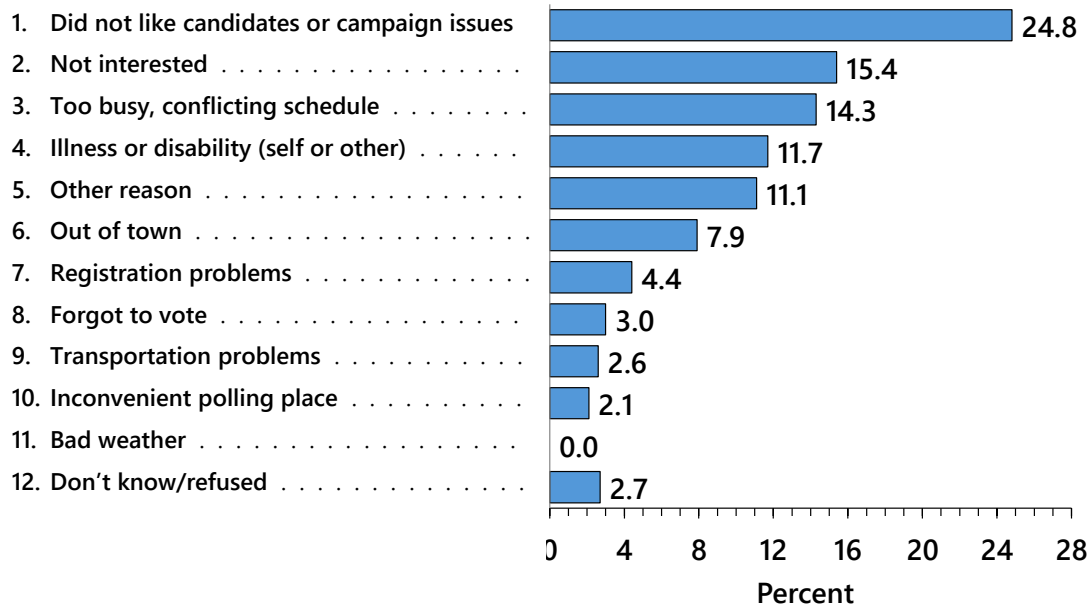


FACT SHEET: Reasons for Not Voting

Reasons for Not Voting

Citizens 18+ years old who were registered but did not vote in 2016
Total = 18.9 million (see text)



What Does this Chart Show About Reasons for Not Voting?

Non-voting respondents to the November 2016 Current Population Survey were asked if they were registered to vote. Respondents who said “yes” were then asked about their reasons for not voting (Figure 20). However, respondents who said “no” were asked why they did not register instead of why they did not vote (see page 15). Readers should also note that respondents who refused to state whether or not they had voted were not asked either of these questions. In our analyses, *missing voters* include people who refused to say whether or not they had voted, and *unregistered citizens* include people who refused to say whether or not they were registered.

Aversion and Apathy

Aversion and apathy together account for 40.2% of registered citizens not voting in 2016 (Figure 20). *Did not like candidates or campaign issues* was the leading reason (24.8%), followed by *not interested* (15.4%).

Personal Barriers

The four reasons for not voting that can be considered personal-level barriers accounted for 36.9% of registered citizens not voting in 2016 (Figure 20). These reasons were: *too busy, conflicting schedule* (14.3%), *illness or disability (self or other)* (11.7%), *out of town* (7.9%), and *forgot to vote* (3.0%).

Structural Barriers

The four reasons for not voting that can be considered structural barriers accounted for 9.1% of registered citizens not voting in 2016 (Figure 20). These reasons were: *registration problems* (4.4%), *transportation problems* (2.6%), *inconvenient polling place* (2.1%), and *bad weather* (<0.1%).

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, data tables, links to the original census data, and other valuable resources are available at www.wiise-usa.org/mvp.

