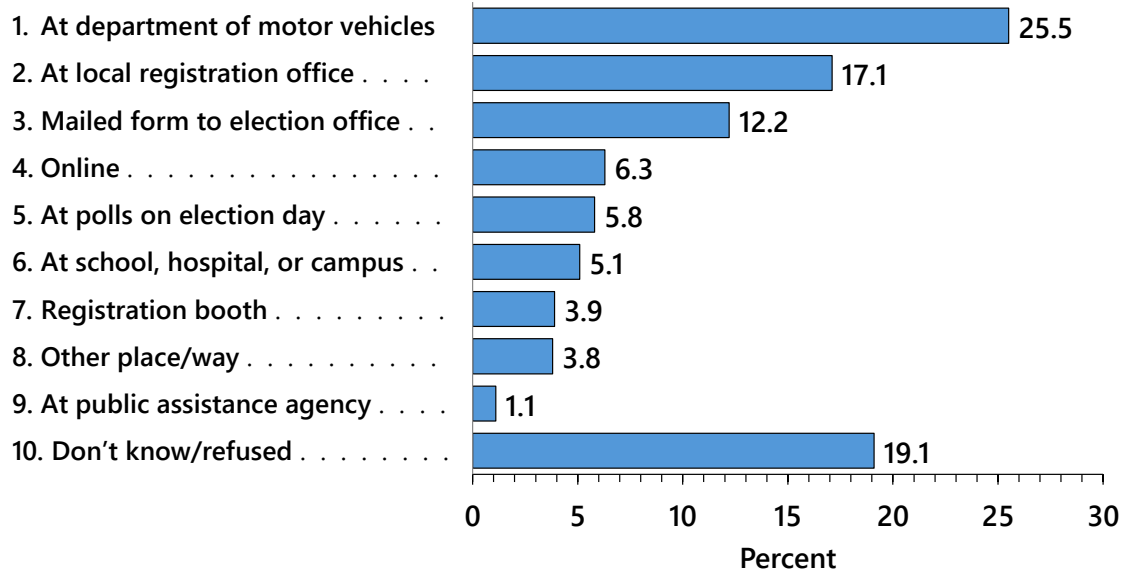


FACT SHEET: Method of Registration

Where did Citizens Register to Vote?

Citizens 18+ years old who were registered to vote in 2016

Total = 157.6 million



Voter Registration

Respondents to the Voting Supplement of the Current Population Survey were asked in November 2016 about the method and location of their most recent registration to vote. Only people who said that they were currently registered were asked this question. Almost one-fifth of registered citizens (19.1%) did not know or remember how they had registered to vote (Figure 2). It is possible that citizens who had been continuously registered at the same residential address for several years were less likely to remember their method of registration.

Local Government Offices

Taken together, registration at department of motor vehicles (25.5%), local registration offices (17.1%), and public assistance agencies (1.1%) accounted for 43.7% of voter registrations prior to the November 2016 elections. An additional 12.2% of registered citizens reported that they mailed their voter registration form to a government election office.

Voter Outreach Efforts

In total, 9.0% of registered citizens reported registering at either a school, hospital, or college campus (5.1%) or at an unspecified registration booth (3.9%). Another 5.8% of citizens did not register to vote until they reached the polls on election day.

Internet

The internet was a less common method of voter registration. In November 2016, only 6.3% of registered citizens reported that they had registered online.

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.

