Hennepin County Post-Election Survey Report

2022

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Introduction

In November 2022, Hennepin County Elections conducted a post-election survey. Data gathered in this survey will be used to help Hennepin County Elections make informed decisions about elections outreach and how to reduce barriers to voting. The purpose of this report is to be transparent about the data gathered and for the information within to be used as a tool for others. In this report, we will walk through the methodology, distribution, and findings, as well as the limitations of the survey.

Methodology

The survey was distributed after Election Day, November 8, 2022. Responses were gathered until the end of November 2022. All questions were optional, including the demographic questions. Responses were anonymous. Most questions were multiple choice. The survey consisted of questions related to demographics, voting method, obtaining election information and barriers to voting.
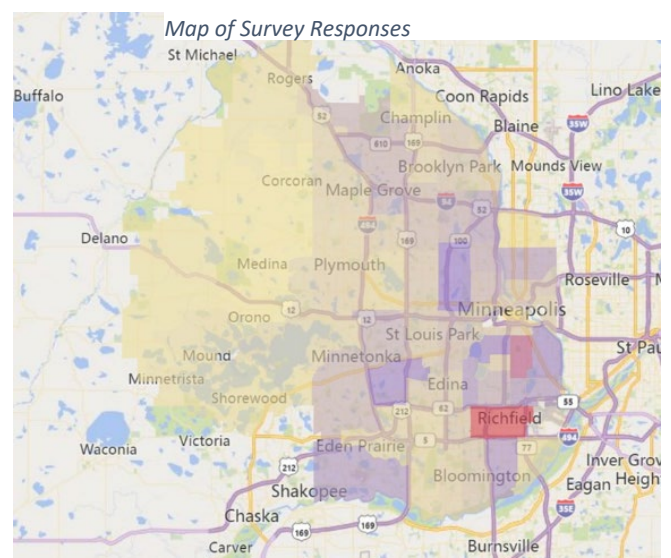
The survey was translated into five languages in addition to English: Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, and Russian. These languages were chosen as they are the most common languages in Hennepin County.
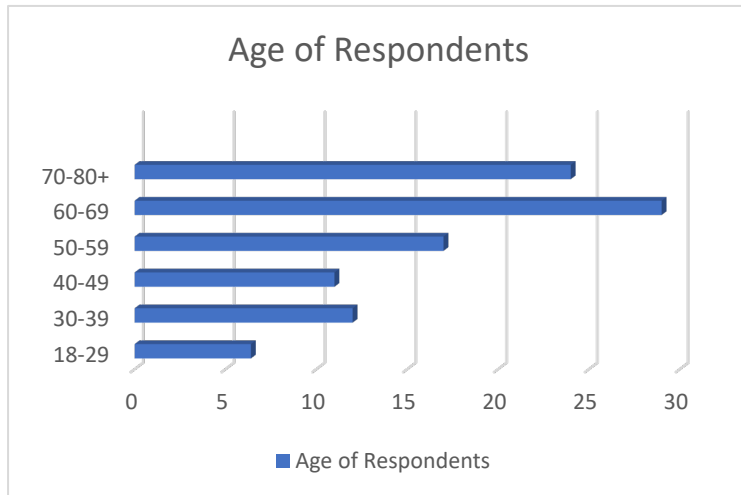
The survey was distributed via community partners, posters and in-person tabling at Hennepin County libraries and service centers, and social media ads on Facebook and Instagram. 71% of responses came from social media, 23% of responses came from community partner distribution and 6% of responses came from other methods (poster, in-person tabling, etc.). There was a total of 1,984 survey responses. This was an increase of 564 responses from the 2021 post-election survey.

Demographics

Where respondents live

To the right is a heat map of where respondents reported they lived. Of the 105 zip codes in Hennepin County, 59 zip codes were represented. We received the highest number of responses from the red sections, which hovered around 100 respondents, the top from zip code 55407 (Powderhorn, Minneapolis: 108 responses). The darker purple zip codes had between 40-50 respondents, the light purple shaded zip codes had about 30 respondents, and the yellow zip codes had less than 10 respondents.

Map of Survey Responses

Age of Respondents

Age

The majority (29%) of respondents were aged 60-69. Just 6.4% of respondents were between the ages of 18-29. 12% were between 30-39, 11% were 40-49, 17% were 50-59, 24% were 70-80 and above.
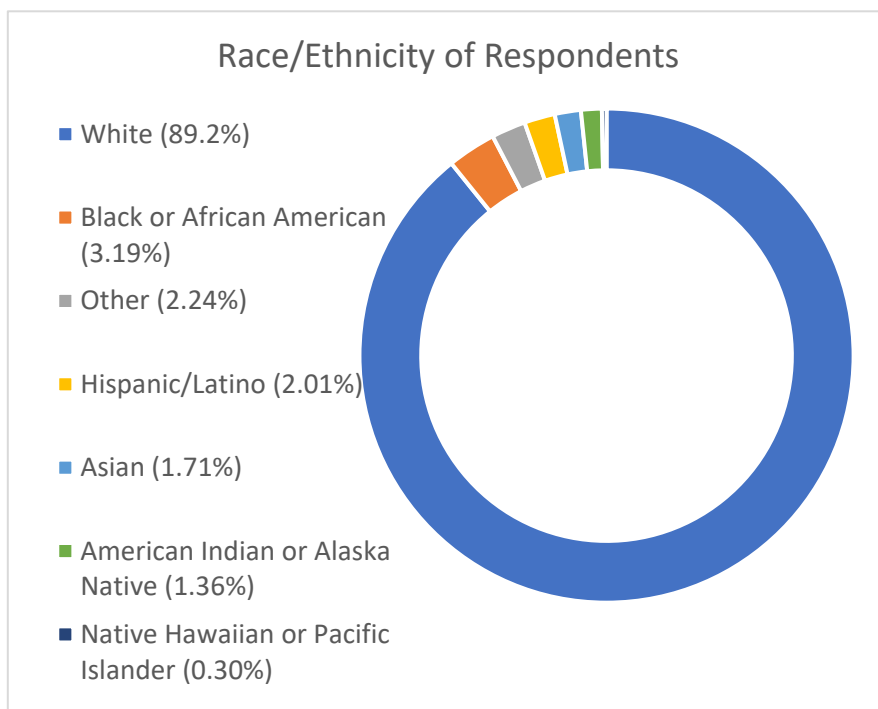
Sex/Gender

31% of respondents were male, 66% of respondents were female, less than 2% of respondents were non-binary and 1% of respondents preferred not to disclose their gender.

Race/ethnicity

The vast majority (89%) (1,511) of respondents identified as White. 3% (54) identified as Black or African American. 2% (34) identified as Hispanic/Latino. 2% (29) identified as Asian. 1% (23) identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. <1% (5) identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 2% identified as other (38).

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

- White (89.2%)
- Black or African American (3.19%)
- Other (2.24%)
- Hispanic/Latino (2.01%)
- Asian (1.71%)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (1.36%)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.30%)
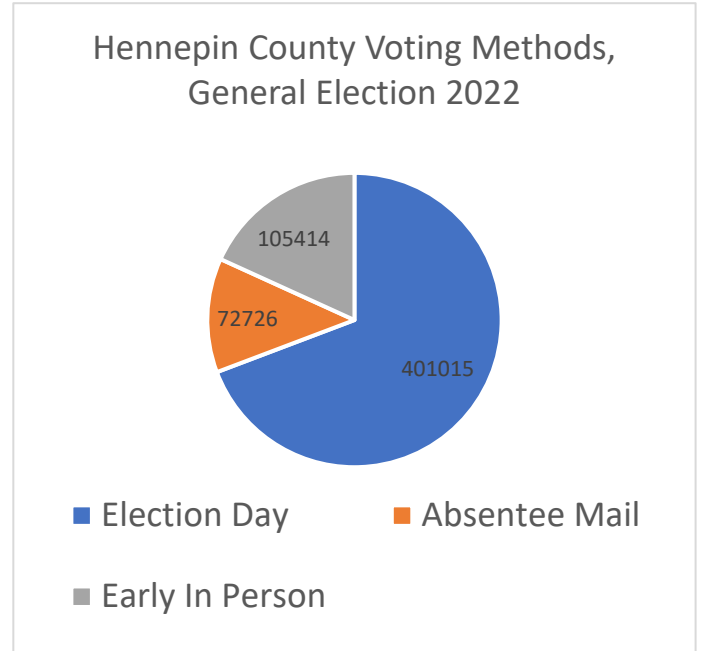
Key Findings

Election information

Most respondents (83%) found voting to be simple. Only 4% of respondents disagreed and did not find voting in 2022 simple. The vast majority (91%) of respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that they felt confident they knew the facts about our election. Only 6% of respondents were not confident they knew the facts about our elections.

91% (1,621) of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed they felt confident they knew the facts about our elections. Only 6% were not confident they knew the facts about our elections. When we asked where respondents got information about the voting process, we found respondents got election information from a variety of sources, the most popular being government websites, followed by social media and newspaper.

Voting methods

49% of respondents voted on Election Day at their polling place, while 30% voted in-person absentee before Election Day and 19% voted absentee by mail (or dropped off their mailed ballot). 1% of respondents requested a mail ballot, but then decided to vote in person instead. Finally, 1% of respondents did not vote in the November 2022 election. According to Hennepin County's total data, 69% of all voters voted in person on Election Day, 18% voted in-person absentee during the 46 days before Election Day, and 12% voted by mail (or dropped off their mailed ballot).

Hennepin County Voting Methods, General Election 2022

- Election Day: 401015
- Absentee Mail: 72726
- Early In Person: 105414

Absentee voting

Of the 49% respondents who voted absentee by mail, the majority said requesting their absentee ballot was easy. 67% of 18-to 29-year-old respondents were worried about their absentee ballot being counted, while only 18% of 80+ respondents were worried about their ballot being counted.

Election Day Voting by Race/Ethnicity

When we compare Black/African American respondents to White respondents, we see that 63% of Black/African American respondents said they voted on Election Day at their polling place, while only 48% of White respondents voted at their polling place on Election Day.

Barriers

75% of respondents reported they did not experience any barriers to voting. Most respondents did not experience long wait lines, did not struggle with transportation, and felt adequate health and safety precautions were taken at their polling place.
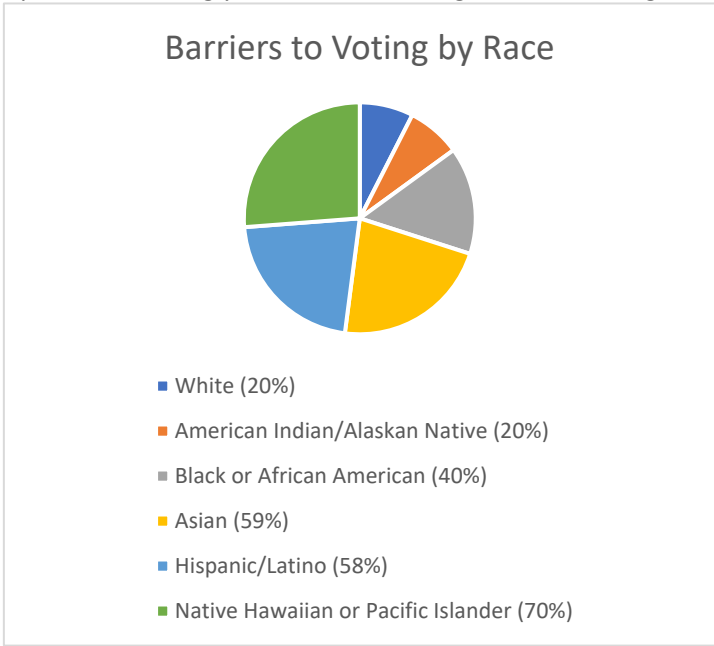
We broke down the barriers to voting based on what different races/ethnicities experienced. Only a small percentage of White respondents experienced barriers to voting. The biggest barrier to voting for White respondents was health concerns (5%) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Top Voting Barriers for
Black, Indigenous and People of Color

Hispanic/Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Mistrust (9%) - Conflicting information (8%) - Lack of information (8%)	- Health concerns COVID-19 (10%) - Lack of information (5%) - Inconvenience (5%) - Language (5%)	- Transportation (4%) - Lacked necessary documents (4%) -Health concerns COVID-19 (4%) - Mistrust (4%)	- Health Concerns COVID-19 (12%) - Lack of Information (12%)	- Mistrust (20%)

The three biggest barriers to voting for Hispanic/Latino respondents were: mistrust (9%), conflicting information (8%), and lack of information (8%). Black or African American respondents experienced barriers to voting with health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (10%), lack of information (5%), inconvenience (5%), and language (5%). American Indian or Alaskan Native respondents experienced barriers to transportation (4%), lacked necessary documents (4%) health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (4%), and mistrust (4%). The two biggest barriers to voting for Asian respondents was health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (12%) and lack of information (12%). The biggest barrier to voting for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander was mistrust (20%).

Even though most respondents found voting simple, once the data was separated by race/ethnicity, more Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander respondents strongly disagreed or somewhat disagreed that voting was simple. 3% of White respondents strongly or somewhat disagreed that voting was simple. 6% of Hispanic/Latino respondents strongly disagreed that voting was simple. 8% of Black or African American respondents strongly or somewhat disagreed voting was simple. 5% of American Indian or Alaskan Native respondents strongly disagreed voting was simple.

When separating data by race/ethnicity, BIPOC respondents experienced higher barriers to voting than White respondents.

80% of White respondents did not experience any barriers to voting. 42% of Hispanic/Latino, 60% of Black or African American, 80% of American Indian or

Barriers to Voting by Race

- White (20%)
- American Indian/Alaskan Native (20%)
- Black or African American (40%)
- Asian (59%)
- Hispanic/Latino (58%)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (70%)

Alaskan Native, 41% of Asian, 30% of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander did not experience any barriers to voting.

7% of Black/African American respondents reported having barriers to finding transportation on Election Day, compared to 1% of White respondents. 5% of American Indian or Alaskan Native respondents and 5% of Hispanic/Latino respondents struggled to find transportation on Election Day.

Respondents were given the option to write a short response to describe the barriers they experienced to voting.

Most responses included barriers around the following:

- Polling place accessibility
- Health precautions at polling places
- The process of voting absentee by mail

Limitations

It is important to note that this survey did not receive responses from demographics representative of Hennepin County.

The survey was not representative of:

- **Black, Indigenous, People of Color**
    - Only 8% (145) of respondent's self-identified as Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. According to 2020 Census data, 32.3% of Hennepin County residents are BIPOC.
- **Young voters**
    - Just 6.4% (108) of respondents were between the ages of 18-29, while people ages 20-34 in 2021 were 22.1% of the population according to the Census data.
- **First time voters**
    - Only 1.8% (34) of survey respondents reported being first time voters.
- **Voters with special circumstances**
    - Respondents of this survey did not represent people with unique circumstances. None of our respondents reported being active miliary or living overseas or living in healthcare facilities. Only 11 respondents reported not voting in the 2022 general election.
- **Sex/Gender**
    - Respondents of this survey overrepresented females by 16%. Males and non-binary people were underrepresented.

Conclusion

Hennepin County has highly engaged voters and this survey reflects that most people find the process simple. However, BIPOC respondents faced higher barriers to voting than White respondents. Hennepin County Elections outreach has focused on reaching communities who have historically experienced barriers to voting and will continue this effort. Community organization voter outreach contracts are one way that we are reaching these communities, in addition to targeted media, as well as other

outreach tactics. In 2019, Hennepin County Election staff conducted focused community conversations to better understand barriers to voting. We plan to do this again in 2023. Additionally, we plan to conduct a post-election survey in 2024 and will have a greater focus on getting more demographically representative responses.