

Comparative Voter Registration and Participation
in Statewide Primary Elections - 1910 through 2000

Primary Date	Registration					Votes Cast			
	Eligible	Democratic	Republican	Other	Nonpartisan	Total	Vote	Regis'd	Eligible
Aug 16, 1910									
May 14, 1912 P									
Sept 3, 1912									
Aug 25, 1914	1,710,000								
May 2, 1916 P	1,786,000					735,869	324,366	44.08%	18.16%
Aug 29, 1916	1,798,000								
Aug 27, 1918	1,906,000					1,151,365	647,234	56.21%	33.96%
May 04, 1920 P	2,047,000					1,111,192	618,981	55.70%	30.24%
Aug 31, 1920	2,072,000						488,261		23.56%
Aug 29, 1922	2,386,000	305,658	927,046	46,790	172,799	1,452,293	813,166	55.99%	34.08%
May 6, 1924 P	2,670,000	339,300	1,012,701	37,277	110,317	1,499,595	742,827	49.54%	27.82%
Aug 26, 1924	2,719,000	367,277	1,084,997	39,671	129,508	1,621,453	674,231	41.58%	24.80%
Aug 31, 1926	2,964,000	399,599	1,262,480	38,808	153,584	1,854,471	1,031,900	55.64%	34.81%
May 1, 1928 P	3,177,000	465,793	1,254,514	28,950	100,722	1,849,979	853,669	46.14%	26.87%
Aug 28, 1928	3,214,000	508,645	1,360,152	30,251	110,551	2,009,599	740,556	36.85%	23.04%
Aug 26, 1930	3,440,000	449,824	1,599,413	23,297	114,940	2,187,474	1,301,847	59.51%	37.84%
May 3, 1932 P	3,546,000	847,264	1,394,850	24,839	110,190	2,377,143	1,379,113	58.02%	38.89%
Aug 30, 1932	3,562,000	1,027,657	1,497,432	27,743	112,998	2,665,830	1,493,827	56.04%	41.94%
Aug 28, 1934	3,663,000	1,494,111	1,418,826	31,841	117,539	3,062,317	1,817,027	59.34%	49.60%
May 5, 1936 P	3,802,000	1,687,288	1,163,780	16,561	96,707	2,964,336	1,535,280	51.79%	40.38%
Aug 25, 1936	3,826,000	1,783,028	1,198,550	19,135	96,116	3,096,829	1,472,094	47.54%	38.48%
Aug 30, 1938	4,015,000	2,052,519	1,246,773	51,793	102,973	3,454,058	2,069,025	59.90%	51.53%
May 7, 1940 P	4,169,000	2,172,853	1,308,211	43,773	127,437	3,652,274	1,572,173	43.05%	37.71%
Aug 27, 1940	4,195,000	2,259,613	1,361,657	35,233	126,199	3,782,702	1,885,537	49.85%	44.95%
Aug 25, 1942	4,643,000	2,252,901	1,352,907	21,917	123,571	3,751,296	1,768,929	47.16%	38.10%
May 16, 1944 P	5,244,000	1,968,376	1,285,977	15,393	101,232	3,370,978	1,884,820	55.91%	35.94%
June 4, 1946	5,722,000	2,393,997	1,530,335	11,899	177,377	4,113,608	2,087,864	50.76%	36.49%
June 1, 1948 P	6,042,000	2,665,560	1,749,223	28,003	189,343	4,632,129	2,538,585	54.80%	42.02%
June 6, 1950	6,385,000	2,862,063	1,826,350	32,608	204,348	4,925,369	3,140,472	63.76%	49.19%
June 3, 1952 P	6,913,000	2,995,768	2,192,446	23,650	171,657	5,383,521	3,651,912	67.84%	52.83%
June 8, 1954	7,454,000	3,112,004	2,348,412	29,838	174,434	5,664,688	3,184,565	56.22%	42.72%
June 5, 1956 P	8,074,000	3,059,873	2,277,530	21,304	129,115	5,487,822	3,656,586	66.63%	45.29%
June 3, 1958	8,763,000	3,542,374	2,552,678	30,172	154,952	6,280,176	4,125,124	65.68%	47.07%
June 7, 1960 P	9,446,000	3,676,495	2,519,975	30,305	148,507	6,375,282	4,004,059	62.81%	42.39%
June 5, 1962	10,155,000	3,996,964	2,833,889	7,788	212,948	7,051,589	4,479,723	63.53%	44.11%
June 2, 1964 P	10,823,000	4,022,302	2,895,448	25,414	179,560	7,122,724	5,124,175	71.94%	47.35%
June 7, 1966	11,346,000	4,485,777	3,125,884	37,611	205,830	7,855,102	5,079,911	64.67%	44.77%
June 4, 1968 P	11,737,000	4,347,406	3,197,815	202,678	177,718	7,925,617	5,723,047	72.21%	48.76%
June 2, 1970	12,105,000	4,388,052	3,274,967	112,086	278,284	8,053,389	5,011,908	62.23%	41.40%
June 6, 1972 P	13,084,000	5,134,178	3,398,716	135,691	436,702	9,105,287	6,460,220	70.95%	49.37%
June 4, 1974	13,624,000	5,333,522	3,499,773	112,737	552,469	9,498,501	5,128,375	53.99%	37.64%
June 8, 1976 P	14,093,000	4,987,795	3,165,495	66,981	490,485	8,710,756	6,323,651	72.60%	44.87%
June 6, 1978	14,659,000	5,610,357	3,450,469	110,931	763,084	9,934,841	6,843,001	68.88%	46.68%
June 3, 1980 P	15,258,000	5,786,806	3,703,515	245,103	959,236	10,694,660	6,774,184	63.34%	44.40%
June 8, 1982	15,859,000	5,853,273	3,867,531	267,294	1,099,064	11,087,162	5,846,026	52.73%	36.86%
June 5, 1984 P	16,457,000	6,142,820	4,047,509	250,109	1,089,331	11,529,769	5,609,063	48.65%	34.08%
June 3, 1986	17,357,000	6,181,719	4,566,785	366,591	1,091,537	12,206,632	4,937,941	40.45%	28.45%
June 7, 1988 P	18,917,000	6,380,397	4,782,248	267,047	1,107,515	12,537,207	6,037,468	48.16%	31.92%
June 5, 1990	19,133,000	6,453,186	5,072,331	249,873	1,206,039	12,981,429	5,386,545	41.49%	28.15%
June 2, 1992P	19,180,000	6,581,888	5,242,805	435,572	1,308,983	13,569,248	6,439,629	47.46%	33.58%
June 7, 1994	18,946,000	6,924,121	5,261,009	459,884	1,526,397	14,171,411	4,966,827	35.05%	26.22%
March 26, 1996P	19,326,000	6,849,330	5,373,746	697,203	1,603,084	14,523,363	6,081,777	41.88%	31.47%
June 2, 1998	20,653,000	6,830,530	5,225,686	685,871	1,863,590	14,605,677	6,206,618	42.49%	30.05%
March 7, 2000P	21,220,772	6,684,668	5,140,951	773,523	2,032,663	14,631,805	7,883,385	53.88%	37.15%

Note 1: "Although counties have been required to report the party affiliation of California's registered voters since 1915, the first statewide record did not appear until 1922, and no records are available prior to that date." See Eugene C. Lee, California Votes 1928 - 1960, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, 1963, quoted at page 26.

Note 2: 'P' indicates a presidential election year.

Note 3: Since the statewide primary election party nomination process began in 1910, fifteen parties have qualified to conduct primary elections, including:

*Democratic 1910 - present	Progressive 1934 - 1938
*Republican 1910 - present	Townsend 1938 - 1942
*Independence League 1910	Independent Progressive 1948 - 1954
*Prohibition 1910 – 1962	American Independent 1968 - present
*Socialist 1910 - 1938	Peace and Freedom 1968 - 1998
Progressive (“Bull Moose”) 1914 - 1918	Libertarian 1980 - present
Liberty 1932-1934	Green 1992 – present
Commonwealth 1934 - 1938	Natural Law 1996 - present
Communist 1934 - March 1944	Reform 1996 - present

Prior to 1910, many parties either conducted conventions or held primary elections to select their candidates for the statewide general election. The five parties whose names are preceded by an asterisk (*) were active before 1910.

Note 4: In 1911 women were given the franchise.

Note 5: Prior to 1944, the presidential primary was held in May, and a second primary was held in September or August to nominate partisan candidates for Congress, the State Senate, and the Assembly. In 1944, these primary elections were consolidated into a single primary election date.

Note 6: 1972 was the first year that 18- to 21-year-olds were eligible to register and vote in a general election. The registration period was also extended that year by reducing the 54-day pre-election cut-off period to 30 days.

Note 7: In 1975, the cut-off period for registering to vote was reduced by the Legislature to 29 days prior to the election.