



CALIFORNIA
CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT

Research for a Stronger, More Inclusive Democracy

Youth Civic Engagement

Types of Civic Engagement

Definition: Any effort by people to improve the quality of life in their communities

Typology:

Formal political participation

Participation in civic/community organizations, clubs, boards

Everyday civic engagement

Non-Traditional Forms of C.E.

- Underrepresented communities often have few traditional pathways to engagement
- Or the culturally relevant expressions of C.E.
- We aren't measuring the full level of C.E.
- Power pathways are less accessible

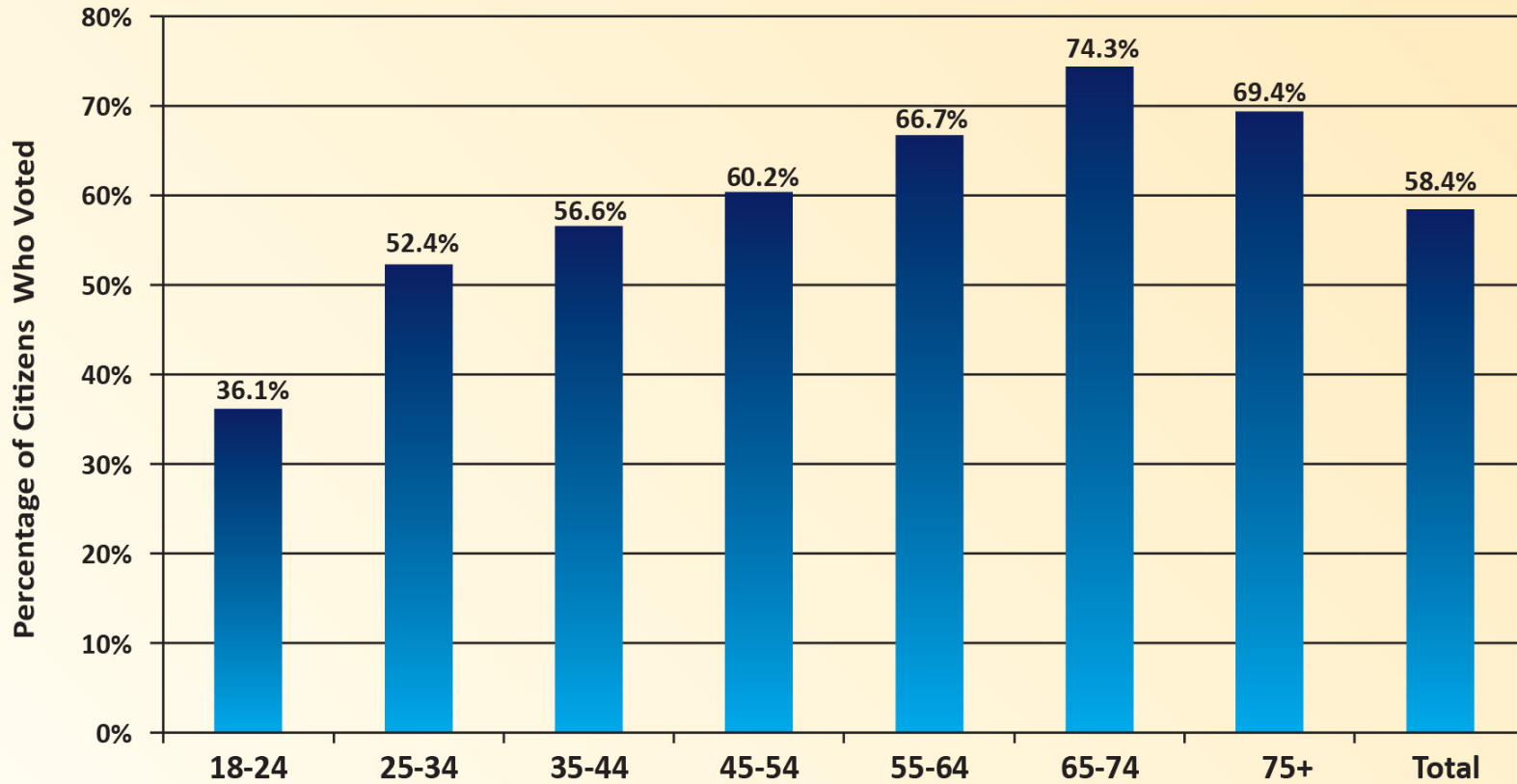
The State of the Vote

Youth Eligible Voter Turnout in 2016?

Eligible Youth Voter Turnout

36.1%

California Eligible Voter Turnout by Age Cohort 2016 General Election



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Data Sources: Political Data, Inc. California Department of Finance

Consequences of Disparities in Voter Turnout

Why Does Youth Voting Matter?

- Youth play important role in democratic process
- Strong youth vote has policy consequences
- Increasing youth turnout is critical to a representative electorate
- Look at the 2016 election!

How can we improve youth voter turnout?

How to increase youth engagement?

- Make it Easier for Youth to Vote
- Make Them Want to Vote

Making it Easier to Vote

- Electoral system
 - Outreach
 - Civics education – high schools
 - Peer power!
- = not apathy?



How Can We Make Youth Want to Vote?

Thank you!

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View my Tedx Talk on the Power of the Youth Vote!