



NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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**ON EVE OF BUDGET HEARING ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT,
NYPIRG RELEASES NATIONAL DATA SHOWING NEW YORK'S VOTER PARTICIPATION
RATE DROPPED TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 2004**

NEW YORK RANKED 43RD IN THE NATION IN TERMS OF VOTER PARTICIPATION

(Albany, N.Y.) New York's voter participation in Presidential elections has dropped to the lowest level in the past two decades, according to national data released today by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The data, collected by the U.S. Elections Project, discloses voter participation rates for each of the states. NYPIRG examined that data for the period 2004-2024, specifically the state's voter participation rates among eligible New Yorkers for the Presidential elections of 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024. As seen below, New York's voter participation rate was 43rd *lowest* in the nation last year.¹

Year	NYS Voter Eligible Participation % Ranked Among States (High Rate Means Lower % Turnout)
2004	36
2008	37
2012	37
2016	38
2020	42
2024	43

NYPIRG urged that lawmakers undertake a thorough review of each aspect of the state's elections systems to determine the root causes of the state's dismal voter participation rates as part of its consideration of the executive budget. The General Government hearing, which includes the State Board of Elections' budget, is being held on Tuesday.

New York's eroding voter participation rates are at odds with reform measures that the state has taken to improve its elections process. In its testimony on the General Government budget proposal, NYPIRG will urge that lawmakers specifically look at the administration of elections by the State Board of Elections, which is controlled by the two major political parties, as well as voter registration efforts conducted at colleges and universities across the state.

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¹ U.S. Elections Project, "2024 November General Election Turnout Rates," <https://election.lab.ufl.edu/2024-general-election-turnout/>. We used "voter eligible population" for these percentages and we used VEP for 2004-2020, <https://www.electproject.org/election-data/voter-turnout-data>.