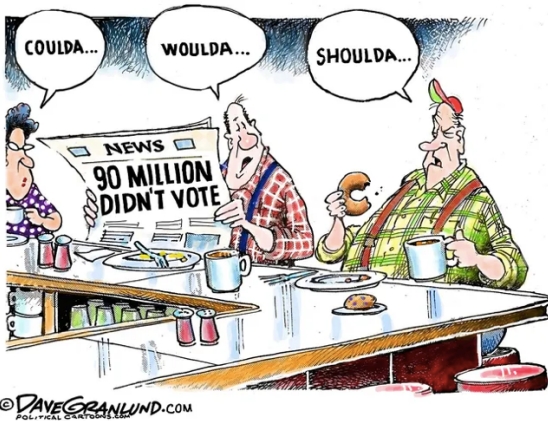


**Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**  
**5.2 Voter Turnout**

Room 2B HIVE5  
 mrreview.org



**ESSENTIALS**

**Structural barriers**, political efficacy, and demographics can predict differences in voter turnout in the U.S., and the following can influence voter turnout among democracies worldwide: National versus state-controlled elections/Voter registration laws and procedures/Voting incentives or penalties or fines/Midterm or presidential election type

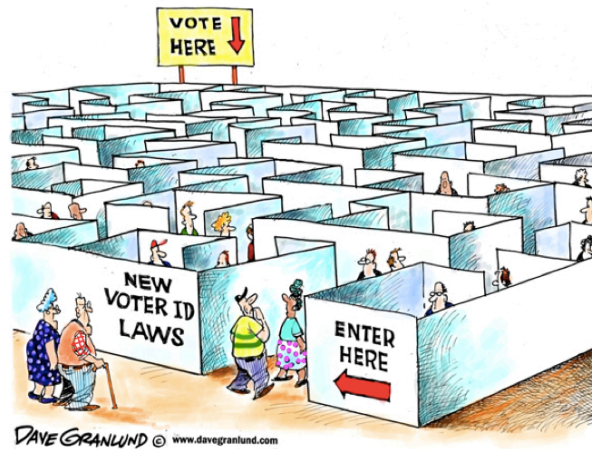
**Demographic characteristics** and political efficacy or engagement are used to predict the likelihood of whether an individual will vote. Factors influencing voter choice include: Party identification and ideological orientation/Candidate characteristics/Contemporary political issues/Religious beliefs or affiliation, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response like a claim statement]
  
2. Should we make voting easier? If so, how? If not, why?

Complete the following chart: WHO VOTES FOR WHO?

| Demographic characteristic | Democrats (liberals) | Republicans (conservatives) |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gender                     |                      |                             |
| Race                       |                      |                             |
| Religion                   |                      |                             |
| Income                     |                      |                             |
| Region                     |                      |                             |
| Education                  |                      |                             |

What is the difference between “do not voters” and “cannot voters”?



1. Find three (3) different states and assess their voting rules. Why do some critics accuse states of voter suppression? What role does the U.S. constitution play in voting rules?
2. Assess voter turnout in the last three (3) presidential elections.
3. Assess voter turnout in the last three (3) midterm elections.
4. What states use voter ID laws? Investigate what the Supreme Court had to say about these laws.

## Quantitative Analysis

### Voter Turnout Statistics

| Election | Voting Age Population (VAP) | Turnout     | % Turnout of VAP |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1992     | 189,493,000                 | 104,600,000 | 55.2%            |
| 1996     | 196,789,00                  | 96,390,000  | 49.0%            |
| 2000     | 209,787,000                 | 105,594,000 | 50.3%            |
| 2004     | 219,553,000                 | 122,349,000 | 55.7%            |
| 2008     | 229,945,000                 | 131,407,000 | 57.1%            |
| 2012     | 235,248,000                 | 129,235,000 | 54.9%            |
| 2016     | 250,056,000                 | 138,847,000 | 55.5%            |

Use the information graphic to answer the questions.

- A. Identify the election year with the highest VAP %.
- B. Describe a similarity or difference between voter turnout over the years, and draw a conclusion that explains the similarity or difference.
- C. Explain how federalism can impact voter turnout.