

13. Voter Information

Overview

Voter information includes voter registration and political party affiliation. The choice of a party generally reflects certain attitudes towards government including relative tolerance for higher taxes, land preservation, and allocation of local government funds. The information made available from voter registration data may provide general guidance to local government in terms of its role in public policy and fiscal matters.

Voter Registration & Political Party Membership

A prospective voter must register with the county clerk in order to vote during an election. A registered voter may or may not choose a political party. The data presented shows the number of registered voters for each party, and party members as a percentage of the total number of registered voters. The accuracy of this data depends on the ability of the county clerk to update their voter rolls and remove those who no longer live at the address where they registered.

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

People typically choose a political party repre-

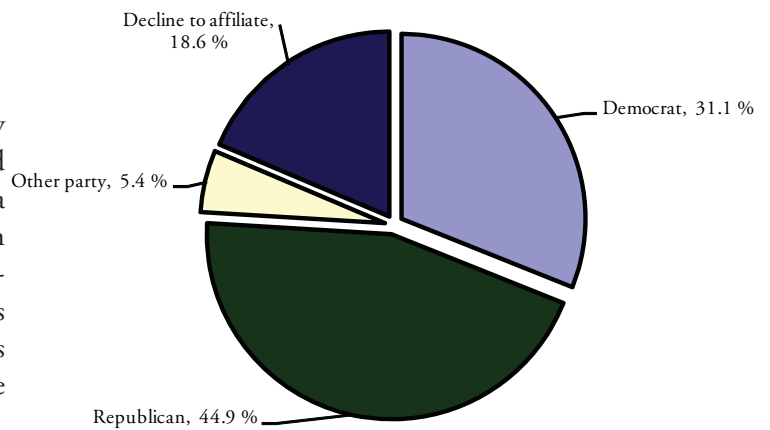
senting social and economic values close to their own. Therefore, political party membership may allow a business or organization to evaluate whether the community may or may not support particular proposals for development or regulation.

Voter Registration as of May 4, 2009

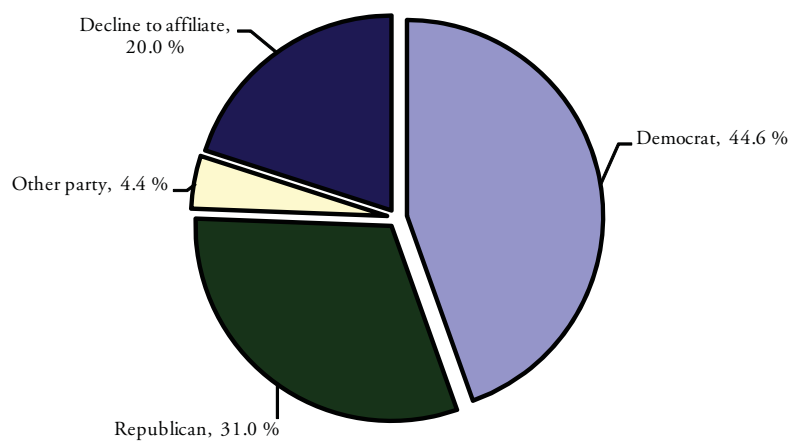
Political affiliation	Number of people	Percent of total eligibles
Eligible to register	128,715	n/a
Registered to vote	108,167	84.0 %
Democrat	33,598	31.1 %
Republican	48,568	44.9 %
American Independent	3,188	2.9 %
Green	885	0.8 %
Libertarian	713	0.7 %
Peace and Freedom	259	0.2 %
Miscellaneous	820	0.8 %
Decline to affiliate	20,136	18.6 %

Source: California Secretary of State, Elections Division

El Dorado County
Political Party Membership, 2009



California
Political Party Membership, 2009



Registrants as a percentage of those estimated to be eligible to vote is indicative of the level of civic participation and political involvement within the community. Communities with high levels of voter participation ordinarily have a strong sense of community and that may be a characteristic attractive to potential new residents and also to new businesses and potential employers.

El Dorado County

As of May 4, 2009, of the 128,751 El Dorado County residents eligible to register to vote, 84 percent were registered. In comparison, 73 percent of eligibles were registered in California.

In the county, 31 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat and 45 percent were registered Republican. In California, 45 percent of eligible voters were registered Democrat and 31 percent were registered Republican. For a complete listing of registered voters by political affiliation, please see the chart on the previous page.

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