

The 2012 Turnout Battery

2004 Wording

- (OLD) In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time.

How about you--did you vote in the elections this November?

- Yes, voted
- No, didn't vote
- Don't know
- Refused

- (NEW) In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time.

Which of the following statements best describes you:

- One, I did not vote (in the election this November)
- Two, I thought about voting this time - but didn't
- Three, I usually vote, but didn't this time
- Four, I am sure I voted

2008 Wording (Splice/old)

- In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. Which of the following statements best describes you:
 - One, I did not vote (in the election this November)
 - Two, I thought about voting this time - but didn't
 - Three, I usually vote, but didn't this time
 - Four, I am sure I voted

2008 Wording (Splice/new)

- In asking people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, they didn't have time, or something else happened to prevent them from voting.
And sometimes, people who usually vote or who planned to vote forget that something unusual happened on Election Day one year that prevented them from voting that time. So please think carefully for a minute about the recent elections, and other past elections in which you may have voted, and answer the following questions about your voting behavior.
- During the past 6 years, did you USUALLY VOTE in national, state, and local elections, or did you USUALLY NOT VOTE?
- During the months leading up to the elections, did you ever plan to vote, or didn't you plan to do that?
- Which one of the following best describes what you did in the elections that were held November 4th?
 - 1. Definitely did not vote in the elections
 - 2. Definitely voted in person at a polling place on election day
 - 3. Definitely voted in person at a polling place before election day
 - 4. Definitely voted by mailing a ballot to elections officials before the election
 - 5. Definitely voted in some other way
 - 6. Not completely sure whether you voted or not

2012 Wording

1. Are you registered to vote at this address, registered at a different address, or not currently registered?
2. How many years have you been registered to vote at this address?
3. Some people register to vote under their full name and others use different versions of their name. Others might have changed their name since they registered. What about you? Under what name are you registered to vote?
4. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. Which of the following statements best describes you:
 - One, I did not vote (in the election this November)
 - Two, I thought about voting this time, but didn't
 - Three, I usually vote, but didn't this time
 - Four, I am sure I voted

Turnout Rates

Year	ANES Turnout	Actual Turnout*	Difference
2004	77%	61%	16
2008	78%	62%	16
2012	78%	59%	19