



California's Voter Participation Gaps

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California's 2024 General Election Who Voted and Which 2020 Voters Stayed Home?



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Research Requires Inclusive and Reliable Data

Data sources are limited – Current Population Survey and CA voter file

- Current Population Survey has methodological challenges for voters of color, state level only
- CA voter file allows for within state analysis, identifying race/ethnicity in the CA voter file is challenging

= CA has a limited set of voter turnout research

2024 Voter Turnout

Data Sources: California Secretary of State, California Department of Finance

Participation in our democracy continues to be low and disparate

What was voter turnout in CA's 2024 General Election?

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Eligible Voter Turnout - 62.0%

What was voter turnout in CA's 2024 General Election?

Registered Voter Turnout - 70.1%

Eligible Voter Turnout - 62.0%

Turnout Declined from the 2020 GE

10 percentage point decline in registered voter turnout rate

4.8 percentage point decline in eligible voter turnout rate*

Participation gaps widened in 2024

*CA Secretary of state's estimate of the number of Californians eligible to vote differs from common sources of adult citizen data in the state - about 800,000 fewer eligible Californians in 2020 and about 900,000 more in 2024.

Registered Turnout by Group

Participation Gaps Widened in 2024

Decline in registered turnout from 2020 GE to 2024 GE was greater for voters of color compared to white voters.

White: **5.6** percentage point decline

Latino: **12.7** percentage point decline

Black: **8.2** percentage point decline

Asian American: **12.8** percentage point decline

Eligible Turnout by Group

Participation Gaps Widened in 2024

Decline in eligible voter turnout from 2020 GE to 2024 GE was greater for voters of color compared to the general population.

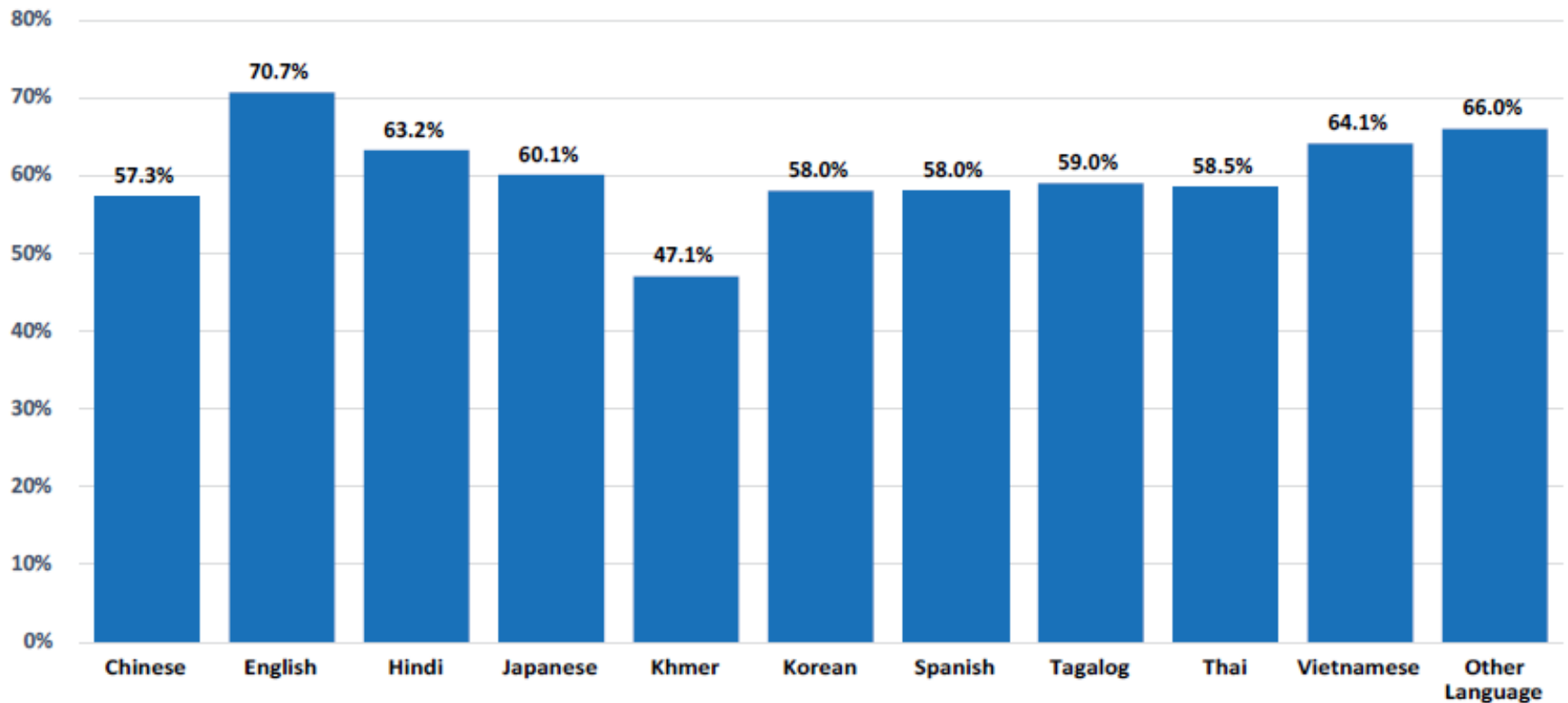
Latino: **7.6** percentage point decline

Asian American: **4.8** percentage point decline

Registered Turnout by Language Preference

FIGURE 39

Registered Voter Turnout
Language Choice
California 2024 General Election



Participation Gaps Widened in 2024

Consequences for Policy and Outcomes

Why so low?

What can be done?

Reasons for Lower Turnout

Disparities in registration

Disparities in outreach and mobilization

Historic and current disconnection from the political process

Demographics

Turnout even lower in midterms and primaries

Questions?

Thank you!

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