

# ACTIVITY: VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT

## TASK:

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.

### Definitions

**VOTING AGE POPULATION** equals everyone over the age of 18, regardless of citizenship or criminal history.

**REGISTERED VOTERS** equals people on the voter file from the Secretary of State.

**VOTER TURNOUT** equals number of people who voted divided by voting age population.

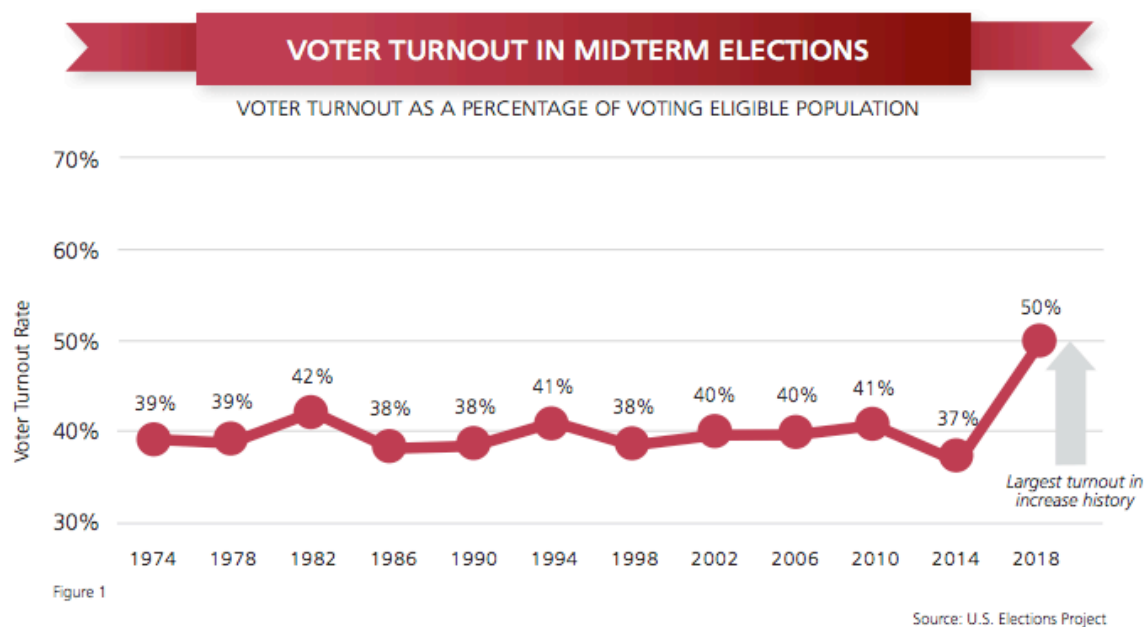
**REGISTRATION RATES** equals number of registered voters divided by voting age population.

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS** occur every four years. In addition to voting for Presidential candidates, voters select candidates for the House of Representatives and Senate.

**MIDTERM ELECTIONS** occur every two years halfway through a President's four-year term of office. These elections include voting for members of the House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, State and some local offices.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS** in New York City occur every four years. Voters cast ballots for the Mayor, Borough Presidents, City Council, Public Advocate and Controller.

## FACT #1



As reported by Nonprofit Vote in America Goes to the Polls 2018

## FACT #2

### State Voter Turnout Rankings for 2018 Midterm Elections

State	Turnout	Ranking	Voter Registration Policies
Minnesota	64%	1	Same Day Voter Registration: Voters with a valid ID can register when they vote on Election Day.
Colorado	63%	2	
Montana	62%	3	
Wisconsin	62%	4	
New York	45%	42	Four Week Deadline: Voters must register 25 days before Election Day
Hawaii	39%	51	

Source: U.S. Elections Project  
As reported by Nonprofit Vote in America Goes to the Polls 2018

## FACT #3

In January 2019, the New York State Legislature passed election reform laws including:

- More time to vote – 9 days of early voting
- Modern registration – voter registration automatically moves when a New Yorker moves
- Pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds
- On-line voter registration by 2021

In 2020 the New York State Legislature will consider same-day voter registration and absentee voting without an excuse.

# FACT #4

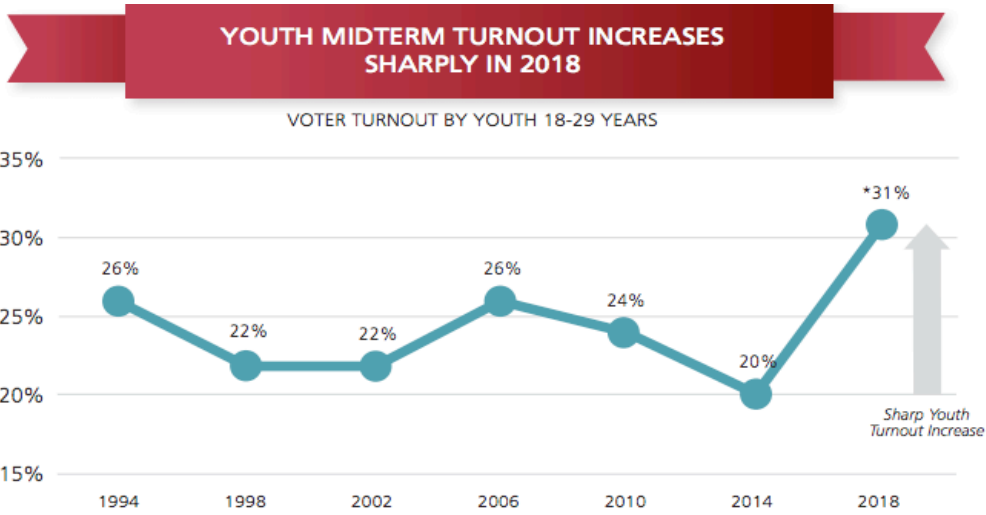
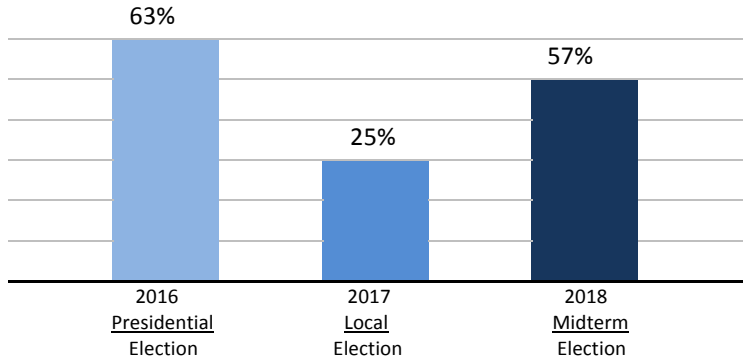


Figure 14

\*2018 turnout estimate based on the National Election Exit Poll and Census CPS  
Source: CIRACLE at the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University

# FACT #5

## New York City Voter Turnout



Source: New York State Board of Elections data as compiled by the New York Civic Engagement Table