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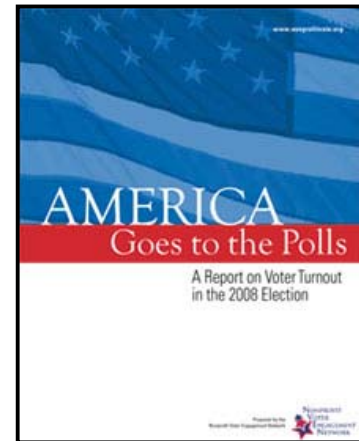
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The Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network Releases
America Goes to the Polls
A Report on Voter Turnout in the 2008 Election

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**.

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 major findings include:

- **Voter turnout reached 62.3 % of eligible voters**, a level not seen since the Kennedy and Johnson elections in the 1960s. It marks the third consecutive turnout increase in a presidential race.
- **25 states reached their highest turnout** since the U.S. Election Project began keeping records in 1980. The South Atlantic states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia led turnout gains.
- Recent upward participation trends of traditionally underrepresented constituencies continued into 2008, with **increased turnout among 18-29-year-olds, Latinos and African Americans**.
- **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.

Voting groups contributing to high turnout in traditionally lower turnout communities indicate an important new, nonpartisan role being filled by nonprofit communities in America's elections.

"The unprecedented level of voter participation in 2008, and the broad success of new voting-focused programs like OhioVOTES, the Michigan Participation Project and Community Health Vote of the National Association of Community Health Centers, points to an important milestone for nonprofits in 2008," says George Pillsbury, NVEN's Senior Policy Director. "Not only are nonprofits and service agencies are 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 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. It 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.