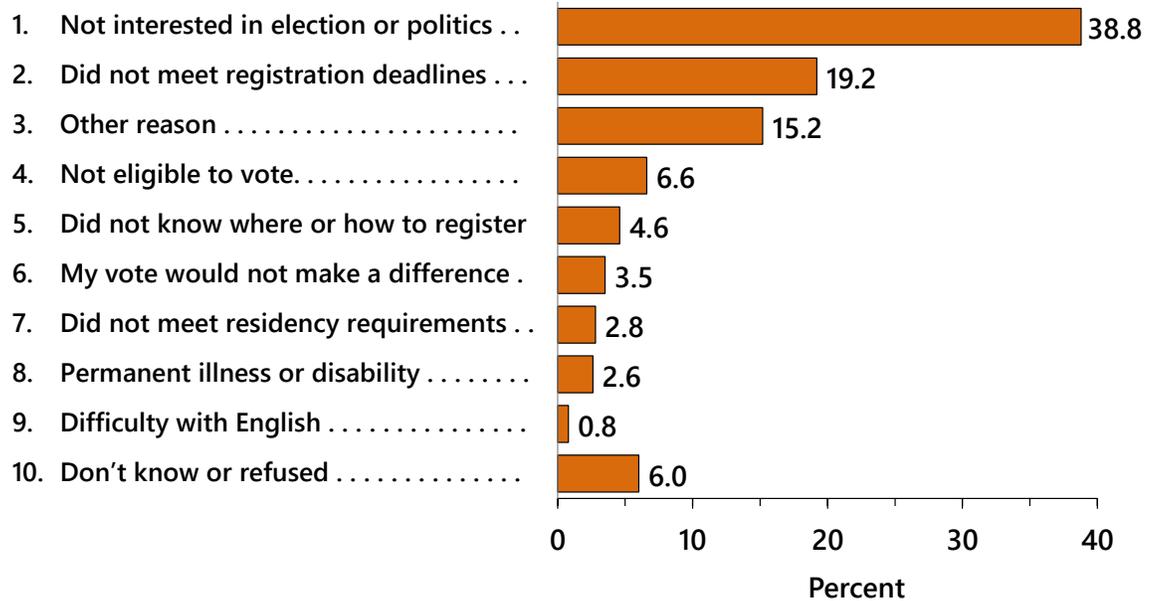


FACT SHEET: Reasons for Not Registering

Young Adults' Reasons for Not Registering Citizens 18 to 24 years old who were not registered in 2016 Total = 6.6 million



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 (6.6 million young adults) is smaller than the total number who were not registered (12.0 million young adults). This is because in our analyses, we counted people who refused to say whether or not they were registered as unregistered citizens.

Apathy

The single largest reason (38.8%) that young adult citizens stated for not registering was that they were *not interested in the election or they were not involved in politics*.

Registration Deadlines

Almost one-fifth (19.2%) of young adult citizens stated that they did not register to vote because they *did not meet registration deadlines*.

Logistical Barriers

Additional logistical barriers accounted for 17.4% of young adult citizens not registering to vote. These reasons were: not eligible to vote (6.6%), did not know where or how to register (4.6%), did not meet residency requirements (2.8%), permanent illness or disability (2.6%), and difficulty with English (0.8%).

Beliefs

Only 3.5% of young adult citizens stated that they did not register because they believed *my vote would not make a difference*.

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 at <https://www.wiise-usa.org/mvp>.

