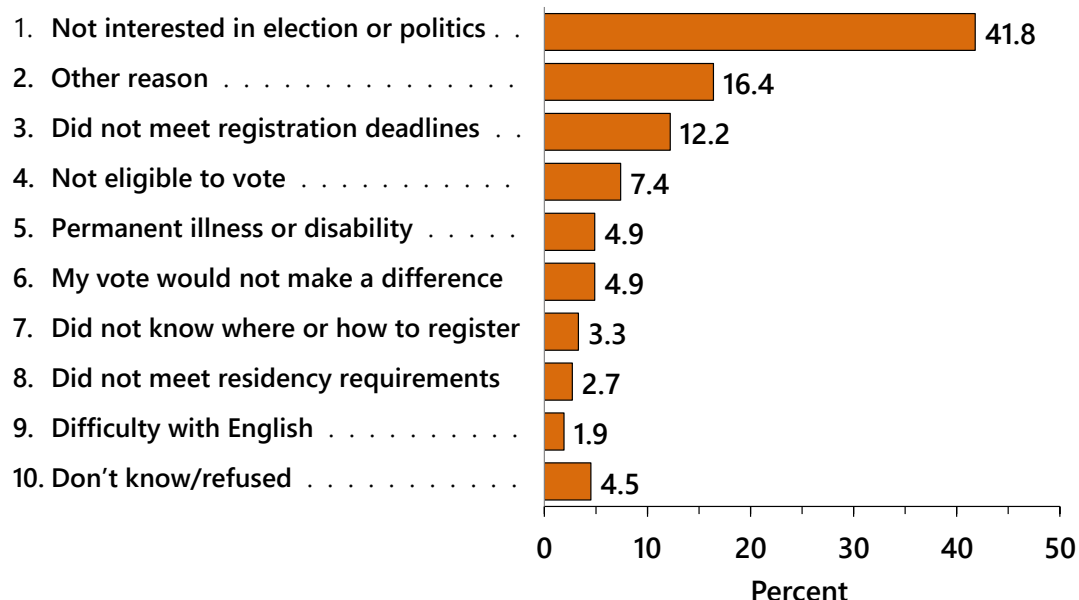


# FACT SHEET: Reasons for Not Registering

## Reasons for Not Registering

Citizens 18+ years old who were not registered in 2016  
Total = 32.6 million (see text)



### What Does this Chart Show About Reasons for Not Registering?

Non-voting respondents to the November 2016 Current Population Survey were asked if they had registered to vote. Respondents who replied “no” were asked their reason for not registering. However, respondents who refused to state whether or not they had registered were not included. Therefore, the respondent universe for this question (32.6 million adults) is smaller than the total number who were not registered (66.5 million). This is because in our analyses, we included people who refused to say whether or not they were registered as unregistered citizens.

### Apathy

The single largest reason (41.8%) that citizens stated for not registering was that they were *not interested in the election or they were not involved in politics* (Figure 21).

### Logistical Barriers

The 6 reasons for not registering that can be considered logistical barriers together accounted for 32.4% of citizens not registering to vote (Figure 21). These reasons were: *did not meet registration deadline* (12.2%), *not eligible to vote* (7.4%), *permanent illness or disability* (4.9%), *did not know where or how to register* (3.3%), *did not meet residency requirements* (2.7%), and *difficulty with English* (1.9%).

### Despair

A notable minority (4.9%) of citizens stated that they did not register to vote because they believed that their *vote would not make a difference* to the outcome of the election (Figure 21).

### Notes

Please note that some numbers may appear not to add up correctly due to rounding. Voting data are from the Current Population Survey (November 2016). Population counts and percentages in this report are statistically-weighted estimates derived by the Bureau of the Census from a national sample of over 90,000 respondents in 54,000 households. Full technical details for the Missing Voters Project, links to the original census data, and other valuable resources are available at [www.wiise-usa.org/mvp](http://www.wiise-usa.org/mvp).

