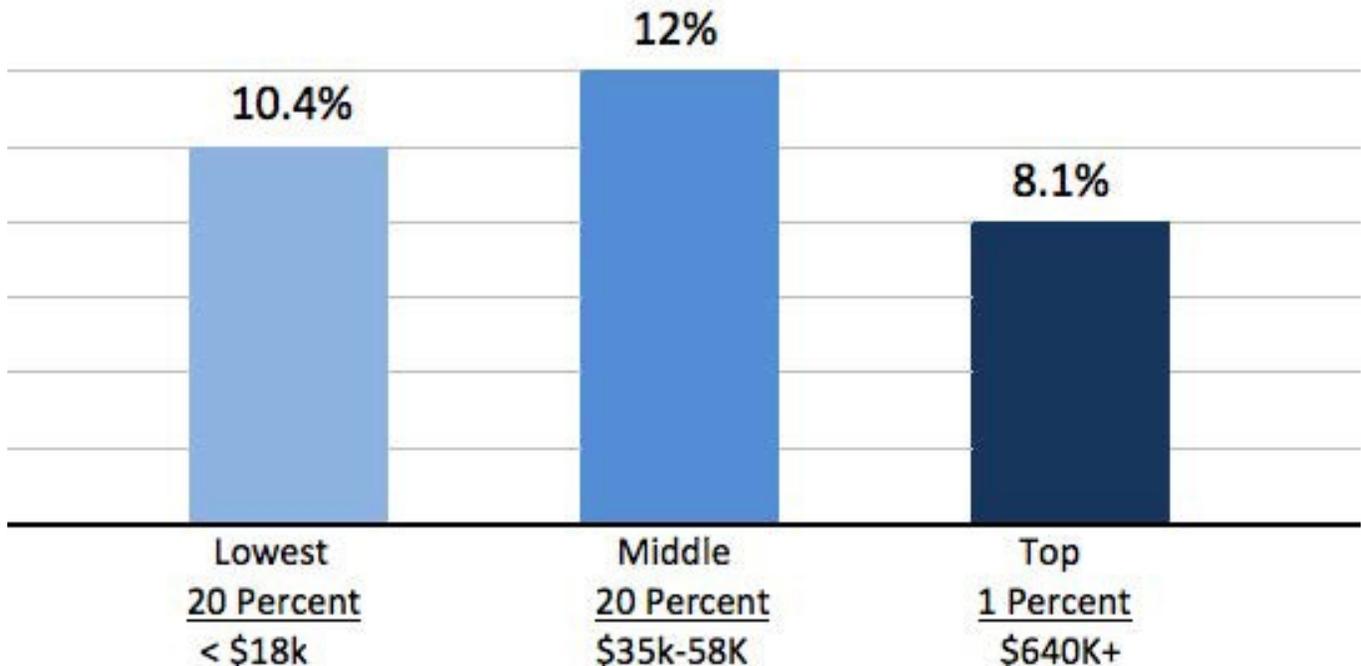
INCOME GROWTH IN NEW YORK STATE



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Policy Brief March 2017

FACT #3

STATE AND LOCAL TAX RATES BY INCOME GROUP



Most low/middle-income families in New York pay a greater percentage of their income in sales and property taxes than they do in income taxes. New York State's income tax is mildly progressive, but not progressive enough to offset the effects of highly regressive sales and local property taxes.

Source: Fiscal Policy Institute Policy Brief, March 2017

FACT #4

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND VOTER TURNOUT

As median household income increases, the percentage of all eligible voters who have voted in the past three years tends to increase.

Highest Voter Turnout in 2018

Upper West Side: Voter Turnout 69% where Median Household Income is \$117,421

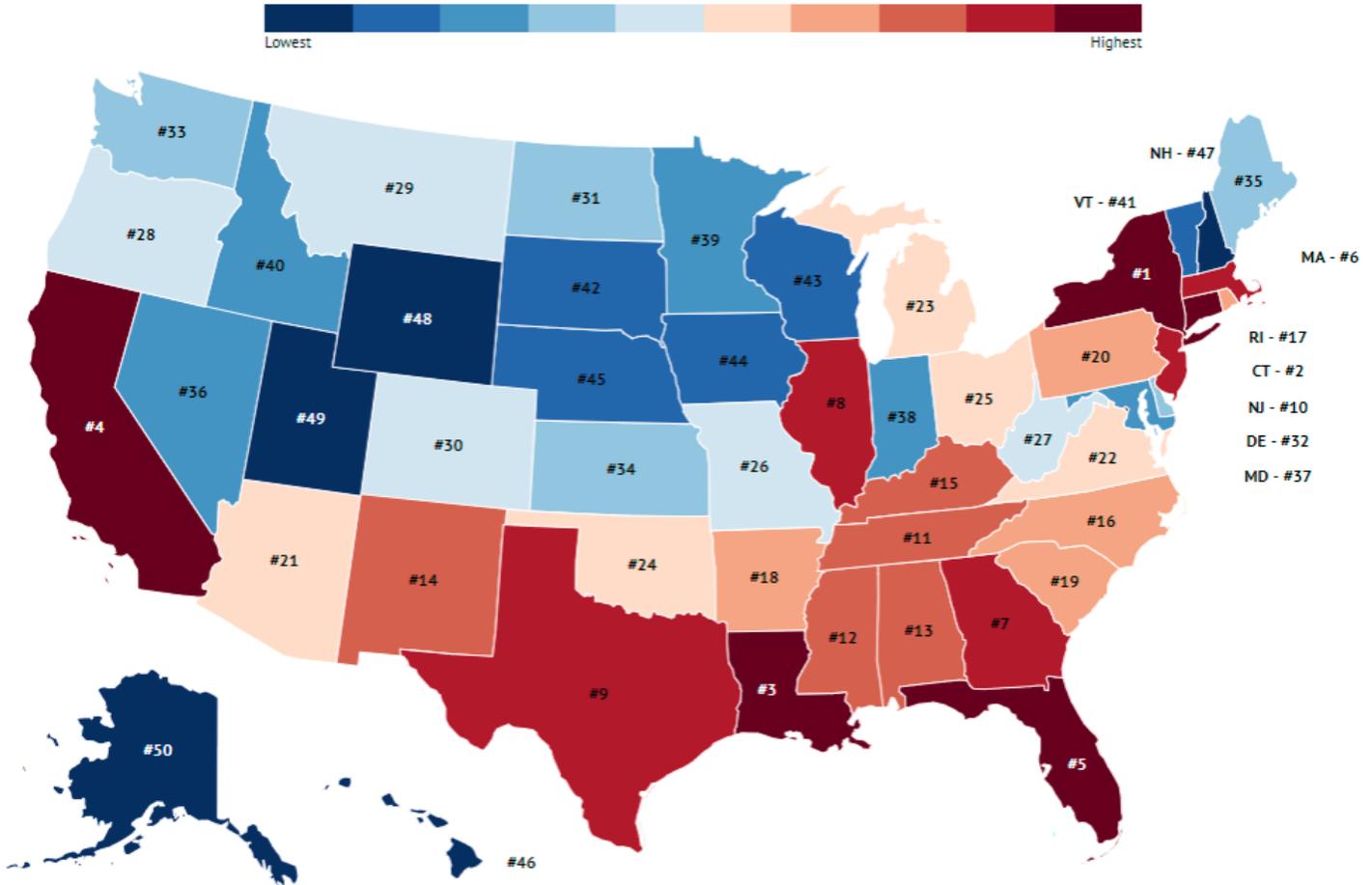
Lowest Voter Turnout in 2018

Brighton Beach & Coney Island: Voter Turnout 32% where Median Household Income is \$38,000

Source: U.S. Census Data as reported by DATA2GO.NYC

FACT #5

States With The Highest Levels Of Income Inequality For 2019



Source: <https://www.zipppia.com/advice/states-with-highest-income-inequality/>
Data from U.S. American Community Survey