

Student Handouts

The Power of the Youth Vote: Civics and Voting Unit for Yolo County High School Students

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Lesson One: Connecting the Youth Vote to Issues that Young People Care About

In a **democracy**, the power of government is vested in the people. There are many ways people can use their voices to influence the world around them. Voting is one way to create positive change, but there are also other ways to do so. People too young to vote, people not permitted to vote, as well as **undocumented** immigrants, foreign visitors and other **non-citizen** residents can have a great impact on our communities and nation without ever casting a vote. The possibilities are vast and include everything from creating a non-profit organization to **advocating** for one's beliefs by writing, speaking or performing to **empower** others to make a difference.

In this unit, we will focus on the American electoral process as a means of ensuring that voters' voices are heard. It is important to understand the significance and function of these processes to be able to use them to express your wishes and protect your and others' rights.

The United States is a **representative democracy** in which **elected officials** make political decisions that affect our lives. We vote in elections to choose our elected officials. For example, every four years we choose someone to serve as President of the United States. We also hold elections to choose local, state and federal officials such as city council members, mayors, county commissioners, judges and state lawmakers. Our elections can also include local **ballot measures** and statewide initiatives.

Elected officials need to appeal to a **majority** of voters in order to win elections and stay in office. However, this does not require them to appeal to a majority of the people they represent.

Some groups of people experience more **barriers to voting** than others and are **underrepresented** among voters. In California, data shows that young people aged 18-24 are far less represented at the polls than older people. For instance, in the 2014 California **general election**, only 8.2% of eligible youth statewide cast a vote, compared to 30.9% of all **eligible voters** (all adult citizens) in California. In Yolo County, only 6.6% of eligible youth voted, compared to 31.7% of all eligible voters.

Youth **turnout** improved in the November 2016 general election, when 36% of eligible young people in California voted, compared to 58.7% of all eligible voters. However, young voices were still underrepresented at the polls, making up only 8.8% of the 2016 general election **electorate** (the population of those who voted), even though 14.2% of California's population falls in the 18-24 age bracket. On the other hand, older citizens aged 65-74 were **overrepresented** among California voters. They comprised 11.2% of eligible voters in 2016, but cast 14.2% of the votes in the state's general election that year. In 2020, 47.4% of eligible youth voted, compared to 67.4% of all eligible voters.

Because relatively few young people in California are voting compared to older voters, **candidates** for elected office generally tailor their messages and platforms to appeal to older voters. If we want elected officials to be more responsive to the needs and opinions of young people, then young people need to register and vote in larger numbers. This can be a challenge when young people do not hear messages that resonate with their needs or the issues that they care about the most and when young people do not receive outreach from campaigns and candidates.

At election time, candidates running for office address a wide array of issues and conduct many outreach efforts to help win people's votes. However, they do not always talk about issues that might be affecting you, your family or your community the most. This discussion will help you think about how and whether your own needs and **aspirations** are reflected in today's political **contests**. In short, what do elections have to do with you?

“The Power of the Youth Vote” TEDx Talk Questions

Before watching: What percentage of eligible 18- to 24-year-olds do you think voted in the 2014 election?

1. What was the actual percentage of eligible 18- to 24-year-olds that voted in the 2014 election?
2. Who is the presenter? What is her occupation and where does she work/who does she work for?
3. What does the presenter say voting is about?
4. What movements does the presenter mention young people’s leadership and involvement in?
5. What can you do to make a change?

Lesson Two: Political Parties and the Electoral College

This lesson introduces the process of voting through background information about the political parties and the Electoral College.

Party Preference

When you register to vote you will be asked if you wish to disclose a political party preference. You may choose to identify with a political party or you may choose not to share a party preference by checking the box that says “No, I do not want to disclose a political party preference.” This choice is often referred to as “No Party Preference.” Please note that registering with the American Independent Party does not mean you are registering as “independent” of any party (i.e., having No Party Preference). This is a common misunderstanding.

Registering with a political party will not affect or limit who you can vote for in a **general election**. However, it may limit your ability to vote in a presidential **primary election**. This is the election that is conducted to select which **candidates** will run for each party in the general election. For example, the California Democratic Party currently allows independent (No Party Preference) voters to vote in its presidential primaries, but the Republican Party does not allow this. For information about the **nonpartisan ballot** that No Party Preference voters receive, visit the **Secretary of State’s** [No Party Preference web page](#).

How can you make a well-informed decision about joining a political party or registering as a No Party Preference voter? In order to learn about the political parties that qualify to have their candidates appear on California election ballots, read the [Statement of Purpose](#) for each party.

You can change your political party affiliation and address at any time by filling out a new voter registration form online or on paper. For the change to apply to the upcoming election, you must do this 15 or more days before the date of the election.

The Electoral College

When you cast your vote for mayor or governor, your vote is counted toward the popular vote. The candidate who wins the **majority** of all votes (the one who is “more popular”) is elected through a process we call **direct democracy** and becomes the nominee. But your vote is not counted the same way when you cast a vote for president in the general election. In this case, your vote tells your state **elector** how you would like them to vote when representing your state. Electors are part of an institution called the **Electoral College**.

Here is how it works: when you cast your vote for president, the votes are counted and published by your state’s elections official – in California, this is the Secretary of State. Then, the official sees whether a Democrat, Republican or third party candidate won the majority of votes in that state. Based on this information, electors from the winning party are chosen to vote for that state as members of the Electoral College. The Electoral College vote is held in December and it is this vote that officially elects our president.

There are 538 electors in total. Each state has two electors for each of its senators, plus additional electors based upon the number of congresspeople each state has in the House of Representatives, which is in turn based on the population in each state (note: the District of Columbia is an exception to this rule and has three electors). Presidential nominees need 270 Electoral College votes, in order to win the presidential election. Electors are not obligated to vote in favor of the nominee who won the majority of votes in their state. In a few states, Electoral College votes can be divided based on the percentage of the vote each party won.

How do we know who is winning during an election? When you watch a news broadcast of the election results on election night, newscasters don't have access to voting information on the spot. To get an idea of who is in the lead, newscasters ask voters whom they voted for as they are leaving polling stations. With this information, news stations are able to predict which candidate will win the majority of votes in a particular state. This gives them a sense of how the electors of that state will vote. By using an estimate of the majority of votes in each state to predict how the electors will vote, the news station can fairly accurately predict the winner of the presidential election. Still, since electors can vote for any candidate, there is room for error.

The Electoral College was established as a check against the perceived dangers of a direct democracy, or the popular vote. The institution was written into the United States Constitution as the Twelfth Amendment so that if electors thought voters were making a bad choice, they could decide against the popular vote.

In recent years, there has been a renewed debate over whether the U.S. should keep using the Electoral College system, since it does not always work as some people expect. In two of the past five presidential elections, in 2000 and 2016, the presidential nominee with the majority of votes did *not* win the majority of Electoral College votes, and therefore did not win the presidency. After both of these elections, many people questioned the United States' definition of **democracy**. They claimed that the Electoral College vote is an *indirect* process, as opposed to the practice of direct democracy used to elect all our other officials, and thus it is unfair and undemocratic. Some legislators have attempted to amend the constitution to change or get rid of the Electoral College. However, amending the constitution requires a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, plus approval by three-quarters of the states, so it is difficult to do.

Resources

- "Political Parties Rap" video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lt-f3QQ7-A
- No Party Preference web page: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/political-parties/no-party-preference
- Political Party Statements of Purpose: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/political-parties/party-statements
- "What is the Electoral College?" CNN video: www.cnn.com/2016/10/07/politics/what-is-the-electoral-college/index.html
- The Electoral College: Why Such a Big Debate? PBS Video: <https://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/is-the-electoral-college-killing-democracy-video/above-the-noise/>
- "The Troubling Reason the Electoral College Exists" *Time* magazine article: www.time.com/4558510/electoral-college-history-slavery
- "CA 120: Myth of the 'independents'" *Capitol Weekly* article: www.capitolweekly.net/trump-republican-independent-california

Lesson Three: How to Register to Vote in California

Key Data: Only about 60% of eligible young people ages 18-24 in California are registered to vote compared to over 80% of senior citizens (ages 65+).

You must be a U.S. citizen in order to register to vote. To vote in a California election, you must live in California and be registered to vote at least 15 days before the election. You can register to vote as long as you will be 18 years of age on the date of the next election, however, 16- and 17-year-olds in California can now pre-register to vote. **Non-citizens**, citizens in state or federal prison or on parole for a felony conviction, and citizens who have been declared mentally incompetent by a court are not eligible to vote in California. For more information about voting rights, read the **Secretary of State's** [Voting Rights: Persons with a Criminal History](#) and [Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship](#).

If you register to vote at least 29 days before an election, you will be mailed a sample **ballot**. This is a copy of the form you fill out to cast your vote that you can practice on. If you move to a new address before an election, you must update your voter registration by filling out a new registration form.

There are multiple ways you can register to vote:

- 1) **You can register or pre-register to vote online** on the [California Secretary of State's voter registration website](#). You will need to know your California driver license or California identification card number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. You also need to provide your home address and the name of the state or foreign country you were born in.
- 2) **You register or pre-register to vote by filling out a paper voter registration form**. You can pick up a paper form at government or public offices such as the library, post office or county elections office, or you can call 1-800-345-VOTE (8683) and request that one be mailed to you. Then, submit the completed form to the county **Registrar of Voters**. If you are still 16 or 17, submit your completed form and county registrar staff will register you to vote once you turn 18.
- 3) **You can register or pre-register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles** when you acquire or renew your driver's license or California identification card at the DMV. If you are still 16 or 17, submit your completed form and county staff will register you to vote once you turn 18.

If you have questions about how to fill in your voter registration form, the [Election Assistance Commission](#) (EAC) provides a helpful guide. The EAC also has voter registration forms in Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese, which you can download on a computer.

Voter registration applications and the Secretary of State's Voter Information Guide are available in English as well as in Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

Vote-by-Mail Preference

When you register to vote, you will be asked if you wish to have your ballot sent to you by mail before each election or whether you want to vote at a **polling place**. You have a choice to vote either way. Some people want their ballot mailed to them, as they prefer to take their time and consult friends and references while voting. Others who prefer to vote-by-mail may be working on Election Day or want to avoid possible lines at the polling place. However, other voters prefer to vote in person on Election Day. They may prefer the experience of voting in person alongside their neighbors or want to get an "I Voted" sticker to proudly display to their community. It is up to you to decide how you want to cast your ballot.

The **Vote-by-Mail ballot**, sometimes referred to as an absentee ballot, allows you to make your choices at home (or anywhere) and then either mail it in or drop it off. If you check the box to become a permanent Vote-by-Mail voter, a ballot will be mailed to the **mailing address** you provide on your voter registration for every election.

If you check the box to become a permanent Vote-by-Mail voter, you can still go to the polls to cast your vote. If you choose not to become a permanent Vote-by-Mail voter, you can still request a mail-in ballot for each election by contacting your county registrar at least a week before the election. For more information about voting by mail, visit the [Secretary of State's Vote by Mail web page](#).

Voting Tip: In order to find out whether you are registered to vote and check that your information is accurate, use the Secretary of State's [My Voter Status](#) lookup tool.

Resources

- Voting Rights: Persons with a Criminal History: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/who-can-vote-california/voting-rights-californians
- Voting Rights: Persons Subject to Conservatorship: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-info/conservatorship
- "Our Time is Now" video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVkNVyJw5a4
- Online Voter Registration web page: registertovote.ca.gov
- Election Assistance Commission Voter Registration Forms and Guide: www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx
- Secretary of State's Vote-by-Mail web page: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/vote-mail
- Secretary of State's My Voter Status lookup tool: voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

Lesson Four: How to Vote and What to Expect

There are elections held at each level of government. For example, at your city level, you elect the City Mayor; at your county level you elect a Supervisor to serve on your County Board of Supervisors; at the state level you elect the Governor, and so on. There are also elections to select the official for your State Assembly District, State Senate District and Congressional Districts. Each of these elected officials represents you at each level of government. You can learn who your representatives at each level are through a quick search online.

Statewide elections are held every two years to elect Assembly and Senate members and every four years to elect officials such as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and **Secretary of State**. The first election, called the **primary election**, is used to determine which candidates will make it onto the final ballot for the **general election**. The primary election is currently held in early June, but starting in 2019, the primary election will be held in early March due to a change in state law. The general election is held in early November. Special elections will sometimes be held in the event that a seat becomes vacant. A seat may become vacant if an elected official leaves their position for another position, resigns or is removed from office.

The best way to make sure your vote counts is to know your voting rights, make a plan for voting and follow through with it. Do not wait until the last minute to check whether you are registered to vote or to find out where your **polling place** or **vote center** is located.

If you are registered as a permanent Vote-by-Mail voter, you can mail your **Vote-by-Mail ballot** in at any time after you receive it. To be counted, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by your county elections office within three days of Election Day. It is recommended that you mail your ballot at least a week before Election Day in case the mail is delayed. You can also drop off your Vote-by-Mail ballot at any polling place in your county or at a county election office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Use a blue or black pen to complete your ballot. It is very important that you remember to sign the envelope your ballot is mailed in and that your signature on the envelope match the signature you used when you registered to vote (or that it match the signature on your driver's license, if you registered online). A missing or mismatched signature may cause your vote to not be counted.

You can still vote if you lose your Vote-by-Mail ballot or it does not arrive in the mail. Go to your local polling place and explain that you lost your Vote-by-Mail ballot. The staff at the polling place will provide you with a **provisional ballot** to fill out. A provisional ballot is a regular ballot that is placed in a special envelope before being put in the ballot box. Elections officials count a provisional ballot after confirming that the voter in question is registered in the county and has not already voted in that election.

If you are going to vote in person, you need to find out where your polling place or vote center is located. The location of your polling place or vote center will be printed on the sample ballot that is mailed to your **mailing address**, or you can look it up using the [Find Your Polling Place](#) tool. You can also call and ask your [county elections office](#) where your polling place or vote center is, or [download the Vote California mobile app](#) through the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store. Polling places are usually in the same locations year after year, but they can change, so it is best to make sure you know where your polling place is well before each Election Day.

What to Expect on Election Day

The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. When you arrive at your assigned polling place, you will be asked to tell a poll worker your name and address in order to confirm your identity. If you are a first-time

voter, you may be asked to show identification if your voter registration information was incomplete. After a poll worker checks you in, they will hand you a ballot and direct you to a voting booth where you can vote in privacy. You may bring your notes or voter guide or even your cell phone (on silent mode) with you to consult while you are voting. When you are finished, you will take your ballot and drop it in the ballot box. Poll workers will be on hand to help direct you and answer any questions. Qualifying high school students can serve as paid poll workers – visit the Secretary of State’s [student poll worker information page](#) to learn how.

In rare cases, voters have had to wait in long lines to vote at polling places, so keep this in mind when you go to vote. If you have a work schedule that interferes with your ability to cast your ballot, your employer must provide you with up to two hours off of paid time to vote, [according to state law](#).

How to be an Informed Voter

There are many political **contests** and **candidates** that get less media attention than the presidential contest. In addition, Californians vote on state and local **ballot measures** that have a significant impact on our lives. Sometimes, there are so many contests to consider that it can feel overwhelming.

The best way to prepare is to do some research ahead of time on the candidates and ballot measures you will be voting on. The Secretary of State publishes an official voter guide which is mailed to all registered California voters, and is also [available online](#) and in multiple languages. For a concise and user-friendly source of voter information, check out the **nonpartisan Voter’s Edge** online resource created by the League of Women Voters and Maplight. You can take notes or print out the choices you select with the Voter’s Edge tool and bring them with you to the polls.

Remember, voting is not a test. If you do not have a preference or do not know about the pros and cons of a ballot measure, you do not have to vote on every candidate contest or ballot measure. Your vote will still count even if you do not fill out every part of the ballot. Conversely, just like a test at school, if you “over vote,” or mark more options than the ballot allows for that contest, the county election official will not know which option you wanted to choose and will not be able to count how you voted for that contest. For example, if you voted for multiple presidential candidates or voted both “yes” and “no” on a local measure, both of these votes will not count. Make sure you read and carefully follow the directions provided for each ballot item. If you make a mistake, contact your county election official for a new ballot or ask a poll worker for a new ballot if you are at your polling place. If you experience any problems with casting your vote, call 1-800-345-VOTE (8683) to share your experience with the Secretary of State’s voter hotline.

How to Make Sure Your Vote Is Counted

If you cast your vote by mail or using a provisional ballot, you have the ability to check the status of your ballot online. Keep in mind that all vote-by-mail ballots and provisional ballots are not processed on Election Day but as part of the post-election day canvassing process. During this process, your county election office has 28 days to validate and process these ballots. Once this process is completed, official results are certified by your local county elections office and submitted to the Secretary of State. You can check the status of your ballot by visiting the Secretary of State’s [Ballot Status lookup tool](#) and use the information provided there to contact your county **Registrar of Voters** online or by phone.

Resources

- “Voter Bill of Rights” video: youtu.be/_m_Ge5uEd1c
- Find Your Polling Place tool: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place

- County Election Offices contact information: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices
- Information about the Vote California mobile app: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2016-news-releases-and-advisories/secretary-state-launches-free-vote-california-smartphone-app/>
- High School Student Poll Worker information: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california/help-strengthen-our-democracy/poll-worker-info/#student
- “Time off to Vote” law notice: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/time-vote-notices
- Official California Voter Guide: voterguide.sos.ca.gov
- Voter’s Edge nonpartisan voter guide: www.votersedge.org/ca
- Ballot Status lookup tool: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status
- California Students Vote Project: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/castudentsvote

Voting Myth Busters

True or False?

- _____ 1. If you are still waiting in line when the polls close, you can still vote.
- _____ 2. If you don't vote on every candidate contest or ballot measure, your vote won't count.
- _____ 3. You can vote online or by text message.
- _____ 4. You can get a new ballot if you've made a mistake or lost your ballot.
- _____ 5. Registering to vote will make you more likely to be called for jury duty.
- _____ 6. Provisional ballots are counted only after elections officials verify that you are registered to vote.
- _____ 7. Your employer must give you time off work on Election Day if you need it to go cast your vote.

Lesson Five: Recognizing Spin

In our two-major-party political system, voters are often confronted with opposing viewpoints on important issues. As Election Day approaches, the volume of political messages that we are bombarded with on television, social media and the radio, as well as in our day-to-day conversations, can be overwhelming. It can also be difficult to distinguish facts from carefully crafted political messaging designed to influence us.

Spin refers to the deliberate crafting of words and images for political effect. Spin is a **propaganda** technique used to influence or persuade public opinion in favor or against a political figure, piece of legislation or an organization by disseminating biased interpretations of information. You can avoid being influenced to vote for something that is against your interests by learning to recognize when spin is being used and how to do your own research.

As Stephen Stockwell wrote in his essay “Spinning the Fabric of Reality,” one episode of *The Simpsons* provides an example of political spin:

“When a three-eyed fish is found near Mr. Burns’s nuclear power plant, he becomes desperate to roll back health and safety regulation and decides to run for governor. His campaign team boasts not only a spin doctor, a joke writer and a make-up man but also a muck-raker, a character assassin, a mud-slinger and a garbologist. It is the politics of the bottom-feeders.

In the end, despite the spin doctor naming the fish Blinky and coming up with a sterling defense of the creature as an evolutionary necessity, Marge Simpson out-spins them all by serving up the three-eyed fish for Mr Burns’s televised dinner the night before the election. It is a spin doctor’s nightmare when Mr Burns spits out the fish and destroys his **credibility** on live television.”

Using spin has become common practice in the media when covering political **contests**. After each debate, coverage moves to the “spin room” or “spin alley” where audiences hear different interpretations of what they just witnessed, usually from biased supporters of each **candidate**. Throughout the election, the media shows **pundits** (experts called upon to share their opinions with the public), supporters and candidates providing their spin on political issues. It is important to realize that many “spin doctors” are paid to promote, defend and support their candidate or cause; it is their job. “Spin doctors” often highlight specific issues and ignore or gloss over others in order to draw attention to the perceived strengths of their candidate or cause. Anything they say should be understood in that context and examined with a critical eye.

As a responsible and informed voter, it is *your* job is to seek out a variety of opinions and do your own research. You should fact-check what you hear so that you can draw your own conclusions. The Internet can be a helpful tool to research an issue or candidate, but even here, you should remain skeptical. To check the reliability of the information you find, try to identify a few different sources that corroborate the same facts. Consider whether the sources you are referencing are credible. This can be done by checking who the authors are, looking up their qualifications and learning how they assemble their facts. You may want to check if the news source you are consulting has an overall political bias, and whether the author or news source is affiliated with any political groups. Pay attention to candidates’ records of past actions and ask yourself whether they express their statements and opinions in a consistent and truthful way. Try to find out where they stand and what their track record is on issues you care about.

Resources

- “Sifting Through the Spin” excerpt from *In the Mix* on PBS: [www.youtu.be/ YIYY84LVb0](http://www.youtu.be/YIYY84LVb0)
- Clip from *The Simpsons* episode “Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish” in which Marge Simpson serves Mr. Burns dinner: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGm5A868kHY
- “Five myths about political spin” *Washington Post* article: www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-spin/2016/03/18/eb8153d2-ecac-11e5-a6f3-21ccdbc5f74e_story.html
- Factcheck.org is a **nonpartisan** (neutral) resource that analyzes major political debates for false or misleading statements: www.factcheck.org

“Sifting Through the Spin” Questions

1. What did media strategist Mary Matalin say about spin? What about CNN reporter Larry King?

2. What is political clout and why is it important?

3. What kind of questions can you ask to determine whether a source is reliable?

Lesson Six: Introduction to Using Geographic Information System (GIS) Maps

Geographic Information System (GIS) technology allows researchers to illustrate relationships between different economic, social, demographic, **civic** or other factors and the outcomes they generate. GIS uses accurate and measurable data, making it easy to compare conditions in different geographic locations. The Center for Inclusive Democracy at USC uses GIS technology to create interactive maps. These maps show how voter **turnout** relates to social and economic outcomes in different areas. The maps allow users to visualize the relationship between different factors that affect their lives, offering useful and sometimes surprising insights into how people live, work, vote, thrive or fail to thrive, and why.

Use the [interactive 2014 election maps](#) (historically low turnout election for youth age 18-24) to discuss and answer the following questions. Below are some prompts to guide your thinking about these maps and the information they contain.

Note: A guide on how to use and read the GIS maps is included in Appendix 7.

Activity

1. Make an estimate of what you think voter turnout was in your neighborhood in the 2014 election. Now, using the Regional Registered Voter Turnout Maps, select the “**General Election Turnout**” map and find the area where you live. What was the actual voter turnout in your neighborhood? Did this number surprise you? How did it compare to the turnout in other neighborhoods near where you live?
2. Using the “Youth Registered Turnout” map, compare the number of young voters who turned out for the 2014 general election in your region, to the number of voters who turned out from the general population in the same region. What difference do you see? What are three possible reasons you can think of for this difference?
3. (Optional – Online Only) Experiment with adding more layers to the maps using the “Visible Layers” button, and see if you notice a **correlation** between voter turnout, and educational, economic or health outcomes. What relationships do you notice between the level of voter turnout and the level of community well-being as measured by these factors? How might poor educational, economic or health outcomes create obstacles to voting for some people in your community?
4. If more young people voted, how might their votes impact your community?

Resources

- USC Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID): <https://cid.usc.edu/>
- Updated CID static maps of voter turnout in the 2020 general election are available here: <https://cid.usc.edu/poweroftheyouthvote>

Lesson Seven: How to Increase the Power of the Youth Vote

You now know how to exercise your political power by voting, but there is more you can do if you want to further increase the power young people have in impacting important political decisions. If you want your **elected officials** to pay more attention to the needs and desires of young people, you can help get more people like you engaged in the political process.

One way to do this is to help register your fellow students, friends and neighbors to vote. You can show them how to register online or you can request voter registration forms from your county **Registrar of Voters** and encourage people to fill them out. You can also organize a ride-sharing group for students to help one another get to the polls on Election Day, or share the "[Power of the Youth Vote](#)" TEDx Talk with your peers through social media.

National Voter Registration Day, held on the fourth Tuesday in September, provides an opportunity for Americans to join together in registering voters and promoting **civic engagement**. Learn more about this day of raising political awareness on the [National Voter Registration Day website](#).

Resources

- "Power of the Youth Vote" TEDx Talk: www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2jwSUhu7ok
- National voter Registration Day website: www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/about
- For more ideas about how to promote civic engagement among high school students, check out the Best Practices for Voter Outreach in High Schools: elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov//outreach/pdf/best-practices.pdf

Lesson Eight: Sharing Your Perspective with Your Elected Officials

You have now learned the importance of voting, how to be an informed voter, and the impact your vote can have on your community. There are also other ways you can stay civically engaged and wield political power.

Most laws in California are passed by either the State Legislature or the Governor. However, the **ballot** initiative process is another way citizens can get involved in passing laws. The ballot initiative process allows Californian citizens to propose their own laws and constitutional amendments without the help of a state legislator or the Governor. Citizens who want to pass a law can submit a draft of their proposed initiative to the California Attorney General's Office, where it will be given an official title and summary. After this happens, **advocates** for the initiative must collect signature from a certain number of registered voters in order to show that it has public support. After the signatures are collected, they are counted by county elections officials and the signature total is sent to the **Secretary of State**. If the initiative gained enough valid signatures, it is eligible to appear on the next statewide **general election** ballot. California voters are then able to vote on whether the initiative should be passed into law or denied.

Some people may prefer to reach out to their **elected officials** to affect change on their behalf. Elected officials from city, county, state and federal governments make decisions on behalf of their **constituents**, or the people they represent. However, while elected officials make decisions that will impact the people in their district, they typically only hear feedback from a small group of vocal constituents. Therefore, it can be difficult for elected officials to make decisions that best serve the needs of all groups of people living in their district.

Young people's needs are especially difficult for elected officials to assess, since youth tend to be **underrepresented** on advisory boards and committees, and are less likely to participate in public hearings and city council meetings. This is where you can serve a critical role in helping your elected officials consider the needs of your peers and community.

Dialogue

Have a class discussion about changes you would like to see in your community. Note that participating in a **dialogue** is different than participating in a debate. A dialogue is a process where a group of people share their perspectives and experiences with the shared goal of learning. Unlike a debate, a dialogue is not about winning an argument. Encourage everyone to share their ideas for improving the community and have someone write down each idea, and **deliberate** with your peers over which ideas you think are the most important or worthwhile. Then, run a "dotmocracy" exercise to come to a **consensus** as a group on two or three ideas that you would like to collectively share with your local elected officials.

Researching and Contacting an Elected Official

Once you have a list of topics, research which government agencies and elected officials make decisions related to the concerns or ideas that you and your classmates are most passionate about. Use your critical Internet searching skills, and don't be shy to call government offices and ask questions. Work with your teacher and fellow students to identify the appropriate people to connect with. Once you know who has the power to turn your ideas into reality, organize an event for that person or those people to meet with you and other young people. For instance, you could organize a virtual "meet your elected officials" day for the entire school, or you could ask some officials to virtually meet with your class. You could also organize a group of students to visit government offices or attend a public meeting in your area (once shelter in place mandates lifted).

Preparing Your Message

However you and your classmates connect with your elected officials, you will need to be prepared. Work together to come up with a list of questions. Craft a message that briefly and clearly states each topic or idea you want to share with your officials. Have specific actions in mind that you want to ask them to take in order to support your cause. Be open to new ideas about how your goals could be accomplished. This may involve compromise. You may want to role-play the meeting ahead of time with your classmates so that you have a chance to practice your pitch.

Consider asking the elected officials you speak with about resources and opportunities for young people who want to be engaged in improving their community. You may find there are ways that you can serve on an advisory committee, or as an intern with a public agency. Being engaged in the **civic** life of your community can lead to a wide variety of experiences and opportunities.

About the Authors

This learning module was created by the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), a nonpartisan civic engagement research center at the USC Price School of Public Policy directed by Dr. Mindy Romero. The CID would like to thank Diana Dominguez, Edward Bonahue and Greg Keidan for their help writing the lesson plans. We would also like to acknowledge Maria Chairez, Stacey Greer, Thomas Adams and Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan for providing their careful review and feedback.

This document was created for the Yolo County Youth Civic Initiative (YCYCI) to support its goal of increasing youth involvement in the civic process by creating, promoting and enhancing school and community efforts that build awareness and understanding.

YCYCI Partnering Members include Garth Lewis, M.A., County Superintendent of Schools and Deborah Bruns, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Yolo County Office of Education; Jesse Salinas, Registrar of Voters and Katharine Campos, Program Manager, Yolo County Elections; Stacey Greer, M.A., Director, The History Project at UC Davis; Mindy Romero, Ph.D., Director, Center for Inclusive Democracy, University of Southern California; Kevin Magill, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Secondary and Social Studies Education, Baylor University; and Thomas Adams, Ph.D., Board Trustee, Davis Joint Unified School District.



Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Advocate: To speak or write in favor of an idea or cause; to support or urge by argument; or to recommend something publicly. Someone who supports an idea or cause in this way is called an advocate.

Aspirations: Hopes and dreams of achieving or becoming something.

Ballot: The paper form you fill out to cast your vote.

Ballot Measure: Ballot measures are initiatives that are voted on by the public during elections. State and local governments routinely allow voters to propose and make decisions about adding, removing or changing laws, about how public funds should be spent and about changes to the state constitution. In California, voters routinely consider both local and statewide ballot measures. Statewide ballot measures are also known as ballot propositions or initiatives.

Barrier to Voting: An obstacle that prevents a person or group of people from voting or makes it difficult for them to vote.

Candidate: A person who runs for office in an election.

Civic: Of or relating to city or community affairs or to the activities of citizens in pursuit of a public good.

Civic Engagement: An effort by people to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Consensus: General or unanimous agreement about an idea or course of action.

Constituent(s): A person or group of people represented by an elected official.

Contest: A competition between candidates for an elected position. The term is often used interchangeably with “race.”

Correlation: A number or measurement that shows the relationship between two variables and how these variables relate to each other; a way of describing the connection or interdependence between two phenomena.

Credible: A source or candidate is credible or has credibility if they are deemed believable, trustworthy or worthy of confidence by others.

Deliberate: To have a conversation in which a group of people examine options and trade-offs and carefully consider a course of action.

Dialogue: A process in which a group of people discuss their perspectives and experiences with the goal of learning from each other. Unlike a debate, a dialogue involves presenting different ideas and arguments rather than winning an argument. Dialogue may help dispel stereotypes, build trust and enable people to be open to new and different perspectives.

Direct Democracy: A voting process in which each vote is counted toward the popular vote, and the nominee who wins the majority of all votes wins the election. A direct democracy is also a specific type of democratic nation-state.

Democracy: A system of representative government created by and for the people in which political decisions are made by the majority of the people or their elected representatives, which is characterized by periodically-held free and fair elections.

Elected Official: An individual who has won an election and holds a position in government as the result of this contest.

Electoral: A member of the Electoral College.

Electorate: The group of people eligible to vote in an election, or, depending on the context, the group of people who voted in an election.

Eligible Voter: An eligible voter is someone who is eligible to vote.

Empower: To give someone the strength, power or authority to do something; to provide someone encouragement, knowledge or support in order to achieve a goal.

General Election: A regularly scheduled local, state or national election in which voters elect public officials.

Geographic Information System (GIS): GIS is a computer system designed to capture, store, manage and display data related to spatial locations on Earth's surface. GIS allows many different kinds of data to be displayed on one map, making it easier to visualize, analyze and understand patterns and relationships.

Mailing Address: The address where you choose to receive mail. When you register to vote, you have the option to list a home address and a separate mailing address. If you decide to attend college, study abroad or join the military, you may keep your home address as the location that determines which local contests and ballot issues you vote on.

Majority: More than 50% of a group.

Non-citizen: A non-citizen is a person who is not a legally recognized member of a specific nation-state, does not owe allegiance to the nation-state in which they currently reside, and therefore may not benefit from the same rights granted to citizens of that nation-state. A non-citizen may be either a legal or undocumented resident of a nation-state, depending on whether they are in possession of the required legal permissions such as a visa or residency permit.

Nonpartisan: Politically neutral; not affiliated with any political party.

Overrepresentation: The act of being represented in numbers that are too large compared to the actual size of the group in question. Voters who are overrepresented are more visible and powerful than their actual numbers would predict. Overrepresented groups have disproportionately strong clout compared to underrepresented groups.

Polling Place: An assigned place located close to where a voter lives where they can cast a vote in person or drop off their Vote-by-Mail ballot. Beginning in 2018, some California counties will replace existing polling places with vote centers, which will be larger and have different regulations.

Primary Election: An election conducted to select which candidates will run for each party in the general election.

Propaganda: Widely-spread information, ideas or rumors produced for the purpose of persuading an audience of a particular political or ideological view. Propaganda is usually considered a negative force in modern politics, as it discourages critical thinking and reasoned debate. However, it is widely used by political parties and movements of all leanings.

Provisional Ballot: A ballot that is placed in a special envelope before being dropped into the ballot box.

Pundit: An expert in a particular field who shares his/her opinions or expertise with the public, usually in the media.

Race: A political race is a competition between candidates for an elected position. The term is often used interchangeably with “contest.”

Registrar of Voters: A registrar is someone who officially records information and oversees a process of admission or selection. A Registrar of Voters is an office that oversees voting. Each county has a Registrar of Voters responsible for registering voters and holding elections in that county.

Representative Democracy: A political system in which officials are: elected through fair and free elections; responsive to the demands of their constituents; and respect the laws, institutions, and founding principles of their society. In representative democracies, citizens elect officials to act on their behalf, usually by electing a congress or senate. This is as opposed to direct democracies (which are rare), where citizens engage directly in lawmaking without acting through elected officials or representatives.

Secretary of State: The California Secretary of State is a statewide-elected official that serves as the Chief Elections Officer for the state. To put it simply, he is the Registrar of Voters for the entire state of California. The California Secretary of State is also responsible for the electronic filing and Internet disclosure of campaign and lobbyist financial information and maintaining business filings, among other duties.

Spin: The act of presenting information in a deliberately biased way with the hope of achieving a political goal; carefully and strategically shaping a narrative to persuade people to believe in an idea or cause.

Turnout: The amount of people who attend or participate in an event; for example, voter turnout refers to the amount of voters who participated in an election.

Underrepresentation: The act of being inadequately represented, or being represented in numbers that are too small compared to the actual size of the group in question. Voters who are underrepresented are not as visible or powerful as they could be, given their actual numbers. Underrepresented groups have disproportionately small clout compared to overrepresented groups.

Undocumented: Someone who is called “undocumented” lacks the legal documents required to reside, work or travel in a particular place, and who thus risks sanction or deportation. An undocumented immigrant is a person who doesn’t have the legal documents needed to lawfully remain in the country. The term “undocumented” is preferred and considered more politically correct than the term “illegal [immigrant].”

Vote-by-Mail Ballot: A ballot that allows voters to vote on their own time outside of their polling place and then mail their ballot in or drop it off at a polling place. This kind of ballot is sometimes referred to as an absentee ballot.

Vote Center: A public place where people can go to vote in public elections. In 2018, some California counties will establish new vote centers to replace existing polling places. Vote centers will offer voters new options, such as the ability to vote on any days in the 10 days leading up to Election Day. At polling places, voters can only vote on the Election Day.

Appendix 2: Political Party Statements of Purpose

American Independent Party of California

The American Independent Party is the party of ordered liberty in a nation under God. We believe in strict adherence to written law. We believe the Constitution is the contract America has with itself. Its willful distortion has led to the violation of our Tenth Amendment guaranteed right to limited government—which inevitably requires oppressive taxation. Its faithful application will lift that burden.

Freed from the lawless oppression of Progressive rule, we may then compassionately and justly use our energy and ingenuity to provide for ourselves and our families. We will then establish truly free and responsible enterprise and reassert the basic human right to property.

We believe in protecting all human life however weak, defenseless, or disheartened; endorse the family as the essential bulwark of liberty, compassion, responsibility, and industry; and declare the family's right and responsibility to nurture, discipline, and educate their children.

We assert the absolute, concurrent Second Amendment guaranteed individual right to self defense coupled with a strong common defense, a common defense which requires a national sovereignty not damaged by imprudent treaties. We oppose all illegal immigration.

We support secure borders and immigration policies inviting the best of the world to join us in freedom.

Phone: (707) 359-4884

Website: www.aipca.org

Democratic Party

California Democrats are committed to working for the future Californians deserve, while resisting Washington, D.C.'s assault on progress.

We believe that every person should have a job that lets them provide for themselves and their family, live in safe and affordable housing, and have comprehensive, universal, exceptional healthcare.

We believe in the Labor Movement and collective bargaining rights for workers, and we want to expand education and childcare opportunities for California's children.

Democrats believe California must lead the fight against the existential threat of Climate Change, and that our Coast must be 100% off-limits to oil drilling. We believe everyone has the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water and enjoy pristine natural spaces.

We believe in an inclusive society for all. We strongly support legal protections for Dreamers, and for immigration reform that honors our history as a nation of immigrants. We believe no person should ever be subjected to bullying, harassment, assault or discrimination because of race, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, physical disability, economic status or religion.

California Democrats believe in compassion, fiscal responsibility, progress and inclusion. We invite you to join our effort to build the future California deserves.

Phone: (916) 442-5707

Website: www.cadem.org

Green Party

People vote Green because Greens support viable solutions to our greatest challenges from inequality to climate change. Greens' actions can match their values because Greens refuse corporate contributions. In California, over 70 Greens hold elected office.

Voting Green means:

ECONOMIC FAIRNESS

- Living wages, green jobs, workers' rights, affordable housing, food security and improved Medicare for all
- Public banks to invest in California, not Wall Street
- Tuition-free higher education
- Reforming Proposition 13 to close corporate loopholes and restore schools and public services
- Taxing the super-rich

ACTION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Going 100% renewable through publicly-owned clean energy and efficiency programs
- Switching from fossil fuels to clean electric-powered public transportation
- Restoring groundwater and watersheds
- Reforestation, restorative agriculture

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Ending oppression based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or economic status
- Defending immigrants from dangerous raids and deportations
- Black Lives Matter, police accountability
- Gun control/safety
- Abolishing the death penalty, ending private prisons, reducing prison populations

ELECTORAL REFORM

- Eliminating corporate money through publicly-financed elections
- Proportional representation, ranked choice voting
- Overturning the Top Two primary

VISION

- Greens early leadership led to recent successes including cannabis legalization and closing California's last nuclear power plant.

Register Green. Vote Green.

Phone: (916) 448-3437

Website: www.cagreens.org

Libertarian Party

Libertarians stand for something: Respect and Freedom.

Respect for each individual's life and liberty, without government coercion or force. We strive to reduce the use of force, thus increasing happiness, harmony, and prosperity for all.

We believe that the most peaceful, prosperous, socially fair, and tolerant society is one that solves its problems without government force. We believe that social woes like inaccessible healthcare, inadequate social justice, inadequate housing, economic instability, and racial disparity are caused and perpetuated by officials who would rather increase their power instead of solving problems.

We believe in freedom. For 46 years, the Libertarian Party has been at the forefront of advocating once radical issues like marijuana legalization, marriage equity, school choice, gun rights, transportation competition, and ending mandatory minimum sentences and asset forfeiture laws. We oppose foreign wars and want to bring our troops home from overseas.

We want to stop giving money and power to the same people who have caused the problems we face today.

It's time for a big change. If you are tired of throwing away your vote, send a message—Vote Libertarian!

Phone: (916) 446-1776

Website: <http://ca.lp.org>

Peace and Freedom Party

The Peace and Freedom Party is a working-class party in a country run by and for the wealthy and their corporations. We should not have to sacrifice our health, our livelihoods, and our planet for our bosses' profits. We can tax the rich, whose wealth is created by workers, to pay for society's needs.

We favor:

Social justice & equality:

- Free universal health care for all
- Decent jobs and labor rights for all
- Free education for everyone, preschool through university
- Ending all discrimination
- Comprehensive services for disabled people
- Marriage equality
- Full rights for immigrants

Justice reform:

- Abolishing the death penalty
- Stopping police abuse and prison torture

Peace:

- Bringing the troops home now
- Ending drone attacks

Environment:

- Reversing climate change
- Restoring and protecting the environment

Legislative:

- Repealing California's "top two" election law, restoring voters' choices in the general elections
- Establishing a State Bank

While capitalism puts the wealthy first we will continue to suffer war, police brutality, low wages, unsafe workplaces, and pollution. We advocate socialism, the ownership and democratic control of the economy by working people. By joining together to take back our industries and natural resources, we can make progress for the common good.

Register Peace and Freedom Party!

Phone: (510) 465-9414

Website: www.peaceandfreedom.org

Republican Party

The California Republican Party is committed to making California affordable for everyone, not just the rich. Decades of over-taxing, insufficient housing development and an underwhelming economy have made the California Dream just that -a dream. We listen to all Californians to help make the dream a reality.

The high cost of living is harming Californians' ability to provide the most basic necessities for their families. This is made worse by the unfair and unnecessary gas tax. We want to make California the land of opportunity again, with good-paying jobs, affordable homeownership and safe communities.

Californians have the right to feel safe. While most criminals deserve a shot at redemption, they should not be given the leniency they did not give their victims.

We believe every child deserves a world-class education provided by well-paid, effective teachers, and we strongly oppose anything that weakens Prop 13.

We want a future where hard work leads to better jobs and pay, without the government and powerful special interests determining winners and losers.

Our doors are open to you and we hope you will make the decision today to protect, improve, and build California by joining the California Republican Party. Visit us at www.cagop.org to learn more.

Phone: (916) 448-9496

Website: www.cagop.org

Appendix 3: Voter Bill of Rights for California

VOTER BILL of RIGHTS



YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS

1. **The right to vote if you are a registered voter.** You are eligible to vote if you are:

- ★ a U.S. citizen living in California
- ★ registered where you currently live
- ★ at least 18 years old
- ★ not in prison or on parole for a felony

2. **The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list.**

You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if elections officials determine that you are eligible to vote.

3. **The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close.**

4. **The right to cast a secret ballot** without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.

5. **The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake**, if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:

Ask an elections official at a polling place for a new ballot; or

Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place; or

Vote using a provisional ballot, if you do not have your original vote-by-mail ballot.

6. **The right to get help casting your ballot** from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.

7. **The right to drop off your completed vote-by-mail ballot at any polling place** in the county where you are registered to vote.

8. **The right to get election materials in a language other than English** if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.


9. **The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures** and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.

10. **The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity** to an elections official or the Secretary of State's office.

SPECIAL NOTICE

- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the day indicated in the posted county Voter Information Guide.
- Specific instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisional ballot, can be obtained from a poll worker or by reading the information mailed to you by your local elections official.
- If you are a newly registered voter, you may be asked to provide appropriate identification or other documentation according to federal law. But please note that every individual has the right to cast a provisional ballot even if he or she does not provide the documentation.
- It is against the law to represent yourself as being eligible to vote unless you meet all of the requirements to vote under federal and state law.
- It is against the law to tamper with voting equipment.


If you believe you have been denied any of these rights, call the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683).

 On the web at www.sos.ca.gov

 By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**

 By email at elections@sos.ca.gov

Appendix 4: Sample Ballot

<p>Student Ballot Student Body Election 2017 Disney High School August 15, 2017</p>		
		Class of <i>2018</i>
<p>Instructions</p> <p>How to vote</p>  <p>Use a dark blue or black ink pen to completely fill in the box to the left of your choice.</p> <p>Vote for one in each race. If you vote for more than one, no votes will be counted for that race.</p>	<p>High School ASB</p> <p>President Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mickey Mouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minnie Mouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Princess Eilonwy</p>	<p>Class of 2018</p> <p>President Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Snow White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prince Charming</p>
	<p>Vice-President Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goofy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Donald Duck</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pluto</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bambi</p>	<p>Vice-President Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fairy Godmother</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lady Tremaine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pocahontas</p>
	<p>Secretary Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tinker Bell</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wendy</p>	<p>Secretary Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John Smith</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Queen Elinor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prince Eric</p>
	<p>Treasurer Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peter Pan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Captain Hook</p>	<p>Treasurer Vote for One</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rapunzel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Robin Hood</p>

10000030100056

200000003192

1893031146

Student Ballot
 Student Body Election 2017
 Disney High School
 August 15, 2017

Class of 2019

Instructions

How to vote



Use a dark blue or black ink pen to completely fill in the box to the left of your choice.

Vote for one in each race.
 If you vote for more than one, no votes will be counted for that race.

High School ASB

President
 Vote for One

- Mickey Mouse
- Minnie Mouse
- Princess Eilonwy

Vice-President
 Vote for One

- Goofy
- Donald Duck
- Pluto
- Bambi

Secretary
 Vote for One

- Tinker Bell
- Wendy

Treasurer
 Vote for One

- Peter Pan
- Captain Hook

Class of 2019

President
 Vote for One

- Winnie the Pooh
- Mulan

Vice-President
 Vote for One

- Mushu
- Shan Yu

Secretary
 Vote for One

- Mrs. Potts
- Dumbo

Treasurer
 Vote for One

- Aladdin
- Timothy Q Mouse

10000020100035

100000002130

1893031146

Student Ballot
 Student Body Election 2017
 Disney High School
 August 15, 2017

Class of 2020

Instructions

How to vote



Use a dark blue or black ink pen to completely fill in the box to the left of your choice.
 Vote for one in each race.
 If you vote for more than one, no votes will be counted for that race.

High School ASB

- President
Vote for One
- Mickey Mouse
 - Minnie Mouse
 - Princess Eilonwy

- Vice-President
Vote for One
- Goofy
 - Donald Duck
 - Pluto
 - Bambi

- Secretary
Vote for One
- Tinker Bell
 - Wendy

- Treasurer
Vote for One
- Peter Pan
 - Captain Hook

Class of 2020

- President
Vote for One
- Jafar
 - Genie

- Vice-President
Vote for One
- Hercules
 - Hades
 - Esmeralda

- Secretary
Vote for One
- Quasimodo
 - Lilo

- Treasurer
Vote for One
- Ariel
 - Ursula
 - Tarzan

10000010100014

000000001102

1893031146

Appendix 5: Local Elected Officials' Contact Information

City of Davis

Gloria Partida – Mayor

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (530) 757-5602

Email: gpartida@cityofdavis.org

Lucas Frerichs – Vice Mayor

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 757-5602

Email: lucsf@cityofdavis.org

Will Arnold – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 757-5602

Email: warnold@cityofdavis.org

Dan Carson – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (530) 757-5602

Email: dcarson@cityofdavis.org

Josh Chapman – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 757-5602

Email: jchapman@cityofdavis.org

City of West Sacramento

Martha Guerrero – Mayor

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (916) 617-4500

Email: mguerrero@cityofwestsacramento.org

Quirina Orozco – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (916) 617-4500

Email: quirinao@cityofwestsacramento.org

Norma Alcala – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (916) 617-4500

Email: nalcala@cityofwestsacramento.org

Chris Ledesma – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (916) 617-4500

Email: chrisl@cityofwestsacramento.org

City of Winters

Wade Cowan – Mayor

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (707) 249-4323

Email: wade.cowan@cityofwinters.org

Bill Biasi – Mayor Pro Tempore

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 400-9484

Email: bill.biasi@cityofwinters.org

Jesse Loren – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 554-8087

Email: jesse.loren@cityofwinters.org

Harold Anderson – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (530) 795-3351

Email: Harold.anderson@cityofwinters.org

Pierre Neu – City Council Member

Term Ends: 2022

Phone: (530) 795-0606

Email: pierre.neu@cityofwinters.org

City of Woodland

Tom Stallard – Mayor

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 661-5800

Email: tom.stallard@cityofwoodland.org

Mayra Vega – Mayor Pro Tempore

Term Ends: 2024

Phone: (530) 661-5800

Email: mayra.vega@cityofwoodland.org

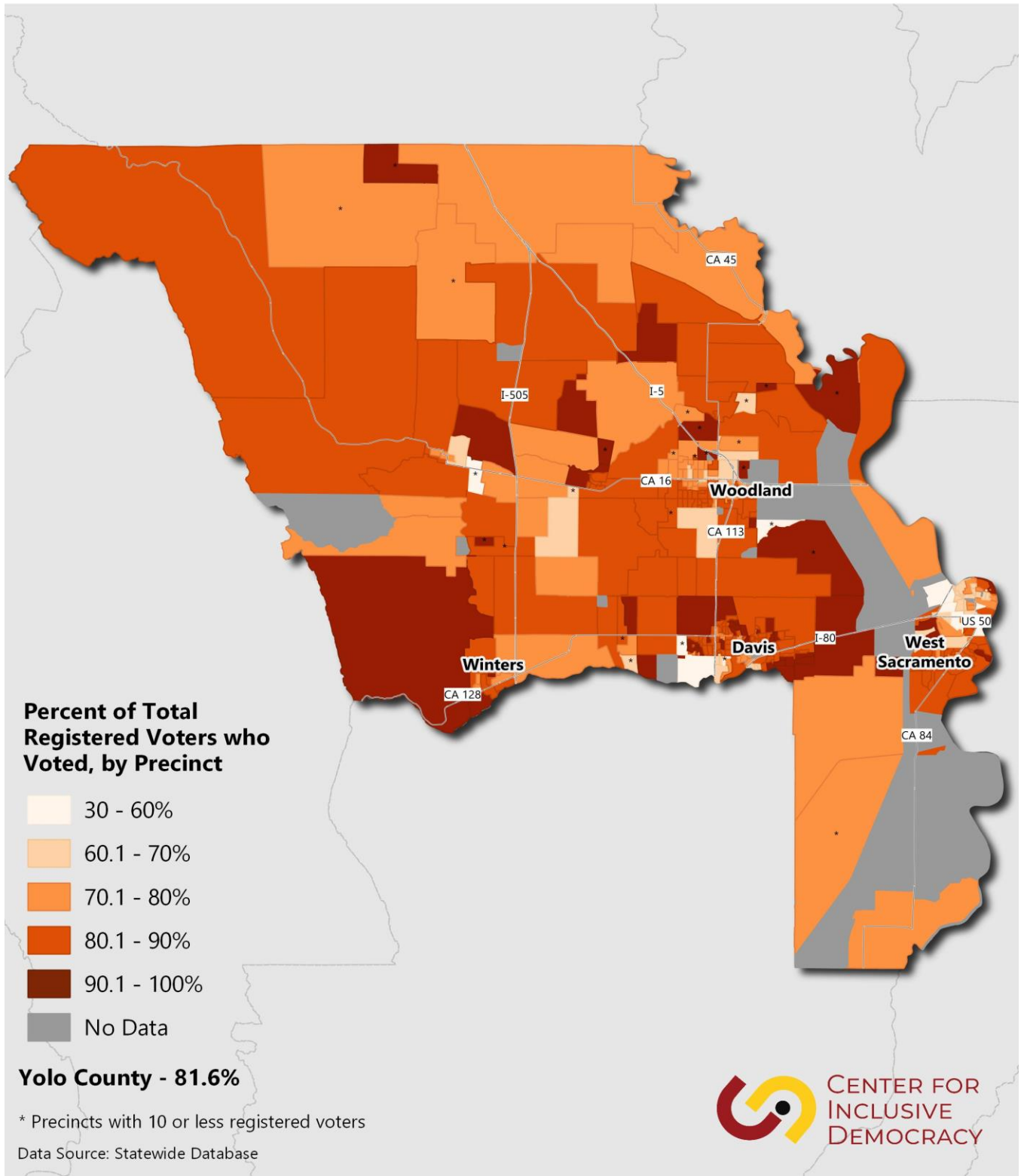
Rich Lansburgh – City Council Member
Term Ends: 2022
Phone: (530) 661-5800
Email: rich.lansburgh@cityofwoodland.org

Rania Garcia-Cadena – City Council Member
Term Ends: 2022
Phone: (530) 661-5800
Email: tania.garciacadena@cityofwoodland.org

Victoria Fernandez – City Council Member
Term Ends: 2024
Phone: (530) 661-5800
Email: victoria.fernandez@cityofwoodland.org

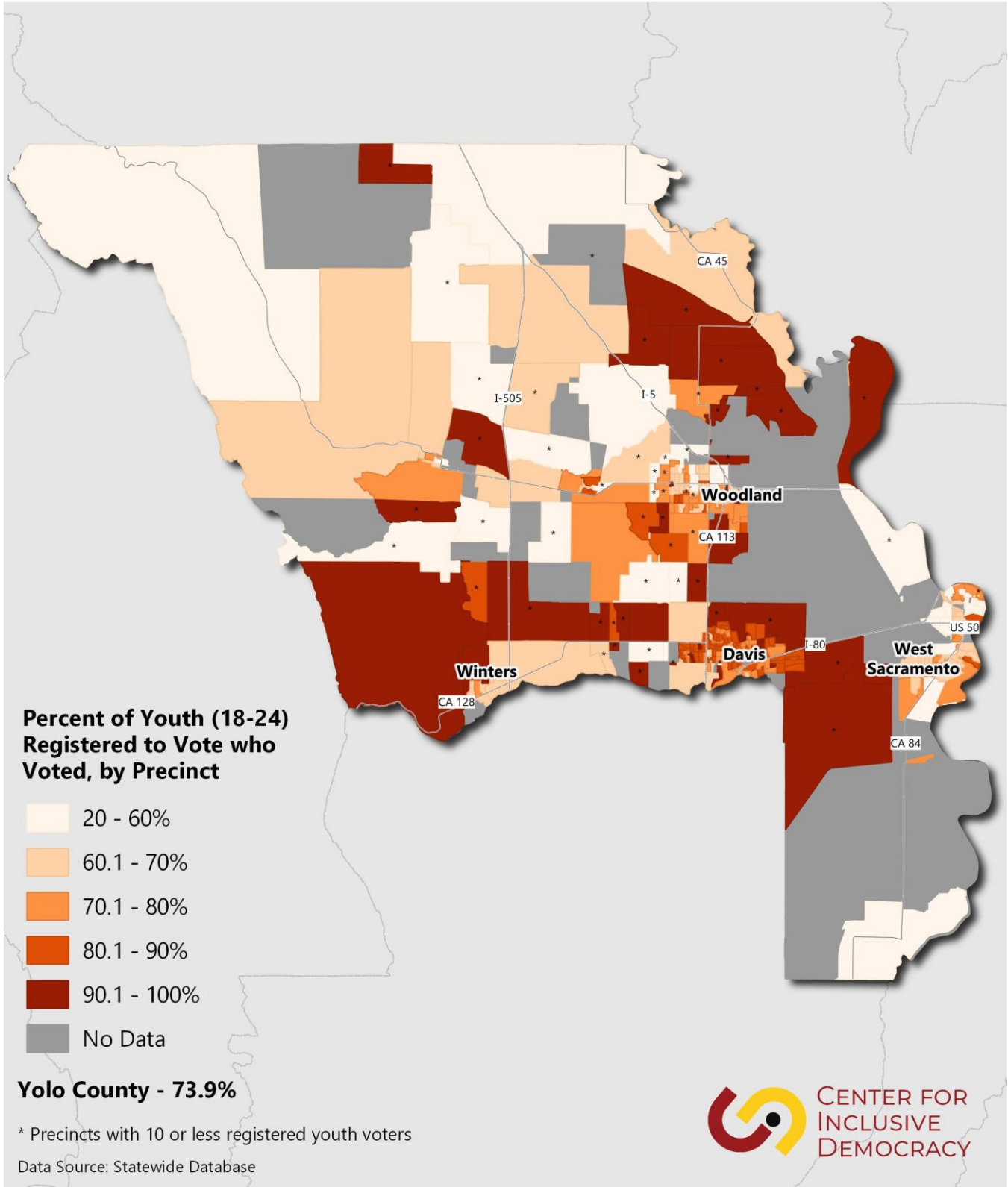
Appendix 6: Static Registered Voter Turnout GIS Maps

Total Registered Voter Turnout - Yolo County General Election 2020



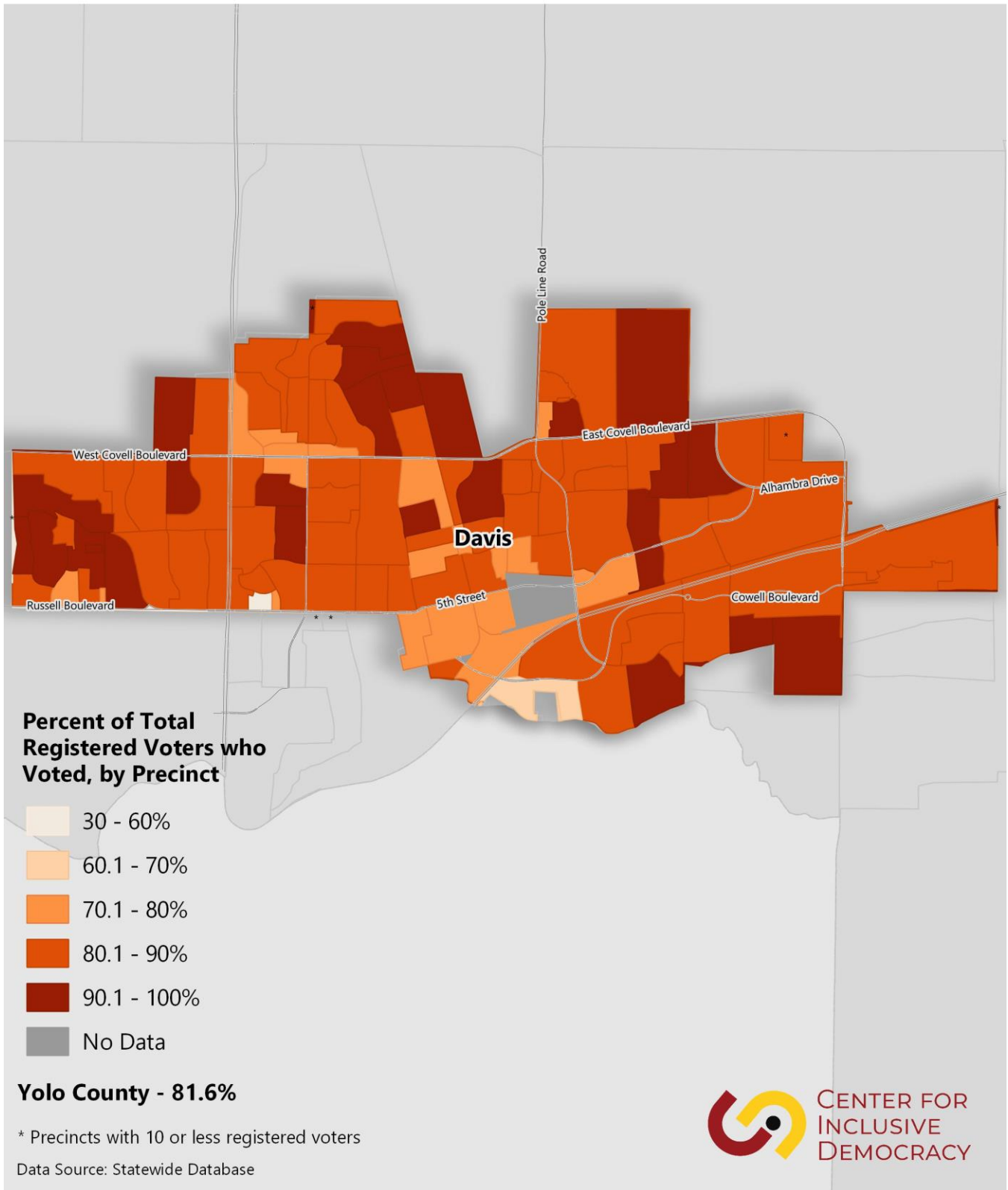
Youth Registered Voter Turnout - Yolo County

General Election 2020

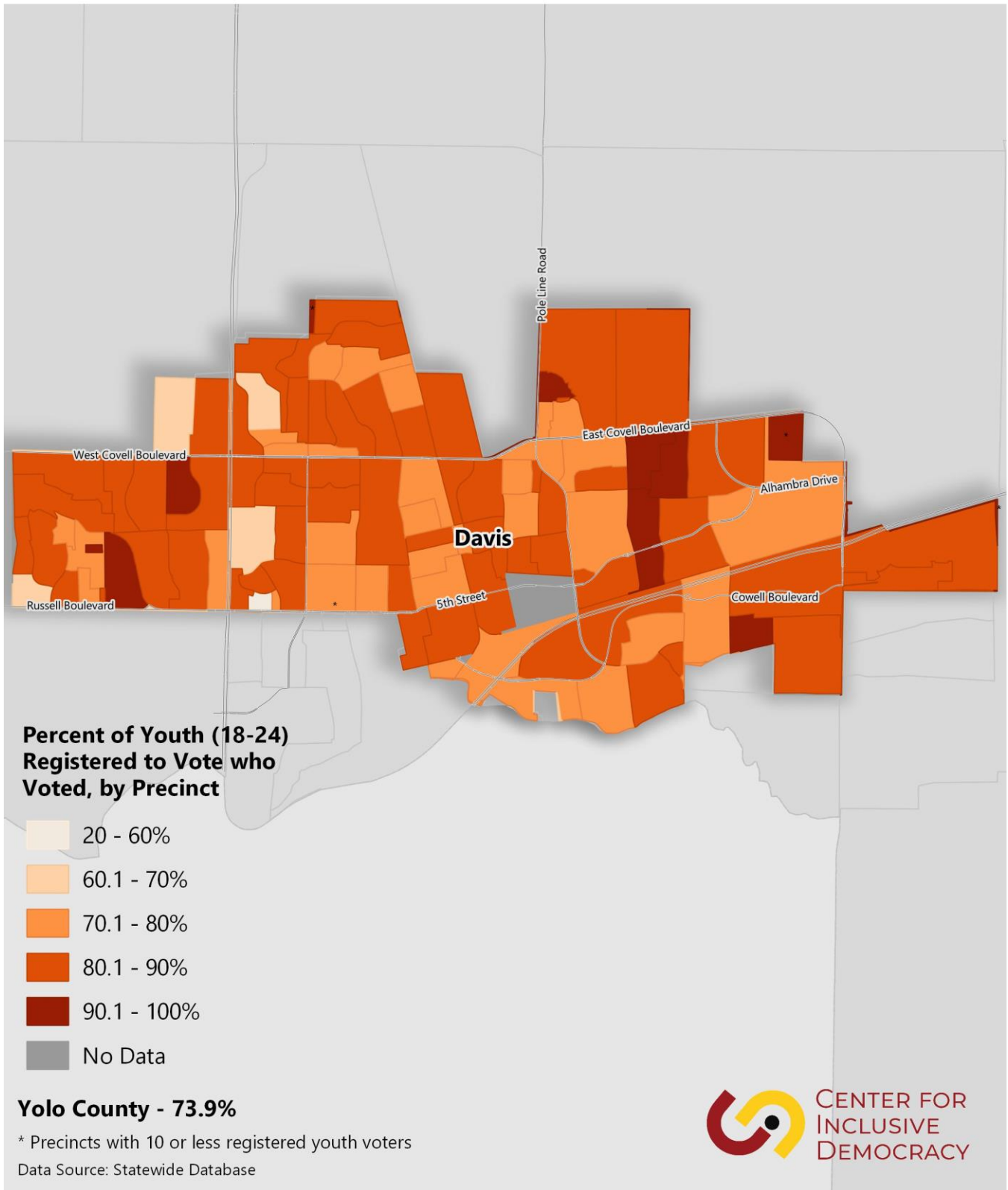


Total Registered Voter Turnout - Davis

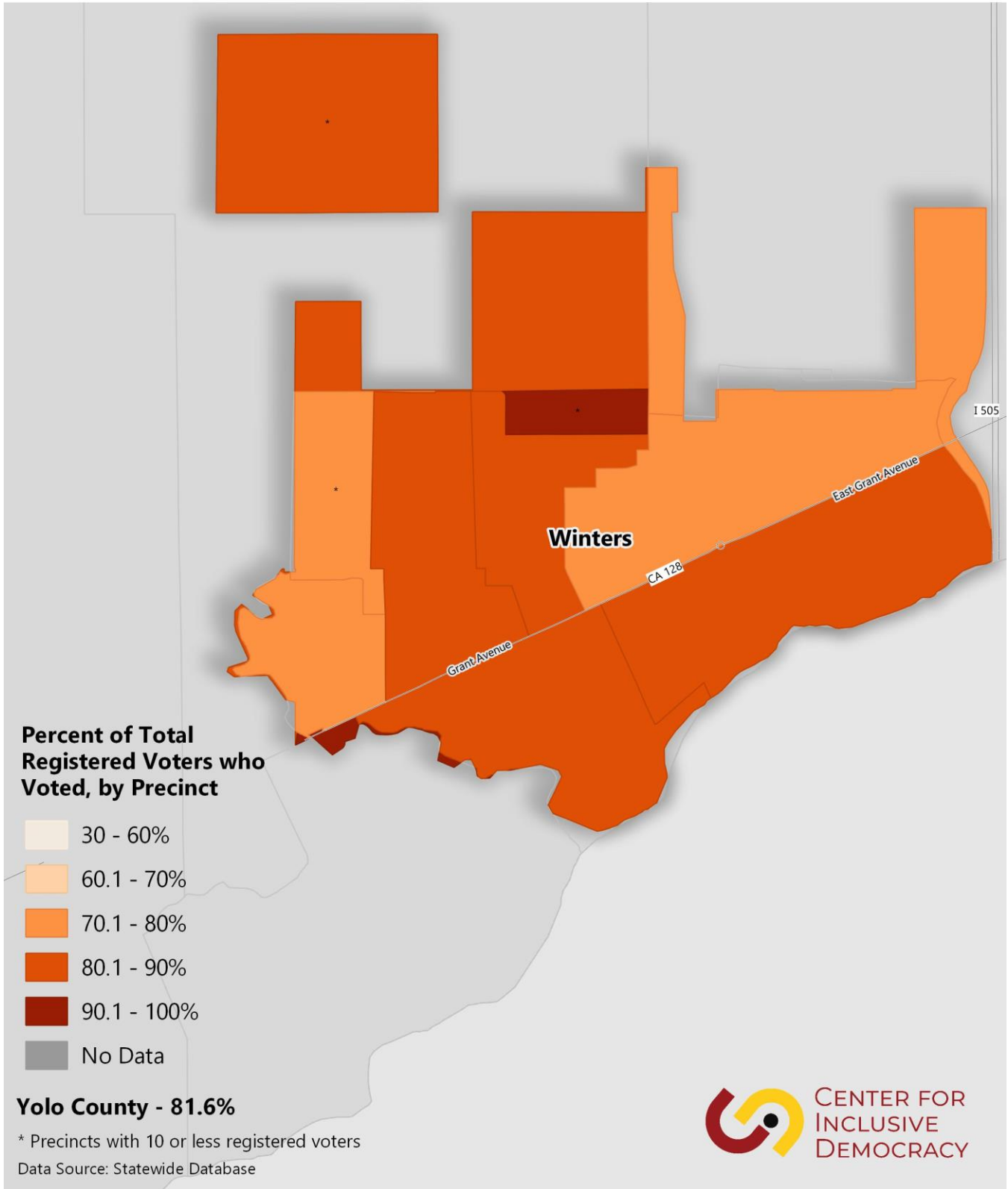
General Election 2020



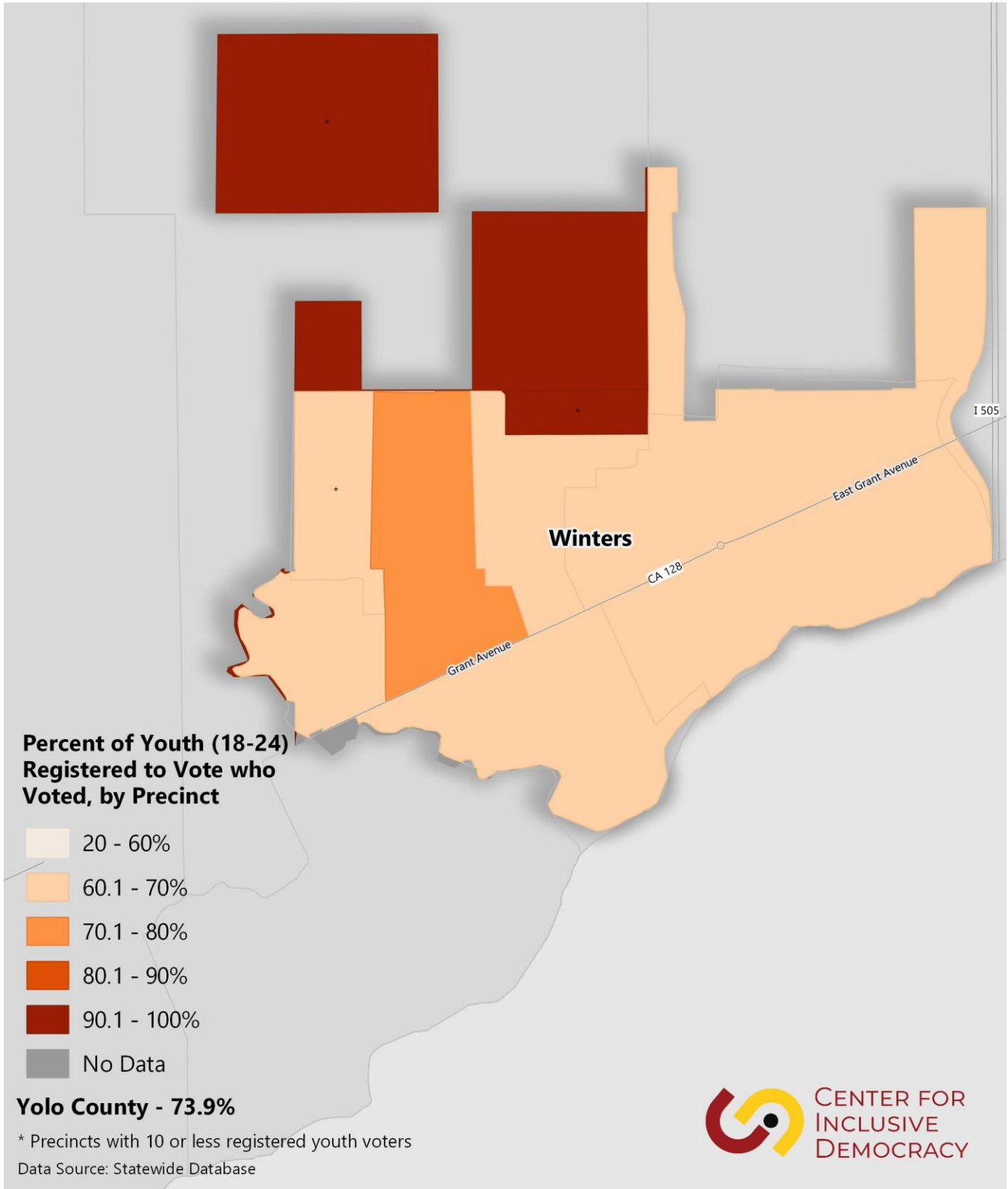
Youth Registered Voter Turnout - Davis General Election 2020



Total Registered Voter Turnout - Winters General Election 2020

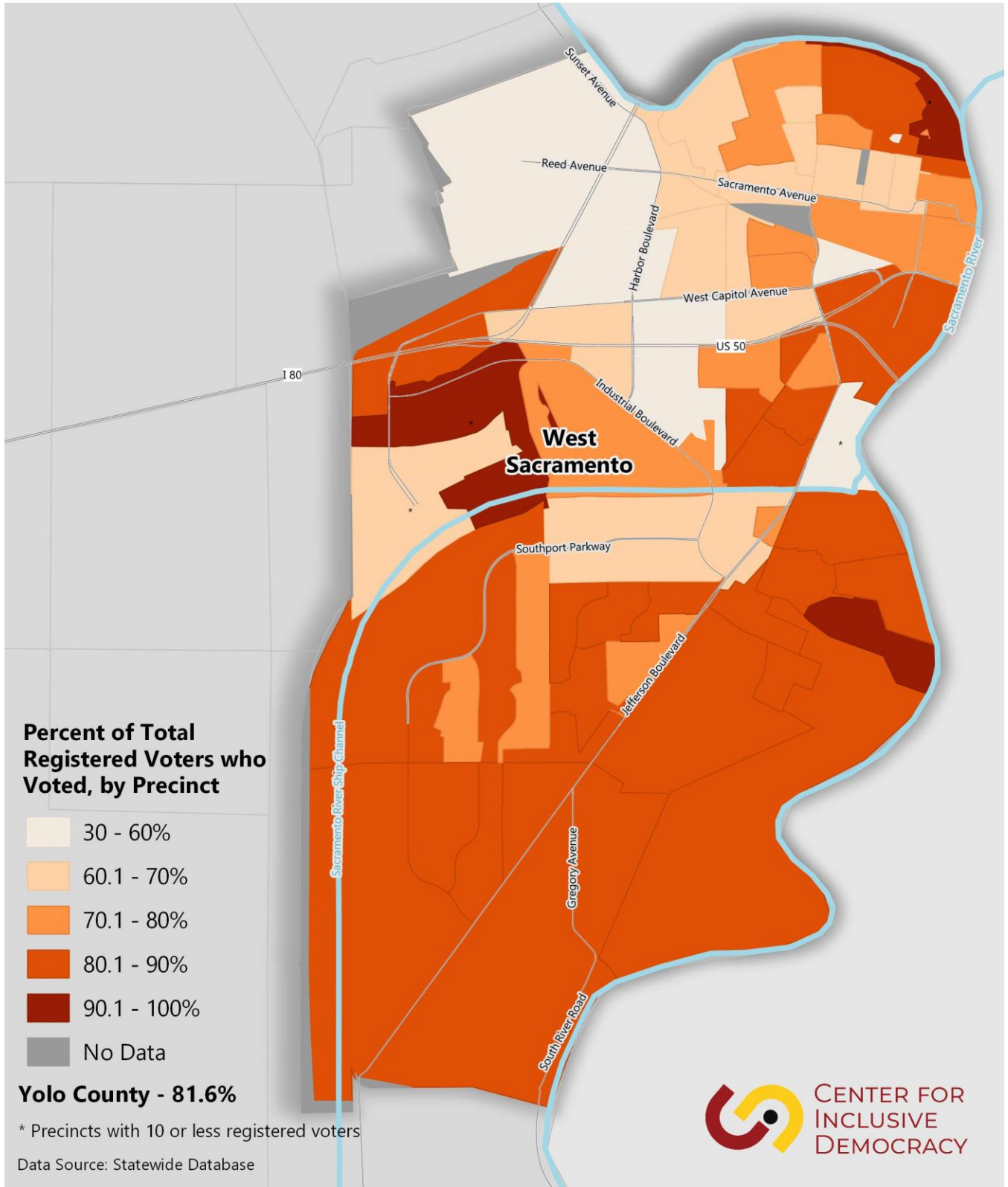


Youth Registered Voter Turnout - Winters General Election 2020



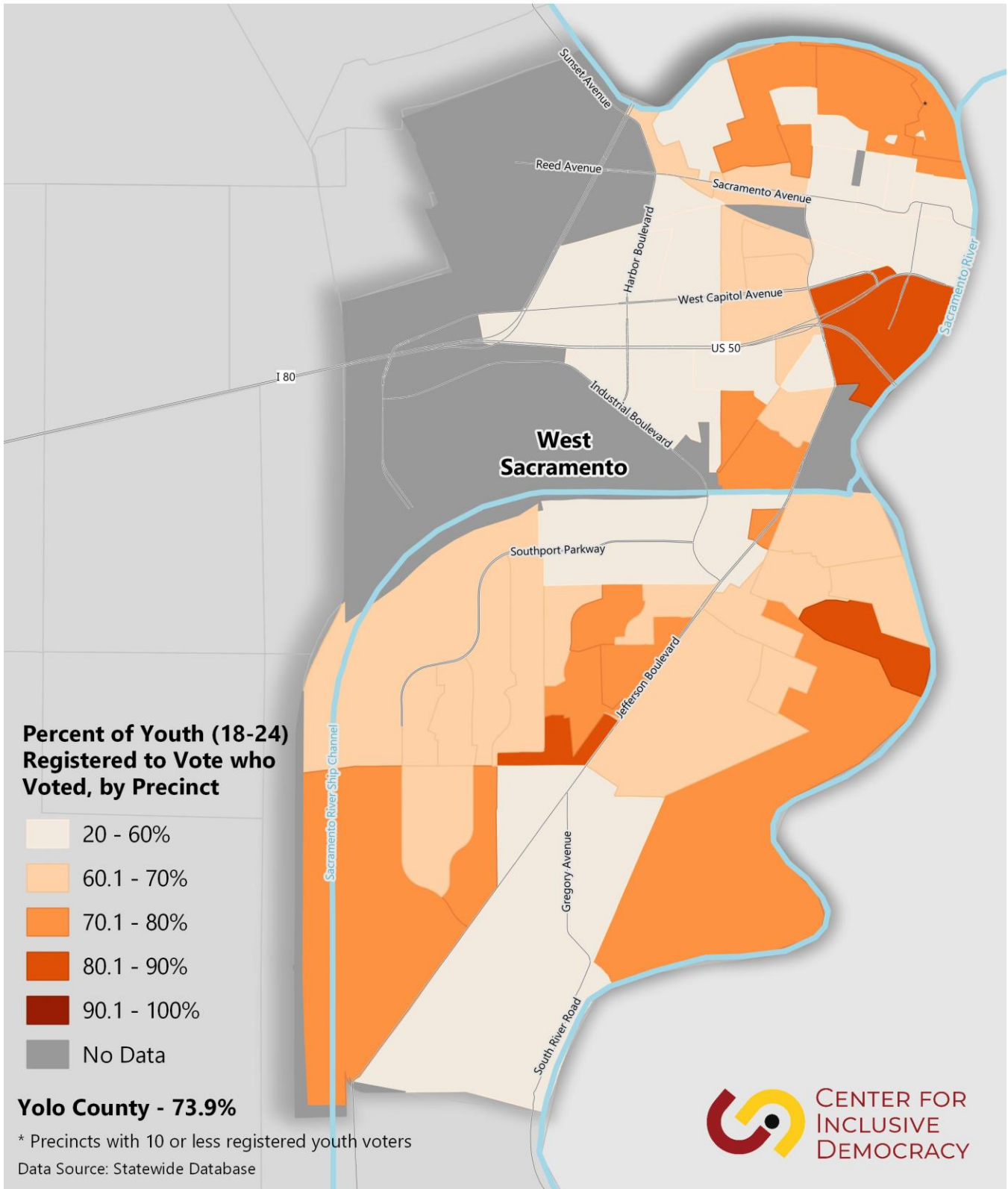
Total Registered Voter Turnout - West Sacramento

General Election 2020

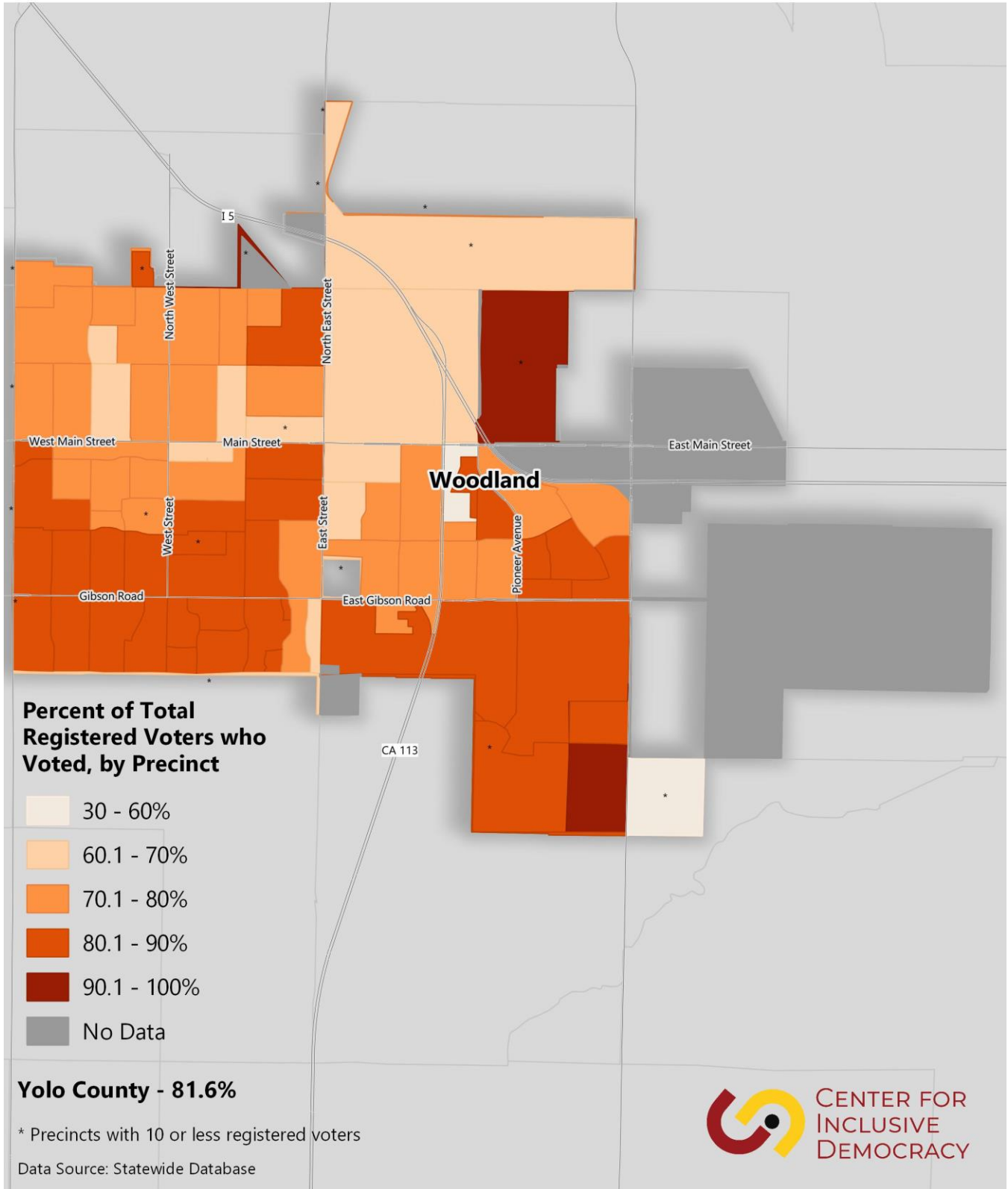


Youth Registered Voter Turnout - West Sacramento

General Election 2020

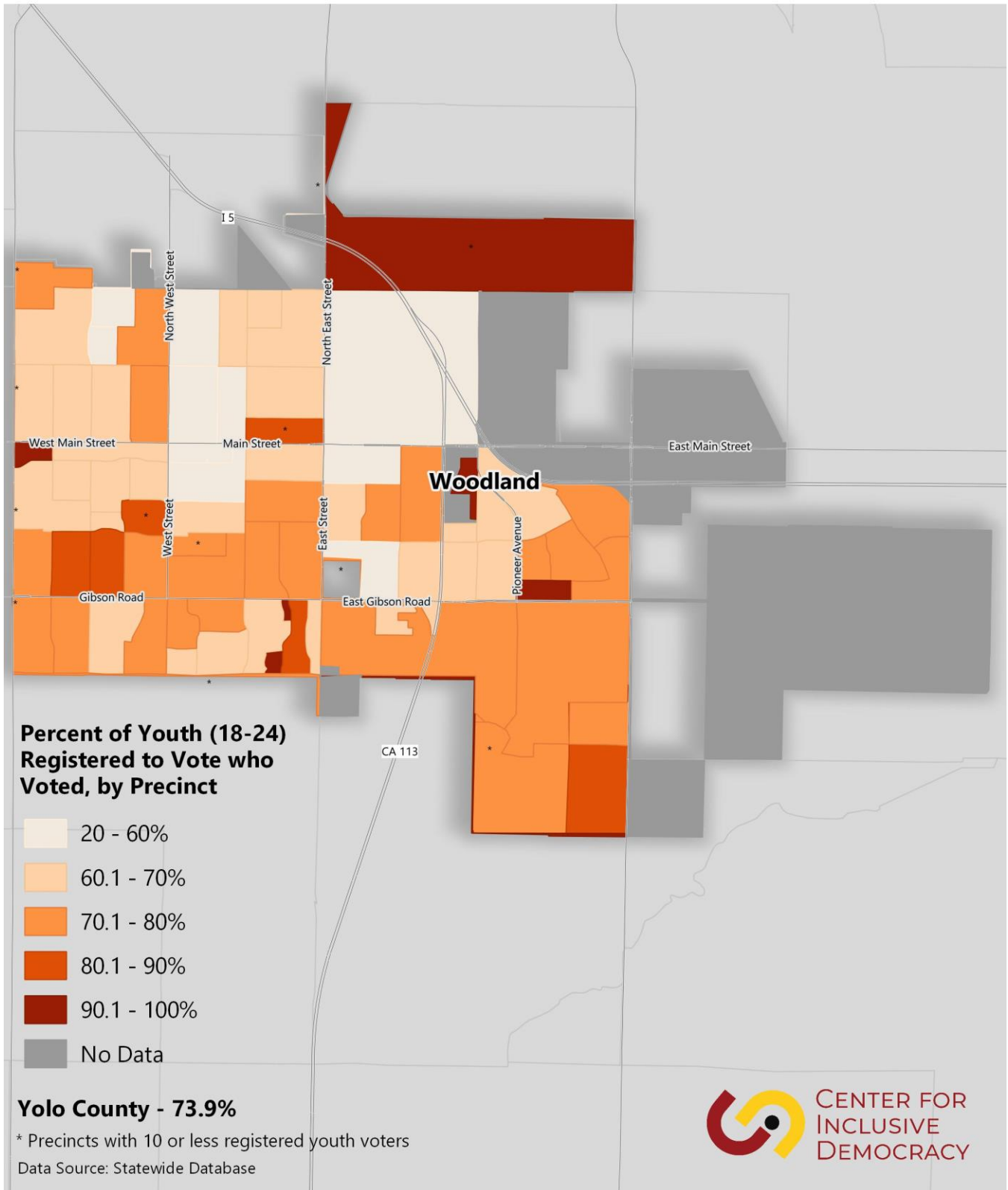


Total Registered Voter Turnout - Woodland General Election 2020



Youth Registered Voter Turnout - Woodland

General Election 2020



Appendix 7: How to Use CID's Interactive Voter Turnout Website

Navigation: You can adjust the zoom and size of the map by using the plus, minus and enlarge buttons in the upper left corner of the map. You can also scroll up and down to zoom in and out (respectively) and click and drag the map to pan to a different area. You can locate any city by typing its name or zip code into the search box in the map's upper right-hand corner.

Adding layers: To adjust the layers on the map, click the "Visible Layers" button in the upper right corner, then turn layers "on" or "off" by clicking the sliding button next to that layer.

Reading layers:

- **Percent Registered Voter Turnout.** The yellow-to-red scale in the bottom right corner indicates the percent registered voter turnout, or the percentage of registered voters that cast a ballot, for the 2014 General Election. The lighter in color or more yellow an area is, the fewer registered voters in that area participated in the 2014 election. The darker in color or redder an area is, the more registered voters in that area participated in the 2014 election.
- **Education Map – Low High School Graduation Rate.** This layer will place black diagonal stripes (pointing up from left to right) over areas where 76.2% or less of the population (as recorded by the census) have graduated from high school. This is the lowest quartile for graduation rates in California, meaning three fourths of the population of the United States have graduation rates above 76.2%, and one fourth have graduation rates below 76.2%.
- **Education Map – Low College Completion Rate.** This layer will place blue diagonal stripes (pointing down from left to right) over areas where 13% or fewer adults over the age of 25 (as recorded by the census) have completed a Bachelor's degree or higher degree. This is the lowest quartile for college education in California, meaning three fourths of the population of the United States have college education rates above 13%, and one fourth have college education rates below 13%.
- **Economic Map – Low Employment Rate.** This layer will place black diagonal stripes (pointing up from left to right) over areas where 86% or fewer of the civilian adult population (ages 20-64) are employed (as recorded by the census). Note that 86% represents the lowest quartile for employment in California, meaning three fourths of the population of California have an employment rate above 86%, and one fourth have employment rates below 86%.
- **Economic Map – High Poverty Rate.** This layer will place blue diagonal stripes (pointing down from left to right) over areas where over 51% of the population have a high rate of poverty, defined as having an income that is under 200% of the federal poverty level. This is the highest quartile for poverty status in California, meaning the top 25th percent.
- **Health Map – High Premature Mortality.** This layer will place black diagonal stripes (pointing up from left to right) over areas where the potential years of life lost is 38.9 or more. Years of potential life lost is the number of years of life lost among those who died before 65 years of age. This measure is calculated by taking the mean of the difference between 65 and age at death for all deaths occurring before the age of 65. Note that 38.9 represents the highest quartile for years of life lost in California, meaning three fourths of the population of California have a potential years of life lost lower than 38.9, and will die closer to the age of 65, and one fourth have potential years of life lost higher than 38.9, and will die closer to the age of 26.
- **Health Map – High Teen Birth Rate.** This layer will place green diagonal stripes (pointing down from left to right) over areas where 11.2% or more of babies were born to teenage mothers (as recorded by the census). Note that 11.2% represents the highest quartile for teen births in California, meaning three fourths of the population of California have teen birth rates less than 11.2%, and one fourth have teen birth rates above 11.2%.

- **Health Map – Disadvantaged Communities.** This layer will place blue diagonal stripes (pointing up from left to right) over areas that fall in the highest quartile for disadvantaged communities in California (as recorded by the census). Disadvantaged communities are defined by the CalEnviroScreen2.0, a tool that identifies areas disproportionately burdened by sources of pollution.
- **Civic Access Map – Limited English Proficiency.** This layer will place black diagonal stripes (pointing up from left to right) over areas where 82.2% or less of the population are proficient in English. This is the lowest quartile for English proficiency in California, meaning three fourths of the population of California have English proficiency rates above 82.2%, and one fourth have English proficiency below 82.2%.
- **Civic Access Map – High Percentage of Eligible Voters.** This layer will place blue diagonal stripes (pointing down from left to right) over areas that fall in the highest quartile for the percentage of the population eligible to vote, meaning these areas have relatively large populations of adult U.S. citizens.