



Mobilization, Change, and Political and Civic Engagement

Election 2008 and Beyond, Wave 2

FACT SHEET: PARTICIPATION

Key Findings Include:

- More Black respondents than any other racial group reported voting in the 2008 Election.
- Only half of Latino respondents mailed their census form back to the Census Bureau in 2000
- The proportions of Black respondents and Latino respondents who reported voting for the first time were double that of White respondents.
- Black respondents were 17 times less likely to have voted for McCain than white respondents, and about 10 times less likely than Asian and Hispanic respondents.

General Findings

White respondents were the only respondents who reported voting for McCain more than Obama. Black respondents were 17 times less likely to have voted for McCain than white respondents, and about 10 times less likely than Asian and Hispanic respondents. The percentages of respondents voting for McCain are:

- 52% of White respondents
- 3% of Black respondents
- 27% of Asian respondents
- 35% of Hispanic respondents

A larger proportion of Latino respondents reported taking part in a protest, political rally, demonstration, or sit-in than any other group of respondents. The percentages are:

- 4% of White respondents
- 2% of Black respondents
- 4% of Asian respondents
- 9% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents were about half as likely to be contacted to ask for some involvement in their community as White and Asian respondents. The percentages are:

- 19% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 22% of Asian respondents
- 11% of Hispanic respondents

White and Asian respondents were more likely than Black and Latino respondents to report working with the people in their community or neighborhood on any issue or problem:

- 17% of White respondents
- 13% of Black respondents
- 17% of Asian respondents
- 11% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents were half as likely to have contacted a public official or agency as White respondents. The percentages are:

- 16% of White respondents
- 10% of Black respondents
- 8% of Asian respondents
- 13% of Hispanic respondents

Asian respondents were much more likely to receive their information from internet sources. The percentages of respondents who receive their information about politics from internet sources are:

- 49% of White respondents
- 38% of Black respondents
- 62% of Asian respondents
- 35% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents, more than any other group, report receiving their political information from groups they belong to:

- 5% of White respondents
- 13% of Black respondents
- 4% of Asian respondents
- 4% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents report receiving more of their trusted information about politics from Spanish sources (54%) than from English sources (41%).

Black respondents were more likely to have voted in the 2008 General Election than White, Asian, and Latino respondents:

- 93% of White respondents
- 95% of Black respondents
- 92% of Asian respondents
- 87% of Hispanic respondents

The proportions of Black respondents and Latino respondents who reported voting for the first time were double that of White respondents.

- 7% of White respondents
- 13% of Black respondents
- 12% of Asian respondents
- 16% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents were much less likely to have been invited to join a political group or support a political cause on social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter:

- 12% of White respondents
- 14% of Black respondents
- 15% of Asian respondents
- 6% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents and White respondents report paying about the same amount of attention to news about politics. The percentages of respondents who report paying a great deal of attention to news about politics are:

- 16% of White respondents
- 16% of Black respondents
- 12% of Asian respondents
- 14% of Hispanic respondents

Only half of Latino respondents mailed their census form back to the Census Bureau in 2000. The percentages of respondents who mailed their census form are:

- 80% of White respondents
- 71% of Black respondents
- 63% of Asian respondents
- 50% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents are much more likely to report that the places of worship, of which they are a member of, made announcements about political issues or campaigns:

- 10% of White respondents

- 14% of Black respondents
- 7% of Asian respondents
- 8% of Hispanic respondents

Black respondents are also more likely to report that their places of worship have tried to involve them in some political activity since the election. The percentages are:

- 6% of White respondents
- 12% of Black respondents
- 3% of Asian respondents
- 7% of Hispanic respondents

Latino respondents were much more likely to report that people at their children's school tried to involve them in some political activity since the election:

- 1% of White respondents
- 2% of Black respondents
- 1% of Asian respondents
- 9% of Hispanic respondents