

Protecting Voting Rights & Elections in New Hampshire

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NH is ranked 50th... but why?



- No “3rd party,” online, DMV registration
 - Voters **can** register on election day
- No early voting, very limited absentee/mail voting
- Decentralized election infrastructure
 - Leads to varied experiences at the polls

What does this mean for voters?

- Voter “Alex”
- First time voter in NH
- English is their second language
- Work retail job, get their schedule one week in advance
- No car



The “cost” of voting for Alex



- Alex decides they want to vote for the first time!
- They'll need to either go to their clerk's office or register in person
- Luckily, when their schedule comes out they have Tuesday morning off
- Also, they can walk to their polling place since they live in a city

The “cost” of voting for Alex



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- On Election Day, Alex collects their documents and walks to the polls
- They register in person with a poll worker who doesn't speak their first language and asks questions about their citizenship
 - Alex has an ID with their address, making the process easier
- After lots of barriers, they're able to cast their ballot!

What could have made this process easier...



- Ability to register ahead of election day (online, when getting their license, with a form to mail in or give to a volunteer)
- Being able to vote early! Either in person or via a mail-in ballot
- Additional resources for election officials to support all voters

How the high cost of voting shows up in NH



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Voting Disparities by NH Ward

Data Source: NH Secretary of State, U.S. Census (2020)

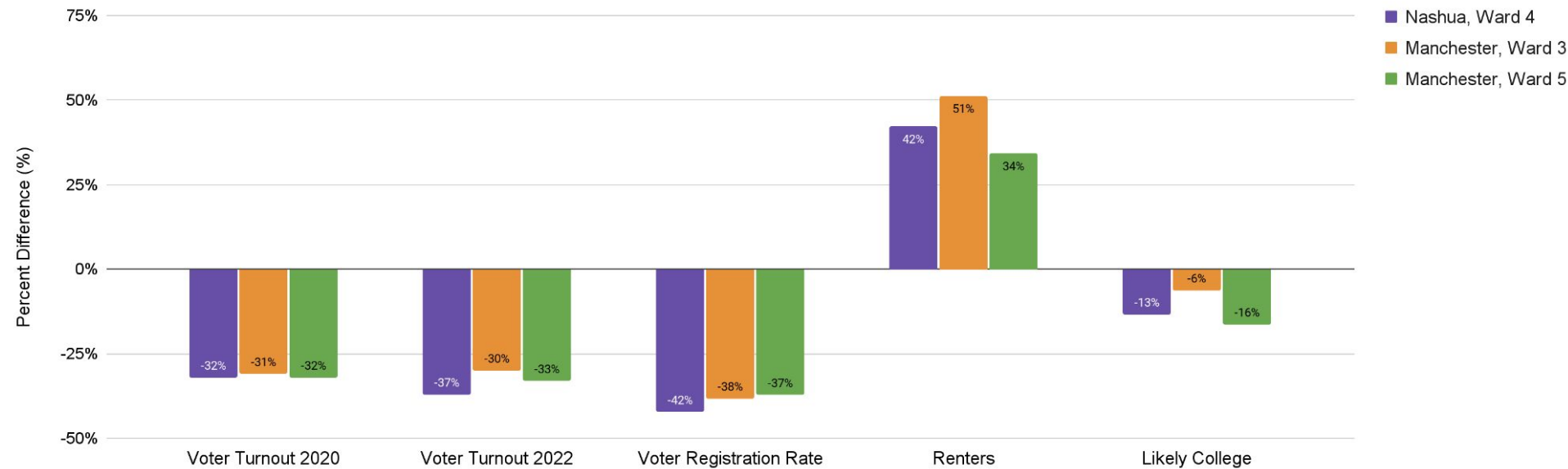
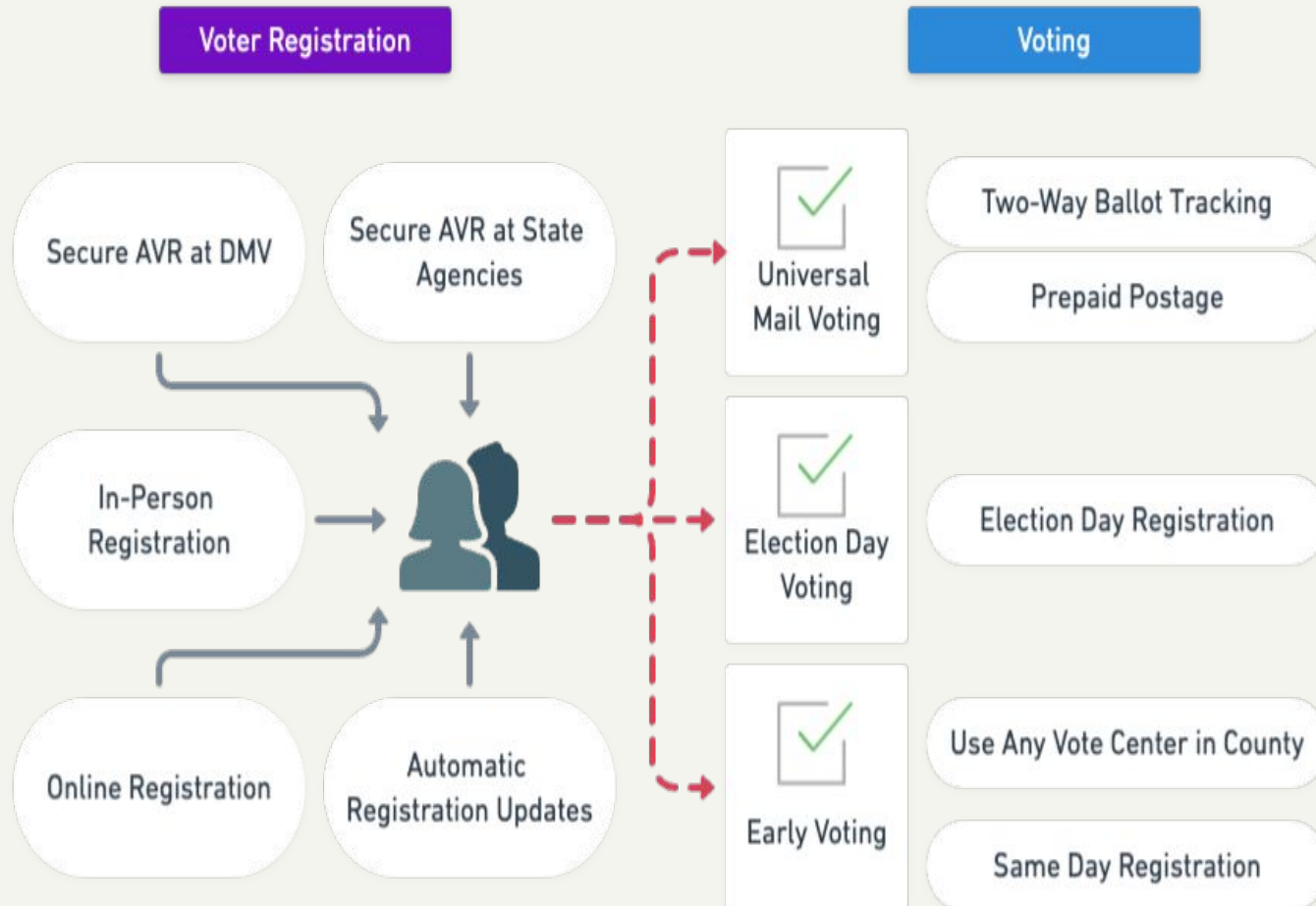


Figure: Voting disparities by in the most diverse Wards in NH. Percent difference was calculated by comparing the ward-level statistic to the statewide statistic.

Colorado






New Hampshire

Voter Registration

Voting



The Right To Vote: National Landscape

- Online Voter Registration: **43 states**  **New Hampshire**
- Automatic Voter Registration: **About 2/3**  **New Hampshire**
- No-Excuse Early Voting: **44 states**  **New Hampshire**
- No-Excuse Vote by Mail: **38 states**  **New Hampshire**
- Same Day Registration: **About 1/2**  **New Hampshire**

Slide courtesy of Institute for Responsive Government

Work to lower the cost of voting



- Online Voter Registration: passed NH House on Jan 3!
- Ongoing efforts to expand absentee voting
- Long term, goal of automatic voter registration
- Bipartisan support for (some of) these policies – a lot of ongoing education is necessary