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74 Voter Participation - Printable Version - Edit Content

Increase the percentage of registered citizens who vote.

Not counting the 2008 primary, only three of the 28 elections -- from 1996 to 2008 -- where the majority of registered Multnomah County residents voted, were not a general elections. The election of May 20th, 2003 was for a temporary income tax increase to help fund K-12 education and other public service programs; the February 3rd, 2004 election was an attempt to pass a State version; and, the special election of November 6th, 2007 had two high-profile measures (one to fix a previous land use law and the other to fund health care for children via a tobacco tax). It appears that both controversial ballot measures and the type of election greatly influence voter participation. Voter turnout is highest during presidential elections, where in 2008 the participation rate in Multnomah County was 25 percentage points higher than the nation (86% vs. 61%).

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Voter Turnout, Multnomah County			
Type	Year	Date	Turnout
General	2008	4-Nov	86%
Primary		20-May	60%
Special	2007	6-Nov	58%
Special		15-May	25%
General	2006	7-Nov	69%
Primary		16-May	36%
Special	2005	17-May	17%
General	2004	2-Nov	85%
Primary		18-May	45%
Special		3-Feb	60%
Special	2003	4-Nov	46%
Special		16-Sep	32%
Special		20-May	56%
General	2002	5-Nov	67%
Special		17-Sep	41%
Primary		21-May	47%
Special	2001	15-May	23%
Special		13-Mar	19%
General	2000	7-Nov	78%
Primary		16-May	50%
Special	1999	2-Nov	34%
Special		18-May	32%
Special		9-Mar	20%
General	1998	3-Nov	55%
Special		19-May	33%
Special	1997	4-Nov	50%
Special		20-May	37%
General	1996	5-Nov	68%
Primary		21-May	33%
Source: Multnomah County Elections			

[Further analysis conducted in 1999.](#)