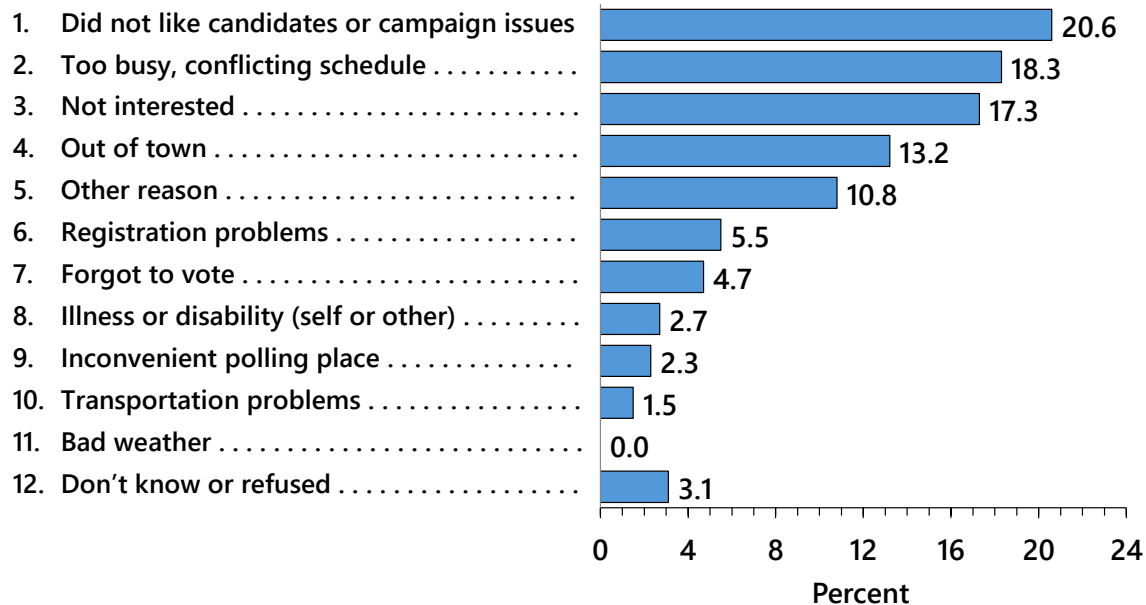


# FACT SHEET: Reasons for Not Voting

## Young Adults' Reasons for Not Voting

Citizens 18 to 24 years old who were registered but did not vote in 2016  
Total = 3.0 million



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

Non-voting respondents to the Voting Supplement of the Current Population Survey were asked in November 2016 about their reasons for not voting. Only people who said that they were currently registered were asked this question. Only 3.1% of young adult respondents refused to answer this question. However, respondents who refused to answer the question about whether they voted are not included here, although in this report we have counted those individuals as missing voters.

### Personal Barriers

The four reasons for not voting that can be considered personal-level barriers accounted for 38.9% of young adult registered citizens not voting in 2016. These reasons were: *too busy, conflicting schedule* (18.3%), *out of town* (13.2%), *forgot to vote* (4.7%), and *illness or disability* (2.7%).

### Aversion and Apathy

Aversion and apathy together accounted for 37.9% of registered young adult citizens not voting in 2016. *Did not like candidates or campaign issues* was the leading reason (20.6%), followed by *not interested* (17.3%).

### Structural Barriers

The four reasons for not voting that can be considered structural barriers accounted for 9.3% of registered citizens not voting in 2016. These reasons were: *registration problems* (5.5%), *inconvenient polling place* (2.3%), *transportation problems* (1.5%), 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, links to the original census data, and other valuable resources are at <https://www.wiise-usa.org/mvp>.

