



Count US IN Civic Engagement Survey: 2026 Indiana Youth Voter Data Report

By: Jalyn Radziminski, JD

Background

The purpose of Count US IN's Civic Engagement Survey was to capture what issues voters care the most about, as well as barriers, sentiments, and opportunities around voting. The survey was shared at community tabling events, one-on-one in interactions, conferences, pride parades, marches, and Juneteenth celebrations across the state. It was also circulated through Count US IN social media and newsletter platforms to foster wider circulation. Data was collected from March to November 2025.

This survey was conducted and designed by Count US IN's 2025 Racial Justice and Accessibility (RJA) Fellows with the guidance and resources of Count US IN staff. 2025 Count US IN RJA Fellows include: Briana Andrews, Cierra Johnson, and Chad Williams. Count US IN Staff members that guided and supported this project include: Rianne Henderson, Sarah Leone, and Jalyn Radziminski, JD. A special thank you to Joshua Hooks, PhD for data visualization assistance.

Key Findings

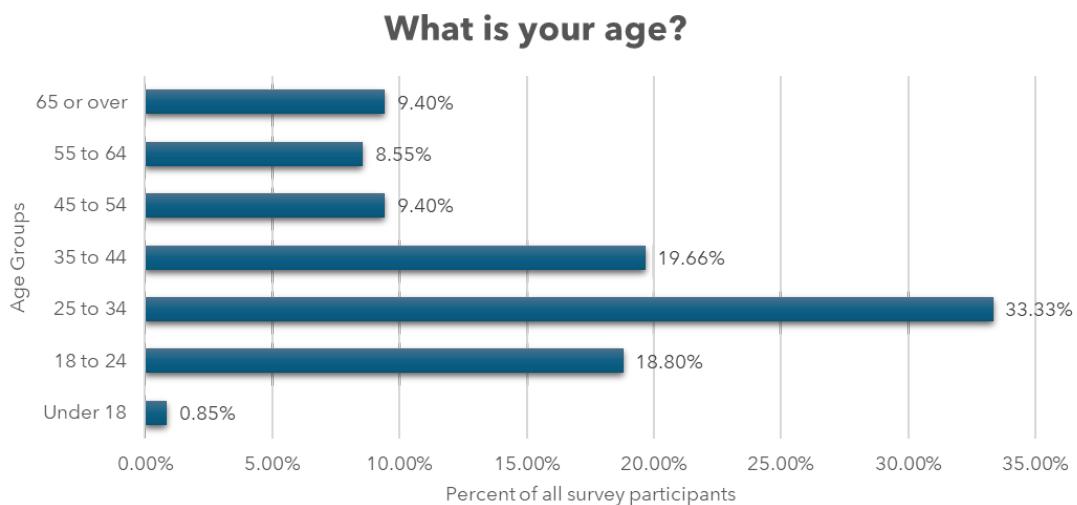
When participants were asked how they feel about politics right now, the majority responded that they are angry and that the system is broken (53%). The second and third most common responses respectively reported that they are passionate and all in (17.9%), and exhausted due to too much drama (12%).

Although Young voters (ages 18-34) feel angry that the system is broken, they report that they are highly likely to vote in the next primary election and want to be involved in civic engagement beyond voting or learn how. Low trust in and dislike of candidates as well as sentiments that elected officials do not care about them are deterrents to voting. Voters ages 35 and older were more likely to report that their vote didn't matter (29.09%) compared to youth voters (19.6%). Youth voters are more likely to report multiple issues that they care about and would feel more powerful if they could receive clear information on how the policies impact their lives followed by seeing representation of people like them elected to office. To improve voting accessibility, over half of young surveyed voters believe more at home ballot options could address the issue.

Survey Respondents

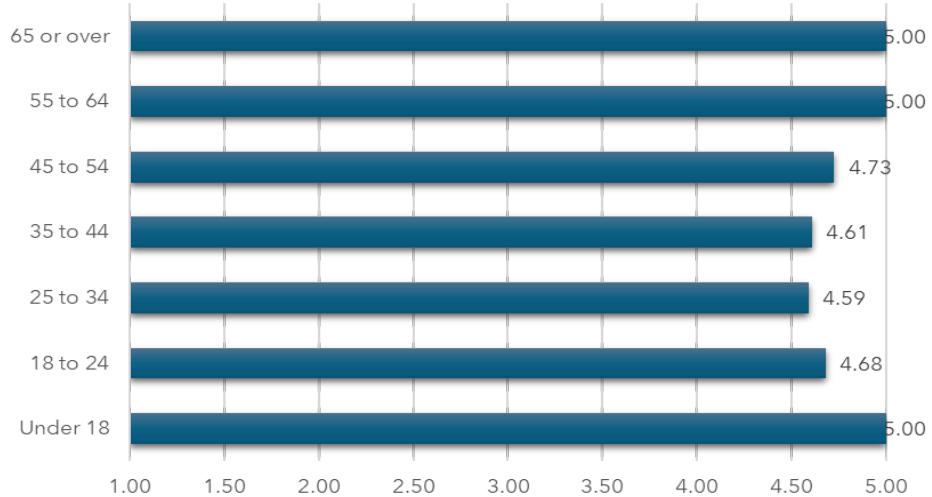
117 individuals responded to this survey and reported age and geography. The 53% survey respondents were 34 years old or younger, so the analysis is comparative to show trends by age. Survey participants ranged from 17 Indiana counties in Indiana, which include: Adams, Allen, Blackford, Delaware, Floyd, Grant, Hancock, Huntington, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lake, Madison, Marion, Miami, Noble, Porter, and Wells Counties

Full Age Demographic Breakdown



Likelihood of voting in the next primary election:

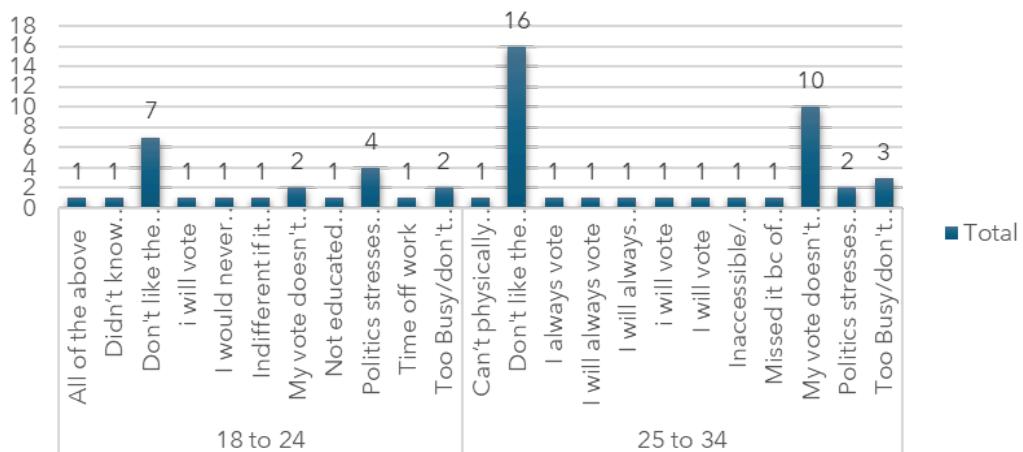
**How likely are you to vote in the next primary election?
1: Not Likely to 5: Most Likely**



Out of a scale from 1-5, no matter the age, survey respondents indicated they are likely to vote in the next primary election.

What's the biggest reason someone like you might not vote

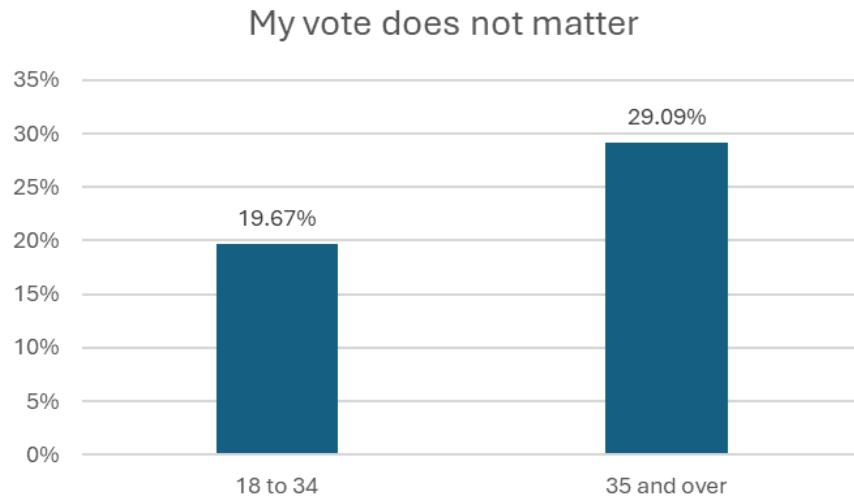
What's the biggest reason you might not vote



Other options that included only 1-3 responses included: too busy/don't know how and politics stresses me out.

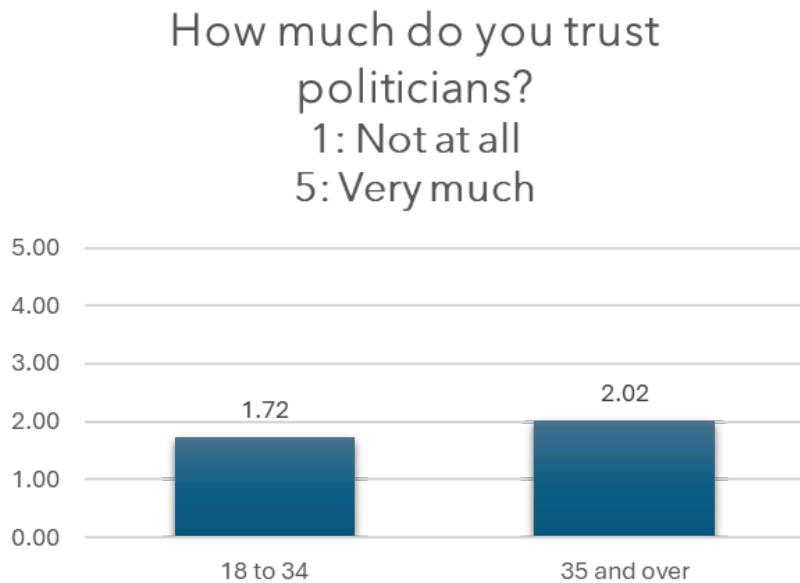
Sentiments about Political Engagement & Politics

Feelings about politics



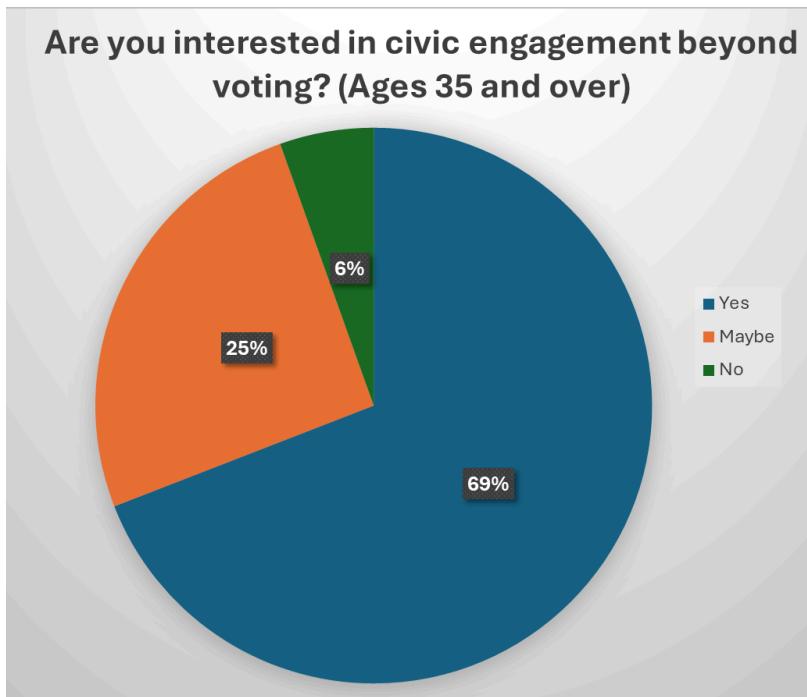
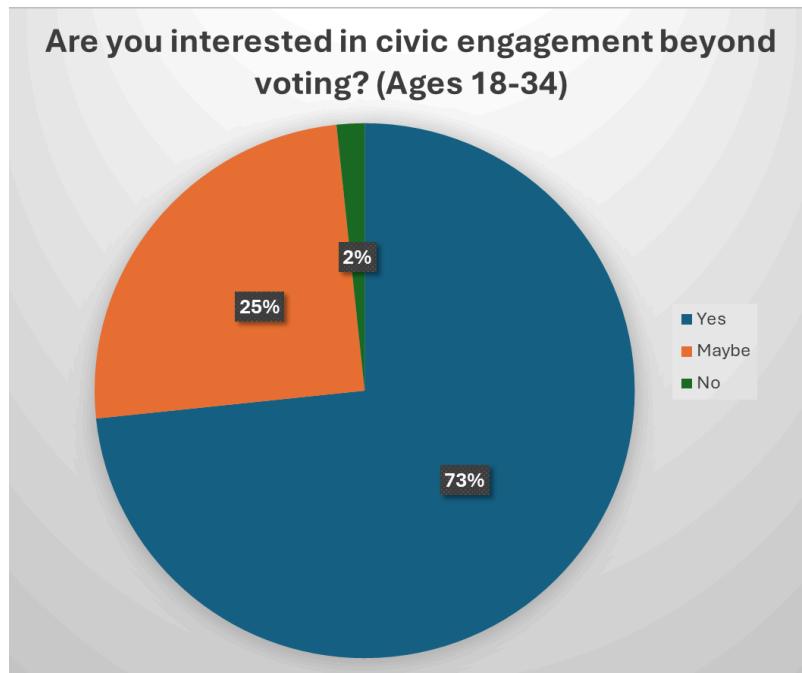
Participants ages 35 or over were more likely to report that they felt their vote does not matter.

How much do you trust politicians?



Overwhelmingly, both age groups do not trust politicians.

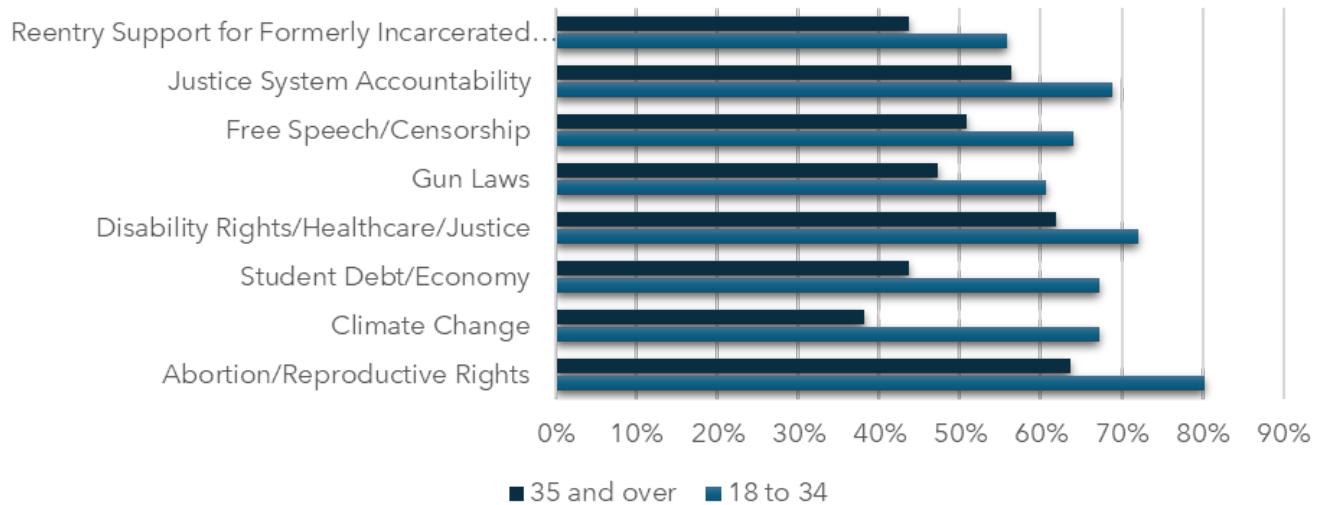
Are you interested in civic engagement beyond voting



Across age groups, overwhelmingly, individuals want to participate in civic engagement beyond voting or learn more.

What issues matter most to you?

What issue matters the most to you?



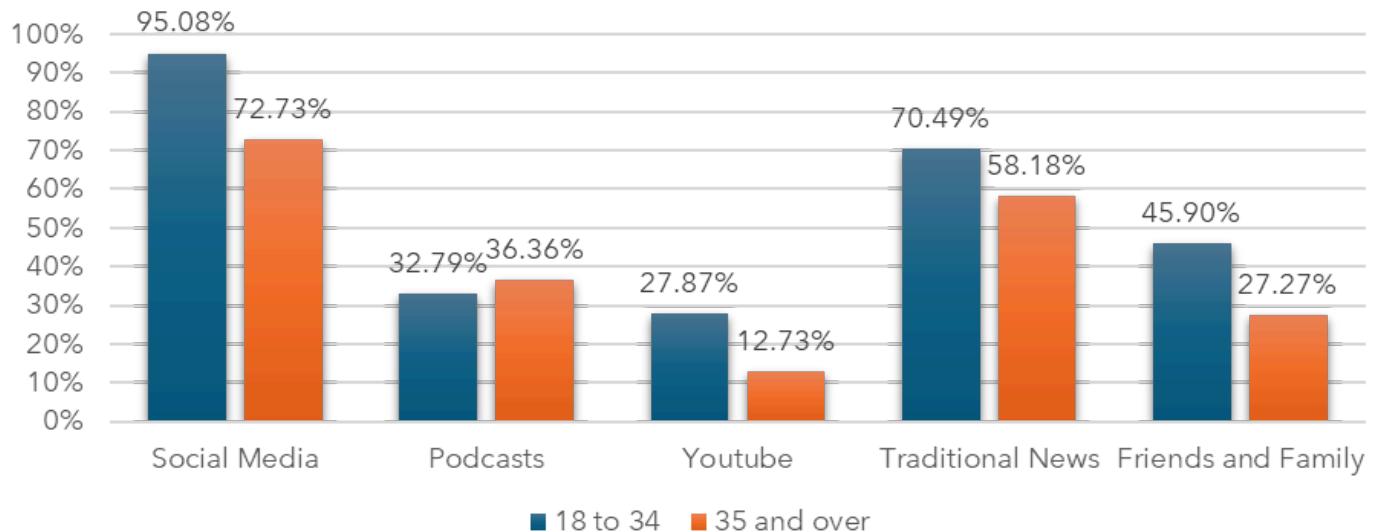
Individuals ages 18-34 were more likely to choose more issues than respondents over 35 years old. The percentage is out of the number of people who responded within that age group.

Participants wrote in responses which include (in order of thematic frequency): Black maternal health, prison labor wages, re-entry services, immigrant Rights, Disabled working rates, LGBT+ rights, voting rights & democracy, education, infrastructure, youth legislation, and religious persecution.

Barriers and Solutions

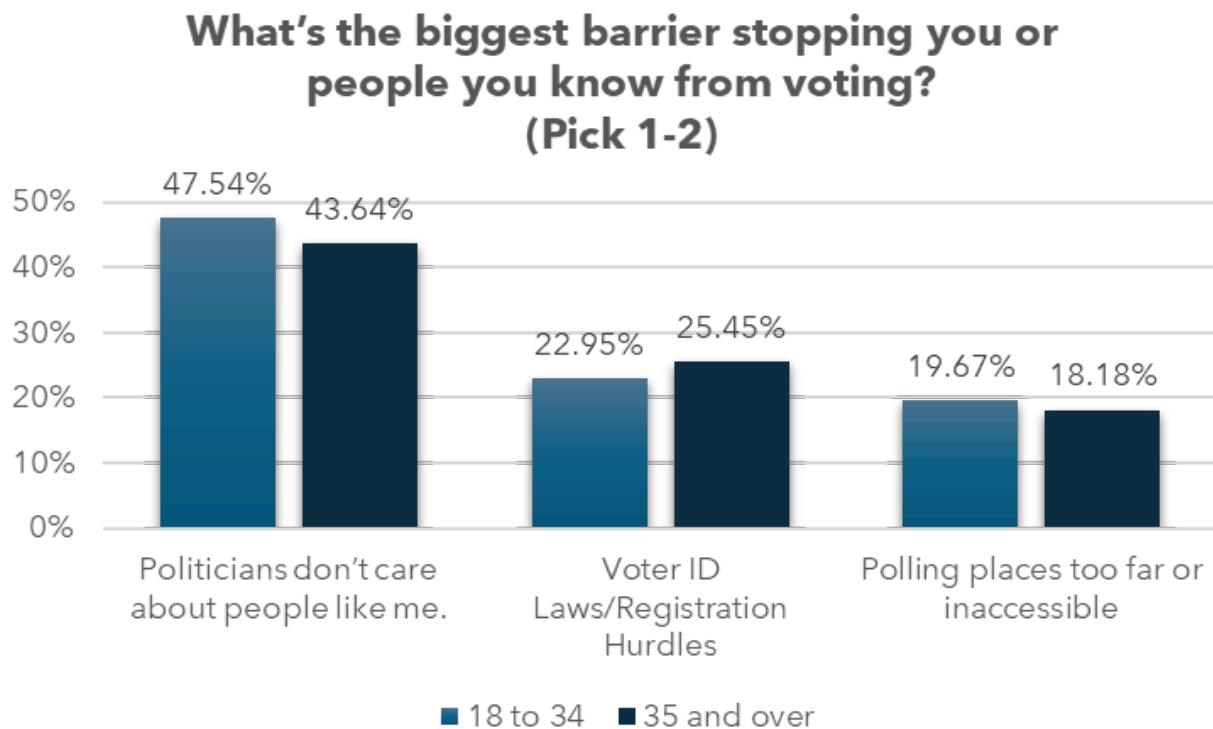
Where do you get your news from?

Where do you get your news from? (Select all that apply)



Hoosiers 34 and under generally reported multiple news sources. Comparatively participants ages 35 and over were more likely to select 1-2 sources.

What's the biggest barrier stopping you or people you know from voting

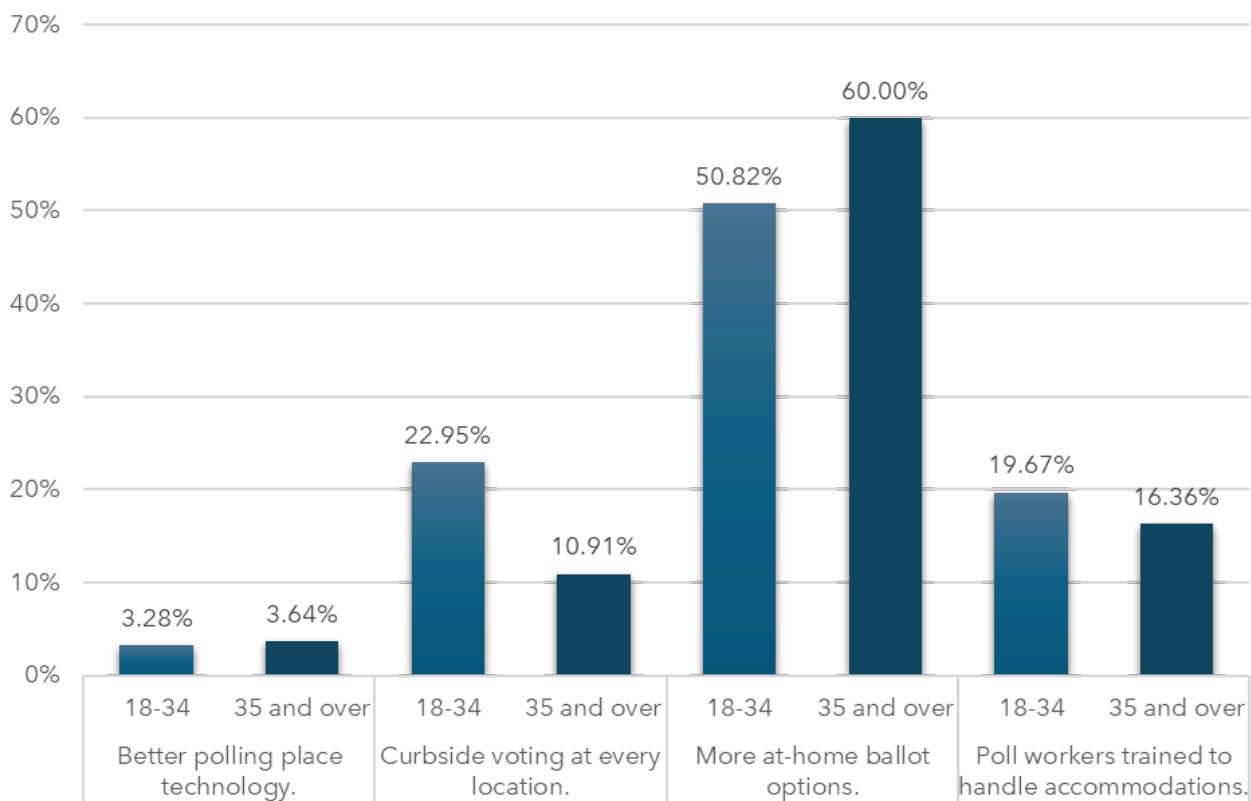


No participants chose the option, "Fear of voting while on parole/probation (even if legally allowed)."

Others write in option responses included: "fear of being ostracized for voting," "It doesn't really stop me from voting, but I feel like my vote doesn't matter," "time and energy, "voting education," and, "not educated enough on politics."

What's one change you would make to foster easier, more accessible voting?

What is ONE change you would make to foster easier, more accessible voting for the disabled community?

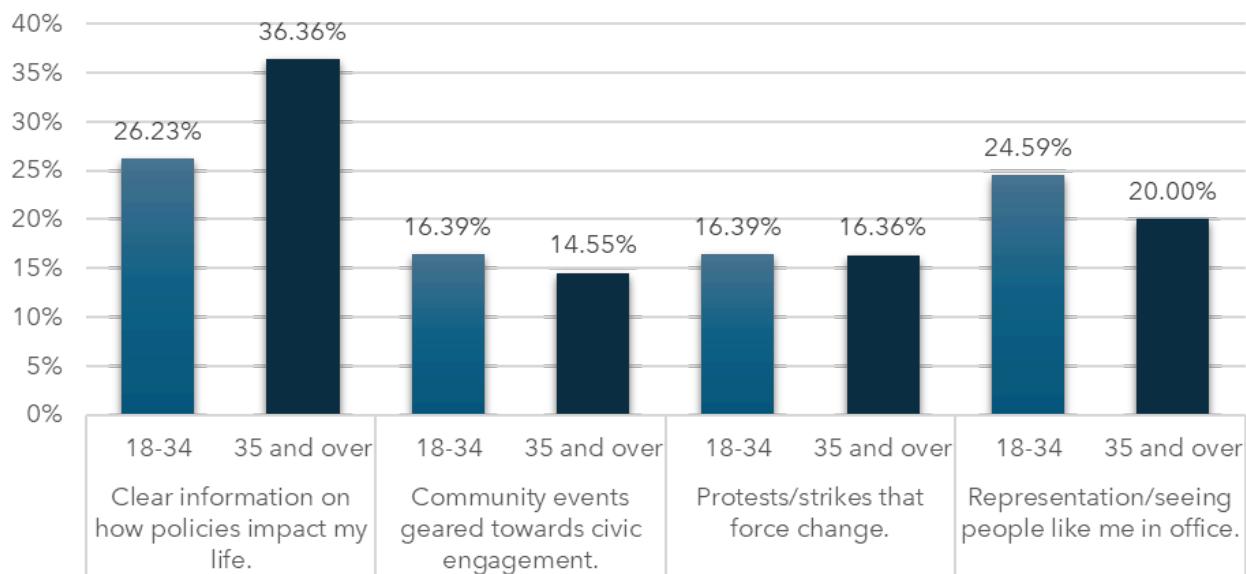


Write in responses included in the other category included:

“Transportation assistance”, “Truly accessible polling locations”, Floyd Co early voting location was difficult for those with wheelchairs and walkers to navigate”, and “All of the above”

What would make you feel more powerful in politics

What would make you feel **MORE** powerful in politics? (Pick 1)



About Count US IN

Count US IN is the first Black, Disability-Led non-partisan non-profit and movement whose mission is to uplift the voice of citizens and foster more inclusive and equitable political participation by encouraging a larger, more diverse voter turnout. We seek to educate and empower the community as well as show that our voices matter. Learn more at: countusindiana.org

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