Voter turnout is shockingly low in elections for mayor and other local officials across the United States. For the most recent round of mayoral elections in America’s 30 largest cities, turnout of eligible citizens in 15 of them was less than 20%.

Turnout in Washington DC’s April 1, 2014 mayoral election was near the median of the 30 largest cities, with about one-fifth of the city’s eligible citizens casting a ballot. Washington DC neighborhoods where voter turnout exceeded the city average had a higher share of residents 65 years and older; a lower share of racial/ethnic minorities; and a higher percentage of owner-occupied homes.

**Voter Turnout Ranking**

**16th**

Washington DC ranked 16th for voter turnout among the 30 largest cities, with 19.8% of eligible citizens casting a ballot.

**Washington DC Residents Living in Voting Deserts**

**9.9%**

In Washington DC, 9.9% of residents lived in “voting deserts,” areas where turnout was half (or less) than the citywide average. Eighteen cities had a lower rate of voting deserts than Washington DC.

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*All data refer to each city’s “determinative” mayoral election, which in most cases was either its only contest, or the second round or “run-off” election. However, in several cities (e.g. Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City) the dominant party primary election was considered determinative.*
Only 19.8% of eligible citizens voted in the last election

In Washington DC, limited demographic data is available for local elections. In contrast to other cities included in the Who Votes for Mayor project, Washington DC has no data available about the ages of people who voted in the 2014 local election.

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