



Voter Turnout

International IDEA, June 2019

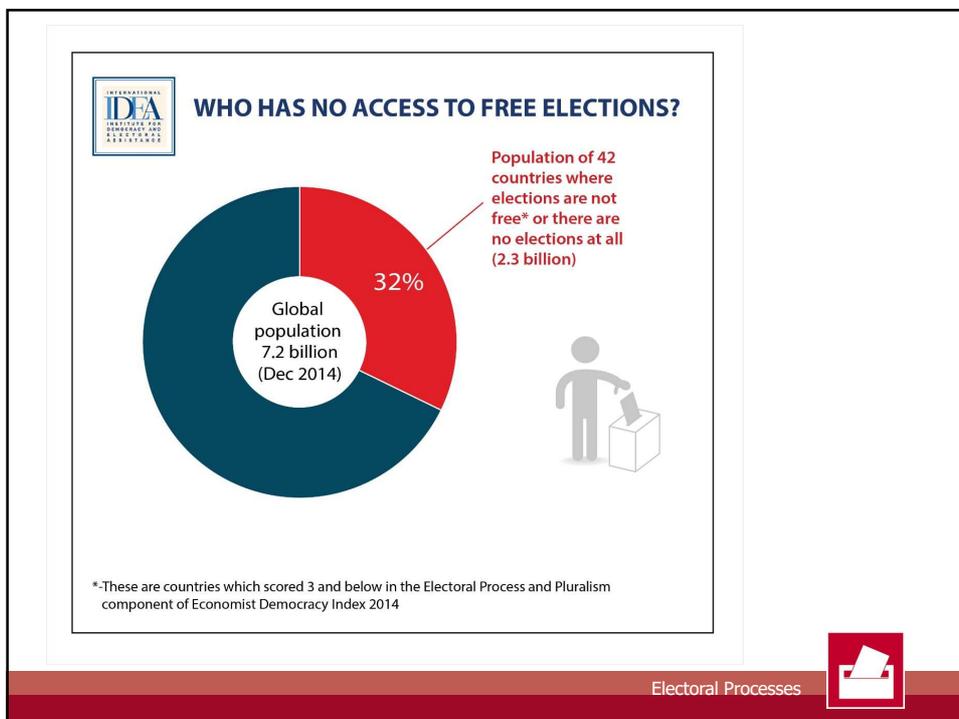
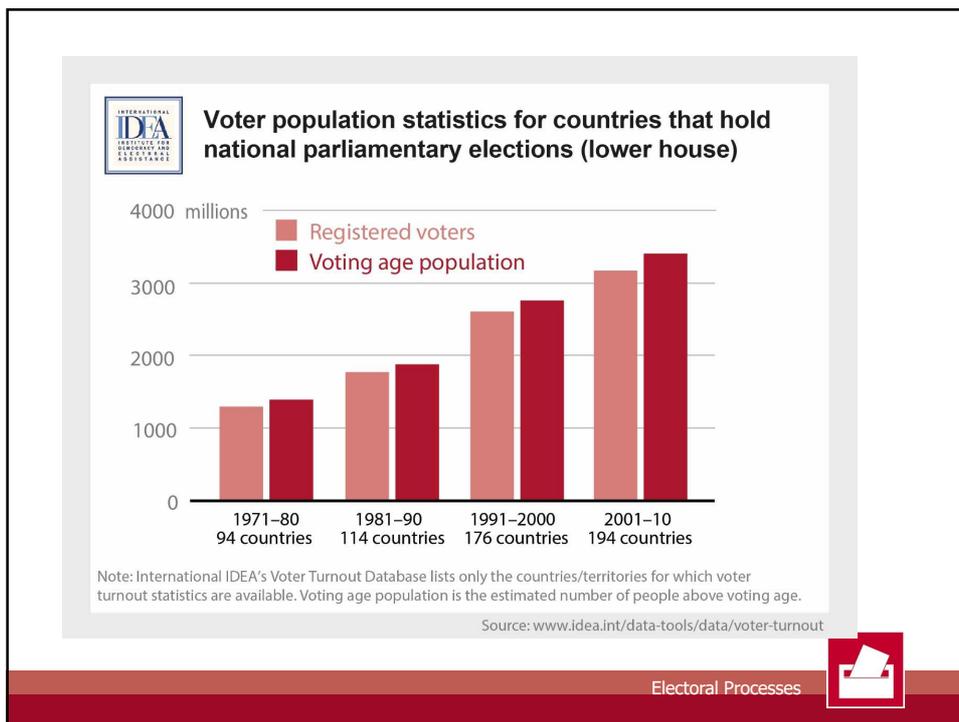
Electoral Processes

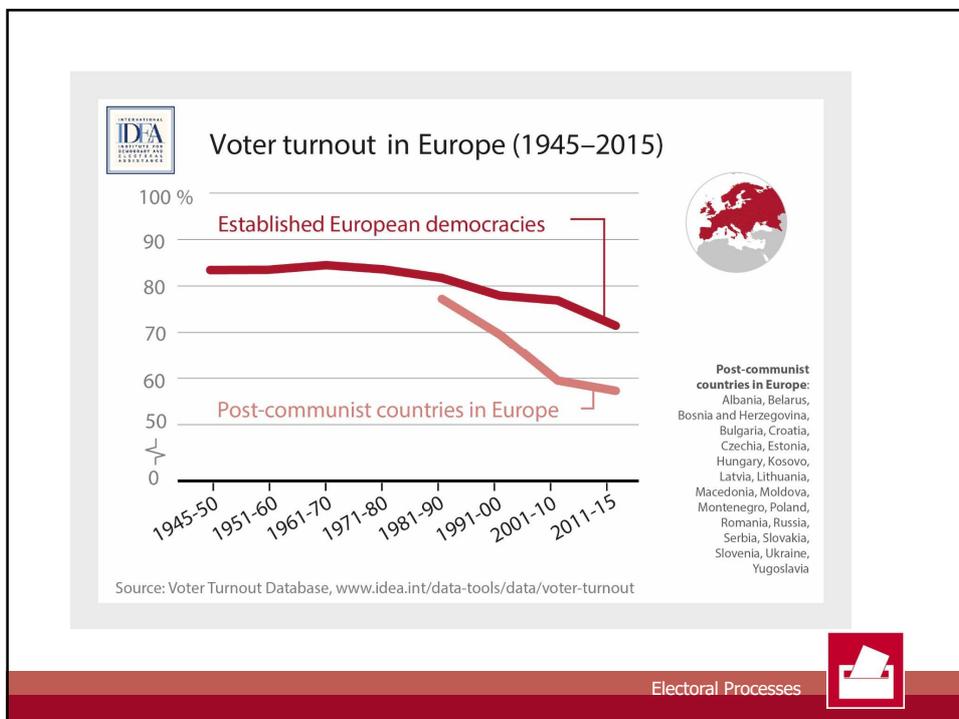
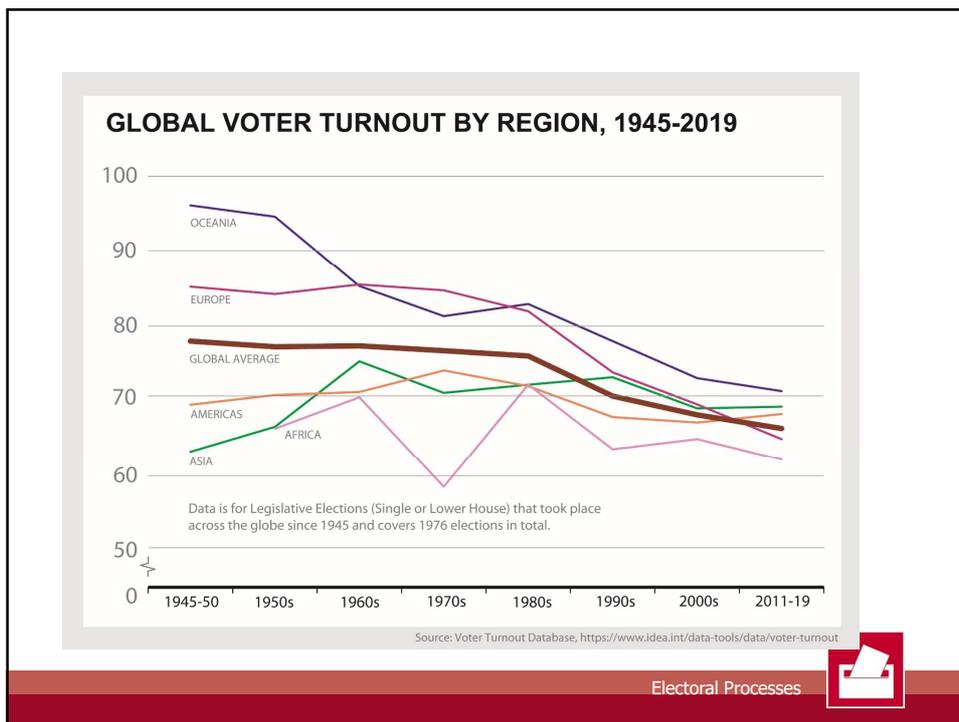


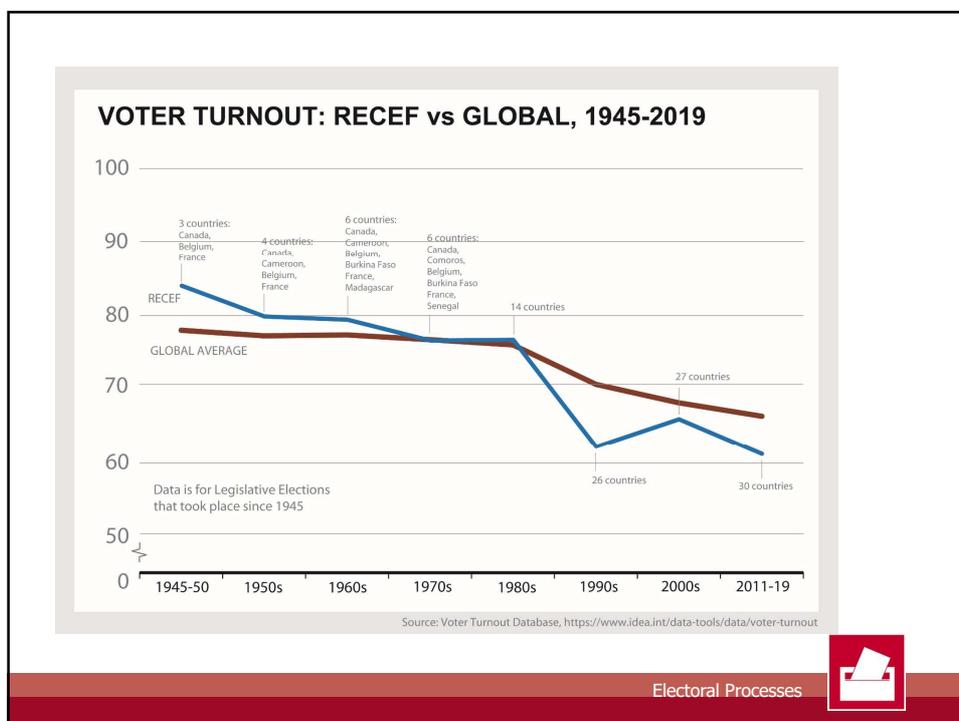
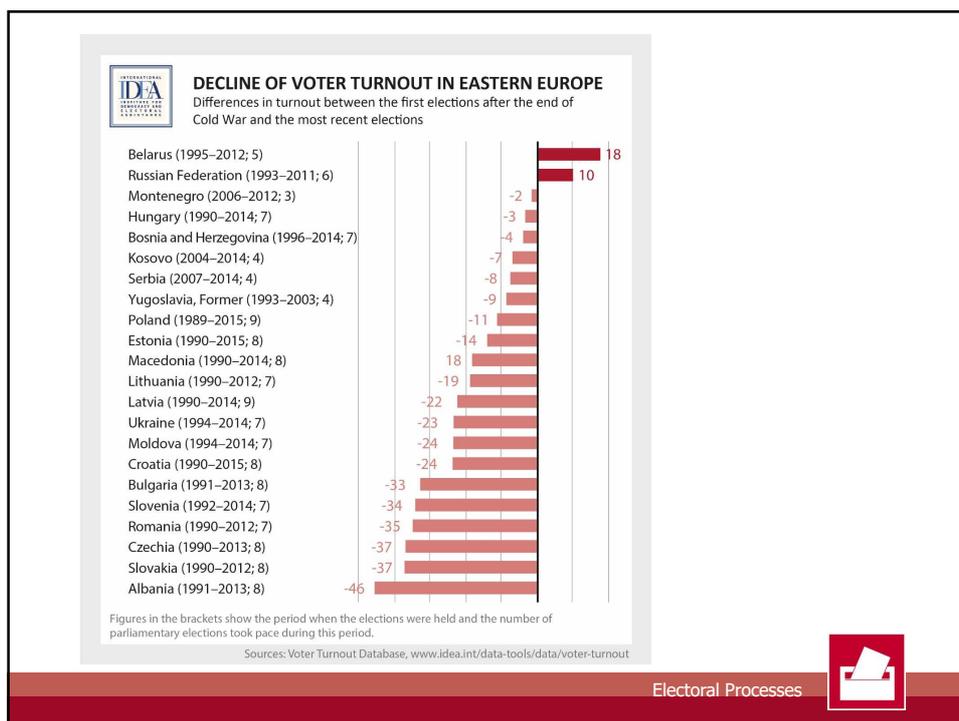
Global trends in voter turnout

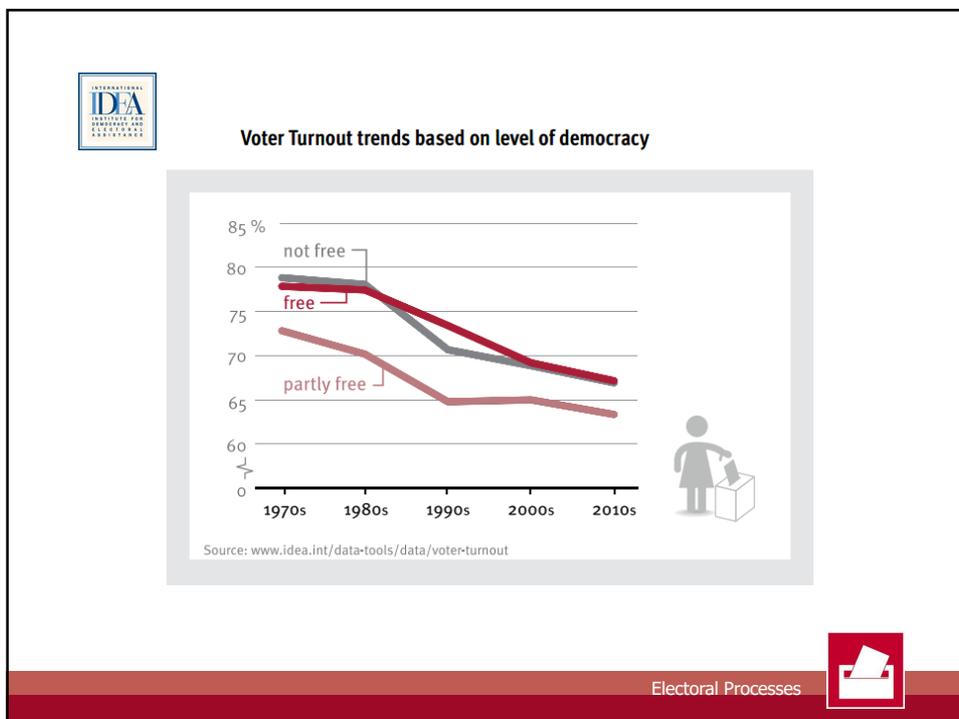
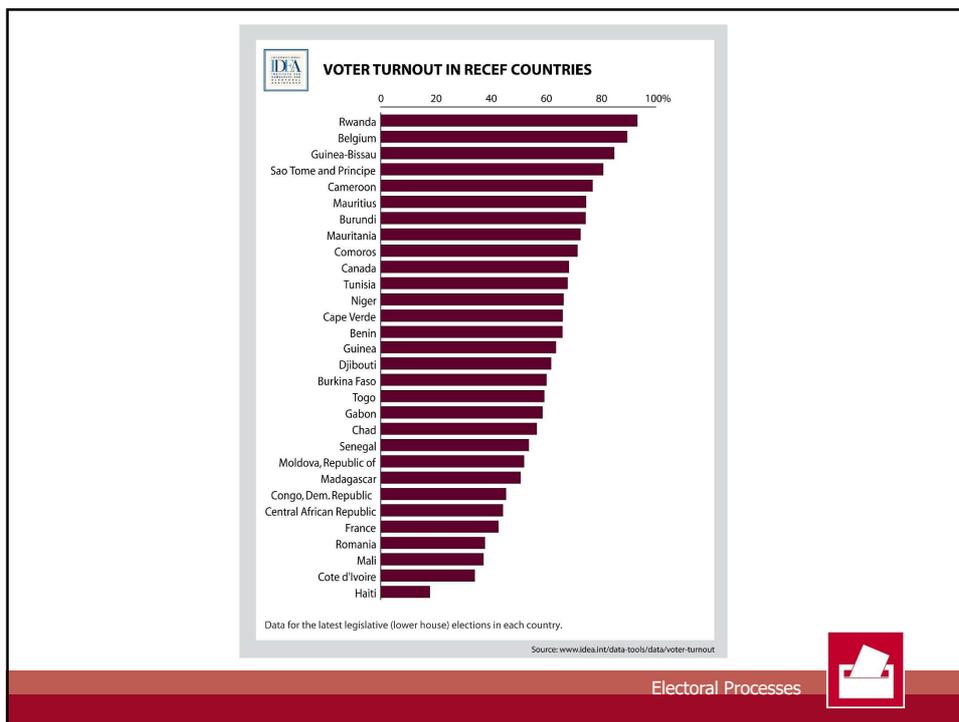
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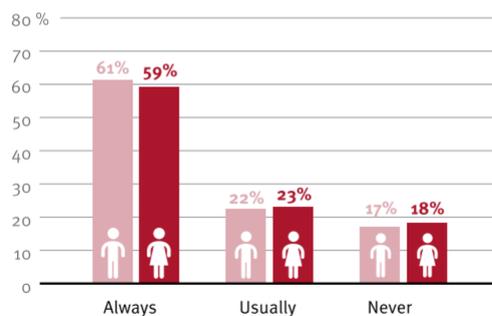






Difference in voter turnout between women and men

Do you vote in national elections?

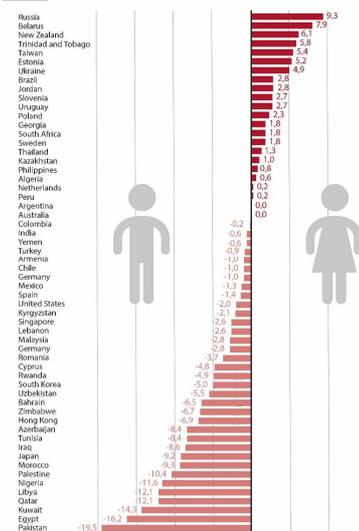


Source: World Values Survey, Sixth wave (2010–14). Data were collected from 59 countries.

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DIFFERENCE IN VOTER TURNOUT BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN



Note: the bars represent the difference between the percentage of female and male respondents who answered "always" to the question "Do you vote in the national elections?".

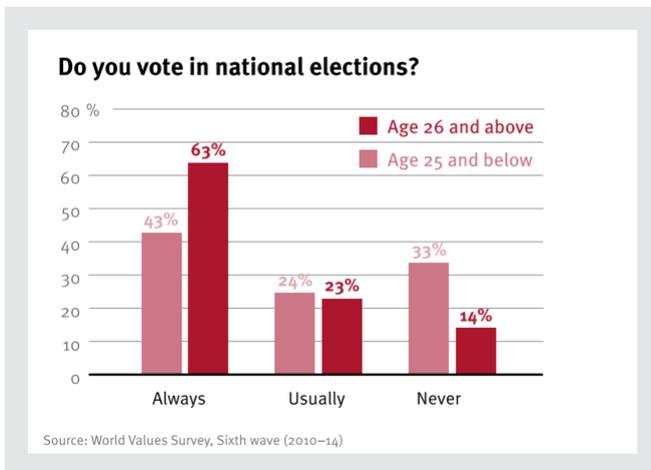
Source: World Values Survey, Sixth wave (2010–14)

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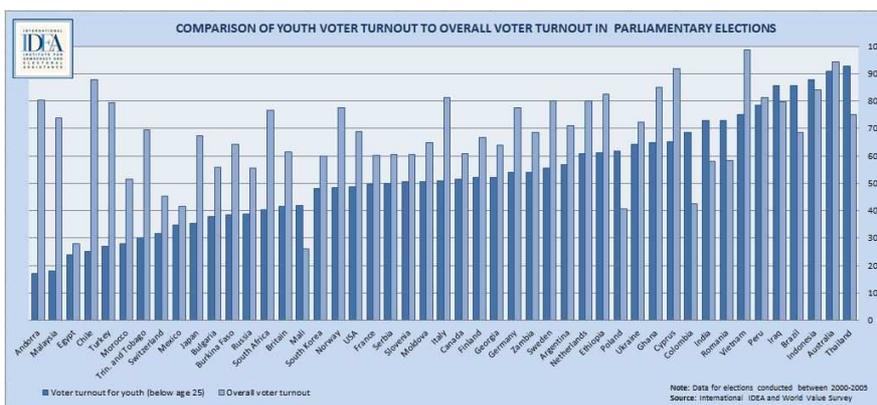




Differences in voter turnout by age



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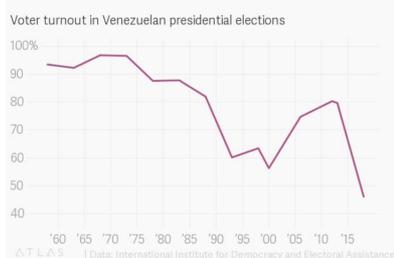
The Election Legitimacy Problem: - how low is too low?

Electoral Processes



'SIX MORE YEARS Venezuela's record-low voter turnout is the latest chapter in the death of its democracy'

June 18 2018 REUTERS/CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS



Nicolás Maduro: "The revolution is here to stay!"



What factors affect voter turnout?

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS:

- **Population size** (turnout is higher when population is smaller);
- **Population stability** (frequent movement from one place to another decrease people's desire to engage in political processes);
- **Economic development** (people are more engaged in political processes in developed countries).

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What factors affect voter turnout?

POLITICAL FACTORS:

- **Closeness of elections** (the closer the election between parties or candidates is expected to be, the higher the likelihood that voters will cast their vote);
- **Perception of political issues at stake** (important issues at stake increase voter turnout);
- **Campaign expenditures** (more money spend on campaigning increase awareness of an election);
- **Political fragmentation** (some argue that the availability of more parties gives more options to voters, and thus increase their desire to vote)

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What factors affect voter turnout?

INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS:

- **Electoral system** (turnout is higher in proportional systems compared to plurality/majority systems);
- **Compulsory voting** (when people are obliged to vote, turnout increases dramatically);
- **Concurrent elections** (when several elections take place on the same day voter turnout is usually higher);
- **Registration requirements** (In some settings, registration may entail burdens on voters (e.g. costs, travel) and these can affect registration and turnout rates);
- **Voting arrangements** (The design of various types of voting arrangement can have an impact on voter turnout.).

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What factors affect voter turnout?

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS:

- **Age** (as stated earlier, youth voter apathy is a primary source of concern in many countries);
- **Education** (higher levels of education can generally be associated with higher rates of voter turnout);
- **Political interest** (the more a person is interested in politics, the higher is his/her likelihood to vote in elections);
- **Civic duty** (a perception of civic duty is one of the most crucial factors affecting attitudes to voting in elections).

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What factors affect voter turnout?

... AND MANY OTHER FACTORS:

- **Perceived level of corruption** (according to Sundström and Stockemer (2015), perceptions of corruption in government services suppress citizens' desire to turn out on election day);
- **Perception of electoral fairness** (Birch (2010) finds that perceptions of electoral integrity are positively associated with voter participation);
- **Decentralization** (Blais et al. (2011) find that decentralization increases turnout in regional elections);

The list goes on ...

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