

WHO VOTES FOR MAYOR?

Seattle



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%.

Though turnout in Seattle's November 5, 2013 mayoral election was higher than in many cities, less than half of the city's eligible citizens cast a ballot. Seattle 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

3_{rd}

Seattle ranked 3rd for voter turnout among the 30 largest cities, with 44.5% of eligible citizens casting a ballot.

SEATTLE RESIDENTS LIVING IN VOTING DESERTS

4.2%

Only 4.2% of Seattle residents lived in "voting deserts," areas where turnout was half (or less) than the citywide average. Just five cities had a lower rate of voting deserts than Seattle.

AGE GAP

9 yrs.

The median age of those who voted in Seattle was 50 while the median age of Seattle's adult population was 41. This "age gap" of nine years ranks Seattle 4th. The top city has the lowest age gap.

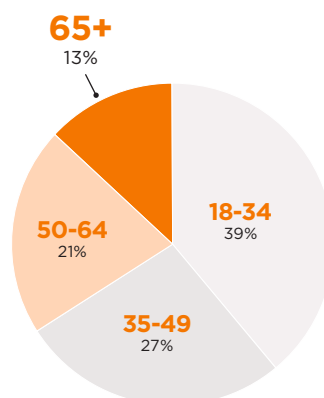
OLDER VOTERS HAVE MORE ELECTORAL CLOUT

7x

A Seattle resident over the age of 65 is seven times more likely to cast a ballot than a younger resident between the ages of 18 and 34, giving older voters much more "electoral clout."

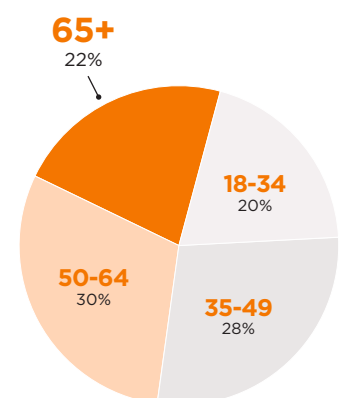
PERCENTAGE OF VOTING AGE RESIDENTS BY AGE

People who can vote



PERCENTAGE OF VOTERS IN LAST ELECTION BY AGE

People who do vote

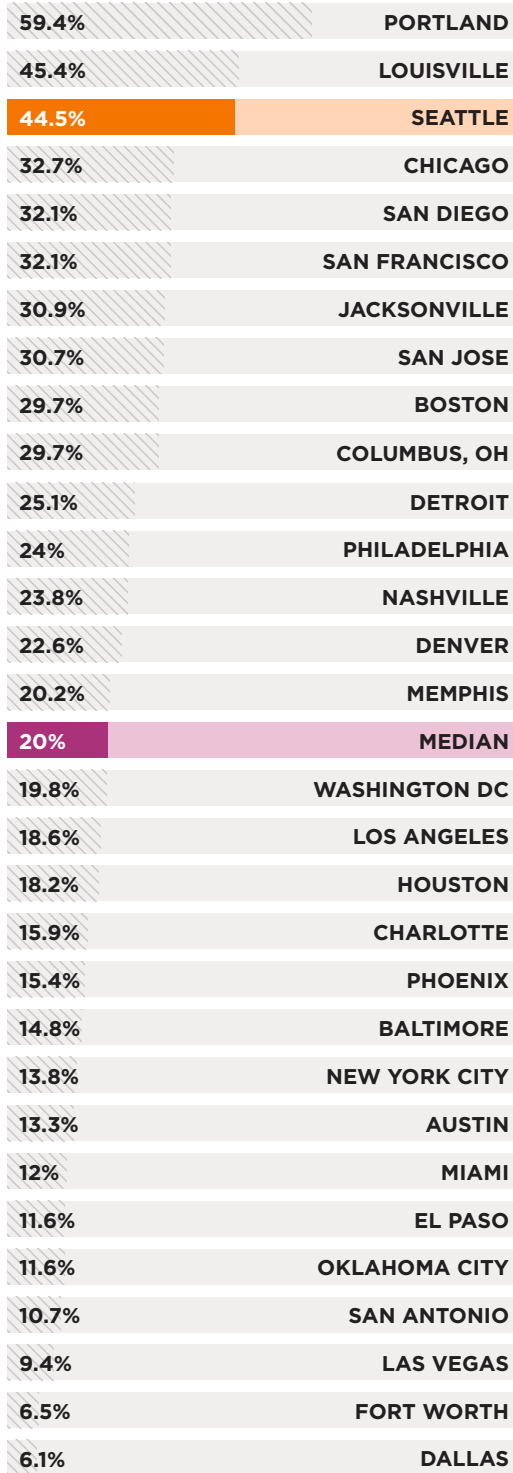


All data refer to each city's "determinative" mayoral election, which in most cases was either its only contest, or the second round or "run-off" election. However, in several cities (e.g. Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City) the dominant party primary election was considered determinative.

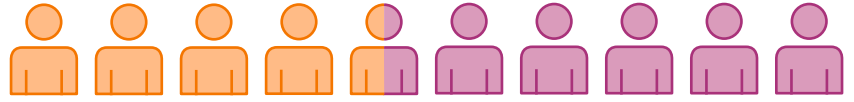


Who's voting in local elections in Seattle?

TURNOUT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN MOST RECENT MAYORAL ELECTION: 30 LARGEST CITIES



Only 44.5% of eligible citizens voted in the last election



MEDIAN AGE OF VOTERS IN LAST ELECTION VS. ADULT POPULATION: SEATTLE

Voters

50 yrs.

Adult Population

41 yrs.

MEDIAN AGE OF VOTERS IN LAST ELECTION VS. ADULT POPULATION: 30 LARGEST U.S. CITIES

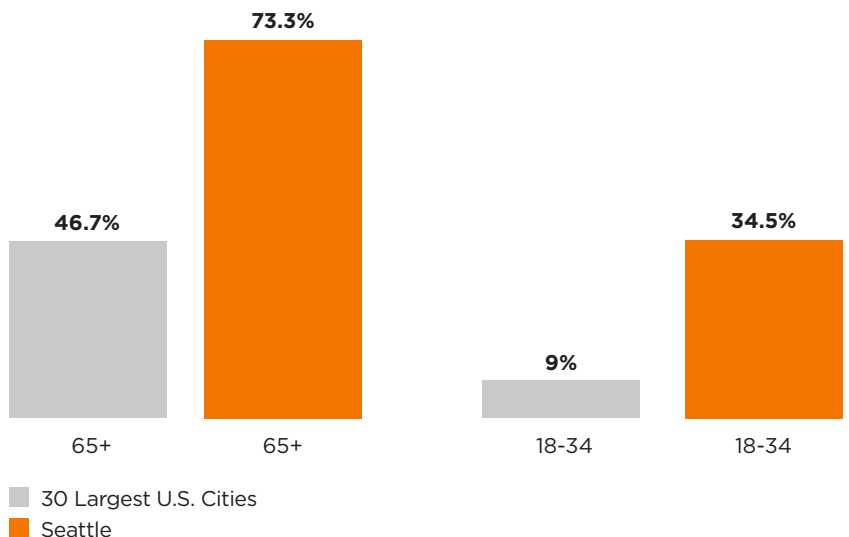
Voters

57 yrs.

Adult Population

42 yrs.

TURNOUT OF REGISTERED VOTERS BY AGE GROUP



NOTE: Caution should be used in making city-to-city comparisons of registered voter turnout since cities vary widely in how frequently they update voter registration rolls.

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