



A data-driven tool for tracking community progress around strategic targets

ISSUE | CIVIC PARTICIPATION

GRADE

B+

RANKING

2012 NC RANKINGS (1ST IS BEST)



Southeast region (SE): Defined as 10 state area, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia

TARGET

At least 110% of average US voter turnout

Actual: 111% in 2012

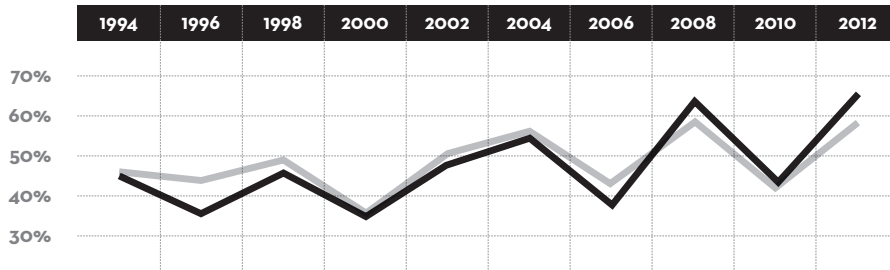
Trend: Improving since 2006, after years of uneven progress

Definition: percent of voting age population (but not necessarily eligible) voting in even-year elections (presidential and congressional votes);

Relevance: voter turnout as a percent of voting age population provides a useful proxy indicator of citizen interest and participation in democratic affairs

STATE TRENDS

NC Voter Turnout —
US Voter Turnout —



	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
NC/US Ratio	97%	80%	93%	97%	95%	97%	86%	110%	103%	111%
US Rank	35 th	46 th	40 th	34 th	35 th	35 th	46 th	16 th	27 th	11 th
SE Rank	6 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	5 th	8 th	2 nd	4 th	2 nd

Source: US Census Bureau

HIGHLIGHTS

Like most states, North Carolina's voting rate crests in four-year cycles coinciding with presidential elections. In 2008, North Carolina's voter turnout increased dramatically to nearly 64% of age-eligible voters, eclipsing the US average for the first time and nearly reaching the state target. In 2012, 65% of North Carolina's voting-aged citizens participated in the general election, the 11th highest turnout rate in the nation and the 2nd highest rate in the Southeast region.

OTHER DATA

National: In 2002, the US Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to accelerate election process modernization, but only part of the \$3.9 billion authorized has been spent. Since 2002, voter participation has become a highly contentious and partisan issue.

Regional: In 2012, North Carolina outperformed every Southeastern state except Virginia in voter participation. Five Southeastern states—Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia—outpaced the national average voter participation rate.

Global: In 2010, according to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), US voter turnout rate for congressional elections was the lowest of 39 developed nations in the world, less than half that of many nations (e.g., Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Denmark, Singapore, Sweden and Turkey).