



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW REPORT FROM NVEN: AMERICA GOES TO THE POLLS **A Report on Voter Turnout in the 2008 Election**

The Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, America's 501(c)(3) nonprofit source for community and voter engagement resources, is pleased to announce the newest release of America Goes to the Polls: A Report on Voter Turnout in the 2008 Election.

This second edition of America Goes to the Polls charts voter turnout in Presidential elections over the last 30 years, ranking the states by total turnout in 2008 and their growth in turnout over the past three Presidential election years of 2004, 2000 and 1996.



America Goes the Polls notes particularly:

- Voter turnout reached 62%, a level not seen since the Kennedy and Johnson elections in the 1960s.
- Election Day Registration and Early Voting had a strong positive impact on voter turnout in 2008, and campaign spending geography continued to impact local turnout.
- Recent upward participation trends of traditionally underrepresented constituencies continued into 2008, with data showing increased turnout among 18-29-year-olds, Latinos and African Americans.



The report also reviews structural factors that impacted voter turnout in recent elections, recommending certain key reforms to improve citizen participation in future national and local races.

The trends outlined in America Goes to the Polls indicate an important new role being filled by nonprofit communities in America's elections. George Pillsbury (Senior Policy and Development Director) states:

The unprecedented level of voter participation in 2008, and the broad success of new voting-focused programs like OhioVOTES, the Michigan Participation Project and NACHC's Community Health Vote, points to an important milestone for nonprofits in 2008. Not only are nonprofits better able to integrate voter engagement into their existing programs than ever before, but they are able to do it in a way that has a real and measurable impact on overall voter participation and election administration at a local, statewide and nationwide level.

NVEN (Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network) is a network of state and national engagement initiatives anchored in the nonprofit sector. We provide resources and training to expand the role of America's nonprofits in increasing voting, promoting democracy and encouraging active civic participation of all kinds.