

Background

As of the 2016 election, the population of American citizens of voting age (18+) was approx 224 million people, but only 157 million of those people were registered, and only 137 million of those reported to the polls to cast their vote in the 2016 Presidential election.

The turnout is far lower for important local elections. For example, mayoral elections in 50 US cities only garnered 15% of eligible voters.

What are the reasons for low engagement among US citizens?

Why is voting important?

What can be done to increase voter engagement?

Related Films:

- *BatKid*: Tells the story of a city which, inspired by a young survivor of leukemia, comes together to make the boy's wish a reality
- *By The People*, by Edward Norton: The story of Barack Obama's campaign for President
- *Dark Money*, by Kimberly Reed: examines the influence of corporate money in politics
- *Divide in Concord*: The story of an elderly resident of Concord MA who starts a grassroots campaign to ban single serving bottled water.
- *Media Literacy and Democracy in a Hypermedia*: A Chelmsford Library presentation by Dr. Paul Mihailidis
- *The New Deciders*: A PBS documentary that examines new groups around the country that are becoming engaged in the political process.
- *Patriotocracy*: The film explores the roots of polarization in American politics.
- *The People Speak*: Based on the bestselling books by Howard Zinn, the film reenacts the words of historical figures.
- *Street Fight*, by Marshall Curry: Examines now-Senator Cory Booker's battle against longtime incumbent Sharpe James

Related Podcasts:

- Slate's Political Gabfest
- Democracy Works
- WBUR's On Point Perfect
- Radiolab's More Perfect
- Pod Save America
- PEW Research Center's
- Pod Save the People
- After the Fact

Read, Engage, and Come Together

REACT



VOTING AND ENGAGEMENT

EVENTS AND RESOURCES OCTOBER 2018

READ

The Basics

- The Constitution of the United States
- Moyers on Democracy, by Bill Moyers
- Civil Disobedience, by Henry David Thoreau
- Profiles in Courage, by John F. Kennedy

Recent nonfiction

- Give Us the Ballot: the modern struggle for voting rights, by Ari Berman (2015)
- Our Damaged Democracy: We the People Must Act, by Joseph Califano (2018)
- The Year of Voting Dangerously, by Maureen Dowd (2016)
- Fault Lines in the Constitution: The framers, their fights and the flaws that affect us today by Cynthia Levinson (2017)
- You're More Powerful Than You Think, by Eric Liu (2017)
- Dark Money, Jane Mayer (2016)
- The Great Suppression: Voting Rights, corporate cash and the conservative assault on democracy, by Zachary Roth (2016)

Fiction

- Election, by Tom Perrotta
- The Plot Against America, by Philip Roth
- A Casual Vacancy, by J. K. Rowling
- All the King's Men, by Robert Penn Warren

ENGAGE



Register to vote online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/



Contact the League of Women Voters to find out how you can become a more empowered voter



Get in touch with your town republican, democratic or other political committee and get involved



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Learn about your federal, state and local representatives and find information about the issues that affect your community:

www.townofchelmsford.us

www.mass.gov

www.usa.gov

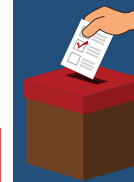
COME TOGETHER

REACT Middle School Book discussion reads *The Misfits* by James Howe (gr. 5-8)
Oct. 9 4-5PM



Let's Talk: Civility, a REACT Chelmsford conversation with Keith West, Oct. 9 at 7PM

REACT story time and craft: (ages 5-10)
Wed. Oct. 10, 4:15-5:15PM



Voter registration drive with The League of Women Voters, Sunday Oct. 14, from 1-4PM

Film Screening:
Won't You Be My Neighbor
Sunday Oct. 14, 2-3:30



Film Screening:
Dark Money
by Kimberly Reed
Sunday Oct. 14, 2-3:30