



League of Women Voters®
of Greater Lafayette

First Time, Life Time Voter 2018 Primary Election Analysis

Prepared by the Voter Service Committee
June 6, 2018



The First Time Voter Program

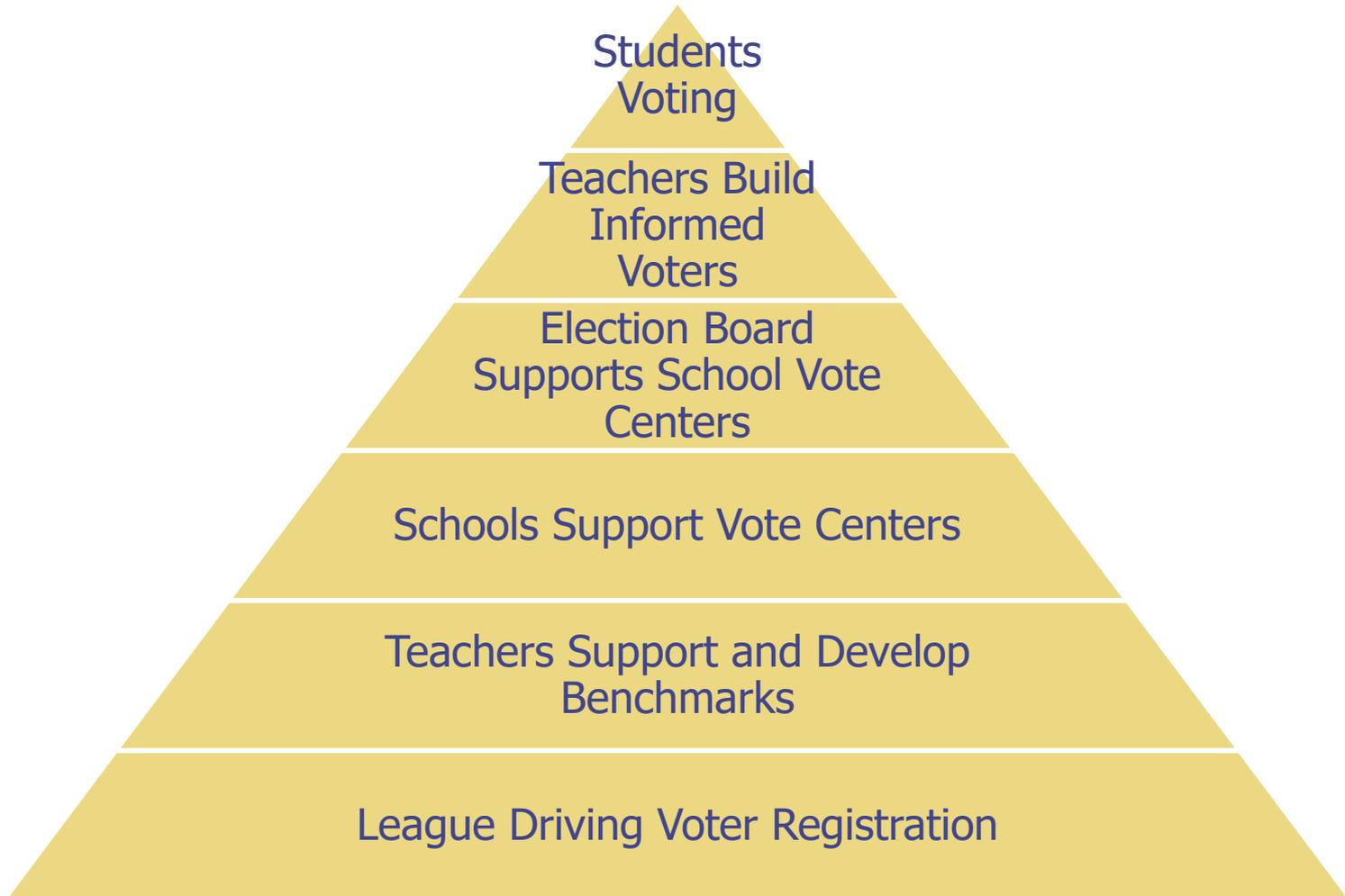
★ Program established to:

- Register high school students to vote
- Encourage students to become informed voters by learning about their government and their elected officials
- Teach students how to vote
- Increase the number of high school students casting a first vote
- Develop voting as a habit / behavior that will be repeated throughout the student's life

Data sources for this report: League voter registration data, County election results, League web survey sent to high school students.



Activating the High School Voters





Program Achievements

- ★ Three public school systems comprising four high schools agree to join the program
 - Lafayette, West Lafayette and Tippecanoe Schools
- ★ League registers 779 high school students to vote
- ★ Common learning benchmarks developed by government teachers shared among all school systems
- ★ County election board supports vote centers in high schools
- ★ Students use teacher developed voter guide templates to become informed voters
- ★ Questions generated by students sent to primary election candidates generating many direct responses used in student voter guides
- ★ Vote centers established at each of the public high schools to support student voting. Vote centers operate for 4 hours on the same day.
- ★ 308 students cast votes for the first time



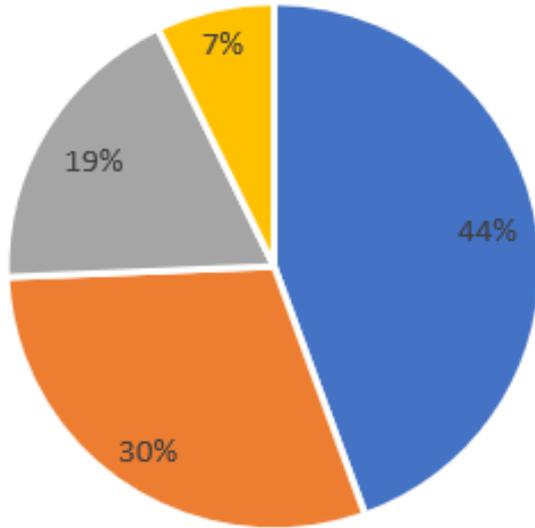
Summary Results

- ★ Will they vote again?
 - Strong response that students plan to vote again in the future.
- ★ The voting experience was generally very easy
- ★ 75% of students reported thinking about their vote a moderate amount to a great deal
 - 6% voted as uninformed voters
- ★ Why did they vote?
 - Civic duty, important, family and teacher influence, interest in politics, wanting a voice
- ★ Turnout
 - 308 high school students voted at the four high school vote center on May 4.
 - Student voter turn-out was 40% of the registered student voters
 - Does not count students who voted in non-school vote centers
 - Overall county turnout was 19%. High students comprise 1.5% of total election turnout.



All High School Student Turnout

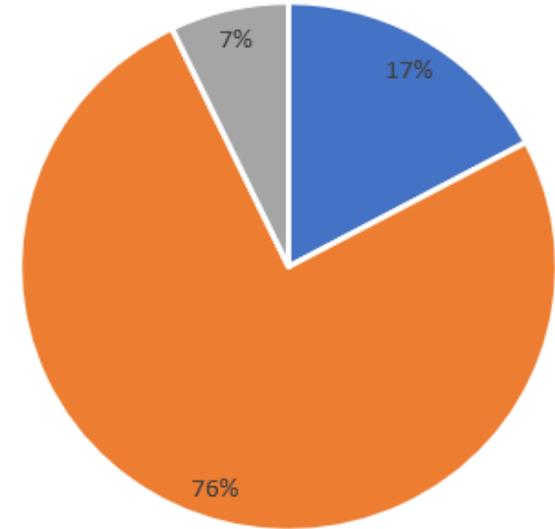
(county election data)



VOTE SITE ▾

- Harrison High School
- Jefferson High School
- McCutcheon High School
- West Lafayette Jr-Sr High School

Vote Center	Student Voters
Harrison High School	137
Jefferson High School	92
McCutcheon High School	57
West Lafayette High School	22
Grand Total	308



Age at Primary ▾

- 17
- 18
- 19

Voter Age	Count
17	53
18	233
19	22
Grand Total	308



By the Numbers

(county election data and LWVGL data)

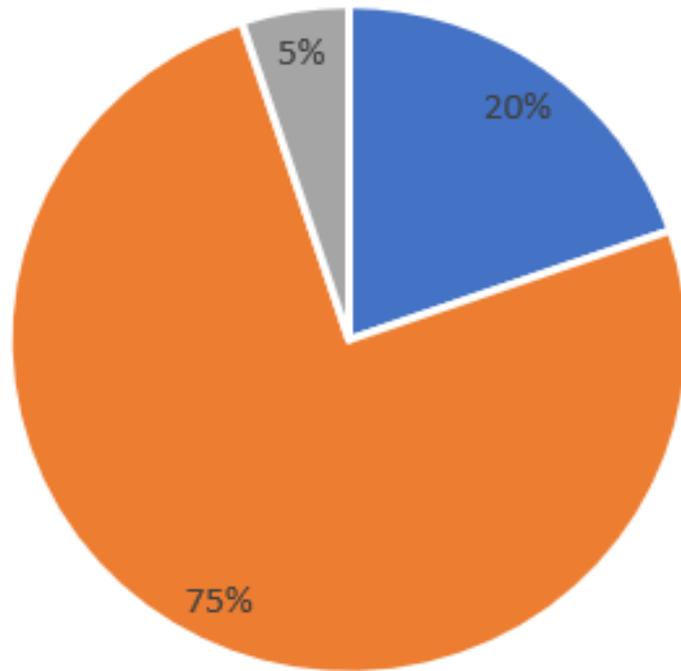
High School	Students Voters Registered by League	Student Voters at School Vote Center	Student Turnout at School Vote Center
Harrison	247	137	55%
Jefferson	297	92	31%
McCutcheon	168	57	34%
West Lafayette	67	22	33%
	779	308	40%

Overall Turnout	Registered Voters	All Voters	High School Students
	107,519	20,545	308
		19%	1.50%



Harrison High School

(county election data)

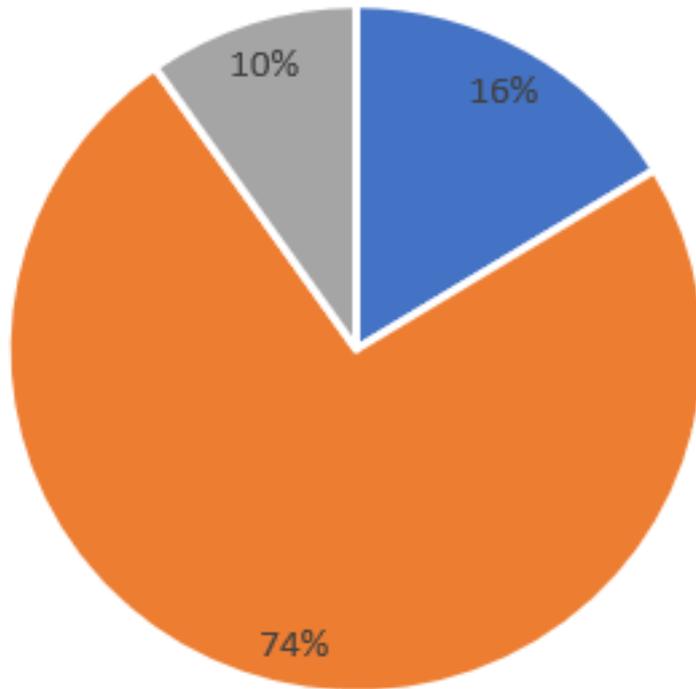


Voter Age	Count
17	27
18	103
19	7
Grand Total	137



Jefferson High School

(county election data)



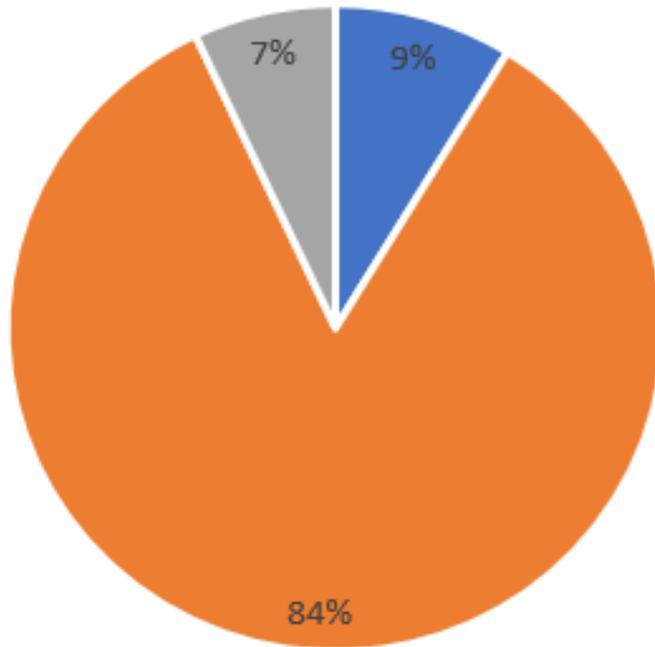
Voter Age	Count
17	15
18	68
19	9
Grand Total	92





McCutcheon High School

(county election data)



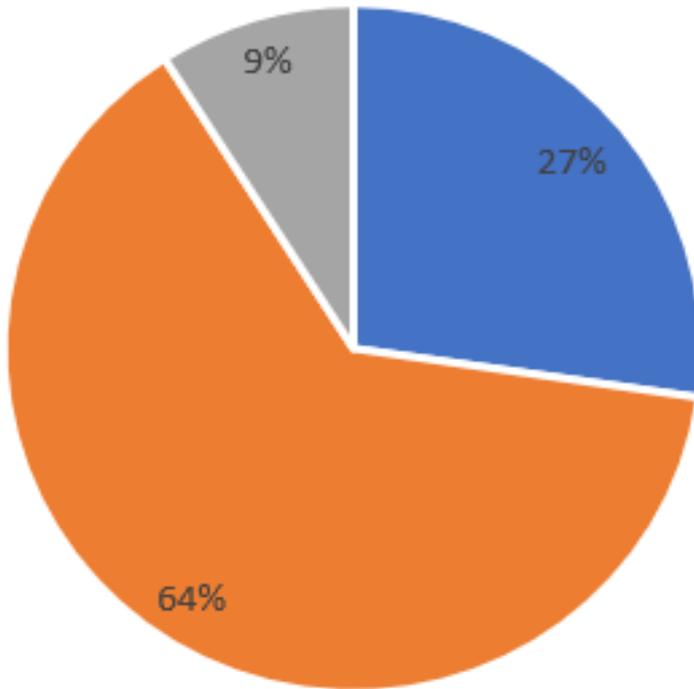
Age at Primary 
■ 17 ■ 18 ■ 19

Voter Age	Count
17	5
18	48
19	4
Grand Total	57



West Lafayette High School

(county election data)



Age at Primary ▼

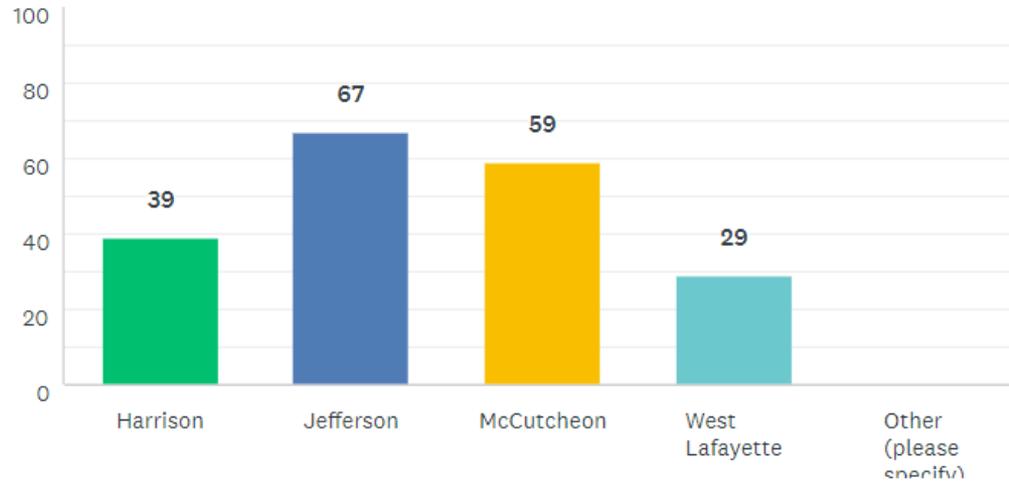
■ 17 ■ 18 ■ 19

Voter Age	Count
17	6
18	14
19	2
Grand Total	22



Q1: What high school do you attend?

(League web survey data)



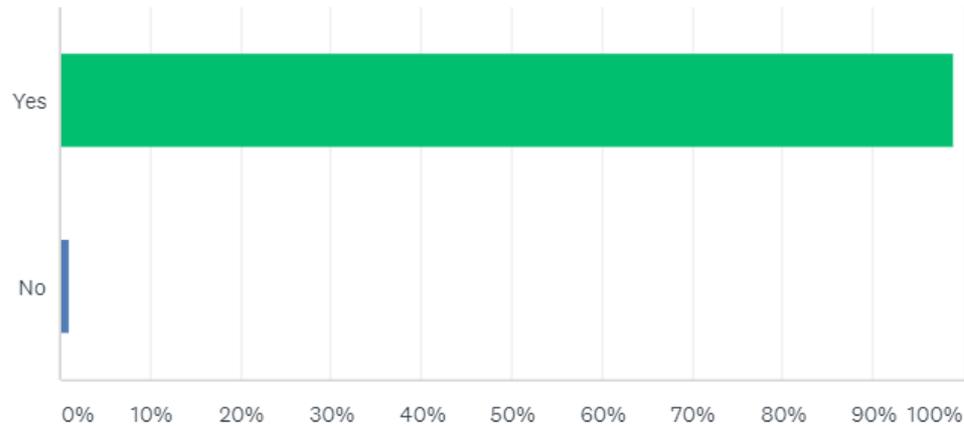
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Harrison	20.10%	39
▼ Jefferson	34.54%	67
▼ McCutcheon	30.41%	59
▼ West Lafayette	14.95%	29
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
TOTAL		194



Q5: Is this the first time you have voted?

(League web survey data)

Answered: 181 Skipped: 13



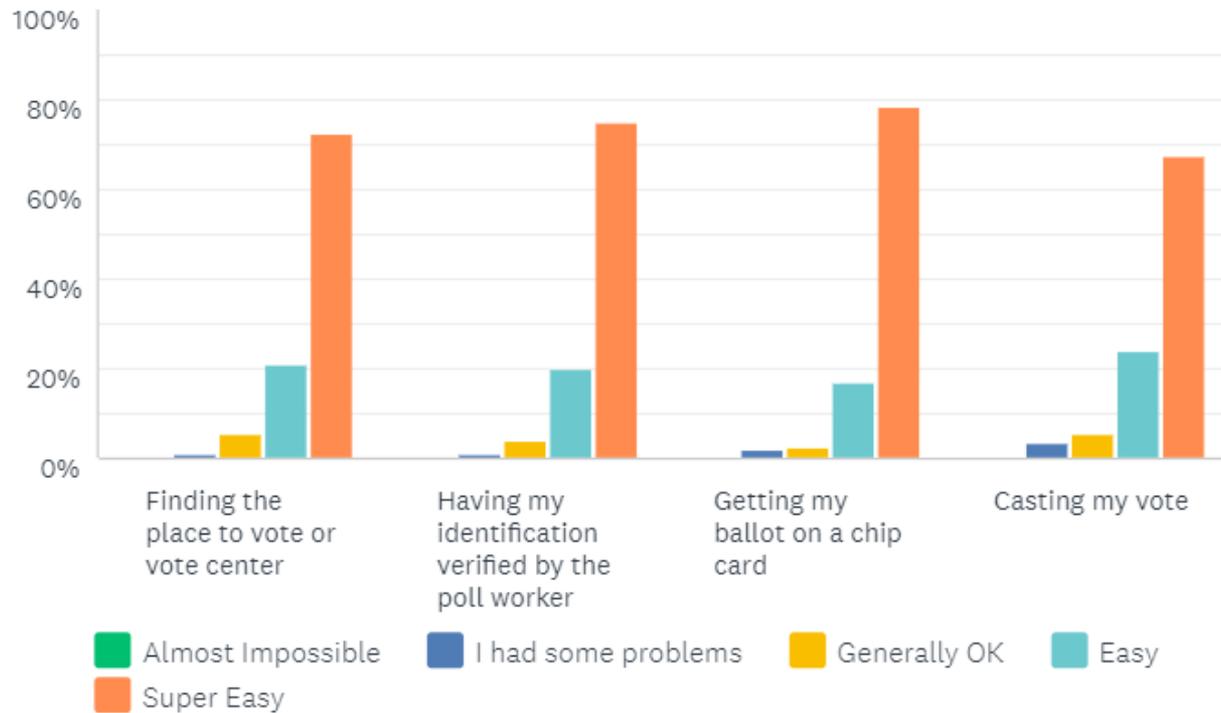
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	98.90% 179
No	1.10% 2
TOTAL	181



Q7: Please rate your voting experience

(League web survey data)

Answered: 185 Skipped: 9

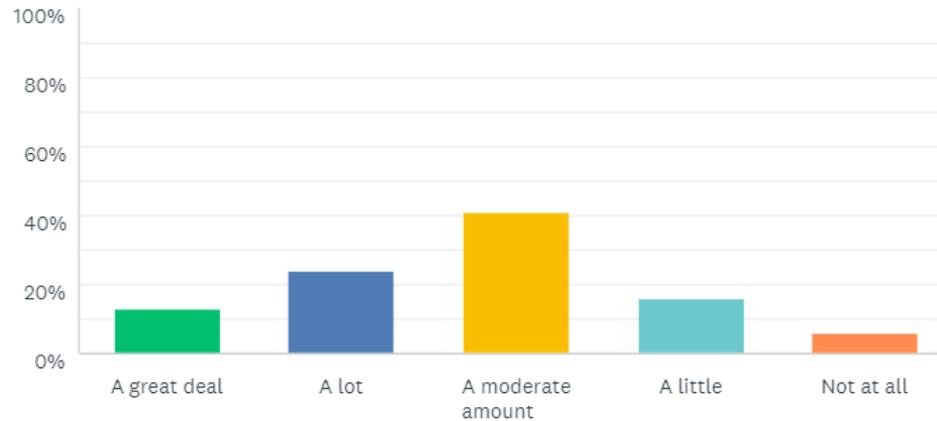




Q9: How much did you think about who to vote for before casting your vote?

(League web survey data)

Answered: 183 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ A great deal	13.11% 24
▼ A lot	24.04% 44
▼ A moderate amount	40.98% 75
▼ A little	15.85% 29
▼ Not at all	6.01% 11
TOTAL	183



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

Question 6 is an open response question. Responses have been categorized and grouped for reading using the following categories:

Category	Response Count
Duty	23
Family	6
Friends	2
FTV (first time vote)	18
Important	29
No Reason	4
Personal	11
Politics	21
Rights	15
Teacher	13
Voice	25



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ Duty

1. I decided to vote because I have a duty to do so as a citizen and I care deeply about the society that I live in. This is because the government makes decisions that have a serious impact on me and the people around me.
2. Duty
3. I think I have an obligation to so I can help the community
4. Because it is my job as a citizen
5. Because I felt that it was my duty as a US citizen to vote for people that I think will do well in office.
6. It was very easy to do, and I saw no reason as to why I shouldn't perform my civic duty.
7. As a United States citizen, it is my civil duty to vote. I also wanted my voice to be heard when voting for people who will represent issues important to me.
8. Its my civil duty!
9. I feel as though it is an obligation that I vote, because of the struggle past generations have gone through in order to obtain this right.
10. Because it is one of the most important civic duties we have.
11. I think it is every American's responsibility to vote if they are able to.
12. Civic Duty and all that
13. It is my civic duty
14. It's a civic duty
15. I believe voting is a right and it is a civic duty to exercise that right and not take advantage of it.
16. Because it's my civil duty
17. It's a civil duty.
18. It's my right and duty to the country to partake in the choosing of who is representing me.
19. Civic duty
20. civil service
21. Civic duty
22. Doing my job as a citizen of The United States.
23. duty



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ Family

1. My family is very political, but I felt powerless so I almost didn't vote. But I guess if there's any chance of change we're supposed to vote.
2. Family Reasons
3. my parents do not vote
4. family running for positions
5. My parents do not vote
6. Because my parents talked about how important voting is.

★ Friends

1. My friends told me too vote because I was eligible.
2. I was highly encouraged to.



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ First Time Voting

1. Wanted to utilize my first opportunity to vote for local and state reps
2. This is the first election I have ever been able to vote in. It is my constitutional right to vote.
3. To try out voting for the first time
4. I decided to vote because it was a good opportunity to have the experience of my first time voting here at my school.
5. Just because I have never voted before
6. idk I wanted to see the hype, but my ballot was flawed and therefore I couldn't vote for any of the candidates I wanted to because none of them showed up. so that blows
7. I wanted to see what it was like and how it was for the first time.
8. It was my first time being able to vote and I knew the people locally and I supported their ideas and morals.
9. Honestly just because I'm 18 and I have the right to vote.
10. cause I could
11. It was my first time and I thought I should experience it
12. Cause I could
13. It's my first time.
14. Because I wanted to see how I would feel about it
15. I wanted to participate in the very first opportunity I could to vote
16. I wanted to participate in an election for the first time.
17. I wanted to vote
18. I was not going to skip the first election I could vote in. I have found the process to be (perhaps oddly) therapeutic.



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ Important

1. I believe that voting and participating in the government is very important. People have made huge sacrifices so that I can vote and I should take advantage of that opportunity.
2. To have my opinions reflected in some way by the government.
3. Because I live in a democracy
4. right thing to do
5. Because it's important
6. It affects me
7. Because I believe that it is becoming more and more important to pay attention to who is running our government, whether it be local or state or federal.
8. I think political participation is important
9. Because I wanted to
10. Easily accessible to me. Voting is an important action. Benefits far outweigh costs.
11. To try to make a difference in my community
12. I wanted to contribute to society.
13. To participate in government workings
14. To exercise my liberties.
15. I was working the polls already so it was very easy
16. To participate in the system our fore fathers set down before us
17. I believe in democracy and political efficacy.
18. I wanted to make an impact in my community
19. I wanted to participate
20. It's important
21. because it is important
22. I want to ensure the future of the nation is in good hands.
23. It seemed as simple as it was important.
24. It's important to choose the people you want to lead. Mr. Fischer also said to.
25. I think it is very important to take part in voting especially when the voting pertains to local legislature.
26. I decided to vote because I think its important for us the senior class to set an example for the younger students to vote because this is a way we can express our voice
27. America.
28. Because I'm 18 and in order for things to head in the right direction, my generation has to vote for our leaders.
29. I view it as important.



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ No reason

1. No reason in particular.
2. Sounded fun
3. I figured that if it wasn't hard then why not give it a shot.
4. wanted to give it a chance

★ Personal

1. The League of women voters gave very compelling reasons
2. to see what a person like me can impact in our society
3. I worked the Voting polls
4. To get into the habit so more changes are made in the government in the future.
5. I wanted to see if it would be something I would continue doing.
6. To get a new experience.
7. I wanted to see what it felt like.
8. Got bored.
9. Just another person doing the decision that would be right
10. It's a good habit to get into because it is important to be informed for other elections as well.
11. Had free time



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ Politics

1. I knew people running for the offices and it felt important
2. Republican
3. I want to be involved in politics so I can vote for the change I want to see
4. I wanted to help the candidate who I agree with most.
5. I wanted to vote for someone who wanted to help my community and state, and not vote for someone who only cares about getting elected.
6. Because I was well exposed to the sheriffs and senate race and I found myself caring for who were to be in those roles.
7. I wanted a say in who was elected
8. Because the people in the election were people I believed deserved it
9. Because "Woody" Ricks is a dick and Jason Dombowski knows what he is doing.
10. I wanted to get involved in my local government. The candidates elected in state government arguably have a bigger impact on your daily life than federal government does.
11. Because I believe that all mature generations should act as influential pieces of the electorate and that political participation is important. The specific reason why I chose to vote in the primaries was to select the candidates that I believed held the same values as I do and we're the strongest contenders for each position.
12. I wanted to vote for sheriff.
13. I knew the people in the election.
14. I want to have a say on who is going to be on the ballot in November and eventually go is going to take office.
15. because I want a best person to represented America.
16. I want the officials that I want going into office.
17. My vote matters! Even though this is primary so this one technically doesn't matter as much. BUT I don't want Harrington to be the Republican representative for the prosecuting attorney, so I voted against him.
18. I've always been so involved in politics and I understand the importance of it!
19. Because I want certain candidates to get the position over others.
20. I am super into government and don't want the wrong politician to represent me.
21. I decided to vote because I believe my vote will count in this new election for my political party.



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★ Rights

1. I think it's an important right we have and should be used by the people to voice their opinions
2. My using my right to vote gives me a voice in my community to change how it is run.
3. I wanted to express my rights
4. Because I have a right to vote, and it is an important civil duty.
5. Because it is one of our basic rights.
6. I realize that the right to vote is integral to the American political system, and voting is a major way that I can have my voice influence the lives of everyone in the community and even the state or nation potentially.
7. because it is my right
8. Cause I want to use my right
9. I was expressing my rights.
10. Its my right and I want to use it.
11. It is the right thing to do
12. Because I could and it's my right as an American
13. To exercise my rights
14. I want changes and a better future and that starts at a local level. I am a politically active young woman and I think it is important to use my right to make changes.
15. I feel like it's the least I can do. Its my civic right.



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

★Teacher

1. We voted as a class
2. It was extra credit
3. If 18 people in my ap gov class voted we would get a cheat sheet on our next test.
4. 20 EC points, really
5. We would be able to get a cheat sheet on final if we voted. I also really liked some of the candidates.
6. Cookies
7. My teacher brought our class down to vote and I thought it would be a good experience.
8. My government teacher took us and said we needed to.
9. Fischer urged me to go vote
10. My government teacher offered cookies if we did, we didn't get the cookies.
11. We did it for our government class.
12. Teacher told me to
13. Mr. Fischer encouraged me to. Good thing he did too, else I would've been late. :)



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

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5. We would be able to get a cheat sheet on final if we voted. I also really liked some of the candidates.
6. Cookies
7. My teacher brought our class down to vote and I thought it would be a good experience.
8. My government teacher took us and said we needed to.
9. Fischer made me.
10. Forced to for a grade
11. Fischer told me to go vote
12. my government teacher offered cookies if we did, we didn't get the cookies.
13. We did it for our government class.
14. Teacher told me to
15. Mr. Fischer forced me to. Good thing he did too, else I would've been late. :)



Q6: Why did you vote?

(League web survey data)

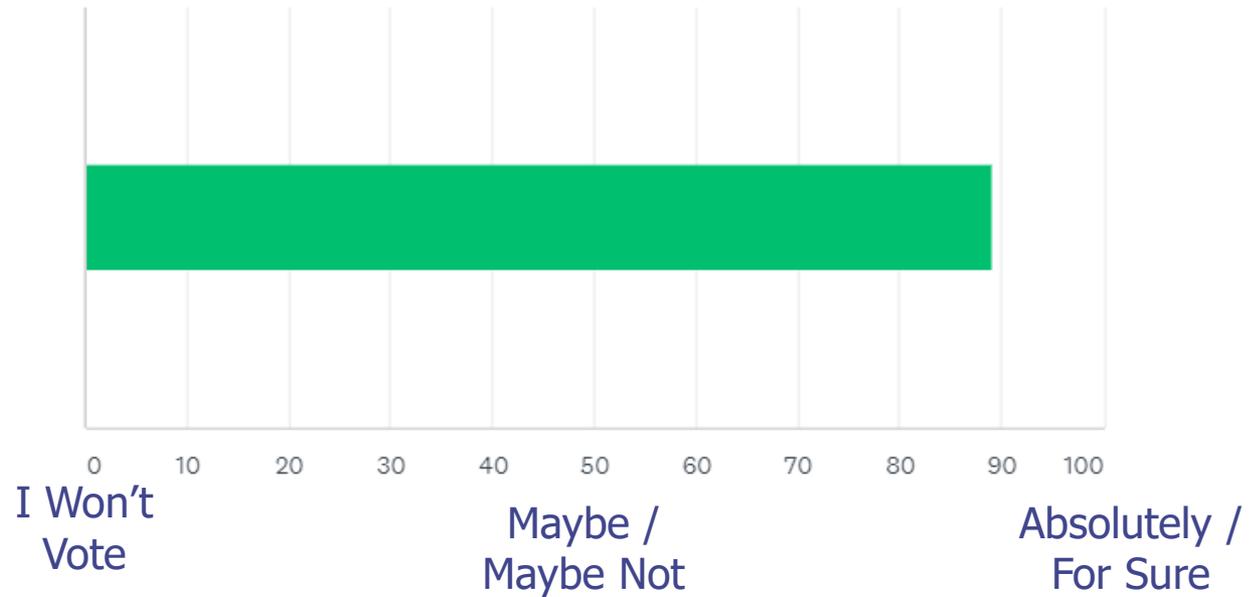
★ Use Voice

1. I want to have a say in our government
2. I want my opinion to count
3. I wanted to say I voted for the first time
4. I wanted to be a part of this primary vote to get my little voice out there and be a part of my own future.
5. Because the youth has to have a voice in our choices for government officials.
6. Because I wanted to have a say in our government
7. Put my input
8. My opinion matters
9. Because if I did not vote I would have just talked about it and not actually put my opinion in
10. To make my voice heard in politics.
11. I decided to vote because I want to be able I had a say in who is making and executing the laws in my city.
12. I wanted to participate and have a say in who represents me.
13. To use the power that I have to try and make a difference
14. I chose to vote because I wanted to have a say in the election.
15. I chose to vote because I feel like if you want something to be done or if you want change, your vote matters.
16. So my voice could be heard
17. I like to have a say in my local government.
18. because I decide that my opinion mattered
19. To change how things are going to be.
20. to make my count matter
21. To learn how it works for the future and to have a voice on my right as a citizen
22. I can make an impact in my community.
23. Use my voice
24. I wanted to make my voice heard and I had finally lived long enough to earn that right.
25. want my vote to count.



Q10: How likely are you to vote in the future? (average from League web survey data)

Answered: 185 Skipped: 9





Q3: Why didn't you vote?

(League web survey data)

The web survey was designed to be sent to Juniors and Seniors. Since around 80% of Juniors were too young, the question did not focus on reasons why a registered student voter did not vote. We believe, however, that this question did capture some reasons why registered voters did not vote.

Responses	Reason not Voting
77	I just wasn't interested
45	Did not have my identification
3	Problem and I was turned away
29	I wasn't given time to vote
32	Other (see details)



Not Voting Reasons – Other

(League web survey data)

1. I find the idea of voting for presidents a waste of my time.
2. I did not feel informed enough to vote
3. Timing
4. Forgot about it, and I had a paper due on the night I could have voted.
5. it was hard to understand what the candidates platforms were and what they wanted to change and/or do
6. I do not appreciate the fact that the Indiana Primaries use a closed ballot.
7. They took pictures of I.D. I don't want somebody with a picture of I.D
8. I didn't care
9. Registered to vote in Illinois not Indiana
10. I didn't know that we could. I was never informed that there were voting sessions here at my school
11. I was on a field trip
12. Because I have absolutely no care about anything that happens.
13. Just forgot the day
14. I didn't do my research on who was running
15. I didn't like any of the candidates, so I didn't vote.
16. The only way I vote, is if its for Trump.
17. I'm only 17 and they would not allow me to vote here, even though I turn 18 in August.
18. I didn't receive any information about when and where to vote.
19. I was unaware I could vote while 17
20. The have a voting space but no set time when people should go down. School Lunch and lunch time is a requirement so I should not have to miss my lunch to attend.



Not Voting Reasons – Other

(League web survey data)

21. My friend didn't drive me to vote.
22. I do not agree with either candidates politics and independent is a joke.
23. I wasn't at school that day
24. I was working during the time the voting occurred.
25. I was absent the day we registered and by the time I found out it was too late to register
26. registered to late
27. I don't have a state ID yet, I'm working on getting it.
28. I forgot my ID but I plan on voting today.
29. I forgot to bring my State ID
30. I was not at school the day we were scheduled to vote.
31. Online system said I wasn't registered even though I did
32. Didn't have time to change address before voting started



Questions to Consider

- ★ What accounts for Harrison's higher voter turnout?
- ★ How can we overcome the reasons for students not voting?
 - Lack of identification
 - Time to vote
 - Awareness of the opportunity to vote
 - Interest in voting
- ★ Which classroom activities or learning benchmarks most contributed to the high number of informed voters?
- ★ How much is the student vote under-reported here based on students voting at different vote centers?



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