



# California New Motor Voter Law: Changing the State's Voter Registration Landscape

This research is generously supported through funding from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

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### About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)

The Center for Inclusive Democracy's mission is to improve the social and economic quality of life in U.S. communities by producing non-partisan academic research that informs policy and on-the-ground organizing efforts through education and outreach for a more engaged, transparent, and representative democracy. CID conducts pioneering research that explores voting behavior, civic engagement, as well as electoral and economic issues at the intersection of social justice and democracy.

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## Executive Summary

In spring 2018, the California New Motor Voter (CNMV) program, California's automatic voter registration, was implemented across the state. Under CNMV, applicants at the DMV must answer voter registration questions in order to complete their transaction. Voter registration proceeds automatically for all eligible applicants unless they choose to decline registration at the point of service. CNMV and online voter registration together account for the vast majority of registrations in recent years. In contrast to CNMV, which presses a registration decision only on DMV customers, online registration is available to all eligible-to-vote Californians but leaves it up to the user to take initiative. CNMV's active approach is likely to reach more users at the periphery of the political system.

To better understand the effects of CNMV, the Center for Inclusive Democracy conducted a statewide analysis of registration and voting behavior in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 general elections. We compared new registrations and re-registrations by registration method, age, and race/ethnicity to examine how CNMV has changed the voter registration landscape and whether it shows evidence of increasing voter participation, particularly among underrepresented groups.

### Key Findings

#### Automatic registration at the DMV has become the most common voter registration method.

Over 43% of new registrants registered to vote at the DMV since CNMV implementation, more than through any other single registration method. Just under 40% of new registrants registered to vote online and only 16.9% registered to vote through other registration methods. Re-registrants also registered to vote at the DMV (58.7%) at higher rates than online registration (24.8%) and other registration methods (16.5%).

#### The share of new registrants and re-registrants who registered to vote at the DMV increased sixteen-fold between 2016 and 2020.

At the time of the 2016 general election, 3.3% of new registrants and re-registrants who registered to vote since the previous general election did so at the DMV. In the 2018 general election, which was held a little over six months after CNMV implementation, 42.0% of new registrants and re-registrants registered to vote at the DMV. In the 2020 general election, which was held a little over two and half years after CNMV implementation, the majority (54.1%) of new registrants and re-registrants registered to vote at the DMV.

#### Automatic registration at the DMV has become the top registration method for Asian-American, Latino, and Black registrants who registered for the first time or updated their registration.

The share of Asian-American, Latino, and Black registrants who registered to vote for the first time or updated their registration information at the DMV has notably increased since CNMV implementation. Prior to CNMV in the 2016 general election, less than 1% of Asian-American registrants were either new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants, which ballooned to 31.6% in the 2020 general election. Similarly, the proportion of Black registrants who were either new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants rose from less than 1% prior to CNMV implementation in the 2016 general election to nearly 11% in 2018 and over one-quarter in 2020. Over one-quarter of Latino registrants in the 2020 general election were new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants, a stark increase from around 1% prior to CNMV in the 2016 general election.

#### DMV registrants voted at lower rates than online registrants in the 2020 general election.

Despite the gains in voter registration after the implementation of CNMV, new DMV and DMV re-registrants had lower registered voter turnout than those who registered to vote online. Approximately 68% of new DMV registrants cast a ballot in the 2020 general election, 16.7 percentage points lower than new registrants who registered online during the same time period. Re-registrants also saw a small gap, with 89.4% of online re-registrants and 86.1% of DMV re-registrants voting in 2020 (a 3.3 percentage point difference).

## The voter turnout gap between new DMV registrants versus new online registrants was particularly large among the youngest voters.

Just over 58% of new DMV registrants aged 18 to 24 cast a ballot in the 2020 general election, 23.8 percentage points lower than those who registered online. Registered voter turnout gaps between the two registration methods decreased as the age category increased. Among those ages 65 and over, 81.7% of new DMV registrants and 92.4% of new online registrants voted, a 10.7 percentage point difference.

## Young registrants aged 18 to 24 saw the largest increase in registered voter turnout since CNMV implementation across all age groups.

Between the 2016 and 2020 general elections, young registrants saw a 13.5 percentage point increase in registered voter turnout, resulting in a higher turnout rate than those aged 25 to 34. While older registrants aged 65 and over saw one of the smallest increases in registered voter turnout, they consistently had the highest turnout rates among age groups.

## CNMV shows possible signs of improving racial/ethnic equity in voter turnout.

In the 2020 general election, registered voter turnout gaps were narrower between new DMV registrants and DMV re-registrants of color and all new DMV registrants and re-registrants compared to the 2016 general election. For example, Asian-American registrants who registered at the DMV for the first time or updated their information at the DMV had a one percentage point gap below all new DMV registrants and re-registrants, compared to 5.2 percentage points in 2016. However, when looking at total registered voter turnout, regardless of registration method, changes were mixed. Additionally, the registered voter turnout gap between the general population (regardless of registration method) and Asian-American and Black registrants narrowed after CNMV implementation in the 2020 general election, while the Latino registered voter turnout gap widened.

## Summary

In the two and half years between CNMV implementation and the 2020 general election, the DMV became the most used registration method among new registrants and re-registrants. While CNMV has registered many California residents to vote, there are notable voter turnout gaps between DMV registrants and online registrants.

# Introduction

## Automatic Voter Registration

Automatic voter registration (AVR) laws take advantage of interactions with government agencies by repurposing applicant information to register citizens to vote. For many, the goals of AVR include increasing voter registration and turnout rates and decreasing the disparities in turnout across groups, along with improving the accuracy of the registration rolls. While there are many forms of AVR legislation across the U.S., all AVR reforms are based on the idea that residents should not have to actively seek out voter registration; it should instead occur during common interactions with government agencies unless actively declined.<sup>1</sup> The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has become the most common agency used in AVR reforms because nearly all adults periodically interact with the agency and the same information required for DMV transactions is then used in the voter registration process. At the time of this report, twenty states and the District of Columbia have enacted AVR reforms.<sup>2</sup>

The California New Motor Voter (CNMV) Act, a form of automatic voter registration, was implemented across the state in April 2018, requiring the DMV to collect and forward voter registration details from each eligible customer unless the customer explicitly declines registration.<sup>3</sup> Prior to CNMV, the DMV under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 had provided customers the opportunity to complete mail-in voter registration forms, but the process was not integrated electronically into DMV transactions.<sup>4</sup>

## Study Goals

Examining who is using CNMV to register to vote, what their voting behaviors are, and how their registration and voting behaviors differ from other registration methods can improve our understanding of how AVR is influencing Californians' participation in the electoral process. To this end, the Center for Inclusive Democracy conducted a statewide analysis of registration and voting behavior by registration method in elections held before and after CNMV implementation, specifically the 2016, 2018, and 2020 California general elections. Our analysis seeks to answer the following questions broken out by racial, ethnic, and age group in California:

1. How have voter registration rates changed since CNMV implementation?
2. How have the ways in which Californians register to vote changed since CNMV implementation?
3. Who registers to vote by each registration method?
4. How does registered voter turnout differ between registration methods?
5. How has registered voter turnout changed since CNMV implementation? How do registration methods correspond to relative likelihood of voting?

This report examines three registration methods: 1). DMV registration, which occurs both in-person and online while completing DMV paperwork; 2). online registration, which occurs through the California Online Voter Registration (COVR) system; and 3). other registration, which is all voter registrations that are not completed through the DMV or COVR.

## Study Methodology

We acquired California voter files from the California Secretary of State and Political Data, Inc. (PDI).<sup>7</sup> The voter files provided the individual registrant's date of birth (used to identify age), party affiliation, voting activity, registration date, original registration date, registration method, and total number of registered voters. Gender, race, and ethnicity data were not present for the majority of voters in these files.<sup>8</sup> Registered voters in California have the option to self-report their gender, race, and ethnicity on the voter registration application, but only a small percentage of registrants have typically done so. Eligible voter population data (adult citizens) were provided by the California Department of Finance.

We used two approaches to assess California citizens' interaction with CNMV and other registration methods:

1. To better understand how Californians have interacted with CNMV since its implementation, we examined registration method, registrant composition by registration method, and registered voter turnout by registration method in the 2020 general election (held a little over two and half years after CNMV implementation). We divided registrants into three categories: 1) *New registrants* who registered to vote for the first time since CNMV implementation; 2) *Re-registrants* who originally registered to vote before CNMV implementation but updated registration records since; and 3) *Prior registrants* who registered before CNMV. Separating new registrants and re-registrants clarifies AVR's success at achieving its twin goals of easing registration for new voters and updating outdated voter registration records.
2. To better understand how Californians' interaction with registration methods has changed since CNMV implementation, we examined registration rates, registration method, registrant composition by registration method, and registered voter turnout by registration method in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 general elections. For this analysis we combined new registrants and re-registrants due to data limitations in the 2016 and 2018 voter files.

It is important to note that the phrasing of the questions in the CNMV user interface have prompted many registered voters to re-register even when their information has not changed. Thus, under CNMV re-registrants are not synonymous with movers who update their address. This likely broadens the population of people who are re-registering through CNMV, bringing it closer to the population of registered voters as a whole.

We also note that before CNMV was implemented, change of address transactions at the DMV were reported separately. Many are now routed through the new eDL44 process and treated as re-registrations. Similarly, the California Secretary of State now separates new registrations from updates to existing registrations. This is a distinction that was not included in the previous public reporting. Additionally, the DMV previously reported the number of customers who did not fill out registration forms. Currently, those who decline to answer the eligibility questions are dropped from the official reporting process. As a result, the official CNMV reports make it seem as if the total number of DMV customers has declined by about 40 percent. However, the number likely increased more as the state began issuing REAL ID driver's licenses in January 2018.<sup>9</sup>

## Data Limitations: Identifying Race and Ethnicity

Many factors influence registration rates and turnout in each election, including ease of registration, political climate, and candidate qualities. Expansion of voter registration opportunities through AVR may not fully explain changes in registration rates and turnout. Thus, the relationships between CNMV and voter registration or behavior that we identify in this study are not necessarily caused by CNMV itself.

Current methods used to identify the race and ethnicity of voters are unreliable for some demographic groups, including Indigenous/Native and Asian-American subgroup populations. We identified registrants' race and ethnicity in county voter files with the R package Who Are You (WRU), which computes the probability of each racial category for registrants using surname, neighborhood demographics (geocoding with census tract data), and other characteristics, such as gender, party, and age.<sup>10</sup> For this report, analysis of the voter file by race and ethnicity is limited to Latino, Asian-American, and Black registrants because the imputation for other racial and ethnic groups can have a high degree of inaccuracy. However, some error in measurement for all races and ethnicities, particularly for Black registrants is present, so caution is appropriate when interpreting small effects. To this end, we do not report registration rates as determining these estimates involves the additional data source (denominator) of citizen voting age population which can translate into more uncertainty when presenting point estimates. Instead, we focus on percentage point changes in registration rates across time.

The analysis in this report primarily focuses on voter registration and participation across racial and ethnic groups as well as age groups. We are unable to examine voter registration rates for Californians who are limited English proficient or Californians with disabilities.

## Data Limitations: Contextual Factors

We note that there are many factors that could potentially influence the method/s Californian's use to register, including the type and timing of any contact by organized voter outreach efforts. This report does not evaluate the impact of those efforts, which might encourage more voter registration through any method, including at the DMV during an unrelated driver's license transaction. Nonetheless, effective voter outreach efforts--although needed to help reach a greater and more diverse electorate--are unlikely by themselves to account for the timing and magnitude of the shifts in DMV voter registration reported below and in other studies. Please see the Public Policy Institute (PPIC) report, "[Implementing Automated Voter Registration in California](#)."

### How California New Motor Voter Works

Under California New Motor Voter (CNMV), applicants completing a driver's license, identification card, or change of address transaction online, by mail, or in person at the DMV are required to answer a series of voter registration questions. Applicants may choose to opt out of voter registration. If they do not opt out, the DMV sends the California Secretary of State relevant information to complete the registration process.<sup>5</sup> In short, CNMV is a front end, forced choice system (see page 8 for more explanation).

The California New Motor Voter program applies to Californians who are 18 or older and meet all of the following criteria<sup>6</sup>:

1. A United States citizen and resident of California.
2. Not currently serving a state or federal prison term for the conviction of a felony.
3. Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

## Background: Types of Automatic Voter Registration

AVR reform aims to streamline the voter registration process by providing opportunities to register to vote during interactions with government agencies. But AVR execution differs from state to state in two ways: 1) when eligible residents can opt out of voter registration (front end versus back end); and 2) how they engage with the voter registration questions (default registration versus forced choice or "hard stop" registration).

In a front end AVR system, residents are presented with the option to register to vote during their government agency transaction (usually for a driver's license). In contrast, a back end AVR system automatically sends the information needed to determine eligibility to the Secretary of State. Based on this information, the state contacts eligible residents to offer the chance to opt out of registration.

Separate from back end and front end AVR systems, the ways in which registrants interact with the voter registration questions also differ across states. In a default registration system, potential registrants will be registered unless they actively opt out. Default registration occurs in all back end AVR states, and some front end states in the form of a box on the agency form with the option to decline. However, most front end states use a forced choice or "hard stop" registration system in which residents must answer the voter registration questions to complete their transaction.

CNMV is a front end, forced choice system (see page 7 for how CNMV works). We note here that this report provides an analysis of the CNMV program. As it is outside the scope of study, this report does not provide an analysis of the automatic voter registration systems in other states, nor compare those systems to CNMV.



**Front end AVR:** The voter registration option is provided at the government agency and allows the customer to opt out at that point as a part of the overall transaction.

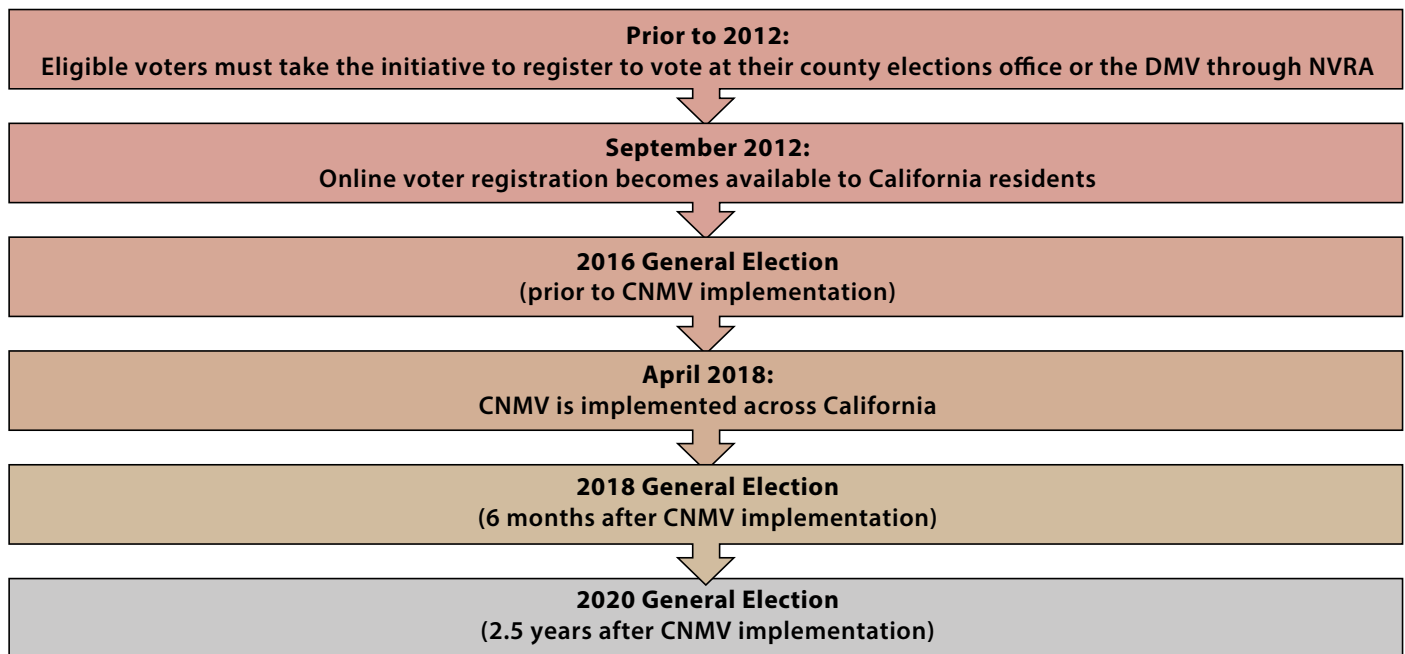
**Back end AVR:** Voter registration is no longer initiated at the government agency. Instead, the state establishes whether a resident is eligible to vote based on information provided when a person signs up for the government program, and then the state contacts that person after the fact to offer the chance to opt out.

**Default registration:** Eligible residents are registered to vote unless they indicate they want to opt out.

**Forced choice or “hard stop” registration:** Government agency customers must answer voter registration questions, or they cannot complete their transaction.

## Registration Methods History in California

Figure 1



It is important to keep key dates in mind while digesting the analysis in the following sections. Prior to 2012, Californians had to independently initiate the voter registration process at their county elections office or the DMV (where they would have been offered a paper registration form through NVRA) (Figure 1). The opportunity for eligible Californians to register to vote online through the California Online Voter Registration (COVR) system began on September 19, 2012.<sup>11</sup> Californians’ opportunities to vote were further expanded when CNMV (a front end, forced choice AVR system) was implemented on April 23, 2018, roughly three years after it was passed by the California legislature.<sup>12</sup> The 2016 general election was held prior to CNMV implementation on November 8, 2016, while the 2018 general election (November 6, 2018) and the 2020 general election (November 3, 2020) were held after CNMV implementation.

# Registration Rates

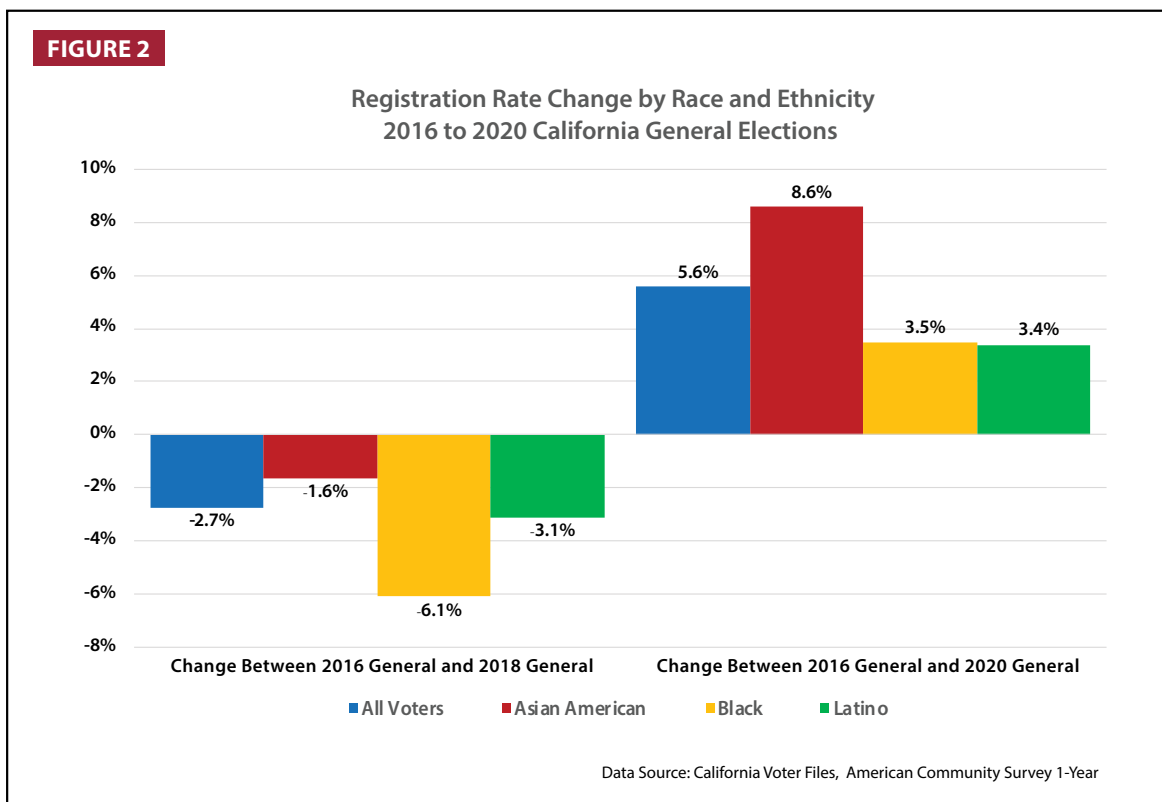
## Registration Rates Changes Since CNMV Implementation

The registration rate (the share of the citizen voting-age population that is registered to vote) has increased since CNMV implementation. Registration rates increased over five percentage points in the 2020 general election since the 2016 general election, both presidential elections (Figure 2). However, between the 2016 general election and the 2018 presidential election registration rates decreased, a common occurrence between presidential and midterm election cycles.

The demographic make-up of California's registered voters still is not representative of the state's population who are eligible to register (adult citizens). Historically and currently, Californians of color and youth have notably lower registration rates than California's general population, resulting in these groups being underrepresented among the the state's registered voter population. For example, Latinos were 26.7% of California's registered voters in the 2020 general election, but were 30.9% of all the state's eligible-to-vote residents. For more information on the state's representation gap, see [CID's report on registration rates](#).

Note: While increasing registration rates is one of the primary goals of AVR reforms, changes in registration rates cannot be causally attributed to the CNMV given that many factors influence voter registration.

### Registration Rate Changes Since CNMV Implementation – Race and Ethnicity

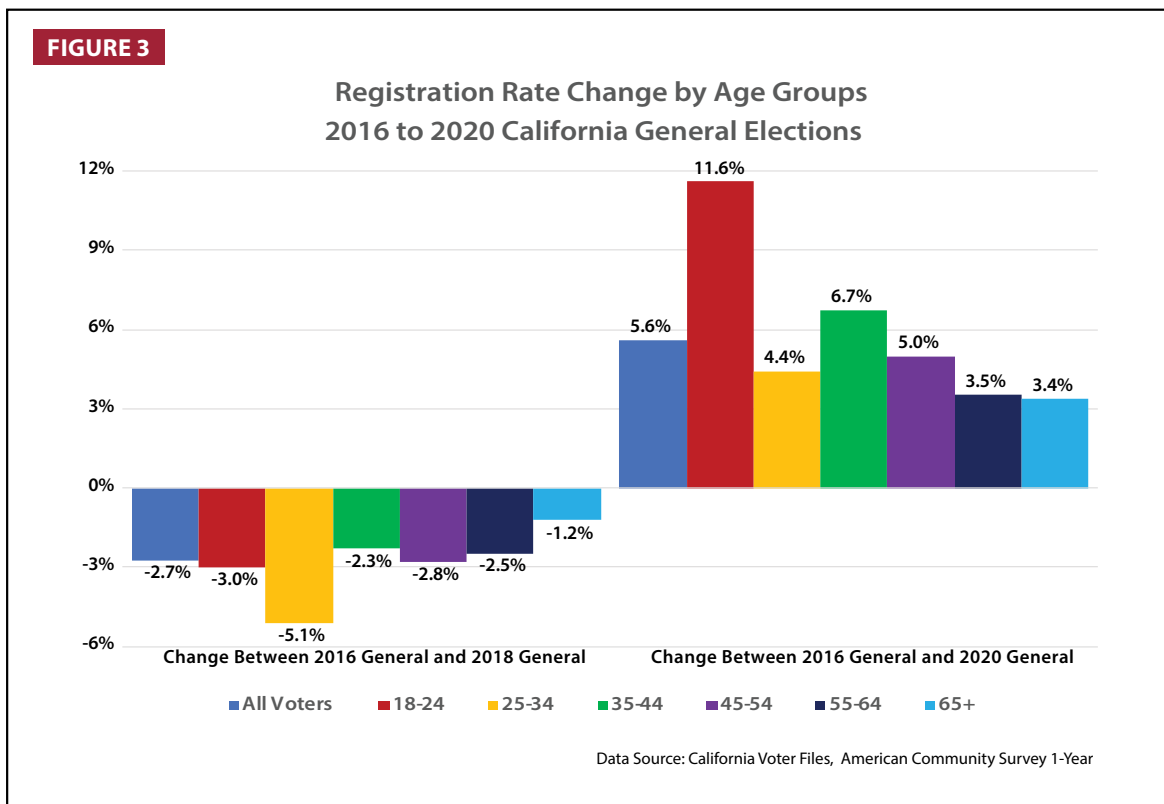


Registration rates increased for all racial and ethnic groups since CNMV implementation, with Asian Americans experiencing the largest growth (Figure 2). Between the 2016 and 2020 general elections, the Asian-American registration rate increased notably more (8.6 percentage points) than the rate increase of the general population (5.6 percentage points). In contrast, the Latino and Black registration rates saw notably lower growth (3.4 percentage points and 3.5 percentage points, respectively) than Asian Americans and the general population.

While registration rates for all racial and ethnic groups increased between the two presidential elections (2016 and 2020), registration rates decreased in the 2018 midterm election. Asian Americans, however, saw a smaller decrease (-1.6 percentage points) in registration rates than all registrants (-2.7 percentage points), while Black registrants (-6.1 percentage points) and Latino registrants (-3.1 percentage points) saw larger decreases in their registration rates than the general population.

Note: According to the California Secretary of State, the official registration rates were 78.0% (19,411,711 registered voters out of 24,875,293 eligible voters) in the 2016 general election and 87.9% (22,047,448 registered voters out of 25,090,517 eligible voters) in the 2020 general election, an 9.9 percentage point increase over the time period. Just over 3 million eligible (adult citizens) Californians were not registered to vote. The registration rate change seen in Figure 2 differs due to small differences in the voter files used for this analysis.<sup>13</sup>

### Registration Rate Changes Since CNMV Implementation – Age Groups



Young registrants aged 18 to 24 saw a notably higher increase in registration rates than other age groups since CNMV implementation (Figure 3). Young registrants aged 18 to 24 saw the largest growth (11.6 percentage points) in their registration rate between 2016 and 2020, yet also the second largest decrease (-3.0 percentage points) between 2016 and 2018. Older registrants over the age of 64 relatively maintained their registration rate (-1.2 percentage points) between 2016 and 2018 compared to other age groups but had the smallest increase between presidential elections (3.4 percentage points).

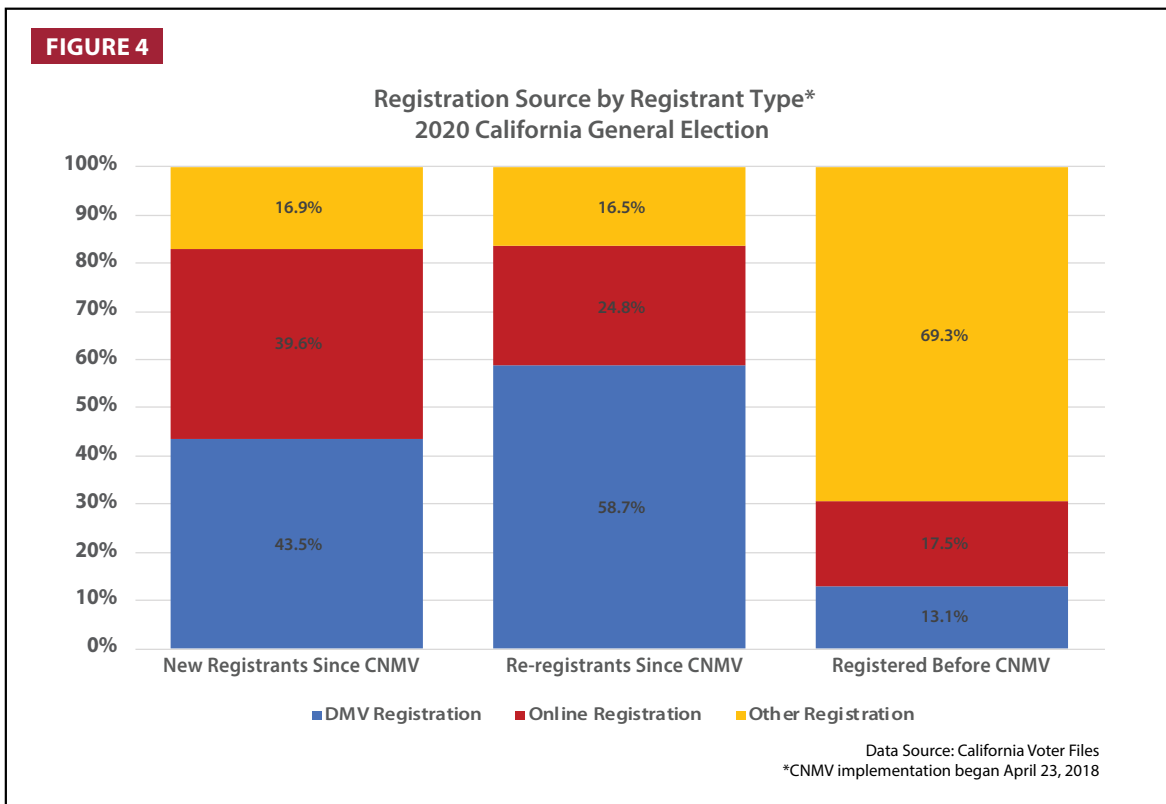
## Registration Methods

## Registration Methods in the 2020 General Election

Automatic registration at the DMV has become the most common voter registration method among new registrants and re-registrants since its implementation. To analyze where Californians have registered to vote, we have categorized registrants as:

1. **New registrants** who registered to vote for the first time since CNMV implementation in April 2018;
2. **Re-registrants** who originally registered to vote before CNMV implementation but updated registration records since CNMV implementation; and
3. **Prior registrants** who registered before CNMV.

### Registration Method in the 2020 General Election – All Voters



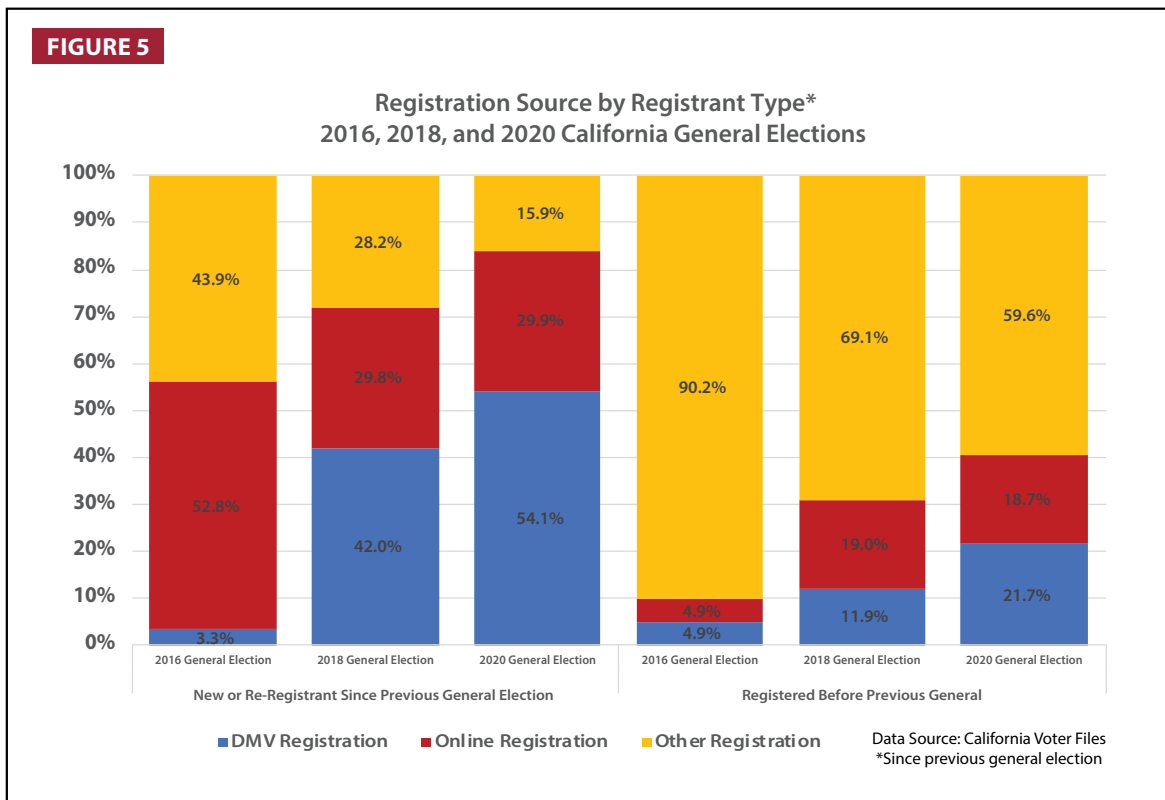
**DMV registration was the most used registration method for both new registrants and re-registrants since CNMV implementation.** Over 43% of new registrants and over 58% of re-registrants registered to vote at the DMV since CNMV implementation, the largest share of all registration methods (Figure 4). In contrast, among registrants who registered to vote prior to CNMV implementation, nearly 70% registered through other registration methods while just 13.1% registered at the DMV and 17.5% registered online.

Note: For registration methods by registration agency, see Appendix A.

## Registration Methods Before and After CNMV Implementation

Analysis of registration methods in the 2016, 2018, and 2020 general elections shows considerable changes in the ways Californians register to vote since the implementation of CNMV. In this analysis, we compare the registration methods of those who registered *before* the previous general election with those who registered (or re-registered) *after* the previous general election.

### Registration Method Before and After CNMV Implementation - All Voters



The DMV has become the most used method for new registrants and re-registrants to register to vote, a dramatic change from being the least common prior to CNMV implementation. At the time of the 2016 general election (prior to CNMV), only 3.3% of those who registered or re-registered after the previous election registered to vote at the DMV, which increased more than 12-fold in the 2018 general election (42.0%) and more than 16-fold in the 2020 general election (54.1%, Figure 5). Among registrants who registered to vote before the previous general election, 4.9% registered to vote at the DMV in the 2016 general election, which increased to 11.9% in 2018 and 21.7% in 2020 as the impact of CNMV began to manifest in these longer-term registrants.

The share of registrants who registered to vote online decreased among new and re-registrants between 2016 and 2020 but increased among prior registrants. In 2016, 52.8% of new registrants or re-registrants registered to vote online, which decreased to 29.8% in 2018 and 29.9% in 2020. Just under 5% of registrants who registered before the previous general election had registered online in 2016, which increased to 19.0% in 2018 and 18.7% in 2020.

Note: Registrants who registered to vote at the DMV prior to CNMV implementation were offered voter registration materials through NVRA. For registration methods by registration agency, see Appendix A.

## Registration Methods by Demographic Group

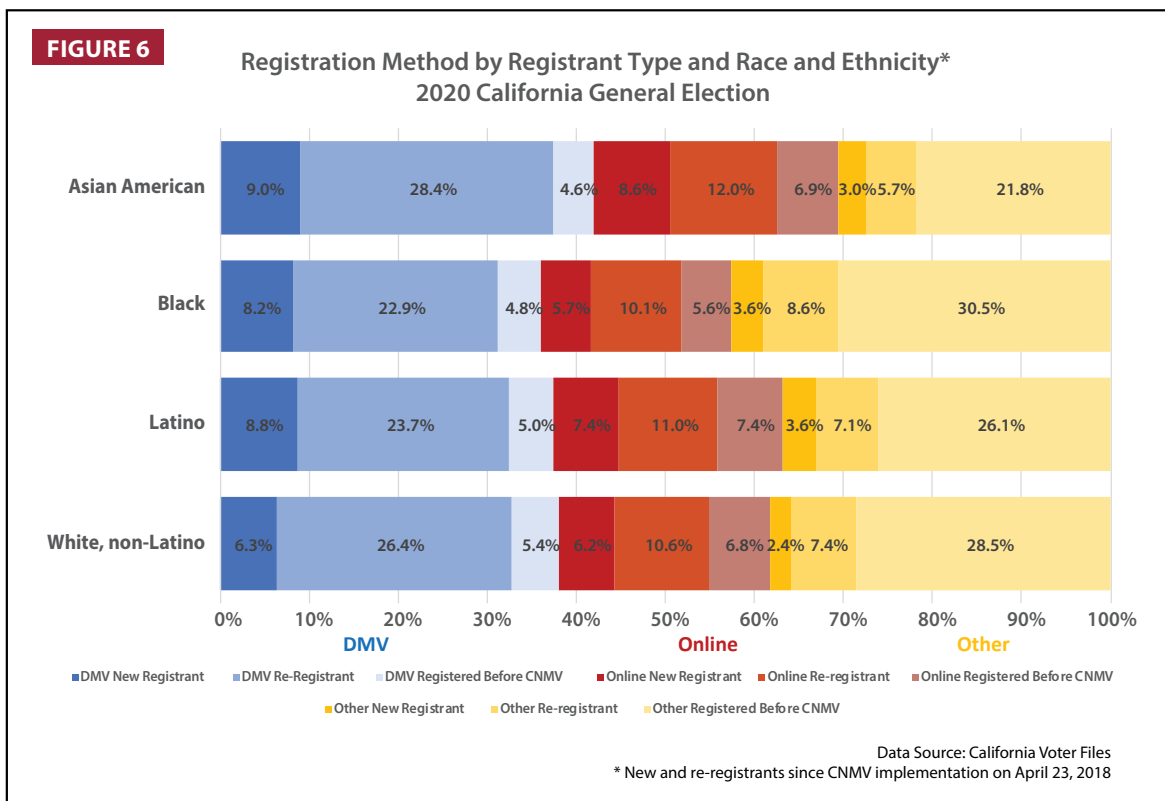


## Registration Methods by Demographic Group in the 2020 General Election

Since CNMV implementation, the DMV has become a top registration method for new and re-registrants of color and registrants aged 18 to 24. To analyze where Californians have registered to vote, we have categorized registrants as:

1. **New registrants** who were registered to vote for the first time since CNMV implementation in April 2018;
2. **Re-registrants** who originally registered to vote before CNMV implementation but updated registration records since CNMV implementation; and
3. **Prior registrants** who registered before CNMV.

### Registration Method in the 2020 General Election– Race and Ethnicity

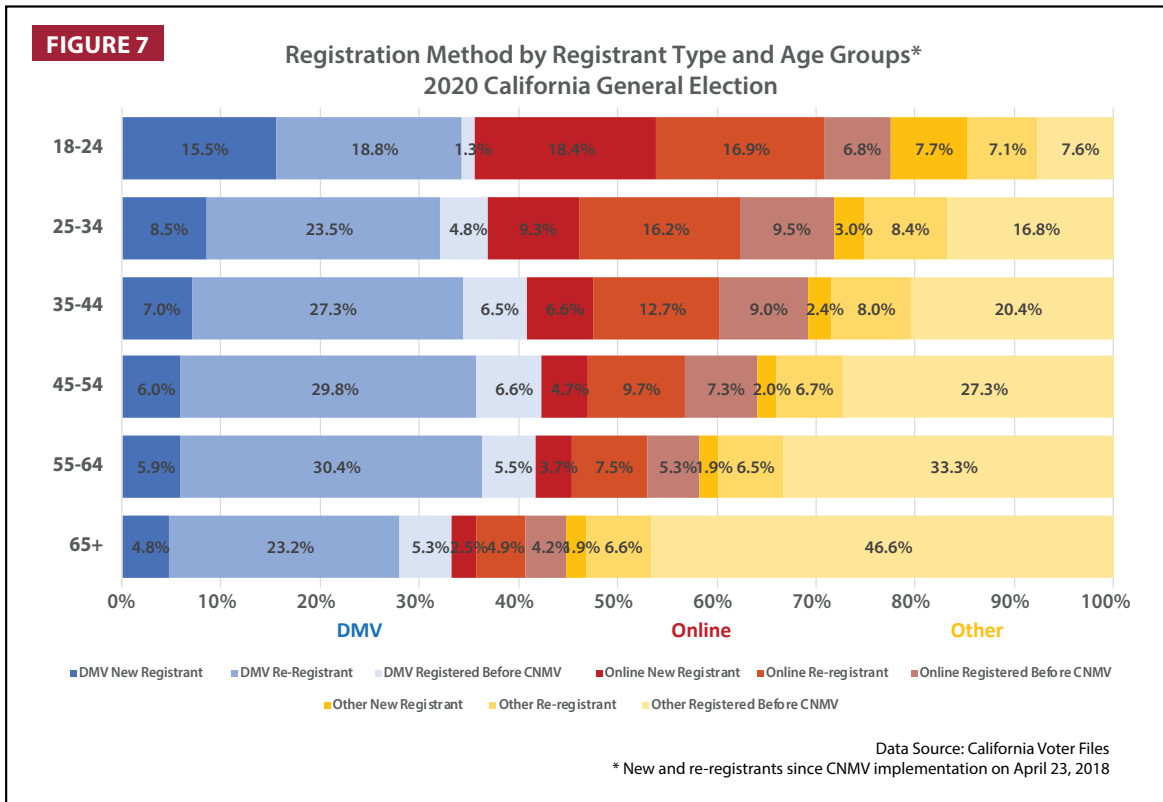


**Registration methods varied by race and ethnicity.** While the DMV was one of the most common registration methods among all racial and ethnic groups examined, Asian Americans and white, non-Latinos, particularly re-registrants, registered to vote at the DMV at higher rates than Black and Latino registrants (Figure 6). In contrast, Black and Latino registrants, particularly those who registered prior to CNMV, registered to vote through other methods at higher rates than Asian Americans.

Despite registration methods varying by race and ethnicity, DMV registration was especially used among re-registrants, with DMV re-registrants representing at least twice the share of online re-registrants across all racial and ethnic groups. For example, nearly 24% of Latino registrants were DMV re-registrants since CNMV implementation, while 11.0% were online re-registrants.

Note: Registrants who registered to vote at the DMV prior to CNMV implementation were offered voter registration materials through NVRA. For registration methods by registration agency and race/ethnicity, see Appendix A.

## Registration Method in the 2020 General Election – Age Groups



**Registrants in all age groups used the DMV to register to vote at high rates.** Around one-third of registrants under age 65 used the DMV to register to vote for the first time or update their registration information since CNMV implementation (Figure 7). The 2020 election saw particularly high rates of young residents registering to vote for the first time at the DMV, with over 15% of all registrants aged 18 to 24 being new DMV registrants, although a higher share of young new registrants registered to vote online (18.4%). Additionally, DMV registration was the most common method among middle-aged re-registrants between 45 and 64, with around 30% of each age group being DMV re-registrants.

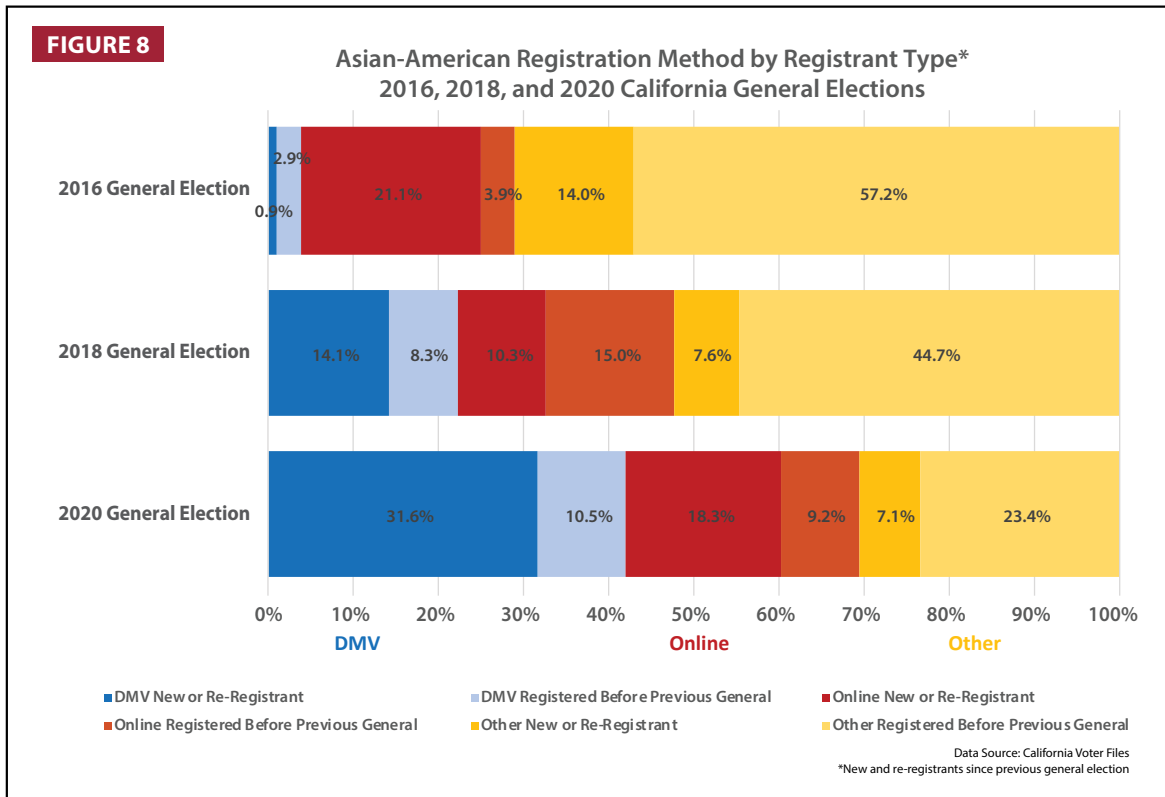
Despite 28% of registrants aged 65 and older being new DMV or DMV re-registrants, nearly half of older registrants registered to vote prior to CNMV through non-DMV and non-online registration methods.

Note: Registrants who registered to vote at the DMV prior to CNMV implementation were offered voter registration materials through NVRA. For registration methods by registration agency and age groups, see Appendix A.

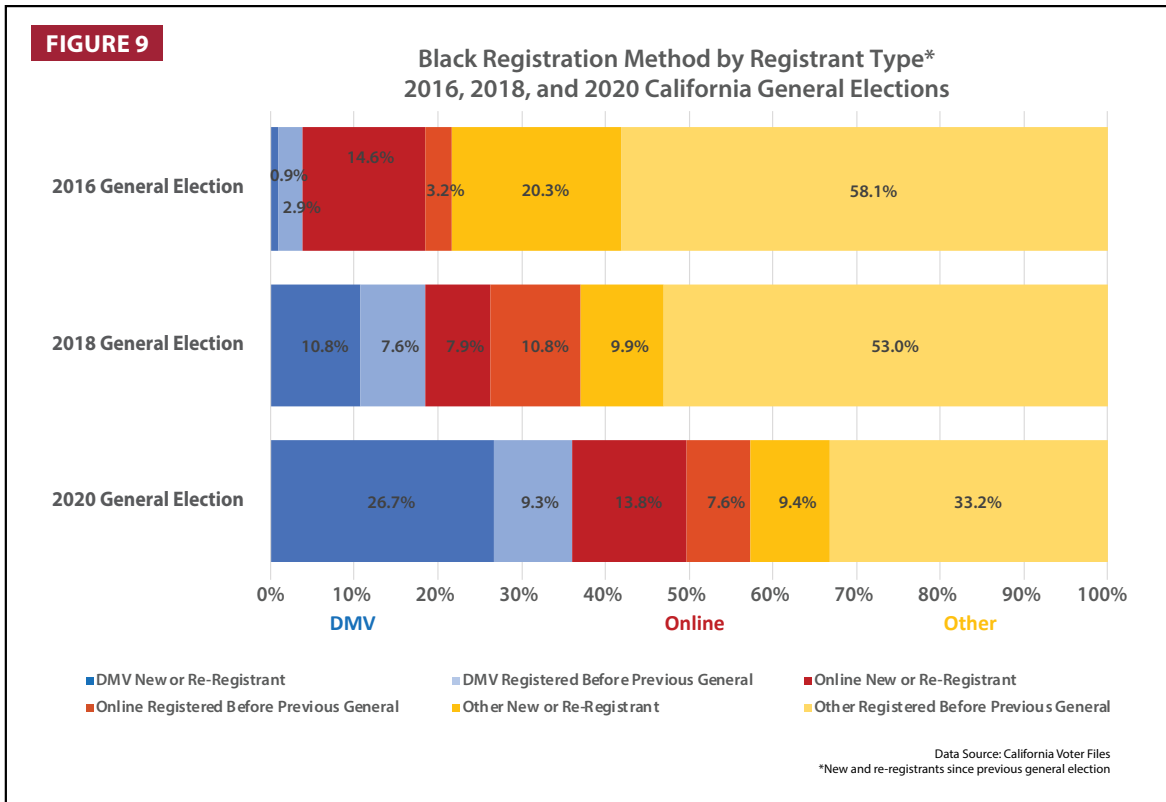
## Demographics by Registration Method Before and After CNMV Implementation

There have been considerable changes in the ways in which registrants of color and registrants of all ages have registered to vote since CNMV implementation. In this analysis, we compare the registration methods of those who registered before the previous general election with those who registered (or re-registered) after the previous general election.

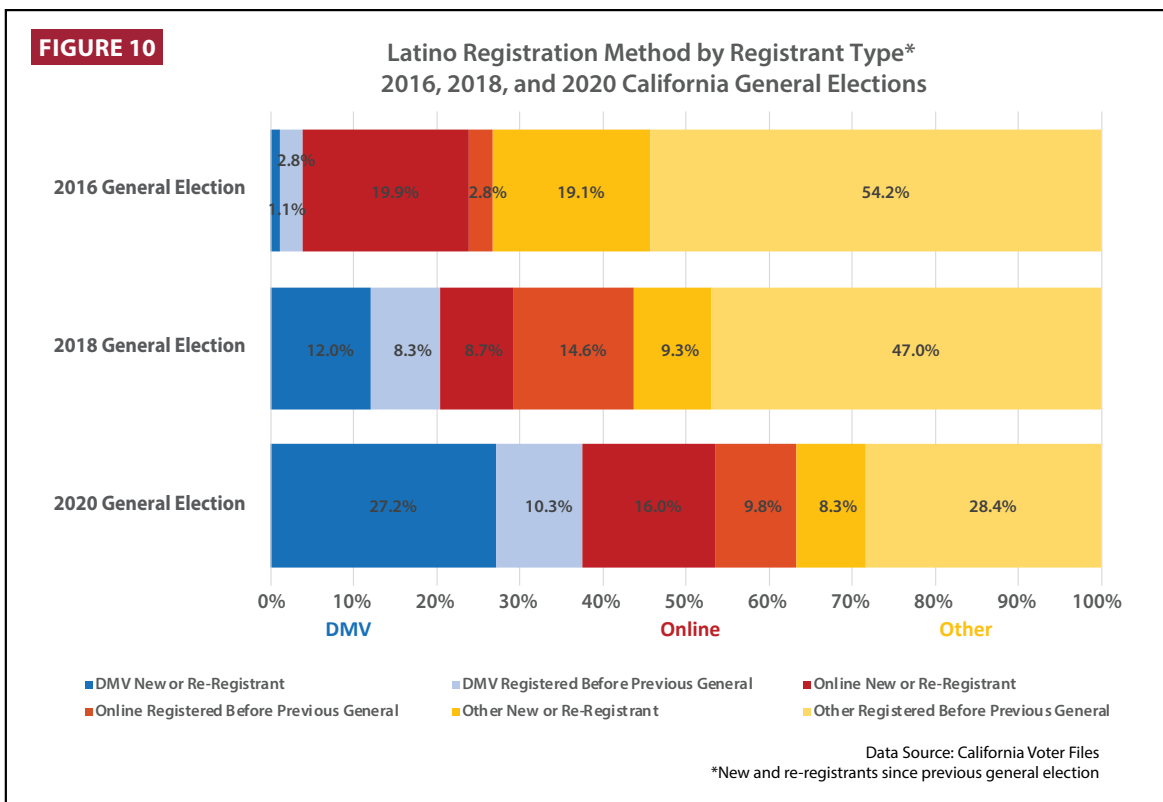
### Registration Method Before and After CNMV Implementation – Race and Ethnicity



Since CNMV implementation, the DMV has become the most common registration method among Asian-American registrants. Less than one percent of Asian-American registrants were either new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants in the 2016 general election, which ballooned to 14.1% in the 2018 general election and 31.6% in the 2020 general election (Figure 8). In contrast, the share of Asian-American registrants that were either new online registrants or online re-registrants decreased after CNMV implementation.

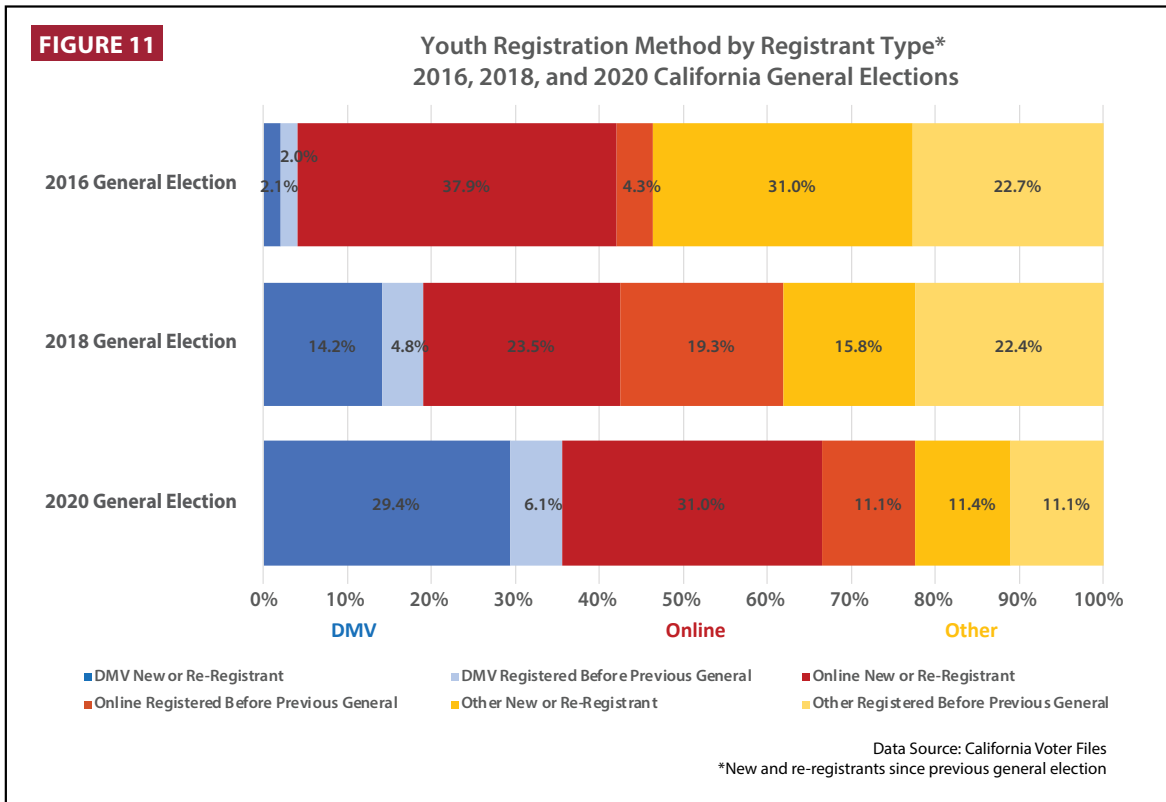


**While DMV registration has become much more common among Black registrants since CNMV implementation, it has not overtaken other registration methods.** The largest proportion of Black registrants in each election registered prior to the previous general election through other registration methods (Figure 9). The proportion of Black registrants who were either new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants rose from less than 1% prior to CNMV implementation in the 2016 general election to nearly 11% in 2018 and over one-quarter in 2020. In contrast, the share of Black registrants registering online has fluctuated and the share registering through other registration methods has decreased since CNMV went into effect.



**Growth in the proportion of Latino registrants registering through the DMV has outpaced all other registration methods since CNMV implementation.** Over one-quarter of Latino registrants in the 2020 general election were new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants, a stark increase from around 1% prior to CNMV in the 2016 general election (Figure 10). While registering to vote online continues to be a commonly used option for Latino new registrants and re-registrants, the share of registrants using this method fluctuated after CNMV became an option. Similarly, the proportion of Latino registrants who registered to vote prior to the previous general election through other registration methods has decreased by nearly half since CNMV implementation.

## Registration Method Before and After CNMV Implementation – Young Registrants (18 to 24)



The proportion of young registrants aged 18 to 24 who registered to vote at the DMV for the first time notably increased between 2016 and 2020. Prior to CNMV implementation, slightly over 2% of young registrants in the 2016 general election were new DMV registrants or DMV re-registrants, which increased to nearly 30% two and half years after CNMV took effect (Figure 11). Although young registrants continued to register or re-register online at higher rates than at the DMV, the proportion who were online registrants was highest in 2016, prior to CNMV implementation.

## Registered Voter Turnout Rates

## Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General Election

For many proponents of CNMV, a key goal of its implementation is to increase voter turnout and narrow the turnout gap among historically underrepresented groups. **While registered voter turnout was lower among DMV registrants than online registrants in all groups examined, the differences are notably smaller among re-registrants.** For this analysis, we have categorized Californians who have registered to vote as:

1. **New registrants** who were registered to vote for the first time since CNMV implementation in April 2018;
2. **Re-registrants** who originally registered to vote before CNMV implementation but updated registration records since CNMV implementation; and
3. **Prior registrants** who registered before CNMV.

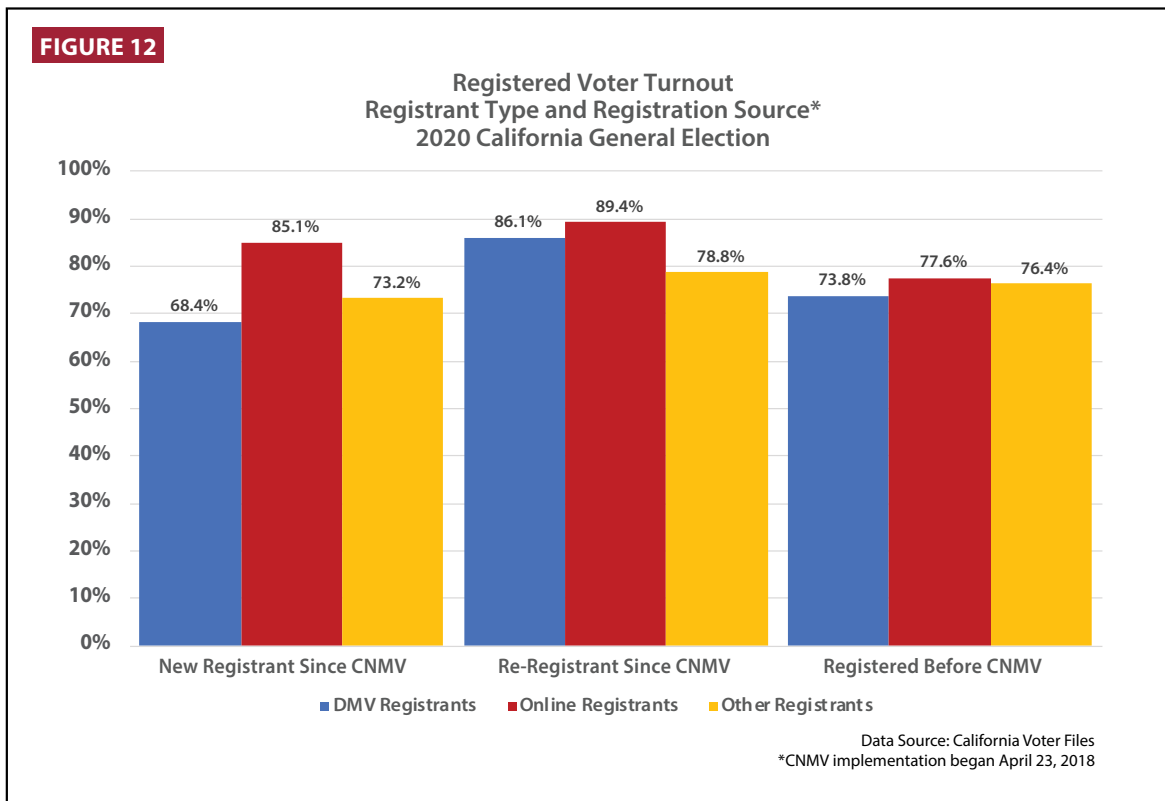
Many factors influence registered voter turnout, such as election type (presidential vs. midterm), political climate, and candidate quality. Our analysis examines only the correlation between CNMV implementation and changes in voter turnout and does not account for other factors. We note here that we present voter turnout of only the registered voter population in order to examine turnout differences across registration methods.

As with California's registration population, the demographic make-up of California's voters (those actually casting a ballot) is not representative of the state's population who are eligible to vote (adult citizens). Historically and currently, voters of color and young voters have notably lower voter turnout rates than California's general population, resulting in these groups being underrepresented among those in the state casting ballots. For example, Asian Americans were 10.6 % of California's actual voters in the 2020 general election, but were 14.6% of all the state's eligible-to-vote residents. For more information on these representation gaps, see [CID's Voter's Choice Act research report](#).

Note: For a more complete equity-focused discussion of voter turnout across groups, CID encourages the examination of turnout of the larger eligible voter population (adult citizens). Examining only registered voter turnout rates can obscure the significant historical and current inequities in voter representation across racial/ethnic and age groups. See CID's [website](#) for research on this measure of turnout.



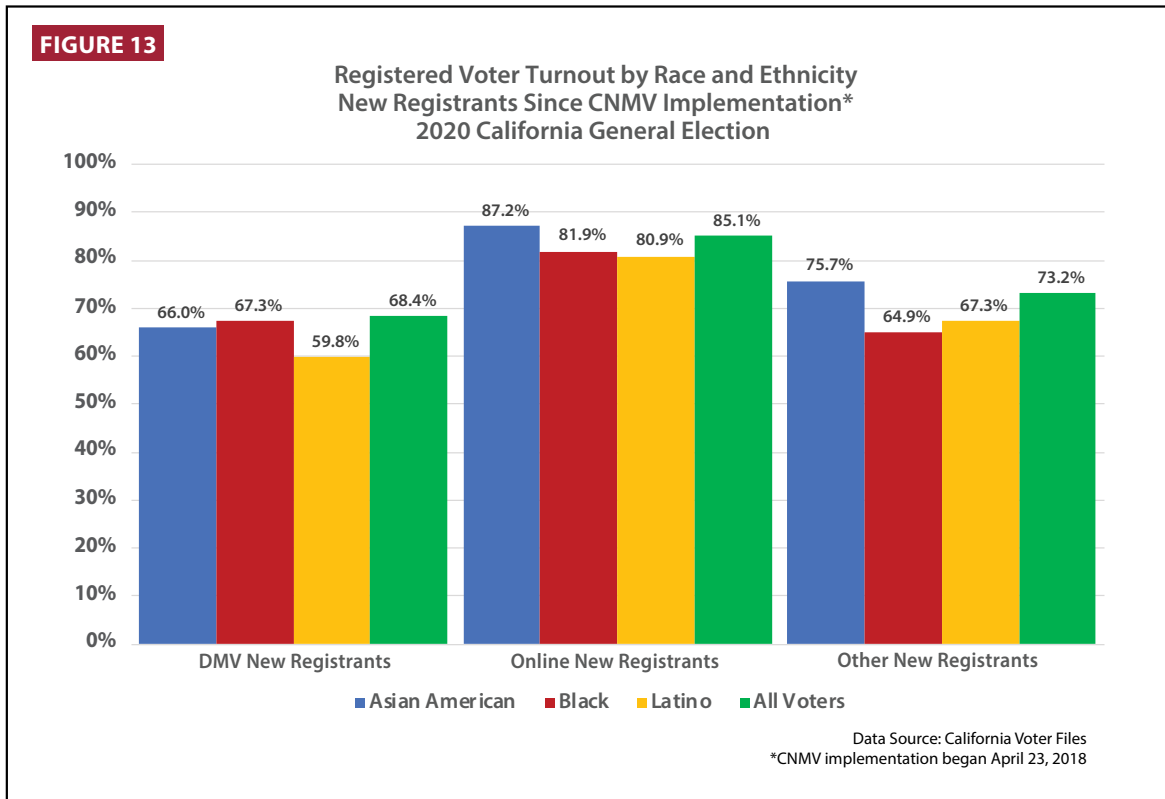
## Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General Election – All Voters



**In the 2020 general election, DMV registrants of all types had lower registered voter turnout rates than online registrants.** Online registrants of all types had notably higher registered voter turnout rates than all other methods, suggesting online registrants, who must seek out registration on their own, are more motivated to cast a ballot.

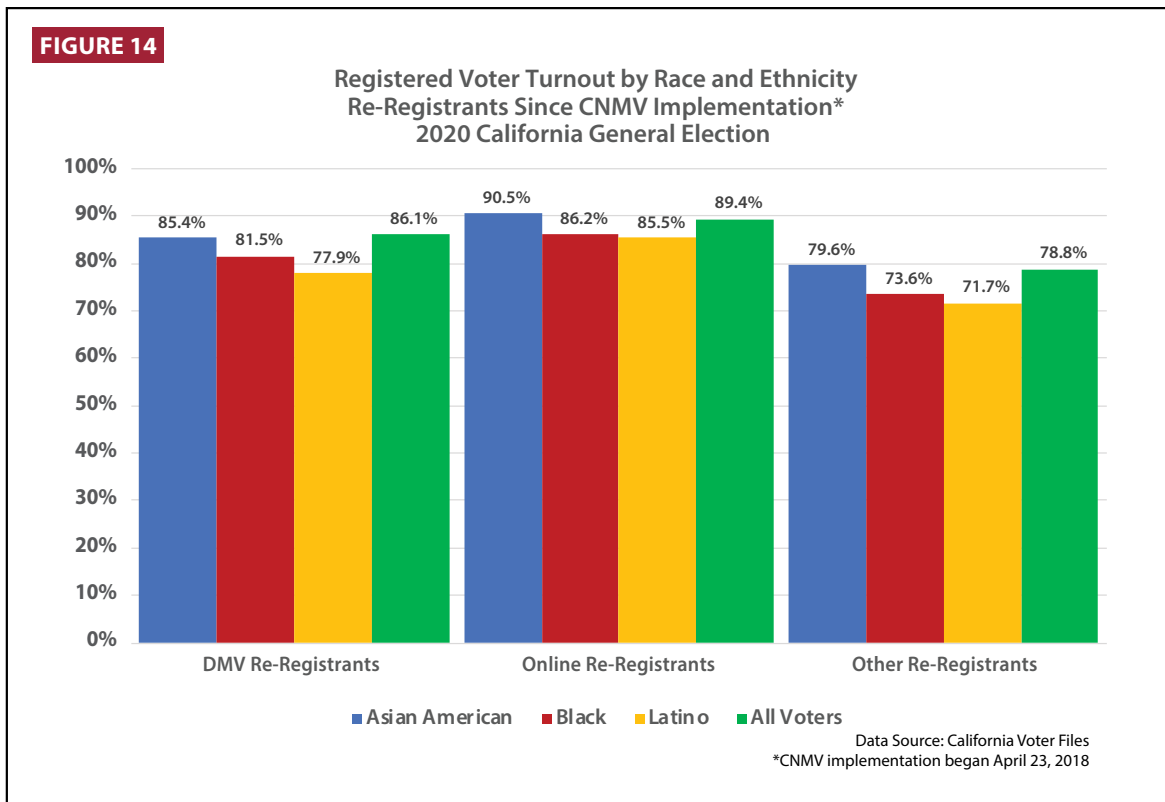
Additionally, the turnout difference was more pronounced among new registrants than among re-registrants or prior registrants. While there was only a 3.3 percentage point turnout gap between DMV re-registrants and online re-registrants, there was a 16.7 percentage point gap between new DMV registrants and new online registrants (Figure 12). While new registrants have historically had lower turnout rates than those who were registered to vote before, the stark difference between turnout gaps across registration methods suggest new DMV registrants may require more engagement than those independently seeking out registration.

## Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General Election – Race and Ethnicity



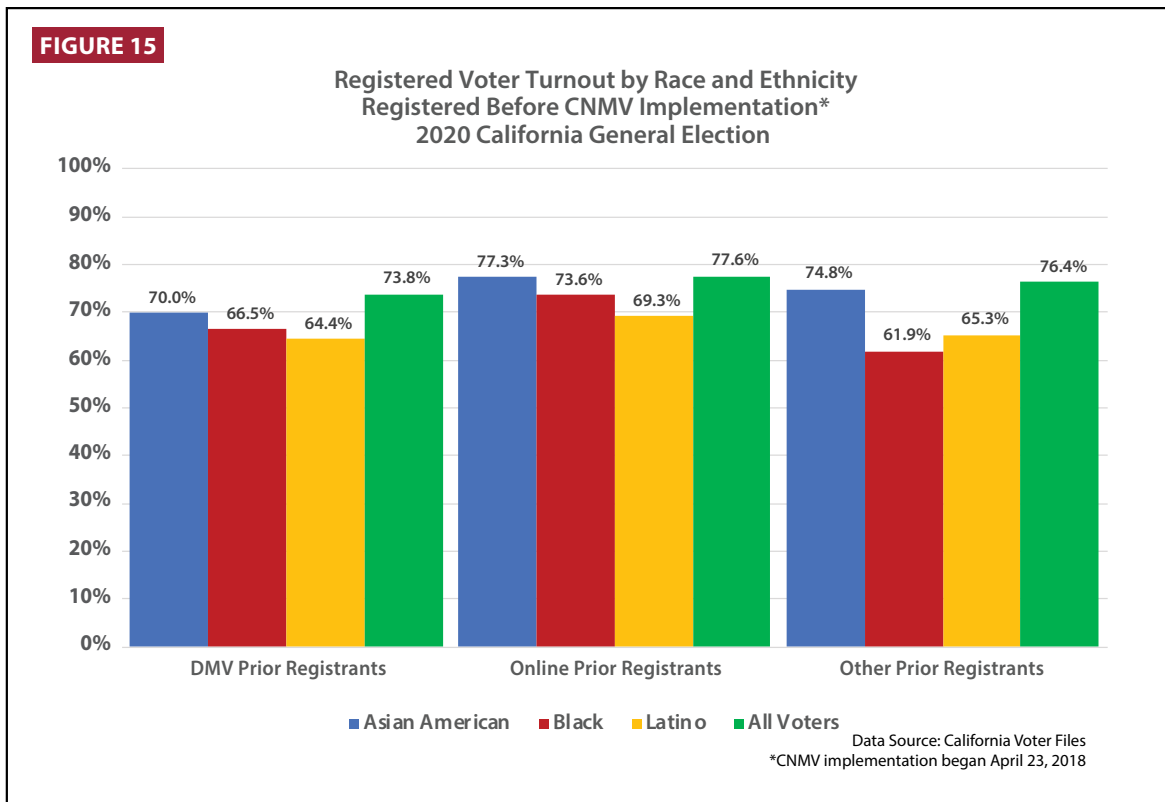
**Among voters who newly registered after CNMV implementation, those who registered online turned out to vote at substantially higher rates than those who registered at the DMV, regardless of race and ethnicity.** With all turnout differences between DMV and online registrants exceeding 14 percentage points, this analysis suggests new DMV registrants may require additional engagement (Figure 13).

Registered voter turnout gaps between registrants of color and all registrants varied by registration method. Among new DMV registrants, Asian-American registered voter turnout was 2.4 percentage points lower than all registrants, while Asian-American online registrants had higher registered voter turnout rates than all new online registrants. Similarly, there was an 8.6 percentage point turnout gap between new Latino DMV registrants and all new DMV registrants, while only a 4.2 percentage point gap among new online registrants. In contrast, new Black DMV registrants had a lower turnout gap (1.1 percentage points) compared to new Black online registrants (3.2 percentage points).



**Re-registrants were also most likely to vote if they had re-registered online, regardless of race/ethnicity.** Among Latino, Black, and Asian-American re-registrants, those who registered online had higher registered voter turnout rates than those who registered at the DMV or through other registration methods (Figure 14). Despite the turnout differences across registration methods, the differences among re-registrants were much smaller than those seen among new registrants in Figure 13.

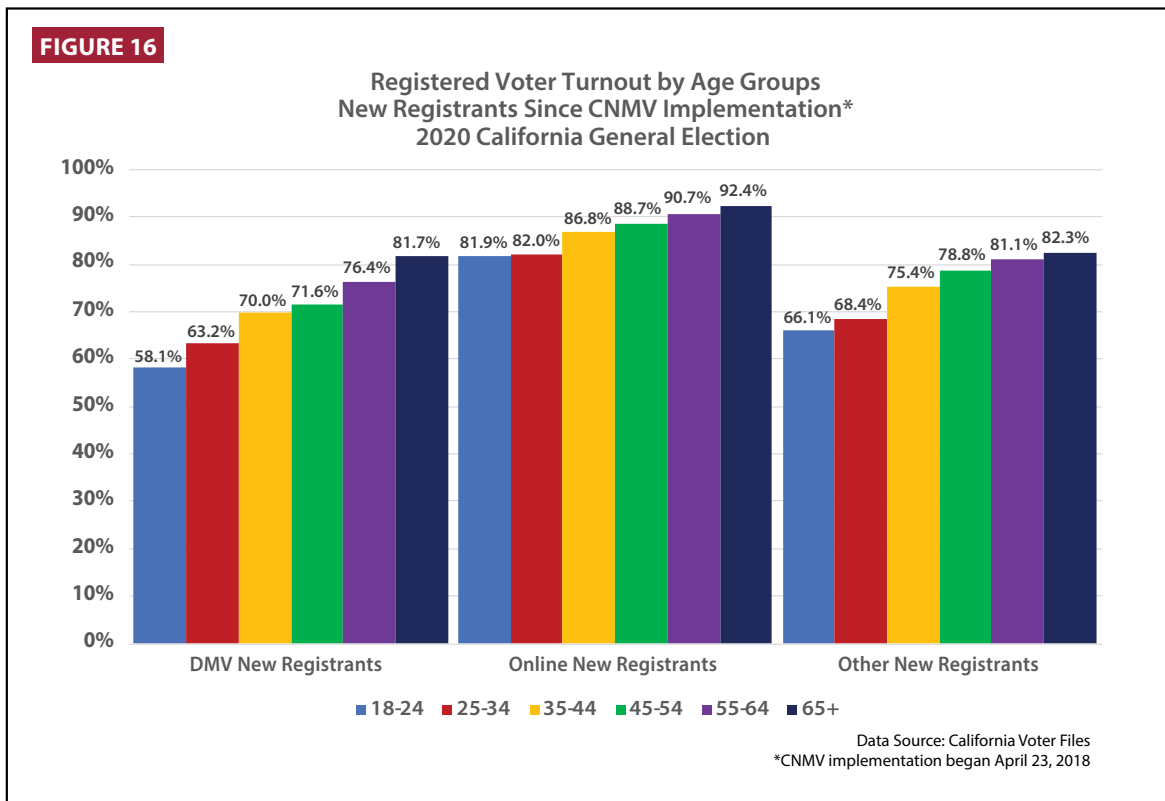
Similarly, the registered voter turnout gaps between racial/ethnic groups were also generally smaller among re-registrants than new registrants. Asian-American and Latino DMV re-registrants had smaller turnout differences compared to all DMV re-registrants, with Asian Americans having the smallest gap (0.7 percentage points). Black DMV re-registrants, however, had a larger turnout gap compared to new registrants.



**Prior registrants (those who registered before CNMV implementation) showed similar voter turnout patterns to new and re-registrants with some differences in turnout by registration method and larger gaps in turnout between racial/ethnic groups.** While prior DMV registrants had lower registered voter turnout rates than prior online registrants, registered voter turnout gaps between registration methods were less pronounced among Latino, Black, and Asian-American registrants who registered to vote before CNMV implementation compared to new registrants but larger than those who re-registered. Asian-American and Black prior registrants had the largest differences between methods, hovering around seven percentage points, while Latino prior registrants had the smallest gap between registration methods (Figure 15).

Looking at registered voter turnout gaps, however, registrants who registered before the previous general election had the largest turnout gaps among racial and ethnic groups compared to new registrants and re-registrants, regardless of registration method. For example, while there was only a 1.1 percentage point gap between new Black DMV registrants and all new DMV registrants and a 4.6 percentage point turnout gap between Black DMV re-registrants and all DMV re-registrants, there was a 7.3 percentage point gap among prior registrants. The same trends can be seen among Asian-American and Latino DMV registrants, suggesting recent interaction with a registration source is associated with higher turnout for all racial and ethnic groups.

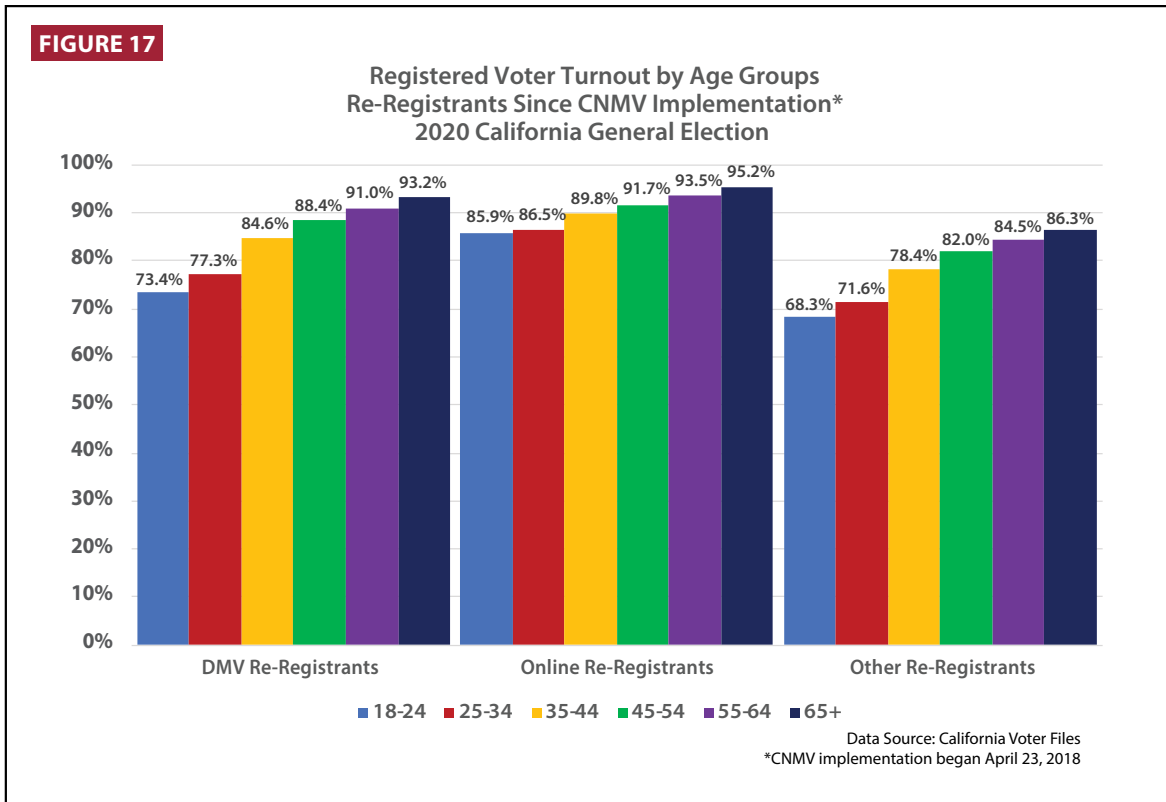
## Registered Voter Turnout in the 2020 General Election – Age Groups



**The registered voter turnout gap between new DMV registrants and new online registrants decreased with age.**

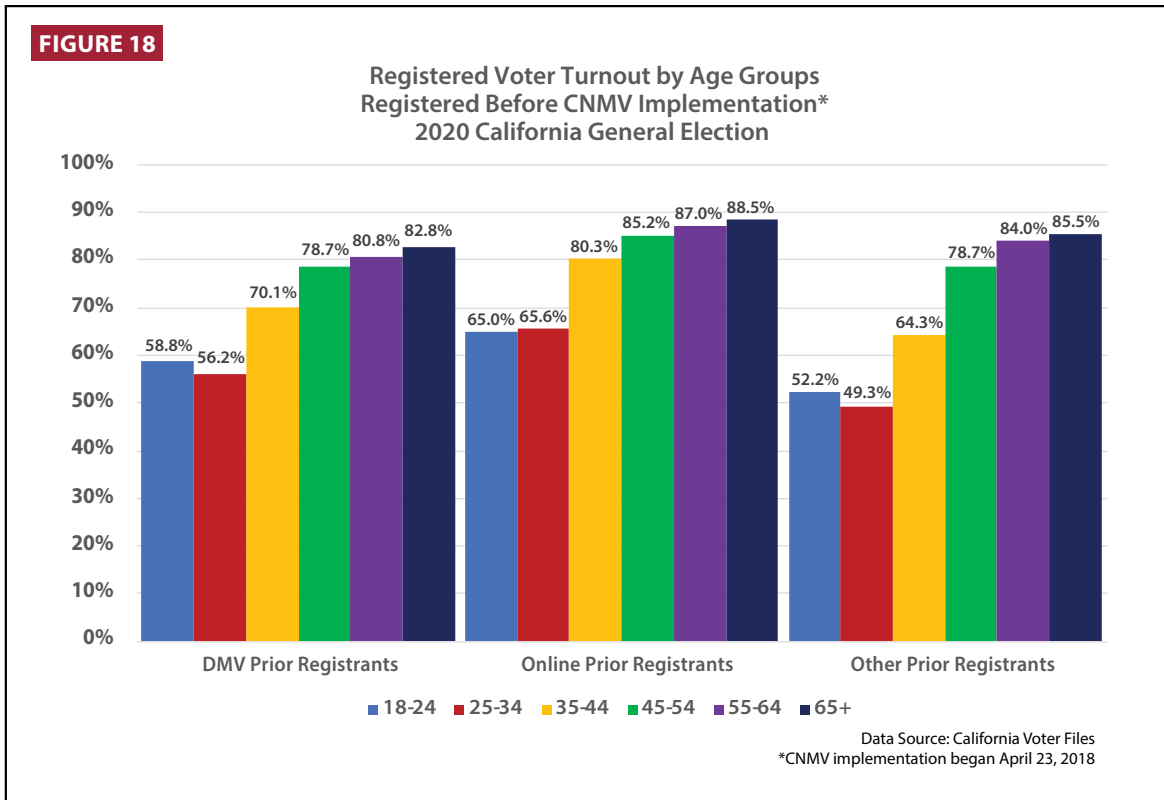
Just over 58% of new DMV registrants aged 18 to 24 cast a ballot in the 2020 general election, 23.8 percentage points lower than those who registered online (Figure 16). In contrast, 81.7% of new DMV registrants and 92.4% of new online registrants aged 65 and over voted, a 10.7 percentage point difference. For every age category, registered voter turnout gaps between the two registration methods decreased as the age category increased.

Across all registration methods, registered voter turnout increased with age. Among new DMV registrants, just 58.1% of those aged 18 to 24 voted, which increased steadily with each age group up to 81.7% of those age 65 and over. The same trends are seen among online registrants and other method registrants.



**Re-registrants showed similar trends to new registrants.** The registered voter turnout gap between DMV re-registrants and online re-registrants narrowed with age, although the gaps were smaller than those seen among new registrants above (Figure 16 and 17). A little over 73% of DMV re-registrants aged 18 to 24 cast a ballot in the 2020 general election, 12.5 percentage points lower than those who re-registered online. In comparison, 93.2% of DMV re-registrants aged 65 and over voted, only two percentage points lower than those who re-registered online.

Also similar to new registrants, across all registration methods, registered voter turnout increased with age. Among DMV re-registrants, 73.4% of those aged 18 to 24 voted, which increased steadily up to 93.2% of those age 65 and over. The same trends are seen among online re-registrants and other method re-registrants.



**Voter turnout among those who registered prior to CNMV implementation was similar to turnout patterns among new and re-registrants.** Across all age groups, registered voter turnout by those who registered at the DMV before CNMV implementation had lower registered voter turnout rates than those who registered online (Figure 18). Just under 59% of registrants aged 18 to 24 who registered to vote at the DMV prior to CNMV implementation cast a ballot in the 2020 general election, compared to 65% of those who registered online prior to CNMV implementation. Among registrants aged 65 and over who registered to vote prior to CNMV implementation, 82.8% of those who registered at the DMV and 88.5% of those who registered online cast a ballot.

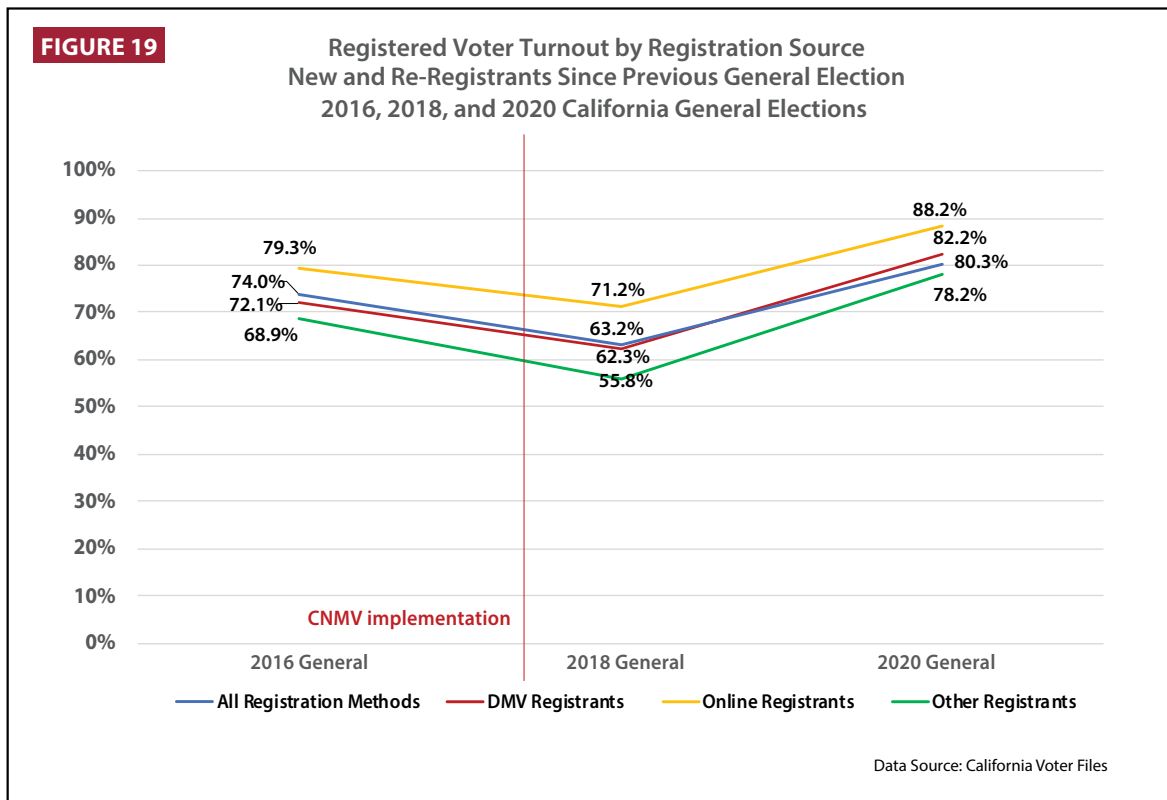
## Registered Voter Turnout Before and After CNMV Implementation

An examination of registered voter turnout by registration method in three general elections (2016, 2018, 2020) spanning a time period before and after CNMV implementation shows that while registered voter turnout increased across registration methods, DMV registrants who registered (or re-registered) after the previous general election saw the largest growth.

In this analysis, we compare the voter turnout between registration methods among those who registered (or re-registered) after the previous general election. Additionally, we examine the change in voter turnout for all registrants, regardless of registration method. As noted above, our analysis examines only the correlation between CNMV implementation and changes in voter turnout and does not account for many other factors that can influence voter turnout.

Note: For registered voter turnout rates among those who registered before the previous general election, see the Appendix B.

### Registered Voter Turnout Before and After CNMV Implementation – All Voters

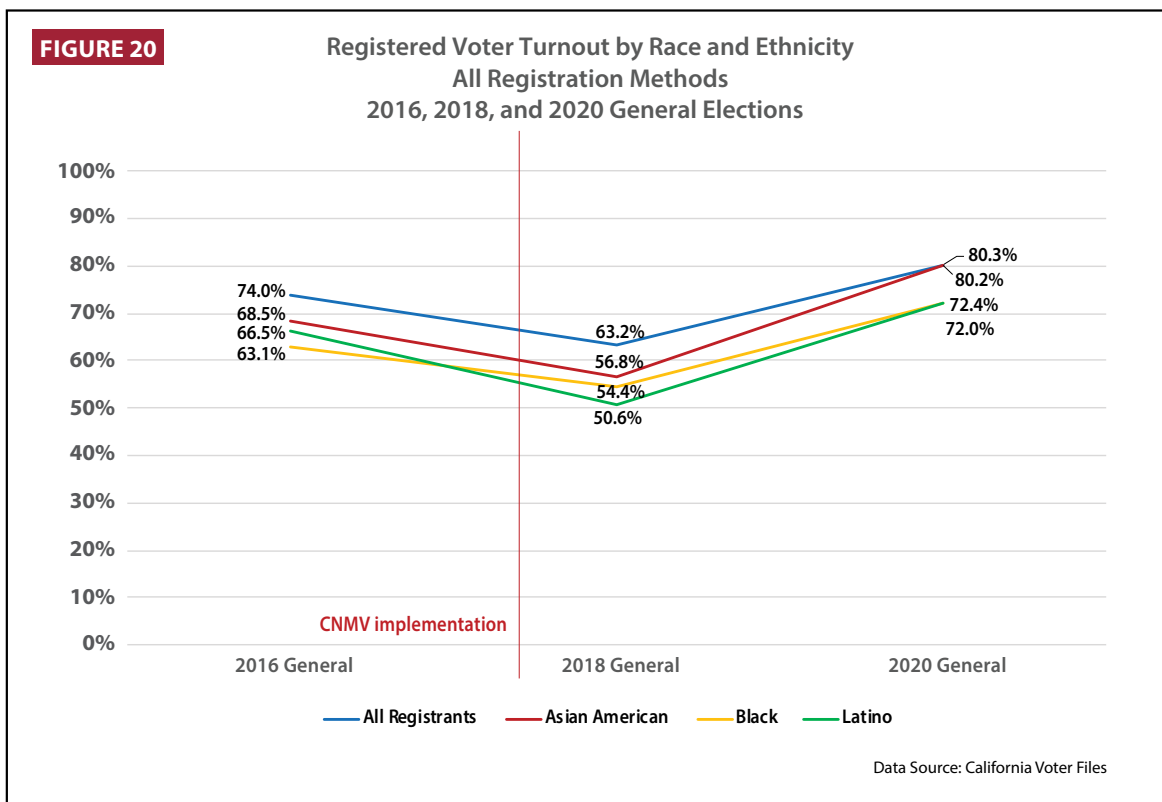


Registered voter turnout among new registrants and re-registrants grew overall between the 2016 general election and the 2020 general election, with DMV registrants seeing the largest growth. While DMV registrants saw a more than ten percentage point increase in registered voter turnout between presidential general elections (2016 and 2020), online registrants continued to have higher turnout rates than all other registration methods and the general population (Figure 19). Online registrants also had higher turnout rates than DMV registrants in the 2018 general election.

Though DMV registrants had lower turnout than online registrants, they had higher turnout than the statewide average in 2020. This was a change from their below-average turnout rates before CNMV.

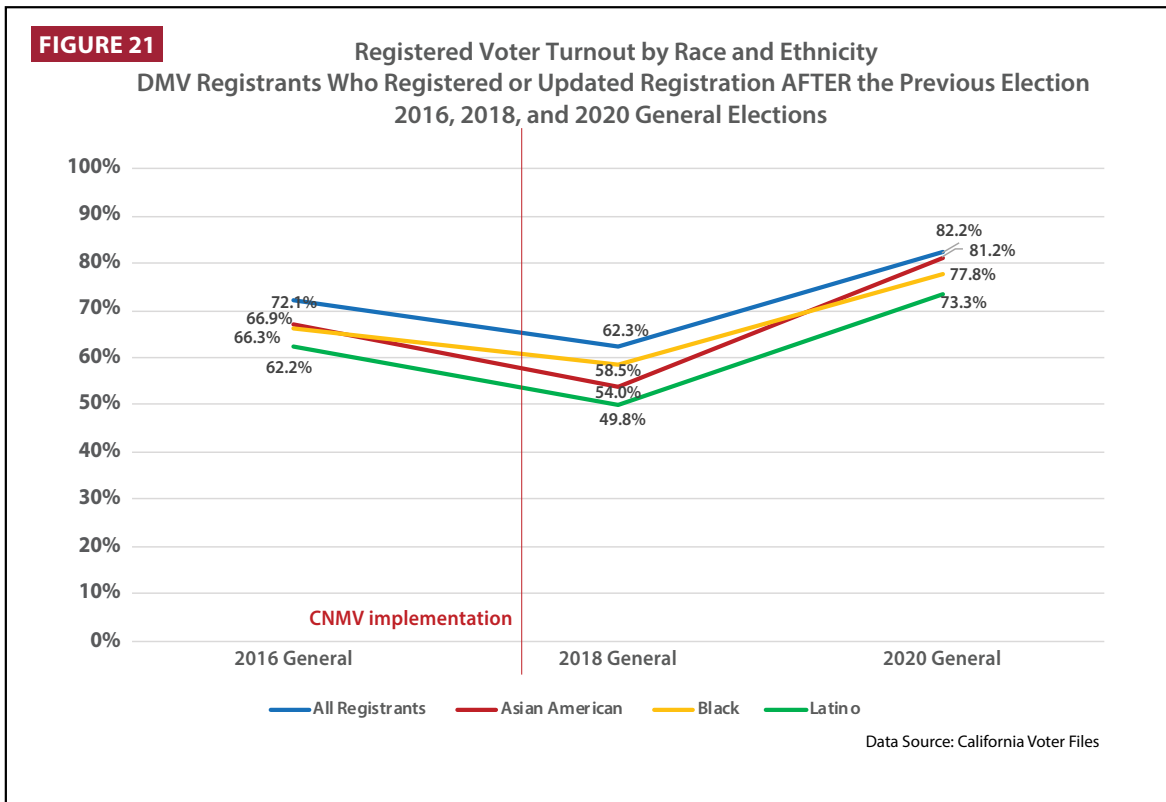


## Registered Voter Turnout Before and After CNMV Implementation – Race and Ethnicity



**Gaps in voter turnout varied by race/ethnicity from 2016 to 2020, with Asian-American registrants increasing turnout in 2020 and voting at nearly the same rate as the general population.** Looking at total registered voter turnout regardless of registration method, the registered voter turnout gap between the general population and Asian-American and Black registrants narrowed in the 2020 general election, while the Latino registered voter turnout gap widened (Figure 20). Asian-American registrants had the largest increase in registered voter turnout, narrowing their turnout gap to less than one percentage point below the general population. While Black registrants increased their registered voter turnout by nearly 10 percentage points between the 2016 and 2020 general elections, their registered voter turnout gap narrowed less dramatically to 7.9 percentage points in 2020 from 10.9 percentage points in 2016. In contrast, the registered voter turnout gap between Latino registrants and the general population widened from 7.5 percentage points in 2016 to 8.3 percentage points in 2020.

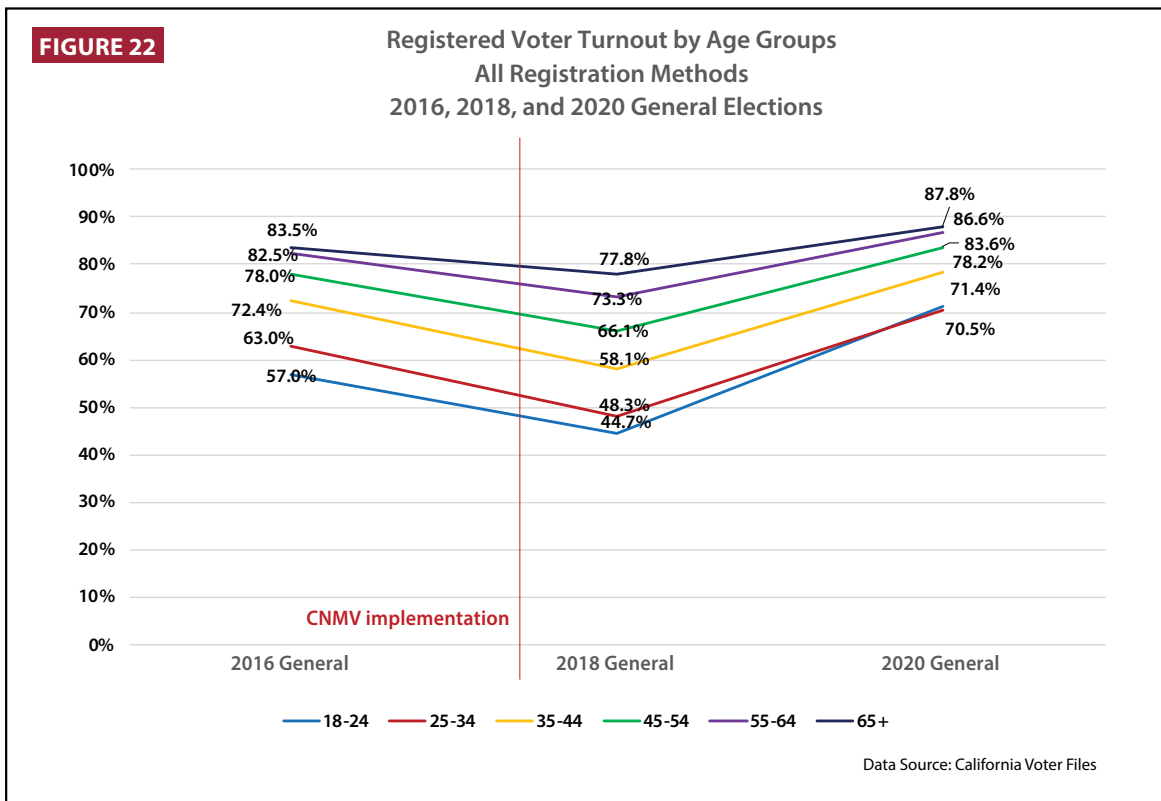
In the 2018 midterm election, which was conducted shortly after CNMV implementation, the registered voter turnout gap was larger among all racial and ethnic groups compared to both presidential general elections observed.



**Registration of Black voters at the DMV since CNMV has corresponded with a narrowing voter turnout gap for that group.** Among new DMV registrants and re-registrants since the previous general election, the registered voter turnout gap narrowed across all racial and ethnic groups since CNMV implementation, although only Black DMV registrants had a smaller turnout gap than those registering through any method (Figures 20 and 21). Black DMV registrants narrowed their turnout gap from 5.8 percentage points in 2016 to 4.4 percentage points in 2020, a notably smaller gap than all Black registrants seen in Figure 21. Asian-American registrants who registered at the DMV for the first time or updated their information at the DMV had a one percentage point gap below all new DMV registrants and re-registrants, comparable to their gap among all registration methods, while Latino DMV registrants had a slightly larger gap (8.9 percentage points) than those registering through any method (8.3 percentage points).

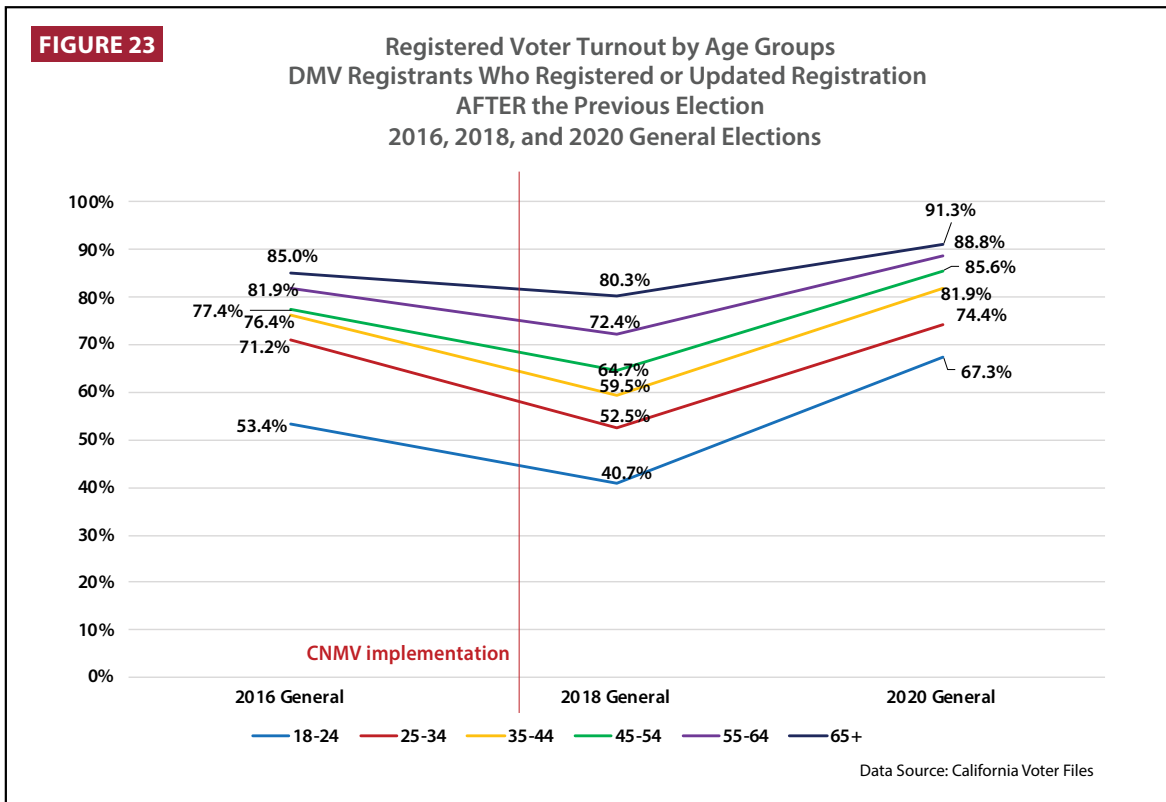
Note: For registered voter turnout rates among prior registrants by race and ethnicity, see the Appendix B.

## Registered Voter Turnout Before and After CNMV Implementation –Age Groups



**Across registration methods, registered voter turnout increased in every age group after CNMV implementation, although young registrants aged 18 to 24 saw the largest increase.** Young registrants saw a 13.5 percentage point increase in registered voter turnout between the 2016 and 2020 general elections, resulting in a higher turnout rate than those aged 25 to 34 (Figure 22). While older registrants aged 65 and over saw one of the smallest increases in registered voter turnout, they consistently had the highest turnout rates among age groups.

Note: For registered voter turnout rates among prior registrants by age group, see the Appendix B.



Young DMV registrants who registered to vote for the first time or updated their information since the previous general election saw a similar growth in voter turnout as young registrants of all methods. While new DMV registrants and DMV re-registrants aged 18 to 24 saw a registered voter turnout growth of 13.9 percentage points between 2016 and 2020, their registered voter turnout was lower than turnout by young registrants of all methods and well below all other age groups at every timepoint (Figures 22 and 23). In contrast, the oldest age group (65+) who registered at the DMV had higher voter turnout at every timepoint compared to older registrants of all methods.

## Summary

The California New Motor Voter (CNMV) program was implemented across the state in spring 2018, registering eligible Californians to vote when they complete driver's license, identification card, or change of address transactions online, by mail, or in person. Through CNMV, applicants at the DMV must answer the voter registration questions to complete their transaction and may choose to decline to register at the point of service.

Since CNMV implementation, the DMV has become the most common registration method in California. In the 2020 general election, over 43% of all new registrants had registered to vote at the DMV and nearly 60% of all registered voters who updated their information had done so at the DMV. Prior to CNMV in the 2016 general election, fewer than 5% of registered voters had registered at the DMV.

Historically and currently, registrants of color have been underrepresented among California's registered electorate, with their share of registered voters less than their share of the state's eligible voter population (adult citizens). The DMV has become the most widely used registration source for Asian-American, Black, and Latino Californians who are newly registering or updating an existing registration. The share using the DMV for voter registration transactions exploded across all three groups, from less than 1% in each to over a quarter for African Americans and Latinos and almost a third (31.6%) for Asian Americans.

However, while CNMV has helped increase registration numbers, new DMV registrants have voted at notably lower rates than those who chose to register online. In the 2020 general election, fewer than 69% of new DMV registrants cast a ballot, compared to upwards of 85% of new online registrants.

The registered voter turnout gap between new DMV registrants and new online registrants is notably high among registrants of color and young registrants aged 18 to 24. Just over 87% of Asian-American new online registrants voted in the 2020 general election, compared to just 66% of Asian-American new DMV registrants, with a similar gap among Latino registrants (80.9% versus 59.8%, respectively). While there was also a large voter turnout gap (of 14.6 percentage points) between new Black DMV registrants and new Black online registrants, it was smaller than the turnout gap with the general population (16.7 percentage points). New registrants aged 18 to 24 had a very large voter turnout gap, with nearly 82% of new online registrants voting while only 58.1% of new DMV registrants voted, the largest among age groups.

Despite notable differences in turnout across registration methods, the registered voter turnout gap between voters of color and the general population has been narrowing since CNMV implementation. Among new DMV registrants and DMV re-registrants, the registered voter turnout gap narrowed across all racial and ethnic groups since CNMV implementation. When looking at all registrants regardless of registration method, however, the registered voter turnout gap has widened for Latinos.

CNMV has functioned as a very useful tool to register Californians to vote through the DMV, particularly among registrants of color and young registrants. Yet DMV registrants have consistently lower registered voter turnout than online registrants, likely because in many cases they may only register because the process is automatic, while online registrants usually seek out voter registration on their own. Voter registration is an important first step, but it does not automatically lead to the act of voting. While access to voter registration in California has broadened under CNMV there is still a significant need for sustained and effective voter outreach and engagement efforts, especially for groups historically underrepresented at the ballot box.

## Notes

1. For more information on automatic voter registration, see: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57b8c7ce15d5dbf599fb46ab/t/5eb9847fb7a1f3362ced2d99/1589216438166/USC+CCEP+Effects+of+AVR+in+the+U.S.+Final.pdf>
2. For information on AVR implementation throughout the country, see: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/history-avr-implementation-dates>
3. For more information on California's automatic voter registration Assembly Bill 1407, see: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB1407](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1407)
4. For more information on NVRA, see: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra>
5. For more information on CNMV, see: <https://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/implementing-automated-voter-registration-in-california.pdf>
6. For more information on CNMV criteria, see here: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/california-motor-voter>
7. For information on the VoteCal system, see <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/votecal-project>
8. Because the California Election Code does not require registered voters to identify their race or ethnicity, the California voter file provides an incomplete flag for this information. While self-reported ethnicity data is generally reliable as an identifier, low self-reporting rates result in an incomplete VoteCal dataset. Further, the voting behavior and demographic characteristics of California registrants who answered this question are different than the ones who don't (self-selection bias), resulting in an unrepresentative sample of the total electorate.
9. See the Public Policy Institute (PPIC): Implementing Automated Voter Registration in California: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/implementing-automated-voter-registration-in-california/>
10. Imai, K., & Khanna, K. (2016). Improving ecological inference by predicting individual ethnicity from voter registration records. *Political Analysis*, 24(2), 263-272. See: <https://imai.fas.harvard.edu/research/files/race.pdf>
11. For more information on California's online voter registration Senate Bill 397, see: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201120120SB397](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB397)
12. For more information on California's automatic voter registration Assembly Bill 1407, see: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB1407](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1407)
13. See California Secretary of State's Report of Registration, October 19, 2020: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/15day-gen-2020>

## Appendix A: Registration Methods

<b>Registration Agency New Registrants Since CNMV Implementation* 2020 California General Election</b>			
<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>New Registrant</b>	<b>Re-registrant</b>	<b>Registered Before CNMV</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	<1%	0.1%	0.1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	<1%	<1%
Consumer Credit Reporting Agency	<1%	<1%	0.0%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	43.5%	58.7%	13.1%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	<1%	<1%	0.4%
Department of Public Social Services	0.1%	<1%	0.1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	0.6%	6.8%	2.5%
Office/In Person	4.4%	2.5%	7.8%
Online Voter Registration	39.6%	24.8%	17.5%
Other	5.6%	3.2%	38.9%
Other County Registrar	0.6%	0.1%	0.7%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	1.0%	0.5%	6.3%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Other received by mail and not included above	1.7%	1.3%	7.9%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
Secretary of State	0.8%	0.4%	2.5%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	0.4%	0.3%	<1%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registration Agency by Race and Ethnicity  
New Registrants Since CNMV Implementation\*  
2020 California General Election**

<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>Asian American</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>White, non-Latino</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	0.0%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Consumer Credit Reporting Agency	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<1%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	0.0%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	43.7%	47.0%	44.4%	40.8%	42.5%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Public Social Services	<1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	<1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	<1%	0.2%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%
Office/In Person	3.9%	4.6%	5.5%	6.6%	3.8%
Online Voter Registration	41.6%	32.7%	37.3%	38.5%	41.5%
Other	5.1%	6.5%	5.5%	5.2%	5.7%
Other County Registrar	0.7%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	0.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.6%	0.9%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Other received by mail and not included above	1.5%	2.4%	1.7%	2.3%	1.6%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
Secretary of State	0.6%	1.2%	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files



**Registration Agency by Race and Ethnicity  
Re-Registrants Since CNMV Implementation\*  
2020 California General Election**

<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>Asian American</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>White, non-Latino</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	0.1%	<1%	0.1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	0.1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	0.0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Consumer Credit Reporting Agency	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<1%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	0.0%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	61.7%	55.1%	56.7%	49.2%	59.5%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Public Social Services	<1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	<1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	<1%	0.1%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	4.4%	7.9%	7.1%	7.6%	7.0%
Office/In Person	1.9%	2.2%	2.7%	3.5%	2.5%
Online Voter Registration	26.0%	24.3%	26.3%	31.2%	23.8%
Other	2.8%	4.6%	3.0%	2.8%	3.2%
Other County Registrar	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	0.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	0.5%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Other received by mail and not included above	1.0%	2.3%	1.1%	1.7%	1.3%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
Secretary of State	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%	0.3%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registration Agency by Race and Ethnicity  
Registered Before CNMV Implementation\*  
2020 California General Election**

<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>Asian American</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>White, non-Latino</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	<1%	0.1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	0.0%	0.0%	<1%	0.0%	0.0%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	13.8%	11.8%	12.9%	13.7%	13.3%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Department of Public Social Services	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
Franchise Tax Board	0.0%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Independent Living Center	0.0%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	2.0%	2.5%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Office/In Person	7.6%	12.7%	11.9%	13.9%	5.3%
Online Voter Registration	20.6%	13.6%	19.2%	20.2%	16.7%
Other	36.2%	31.9%	29.5%	22.2%	44.6%
Other County Registrar	1.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	5.0%	8.5%	8.6%	10.0%	5.1%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Other received by mail and not included above	8.2%	11.0%	8.6%	11.0%	7.2%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.3%
Secretary of State	2.4%	3.5%	3.0%	3.1%	2.2%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registration Agency by Age Groups  
New Registrants Since CNMV Implementation\*  
2020 California General Election**

<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Consumer Credit Reporting Agency	0.0%	0.0%	<1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0.0%	0.0%
Department of Motor Vehicles	37.3%	40.9%	43.8%	47.3%	51.3%	51.9%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Public Social Services	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	1.2%
Office/In Person	5.2%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%	4.2%	4.4%
Online Voter Registration	44.1%	44.5%	41.3%	37.2%	31.9%	27.1%
Other	5.9%	4.6%	5.1%	5.3%	5.7%	7.6%
Other County Registrar	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	1.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	1.4%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%
Other received by mail and not included above	2.0%	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	2.4%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Secretary of State	1.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registration Agency by Age Groups  
Re-Registrants Since CNMV Implementation\*  
2020 California General Election**

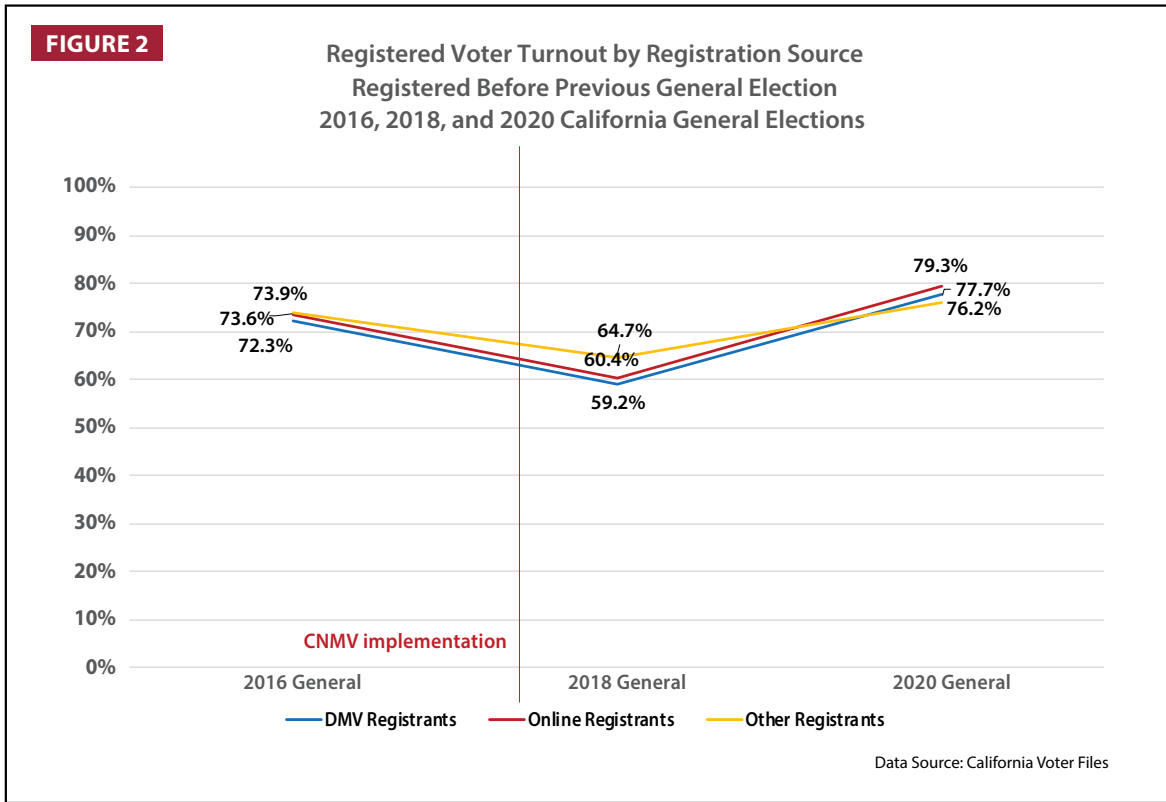
<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Consumer Credit Reporting Agency	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<1%	0.0%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	43.9%	48.9%	56.9%	64.5%	68.4%	66.9%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Public Social Services	0.1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	5.6%	9.3%	8.6%	6.2%	4.9%	5.2%
Office/In Person	2.9%	2.1%	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%	3.5%
Online Voter Registration	39.5%	33.7%	26.5%	21.0%	17.0%	14.1%
Other	3.5%	2.5%	2.6%	2.8%	3.2%	4.7%
Other County Registrar	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Other received by mail and not included above	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%	2.3%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
Secretary of State	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

<b>Registration Agency by Age Groups Registered Before CNMV Implementation* 2020 California General Election</b>						
<b>Registration Agency</b>	<b>18-24</b>	<b>25-34</b>	<b>35-44</b>	<b>45-54</b>	<b>55-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Address Change Service (ACS) Notifications	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Armed Forces Recruiting Centers	<1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Email	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
California Health Benefit Exchange Website	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
CDSS CalFresh Program	<1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
County Health/ Social/ Human/ Family/ In-Home Services	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Department of Motor Vehicles	8.1%	15.4%	18.2%	16.0%	12.5%	9.4%
Department of Motor Vehicles by Mail	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Department of Public Social Services	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Department of Rehabilitation	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Failsafe Provisional Envelope	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Federal Government Website (NVRA)	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
Franchise Tax Board	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Independent Living Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Mental Health Services	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
National Change of Address (NCOA)	2.2%	3.8%	4.1%	2.7%	1.9%	1.4%
Office/In Person	8.8%	9.3%	8.4%	8.0%	7.6%	6.6%
Online Voter Registration	43.2%	30.5%	25.0%	17.7%	12.0%	7.5%
Other	16.3%	18.4%	23.0%	34.8%	46.2%	56.9%
Other County Registrar	1.4%	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
Other Designated Agency not listed above	5.9%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%	6.4%	6.3%
Other Public Assistance Agency not listed above	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Other received by mail and not included above	6.9%	8.9%	8.7%	8.2%	7.6%	7.2%
Regional Center	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Registration drives from advocacy groups or political parties	2.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Secretary of State	3.2%	3.5%	2.8%	2.6%	2.3%	1.9%
Signed Request from Voter to Change Address	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
State-assisted Disability Service Organizations	0.1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Women, Infants, and Children	0.1%	0.1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data Source: California Voter Files

## Appendix B: Registered Voter Turnout



Registered Voter Turnout by Registration Source and Race/Ethnicity New and Re-Registrants Since Previous General Election 2016, 2018, and 2020 California General Elections				
		DMV Registrants	Online Registrants	Other Registrants
Asian American	2016 General	66.9%	75.5%	66.4%
	2018 General	54.0%	67.4%	51.1%
	2020 General	81.2%	89.7%	79.4%
Black	2016 General	66.3%	76.3%	55.9%
	2018 General	58.5%	69.2%	48.3%
	2020 General	77.8%	85.2%	72.4%
Latino	2016 General	62.2%	74.6%	63.1%
	2018 General	49.8%	63.0%	44.9%
	2020 General	73.3%	84.2%	71.6%
All Registrants	2016 General	72.1%	79.3%	68.9%
	2018 General	62.3%	71.2%	55.8%
	2020 General	82.2%	88.2%	78.2%

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registered Voter Turnout by Registration Source and Race/Ethnicity  
Registered Before Previous General Election  
2016, 2018, and 2020 California General Elections**

		<b>DMV Registrants</b>	<b>Online Registrants</b>	<b>Other Registrants</b>
Asian American	67.8%	68.5%	66.6%	66.6%
	51.0%	54.8%	58.0%	58.0%
	74.8%	79.2%	74.7%	74.7%
Black	68.7%	67.3%	61.8%	61.8%
	54.1%	58.3%	51.7%	51.7%
	71.7%	75.7%	62.2%	62.2%
Latino	62.6%	69.3%	65.0%	65.0%
	47.1%	49.6%	50.6%	50.6%
	67.9%	71.8%	65.3%	65.3%
All Registrants	72.3%	59.2%	77.7%	77.7%
	73.6%	60.4%	79.3%	79.3%
	73.9%	64.7%	76.2%	76.2%

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registered Voter Turnout by Registration Source and Age Groups  
New and Re-Registrants Since Previous General Election  
2016, 2018, and 2020 California General Elections**

		<b>DMV Registrants</b>	<b>Online Registrants</b>	<b>Other Registrants</b>
18-24	53.4%	68.8%	53.2%	53.2%
	40.7%	60.9%	40.1%	40.1%
	67.3%	84.7%	69.6%	69.6%
25-34	71.2%	78.4%	65.2%	65.2%
	52.5%	71.0%	48.9%	48.9%
	74.4%	85.8%	72.5%	72.5%
35-44	76.4%	83.0%	72.5%	72.5%
	59.5%	74.2%	56.7%	56.7%
	81.9%	88.9%	78.2%	78.2%
45-54	77.4%	84.5%	74.4%	74.4%
	64.7%	76.8%	60.3%	60.3%
	85.6%	90.7%	81.6%	81.6%
55-64	81.9%	87.4%	78.4%	78.4%
	72.4%	81.4%	66.9%	66.9%
	88.8%	92.7%	84.0%	84.0%
65+	85.0%	89.2%	81.9%	81.9%
	80.3%	84.9%	72.3%	72.3%
	91.3%	94.4%	85.7%	85.7%

Data Source: California Voter Files

**Registered Voter Turnout by Registration Source and Age Groups  
Registered Before Previous General Election  
2016, 2018, and 2020 California General Elections**

		<b>DMV Registrants</b>	<b>Online Registrants</b>	<b>Other Registrants</b>
18-24	2016 General	41.8%	60.2%	43.7%
	2018 General	37.8%	45.7%	34.2%
	2020 General	61.2%	69.6%	54.4%
25-34	2016 General	58.5%	65.8%	51.0%
	2018 General	41.2%	50.9%	37.0%
	2020 General	61.6%	69.2%	50.6%
35-44	2016 General	74.0%	78.0%	67.4%
	2018 General	56.2%	62.6%	52.5%
	2020 General	74.3%	82.1%	65.3%
45-54	2016 General	78.3%	80.1%	77.3%
	2018 General	64.1%	67.1%	66.1%
	2020 General	82.0%	86.3%	78.7%
55-64	2016 General	81.6%	82.9%	82.5%
	2018 General	69.0%	73.3%	74.2%
	2020 General	84.5%	88.0%	84.0%
65+	2016 General	83.6%	85.4%	83.3%
	2018 General	73.2%	79.4%	77.9%
	2020 General	87.1%	89.3%	85.5%

Data Source: California Voter Files





