

13. Voter Information

Voter Registration & Political Party Membership

Overview

The choice to vote or not vote can directly reflect community involvement in choosing leaders and making choices on prevalent issues in the political arena. The amount of participation largely affects local economic status.

Party affiliation within the community can also be directly correlated with the political and social actions of the population and economy, and their effect on the community.

Voting is the means by which the citizens of the United States affect democracy. It is through the power of the vote that the average citizen is able to choose how the country will be run and by whom.

Each presidential election year, voter turnout is at its highest. Typically, voter turnout in other years is low in comparison to other countries. Not all people who are registered to vote actually participate in voting.

NOTE: In the following table, those persons registered to vote are shown as a percent of the total eligible. Political party membership is shown as the percent of total registered voters.

Voter Registration as of February 10, 2005

Political affiliation	Number of people	Percent of total eligibles
Eligible to register	124,354	n/a
Registered to vote	104,962	84.4 %
Democrat	32,625	31.1 %
Republican	49,033	46.7 %
American Independent	2,733	2.6 %
Green	1,173	1.1 %
Libertarian	724	0.7 %
Natural Law	79	0.1 %
Reform	290	0.3 %
Miscellaneous	715	0.7 %
Decline to affiliate	17,590	16.8 %

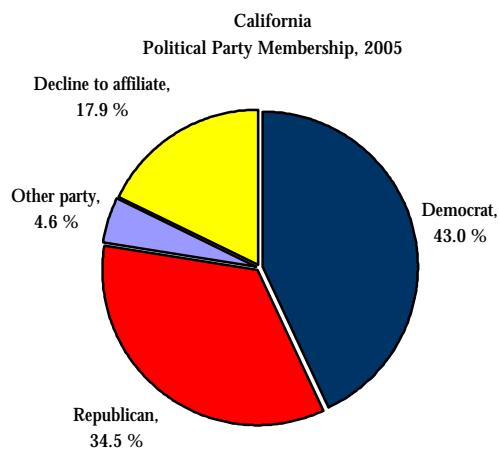
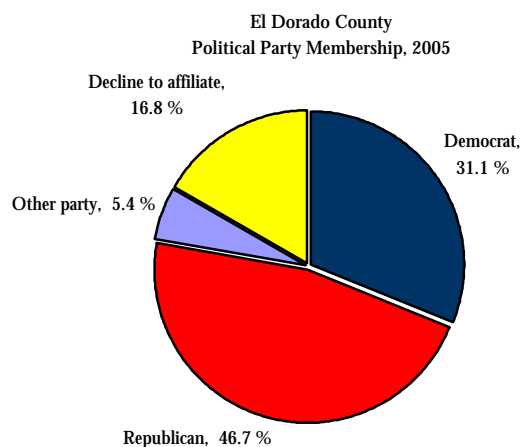
Source: California Secretary of State, Elections Division

El Dorado County

As of February 10, 2005, 84.4 percent of the 124,354 El Dorado County residents eligible to vote were registered to do so (for a total of 104,962 registered voters). In comparison, 74 percent of eligibles were registered in California.

In El Dorado County, 31 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat, and 47 percent were registered Republican. In California, 43 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat, and 35 percent were registered Republican.

For a complete listing of El Dorado County registered voters by political affiliation, please see the chart below.



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