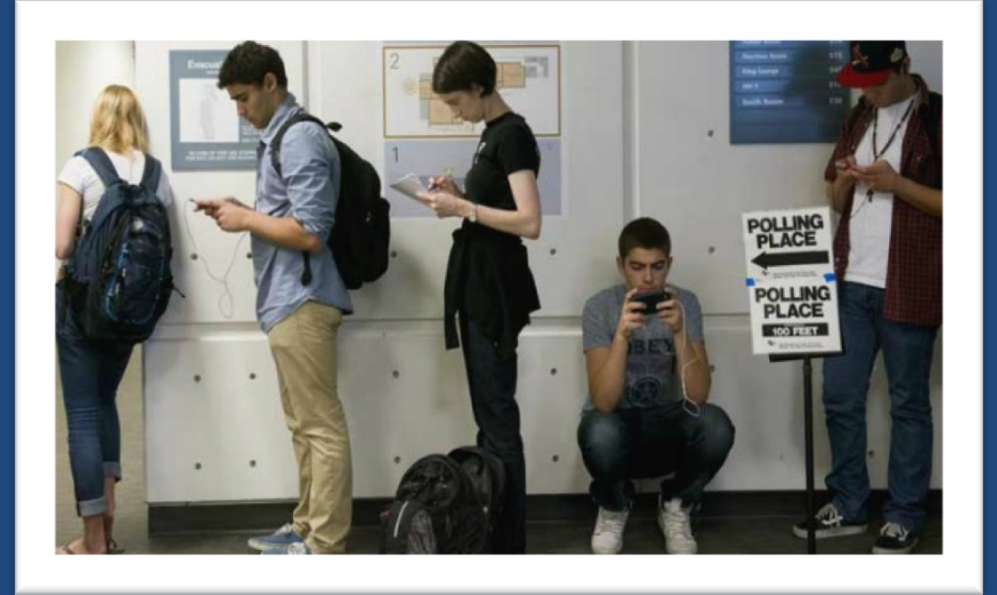


TURN UP THE TURN OUT: OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES TO VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS



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Bond Referendums

- A **referendum** is a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.
- A **bond referendum** is the most common type of referendum in North Carolina. A **bond referendum** gives voters the power to decide if a municipality should be authorized to raise funds for projects (government/school buildings, stadiums, roads, sewer/storm water projects, parks, etc.) through the sale of bonds.
 - ▣ Example: In 2015, Chapel Hill passed a \$40 million dollar bond that funded streets and sidewalks, trails and greenways, recreation facilities, solid waste facilities and stormwater improvements.
- The municipal government has the authority to make changes to the projects that will be funded with referendum bonds as long as those changes conform to the description in the bond orders and are within the authorized dollar amounts.

Other Types of Local Referendums in North Carolina

- ❑ Alcohol sales
- ❑ changing the structure of city government
- ❑ changing the structure of county government
- ❑ local sales tax levy
- ❑ sales tax for transportation
- ❑ municipal incorporations
- ❑ school unit mergers
- ❑ city-county consolidation
- ❑ unified city/county government
- ❑ creating mountain ridge protection districts
- ❑ creating mosquito control districts
- ❑ taxes for hospital districts
- ❑ creating airport districts
- ❑ airport district bonds
- ❑ water and sewer authority contracts
- ❑ inclusion in a metropolitan water district
- ❑ inclusion in a sewerage district
- ❑ creating/abolishing soil and water conservation districts
- ❑ soil and water conservation district land-use regulations
- ❑ watershed improvement district taxes
- ❑ property tax rate above set limit
- ❑ supplemental school tax
- ❑ supplemental community college tax
- ❑ certain community development activities by cities
- ❑ certain community development activities by counties
- ❑ taxes to supplement revenue bond projects
- ❑ public transportation authority special tax
- ❑ sale, lease or discontinuation of city-owned enterprises
- ❑ rural fire protection district taxes
- ❑ various actions related to sanitary districts

Voter turnout is the percentage of eligible **voters** who cast a ballot in an election.

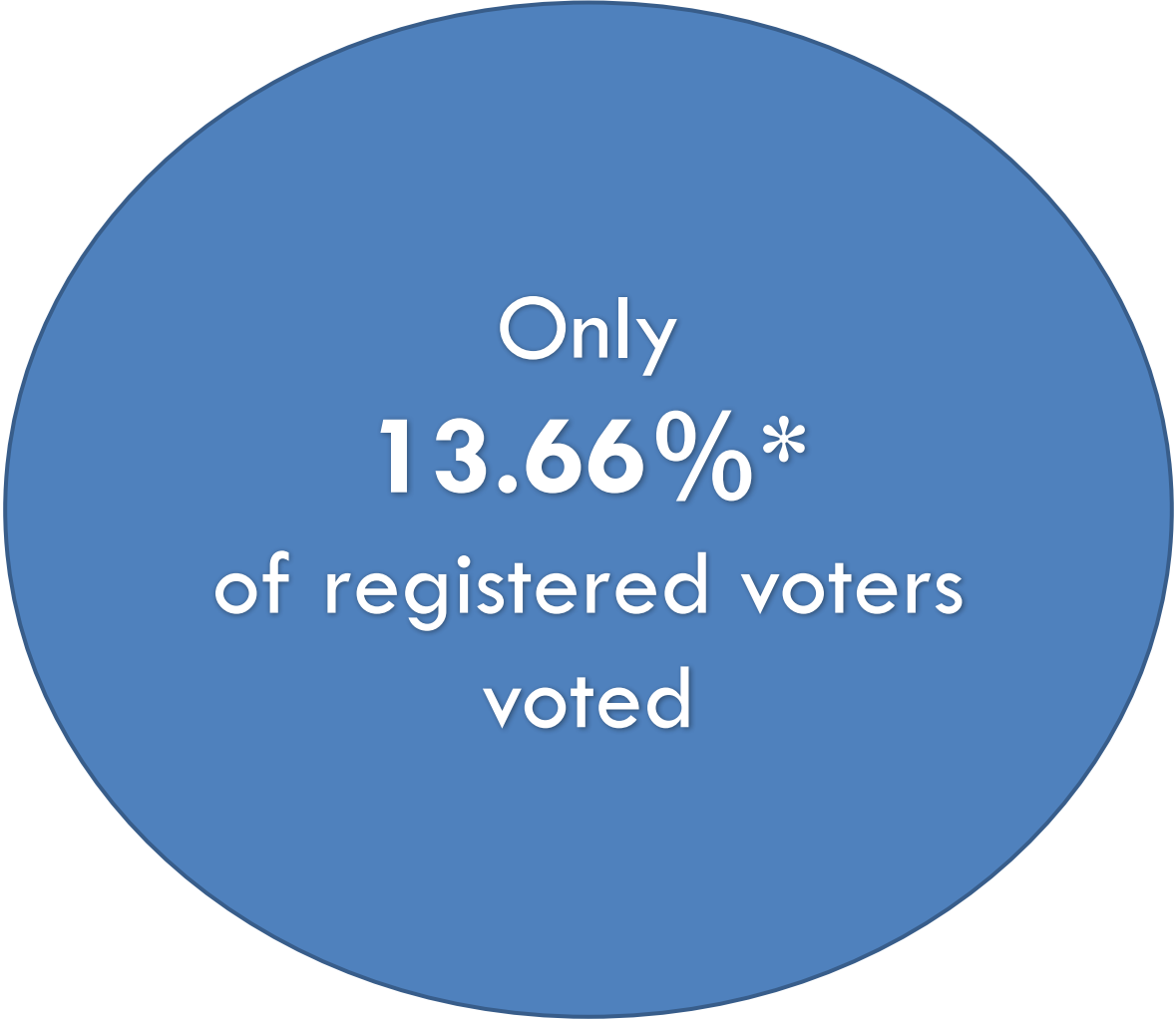
Presidential Election Turnout

Year	Total Registered Voters	Total Ballots Cast	Turnout Percentage
1972	2,357,645	1,518,612	64.41%
1976	2,553,717	1,677,906	65.70%
1980	2,774,844	1,855,833	66.88%
1984	3,270,933	2,239,051	68.45%
1988	3,432,040	2,134,370	62.19%
1992	3,817,380	2,611,850	68.40%
1996	4,277,000	2,513,357	58.76%
2000	5,122,123	3,015,964	58.88%
2004	5,526,981	3,551,675	64.26%
2008	6,262,566	4,354,052	69.53%
2012	6,639,131	4,540,488	68.40%
2016	6,914,248	4,769,640	68.98%

Non-Presidential (Midterm) Election Turnout

Year	Total Registered Voters	Total Ballots Cast	Turnout Percentage
1974	2,279,646	1,020,367	44.76%
1978	2,430,306	1,135,814	46.74%
1982	2,674,787	1,330,630	49.75%
1986	3,080,990	1,591,330	51.65%
1990	3,347,635	2,068,904	61.80%
1994	3,635,875	1,533,728	42.18%
1998	4,700,799	2,012,149	42.80%
2002	5,003,297	2,349,966	46.97%
2006	5,567,424	2,036,451	36.58%
2010	6,172,787	2,700,393	43.57%
2014	6,628,521	2,918,052	44.02%

November 2015 Municipal Elections in NC



Only
13.66%*
of registered voters
voted

* (422,016 out of
3,090,134)

Why is turnout so low in local elections?

- Take a minute to brainstorm a list of reasons for why you think turnout is so low for local elections in North Carolina. Be prepared to share your lists with the class.
- Complete the blank in the following sentence:
I feel _____ about voting in local elections, like those for mayor or county commissioners.

MILLENNIALS' FEELINGS ABOUT LOCAL ELECTIONS

**I feel _____ about voting in local elections,
like those for mayor and city council.**



Sources:

- ❑ North Carolina State Board of Elections
 - ❑ <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voter-turnout>
 - ❑ <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Election-Results>
 - ❑ <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Data-Stats/2016-Election-Data-and-Statistics>
- ❑ North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
 - ❑ <http://www.ncacc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1094>
- ❑ North Carolina League of Municipalities
 - ❑ <https://www.nclm.org/resource-center/Pages/How-Municipalities-Work.aspx>
- ❑ Coates' Canons: NC Local Government Law – Limited Room for Referendums in North Carolina
 - ❑ <https://canons.sog.unc.edu/limited-room-for-referendums-in-north-carolina/>
- ❑ WHY MILLENNIALS DON'T VOTE FOR MAYOR Barriers and Motivators for Local Voting
 - ❑ https://s3.amazonaws.com/kf-site-legacy-media/feature_assets/www/local-vote/voter-dropoff.pdf