Who Votes for Mayor?

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Low voter turnout is a problem in cities across the country

Researchers at Portland State University analyzed 23 million voting records to understand who voted in the most recent local elections in 50 U.S. cities. Here’s what they discovered:

**TURNOUT IS ABYSMALLY LOW**
Turnout in 10 of America’s 30 largest cities was less than 15%. In Las Vegas, Fort Worth, and Dallas, turnout was in the single digits.

**THE MEDIAN AGE OF VOTERS WAS 57**
Nearly a generation older than the median age of eligible voters. City residents 65 and older were 15 times more likely to cast a ballot than younger residents between the ages of 18 and 34.

**TURNOUT VARIES DRAMATICALLY AMONG NEIGHBORHOODS**
Voting “oases” and “deserts” are the norm. For example, more than 1 in 5 residents of Columbia, South Carolina live in voting deserts, areas where turnout is half (or less) than the citywide average.

Explore the data: Visit whovotesformayor.org for an in-depth look at who’s voting in local elections in cities around the country, including maps comparing voter turnout with factors like age, race, and education.