

9-11-2017

North Omaha Voter: Which excuse is yours!!

Preston Love Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/blackstudfacpub>

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#)

North Omaha Voter: Which excuse is yours!!

Recently I conducted a scholarly research project for my Master's Degree class of study at Bellevue University. I wrote two 2000-word papers on my finding. Both papers analyzed finding from a random survey which included an interview question. The survey asked about voter habits, age, race, and reasons for the participant who are not voting, why not. The results were stimulating and I plan to expand on the study this year. The two papers are available from my website: [prestonlovejr.com/blackvotesmatter/case study](http://prestonlovejr.com/blackvotesmatter/casestudy).

I am share a short excerpt from one of papers. The following represents a summary of the reasons stated by the participants on why they are not voting. The sample was 55% white. The statistical deviations and correlation are not included here but are fully developed in the two papers

The grouping given for not voting were as follows:

1. Not Registered; Eligible voters who for whatever reason have not chosen to register to vote. This part of the sample and the real world, represents the potential for a work strategy to aggressively conduct voter registration initiatives
2. Recently Moved, not registered; Eligible voters and most cases they are registered voters in another state and have not registered in the State of Nebraska. These people tend to register when the opportunity presents itself. They are by-in-large voters and they have not taken the time to register. When approached they readily register and later vote.
3. Not a citizen; These are temporary residents of the USA. Green Cards, visa, etc. In the sample, most are here on student visas (that does not carry with it the right to vote), they are not eligible to vote. If they receive citizenship they are immediately eligible. At naturalization ceremonies, I have been part of efforts to register new citizens immediately after the ceremony. My experience has shown that without follow up and much civic education this group will most likely not vote
4. Religion; There are some religions who by doctrine, do not vote. In this sample Jehovah Witness was the religion.
5. Didn't like candidates; Most troubling decision by voters. First, it's a terrible response to your community to not vote. Secondly, whenever voters chose to not vote, because of the choice in one or two of the high-profile races, they fail to realize the impact on all the other very important races, most of which directly affect our lives and the lives of our families. Just as bad, are the voters who go to the polls and vote for the high-profile races and leave without voting for other offices on the ballot. That's horrible. The technical name for is "undervote" and it's a bad practice.

6. Apathy; “Who cares”, “what difference does it make”, “my vote doesn’t matter or count” and many other misinformed responses. Please add pure laziness to this category. Many issues and candidate races have been decided by a few votes per precinct. And many nonvoters are casting a vote for a candidate they are against, by not voting. There is no excuse for apathy, yet it persists. Historically, apathetic voters can only be awakened, if they are directly to profit, directly to suffer or they have some emotional reaction to the vote. The Obama candidacy and success can be partly credited to emotion.
7. Felon; Each state can legislate the voting status of its Felons. Some states forbid any felon ever to vote, some states allow felons to vote immediately after serving their sentence (debt to society). Some have waiting periods. Nebraska law requires a felon to wait until two years after release or after removal from “paper” (Probational requirements after release).