

THE STATE OF BLACK CIVIC PARTICIPATION REPORT:
Momentum for a Black Agenda





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“Having a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the civic landscape in Arizona allows us to create opportunities for our community, build a bench of future leaders and ensure representation throughout the state.”

- *Quiana Dickenson,*
Chair of Arizona African American Caucus



The State of Black Arizona creates a platform for the synthesis of data, demographics, and research that informs the community on the status of African Americans in Arizona. The data is intended to help community leaders and organizations with action planning and decisions related to the issues and concerns of the state. We believe as a result of this work, the data will compel both the leadership and grassroots community to make a concerted effort to provide solutions that improve the lives of all Arizonans.

We execute our mission by providing Reports, Publications and Leadership.

REPORTS:

Data is presented to the public by identifying the issues and concerns that are specific to African Americans in Arizona. Our focus areas are: Economic Empowerment, Education, Civic Participation, Health and Justice.

PUBLICATIONS:

Our publications provide a full-length narrative on the affairs that are important to African Americans in Arizona. As the hallmark of our work, SBAZ's publications and their complimentary dedication events serve as a historical record of African American contributions in our State.

LEADERSHIP:

The African American Leadership Institute (AALI) promotes the development and participation of African Americans in leadership roles. It serves as the principal networking resource for expertise, education and advocacy on leadership issues that are impacting our communities.

ABOUT THE REPORT

The State of Black Civic Participation nonpartisan report aims to provide critical data about the obstacles facing African Americans and recommend community investments. We seek to highlight the gaps in voter participation and civic leadership in Arizona. Our goal is to inform, strengthen and empower our community to make voting and civic participation a cultural responsibility and tradition.

Now is the time to take advantage of one of our most precious rights – the opportunity to vote. We need to come together as a collective to successfully influence any policies, bills or decisions that have an effect on our community. We have secured new leadership roles in government and have to keep this momentum going. In order to flourish at the national level, we have to start locally first.

Findings in this report affirm that civic engagement among African Americans are consistent with national trends and are in decline. At a time when civic engagement has decreased in America, we see an opportunity to raise awareness about becoming more actively involved. It is our intent to encourage potential leaders to be more active in their communities and at the state level.

BACKGROUND: STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

Out of the fifteen counties in Arizona, the highest concentration of Blacks (i.e. U.S. Census Population Estimates, July 1, 2016; statewide average is 4.9% of 6.9 million) currently reside in Maricopa County, Pima County and Pinal County.

Maricopa County's population consists of a little more than 4 million people with 198,489 being African Americans, 5% of the overall population. Pima County's population reflects 1 million people with 41,664 African Americans, 4% of the overall population. Pinal County's population reflects a little more than 415,000 people with 20,927 African Americans, 5% of the overall population.

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Yuma counties reflect more than 2% African American population. ¹

Civic Participation is a way we can get more involved in our community, it can be political or non-political involvement that focuses on the common ground. How we engage ourselves relates to the change we would like to see and the difference we want to make.



According to the American Psychological (n.d) Association, civic engagement is an “individual and collective action designed to identify and address issues of public concern”. ²

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

- Voting
- Protest
- Jury Duty

NON-POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

- Boards and Commissions
- Leadership Programs
- Volunteering

VOTER PARTICIPATION AND TURNOUT

According to the Pew Research Center in a published article on May 12, 2017, in 2016, Black voter turnout rate declined for the first time in 20 years in a presidential election, falling to 59.6% in 2016 after reaching a record-high on 66.6% in 2012. ³

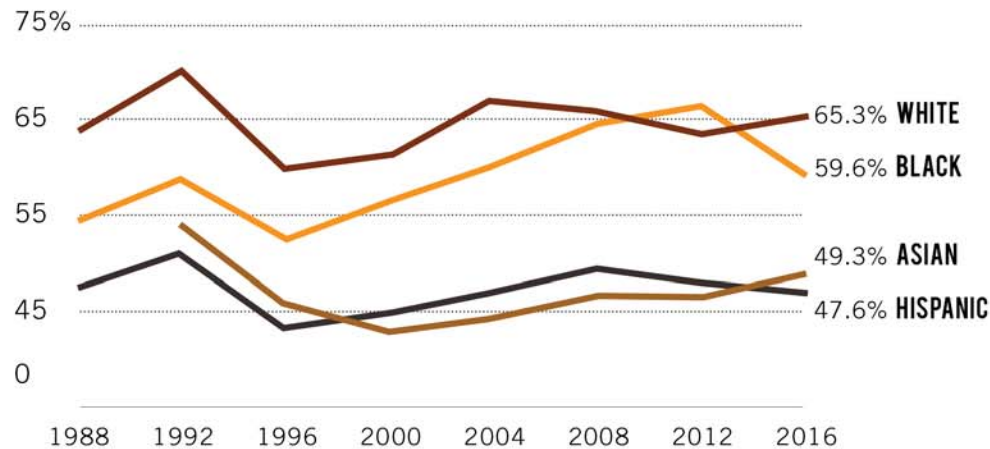
Arizona has a population of 6.9 million and has 4.7 million registered voters, African American's represent 4.4% of the voter population (208,502). According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 Annual Estimates of Resident Population, 130,000 eligible African Americans are not voting or registered to vote. This accounts for 38% of African Americans not contributing to the decisions that will have an impact on our community. ⁴

ACLU of Arizona states one out of nine voting age African Americans is disfranchisement in Arizona. Disfranchised means individuals on probation, in prison or on parole cannot vote. As a result, Arizona has the ninth highest rate of African American disfranchisement in the United States. ¹⁰



BLACK VOTER TURNOUT RATE DECLINED SHARPLY IN 2016, DROPPING BELOW THAT OF WHITES

% of eligible voters who say they voted



Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Whites, Blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Data for non-Hispanic Asians were not available in 1988. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the Current Population Survey, November Supplements for 1988-2016.



ELECTORATE PROFILES: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CITIZEN, VOTING-AGE POPULATION

ARIZONA

	ESTIMATE	PERCENT ESTIMATE
Total of citizens 18 years and older Citizen, Voting-Age Population	4,710,448	4,710,448
18 to 29 years	1,030,287	21.9%
30 to 44 years	1,095,389	23.3%
45 to 64 years	1,517,363	32.2%
65 years and over	1,067,409	22.7%
Sex		
Male	2,315,216	49.2%
Female	2,395,232	50.8%
Race*		
White alone	3,832,412	81.4%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE	208,502	4.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	210,958	4.5%
Asian alone	113,480	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	8,171	0.2%
Some Other Race alone	226,131	4.8%
Two or More Races	110,794	2.4%
Hispanic Origin**		
Hispanic or Latino	1,034,735	22.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	3,675,713	78.0%
White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	3,089,276	65.6%
Citizens 25 years and older	4,095,353	4,095,353
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,185,885	29.0%
Citizens for whom Poverty Status is determined	4,594,371	4,594,371
Below Poverty Level (Poverty Rate)	613,564	13.4%
Households***	2,266,796	2,266,796
Households with income \$100,000 or more	491,408	21.7%

2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

*Except where noted, "race" refers to people reporting only one race.

**Hispanic refers to the ethnicity category and may be of any race.

***Households with citizen householders.

An (X) means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Table 10. Reasons for Non-Voting by Characteristics, November 2014. The top three reasons from a sampling of 6,000 African Americans were:

1. Too busy, conflicting schedule
2. Not Interested
3. Illness or Disability

Forgot to vote, out of town and did not like the candidates or the issues were other reasons why voters did not participate. These findings were the same across all age ranges and educational attainment. 5.



"The One Thing You've Got Going: Your One Vote"

- Shirley Chisholm

ARIZONA'S CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

According to the National Conference on Citizenship, NCoC: Strengthening Civic Life in America program, defines “civic health” as a way that communities are organized to define and address public problems. They state communities with strong indicators of civic health have high employment rates, stronger schools, better physical health and more responsive government. 6.

Dr. Lattie Coor and the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA), was instrumental in producing the first ever report on the actions of Arizonans that influence government and the actions that build community.

In 2012, the Center produced its 2nd report on Arizona 2011 Civic Health Index highlighting the levels of civic engagement and citizen goals captured by Gallup Arizona Poll and the Arizona We Want report. 7.

While the Civic Health Index, 10 Key Results index does not specifically identify a breakdown of ethnicity and racial groups. The index provides a platform of opportunities to increase building action in our community to response to why African Americans register, do not vote, and/or disengage in civic participation in our community.



ARIZONA CIVIC HEALTH INDEX: 10 KEY RESULTS

ACTION	AZ	US	US RANK
Volunteer ¹	23.3%	24.9%	35
Work with neighbors to fix something ¹	5.7%	7.6%	48
Attend a public meeting ¹	5.3%	8.2%	51
Voted in 2014 Midterm ²	40.6%	41.9%	30
Do favors for neighbors ³	7.0%	12.1%	51
Always/sometimes vote in local elections ²	57.1%	58.5%	40
Contact/visit with public officials ³	9.3%	10.8%	46
Discuss politics frequently ³	25.5%	27.0%	41
Make charitable gifts (\$25 or more) ¹	47.3%	49.4%	37
Belong to at least one organization ³	30.9%	36.3%	47

1. U.S. Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), 2015 Volunteering Supplement

2. Voter turnout nationally is based on “eligible” voters, not “registered” voters to make state-to-state comparisons possible.

Not all states required voter registration and not all have the same registrations requirements.

3. U.S. Census, Current Population Survey (CPS), 2013 Civic Engagement Supplement.

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES AND ELECTION GENERATIONAL GAP

Researchers have long described the characteristics of different generational groups in Americans and how those attributes affect their attitudes and behaviors. The generational differences are simplistic, however, the characteristics analysis provides a valuable guide on how groups think and feel. This chart utilizes the Pew Research Center characteristics language for three of four generational groups. 8.

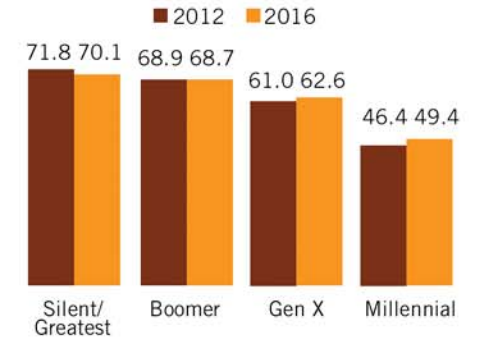
GROUP	BORN	AGE	CHARACTERISTICS
Millennial	1981 - 1993	18-30	49% of eligible Millennials turned out to vote in 2016, versus 46% in 2012. ⁹ Consistently liberal views on many social and governmental issues; Experiencing high rates of unemployment, but still upbeat.
Generation X	1965-1980	31-46	63% of eligible Gen Xers turned out to vote in 2016, versus 61% in 2012. ⁹ Similar to Millennial on social issues grown critical of government over the last decade.
Baby Boomer	1946-1964	47-65	69% of eligible Baby Boomers turned out to vote in 2016, consistent with 2012. ⁹ Express as much frustration with government with those born between 1928-1945. Uncertainty has many planning to delay retirement; nearly half say life in the U.S. has gotten worse since the 1960s

Sources: Angry Silents, Disengaged Millennial: The Generational Gap and the 2012 Election, Pew Research Center, 2011 Pew Research Center tabulations of the 1980-2016 Current Population Survey, November Supplements Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 or older



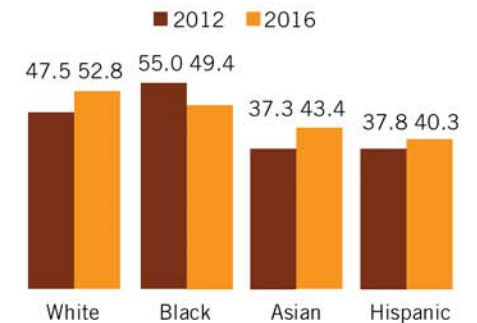
MILLENNIALS AND GEN X VOTER TURNOUT INCREASED IN 2016...

% who say they voted amount all eligible voters



...AND AMONG MILLENNIALS, BLACK TURNOUT DECREASED

% who say they voted amount all millennial eligible voters



Note: Whites, Blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics who reported a single race. Hispanics are of any race. Millennials are adults born in 1981 or later. In 2012, Millennials were ages 18 to 31.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the Current Population Survey, November Supplements for 2012 and 2016. 3.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS

African American women played a significant role in the fight for desegregation, voting rights, equal treatment for Black and brown men and women, equal pay and social movements such as Black Lives Matters. We want to encourage African American women leaders, influencers and emerging professionals to consider leadership as a movement to transform voting and civic leadership in Arizona.



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6. National Conference on Citizenship, NCoC, ncoc.org.
7. 2011 Arizona Civic Health Index, 10 Key Results.
8. Angry Silents, Disengaged Millennial: The Generational Gap and the 2012 Election, Pew Research Center, 2011.
9. Pew Research Center tabulations of the 1980-2016 Current Population Survey, November Supplements.
10. ACLU of Arizona, publication on Felony Disfranchisement in Arizona. www.acluaz.org.
Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 or older

“Black Women vote at comparatively high rates and had higher voting rates than all other groups of men and women during the last two presidential elections.”

- *The Status of Black Women in the United States*

“Black women remain underrepresented at every level of federal and state political office in the United States.”

- *The Status of Black Women in the United States*

“Black Women make essential contributions to the productivity, wealth, and success of the nation. For many years, Black women have supported their families and served as leaders in their communities and society at large.”

- *The Status of Black Women in the United States*

RESOURCES TO ENHANCE CIVIC PARTICIPATION, ACTION AND LEADERSHIP

Every Arizonan can participate in civic life and develop the knowledge, skills, commitment and networks to be a civic leader.

The following resources are intended to help Arizonans transition from awareness to the realization that civic action and leadership is a powerful asset to have. These resources are just a small example of civic support across the state and were selected to show what is available.

Some focus on skills for youth and learning the electoral process, while others cover being a candidate, exploring policy issues, increasing engagement and volunteering in communities. Inclusion is not intended as endorsement of one view or another, or as a comment on value or efficacy.

STATE-LEVEL PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Arizona Civic Exchange
Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy
Arizona Commission on African American Affairs

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

More than 50 communities across Arizona have a program intended to acquaint residents with the issues and assets in their geographical areas. An opportunity for a Director of Community Leadership is available at the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership.

STATE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

Arizona Secretary of State Elections
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

DIALOGUE AND ACTION FOR YOUTH, STUDENTS, AND ADULTS

Arizona Town Hall
DemocraSeed, Center for the Future of Arizona
Center for Civic Participation, Maricopa Community Colleges
Civic Service Institute, Northern Arizona University
Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University
National Institute for Civil Discourse

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

African American Leadership Institute, State of Black Arizona
Arizona Industry Fellows, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Arizona African American Caucus
Arizona Leading For Change
Arizona List
Dodie London Excellence in Public Service Series
Emerge Arizona
EMILY'S List



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MOMENTUM FOR A BLACK AGENDA**

The State of Black Arizona recognizes our sponsors for their dedication in support of our civic participation report to strengthen and to empower our communities to make voting and civic participation a cultural responsibility and tradition.

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