

The Vice Mayor's Special Committee on Voter Turnout and Civic Engagement was tasked with two things:

- 1) Determining why voter participation is low in Nashville
- 2) Making recommendations that can be implemented by the Metro Nashville Government to remove barriers to voter participation and improve turnout in local elections.

The special committee met from November 2019 through January 2020 to review and discuss available research on voter engagement and develop strategies to engage with Davidson County residents to learn more about why they do or do not vote. To that end, the committee did field surveys with 327 individuals about their attitudes toward voting and their voter history.

The committee determined the problem is twofold: there are both psychological and structural barriers keeping individuals from going to the polls. As a community, we must be intentional and creative to remove those barriers, in order to increase voter participation and encourage a deepened sense of civic engagement.

The following is a summary of what the committee learned about why people do not vote, as well as its recommendations for increasing participation.

## **Findings on Low Voter Registration and Turnout**

### **Psychological Barriers**

#### Civics Education

- Lack of education about why voting matters
  - What voting means to the potential voter on a personal and/or community level
- Lack of interest in voting
- General apathy toward candidates and issues on the ballot
  - Inability to see how who and what is on the ballot would affect their day-to-day life
- Lack of competitive races or diversity on the ballot
- Lack of engagement with new young voters (18 year old high school and college voters)

#### Communication

- General lack of knowledge about the candidates and/or issues, and what is actually on the ballot
  - Lack of media coverage surrounding an election, regarding candidates and issues
  - No awareness of where the voter could find information about the election, candidates and issues
- Language barrier on voter registration forms and/or ballots
  - Voter registration application is not available in all languages commonly spoken in Nashville
- Lack of knowledge about voter registration deadline/missing the deadline
- Lack of knowledge about early voting, including voting dates and locations
- Lack of knowledge about the general election date and their polling location
- Overall confusion about polling locations
  - Assumption that a convenient early voting location is also an election day polling location
- Family history of non-voting/non-registration and/or cultural beliefs leading to non-voting/non-registration

## **Structural Barriers\***

- Restrictive voting laws
  - Misunderstanding of who can vote
  - Requiring voter IDs
  - Certain types of ID being disallowed as photo ID for voting
  - Restrictions on who can run a voter registration drive and how
- Restrictive voter registration deadline
- Excessive length of time between registration and actual election
- Restrictive rules regarding who can vote absentee and when
  - Confusing rules requiring first time voters to cast a ballot in person, rather than absentee if needed
- Revoked voting rights
  - Lack of clarity on the process to restore voting rights
  - Lack of ability to restore voting rights due to outstanding fines and debt
- Logistical problems
  - Early polling locations open primarily during work hours
  - Lack of transportation to a polling location
  - Distance to the polling location
- Harassment at polling locations/aggressive candidate volunteers
- Voter fatigue
  - Too many elections
  - Local elections being held on dates other than when national elections occur
  - Off-year elections held during the summer
- College voting rights (ID)
  - Inability to use college ID as legal photo ID for voting
  - Difficulty of getting college students to local polling sites

\*The following recommendations did not address all of these issues, as they are issues controlled by the state of Tennessee.

## **Committee Recommendations**

### **Early Voting**

- Make Tennessee State University an early voting site, with a transportation plan in place to bring students from other campuses to increase collegiate (18-25) turnout
  - North Nashville lacks sufficient early voting sites
- Make early voting locations general election day polling places
- Allow early voting on Sundays
- Encourage Davidson County to apply for Tennessee's Voting Centers pilot program

### **Communication**

- Utilize technology to update voting processes and communication surrounding candidates and issues
  - Social media promotion of voter registration deadlines, candidate positions, ballot issues, etc.
- Add Vote411 or other non-partisan site information to sample ballots to direct citizens to information about elections and candidates
- Work with NCAT to create a film, or short series of films, on civics education

- Include messaging to “change the narrative on voting” so it’s more relevant to a younger and more diverse group of citizens
- Work with NCAT to produce short series of videos explaining different Metro offices and positions that are up for election and how those offices affect voters
  - What does the Metro Trustee do, what is the Property Assessor, etc.
- Encourage increased ongoing civics education in elementary, middle, and high school
  - include mock polls/elections or “field trips” to polls at schools hosting polling locations
- Ask the Mayor’s office to prioritize civic engagement with a communications plan, designed to be an on-going, consistent platform for discussing the importance of voting, the consequences of not voting, and civic issues in the city
  - Create a public awareness campaign on Nashville and Tennessee’s low voter turnout statistics and encourage people that ‘we can do better!’
- Ask the Mayor to host a community conversation on why people don’t vote
- Adapt voter registration card mailing to include information in addition to polling location
  - Information on absentee voting or other relevant information
  - Information on where to find all relevant information online
- Create an annual Civics Engagement Month to encourage citizens to register to vote, engage with council, and learn what they can do to become more active citizens
  - Partner with entertainment and sports entities to have onsite voter registration kiosks during events during the month
  - Partner with Head Count and similar outside organizations to make voter registration an ongoing priority at entertainment venues
- Target new residents with information about voter registration
  - Partner with Leadership Tennessee to inform new residents on where and how to register
  - Partner with Realtors to include voter registration information in Welcome packets
  - Partner with property management companies to include voter registration information in Welcome packets
  - Partner with the Chamber of Commerce and other business entities to include voter registration information as part of onboarding processes for new workers
- Encourage Metro council members to keep their constituents informed about voter registration deadlines, election dates, etc
- Encourage the county Election Commission to communicate with the Secretary of State’s office to assure that all election information disseminated is consistent and correct
- Encourage the county Election Commission to produce social media materials with graphics and data to get election information and statistics on voter turnout widely disseminated

## **Logistics**

### Voting Date

- Charter amendment to move local election date to on-cycle November date to increase turnout
- Charter amendment to move local election date in off-cycle years to November to increase turnout
- Charter amendment to require that vacant positions and seats within Metro government be appointed positions until the next scheduled election to eliminate special elections
- Charter amendment to remove 50% +1 threshold for winning in races with more than two candidates to eliminate runoffs
  - Eliminate runoffs for special elections

### Registration

- Automatic voter registration
- Same day voter registration (requires a constitutional amendment)

- Public/private sponsored annual citywide voter registration drive

#### Turn-Out

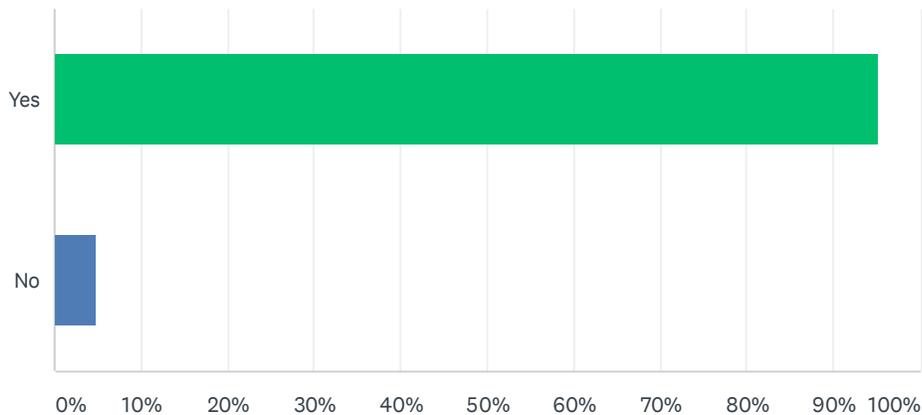
- Incentivize voter participation with participatory budgeting referendums or other direct input measures
- Host polling place civic engagement day-of voting parties
- Offer Lyft/Uber subsidies or busing plans for transportation to the polls
- Institute Ranked Choice Voting to eliminate voter fatigue by lessening the need for runoff elections
- Use behavioral incentives to motivate voters to the polls
  - Mailers showing non-voters information about the percentage of people who vote in their district
  - Compare/contrast: Highlight how the lack of investment in and resource allocation to a district can be correlated directly to voter turnout, i.e. higher turnout districts get more metro dollars

#### Other

- Work with the county Election Commission to partner with community organizations and groups to actively recruit poll workers of different races, ethnicities and cultures so that polling place workers reflect more of the community at large
- Take steps to monitor cities and counties across the country who have implemented online and other new forms of voting to gauge their impact on voter turnout and civic engagement
  - Work to implement in Nashville new forms of voting that have proven successful in other places

## Q1 Do you live in Davidson County?

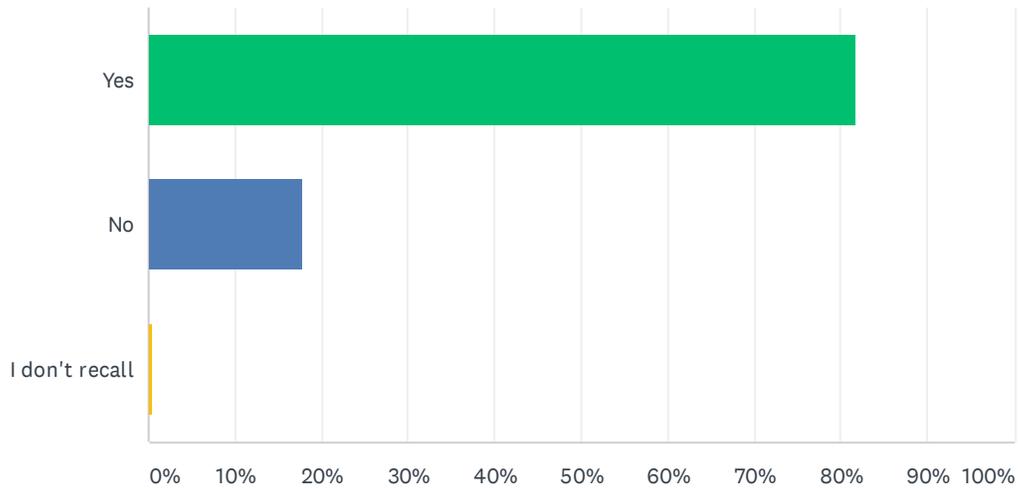
Answered: 328 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.12%	312
No	4.88%	16
TOTAL		328

## Q2 Did you vote in the most recent local election? (Mayor's race in Aug/Sep 2019)

Answered: 292 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	81.85%	239
No	17.81%	52
I don't recall	0.34%	1
TOTAL		292

Q3 If yes, what inspired you to vote? (Civic duty, a particular person or issue, etc.)

Answered: 217 Skipped: 111

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:55 AM
2	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:54 AM
3	issues I felt were important this time to be voted on.	1/16/2020 7:54 AM
4	Dad was an immigrant - voting very important to our family	1/16/2020 7:53 AM
5	Proud of my candidate	1/16/2020 7:52 AM
6	councilman running in my district was trying to help our neighborhood	1/16/2020 7:51 AM
7	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:51 AM
8	To make a change in our community	1/16/2020 7:50 AM
9	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:49 AM
10	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:49 AM
11	think everyone should	1/16/2020 7:48 AM
12	I vote every election	1/16/2020 7:47 AM
13	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:43 AM
14	the candidates mattered to me	1/16/2020 7:42 AM
15	civic duty - mayoral race interest	1/16/2020 7:41 AM
16	civic duty campaign engagement	1/16/2020 7:40 AM
17	civic responsibility	1/16/2020 7:39 AM
18	civic duty - i always do	1/16/2020 7:38 AM
19	duty and honor	1/16/2020 7:37 AM
20	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:36 AM
21	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:35 AM
22	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:33 AM
23	I always vote	1/16/2020 7:33 AM
24	civic duty	1/16/2020 7:32 AM
25	civic duty, teacher pay important, school funding important and feel we've got to do something about infrastructure and roads	1/16/2020 7:31 AM
26	Yes because it's my civic duty	1/16/2020 7:27 AM
27	Its my responsibility	1/16/2020 7:27 AM
28	always do	1/16/2020 7:26 AM
29	I should	1/16/2020 7:26 AM
30	Civic duty	1/16/2020 7:25 AM
31	I have always voted for over 40 years!	1/15/2020 7:21 PM
32	It's my civic duty. If I don't vote, I have no right to speak up.	1/15/2020 6:11 PM
33	The right to vote shouldn't be taken lightly	1/15/2020 5:37 PM
34	civic duty	1/15/2020 3:13 PM
35	Civic duty	1/15/2020 1:02 PM
36	civic duty	1/15/2020 10:32 AM
37	All of the above...	1/15/2020 7:22 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

38	Wanted Briley out!	1/15/2020 12:45 AM
39	Wanted a good council rep elected and was inspired by Ginny welsch	1/14/2020 4:48 PM
40	Civic duty	1/14/2020 3:53 PM
41	To help those I voted for win!	1/14/2020 2:54 PM
42	That's the way our country works. I look for the best person to address the issues.	1/14/2020 2:24 PM
43	Hoping to see improvements in my area	1/14/2020 2:01 PM
44	A vote for change Nashville's direction	1/14/2020 1:42 PM
45	civic duty	1/14/2020 11:09 AM
46	Civic duty	1/13/2020 10:29 PM
47	Issues	1/13/2020 10:10 PM
48	Concerns for my area being neglected	1/13/2020 8:21 PM
49	Civic dity	1/13/2020 5:42 PM
50	The need for change in government	1/13/2020 4:59 PM
51	My mom and I knew I had to because I'm a good citizen	1/13/2020 4:52 PM
52	Because I consider it a privilege and a way to voice my opinion.	1/13/2020 3:00 PM
53	Civic duty	1/13/2020 11:04 AM
54	Civic duty	1/13/2020 11:03 AM
55	Civic duty	1/13/2020 10:22 AM
56	Always voted. It is my right and privilege. Besides, how can I complain if I do not even participate?	1/13/2020 10:15 AM
57	spending out of control by our government and juvenile crime out of hand	1/13/2020 9:55 AM
58	Civic duty and voting for a particular person	1/13/2020 9:18 AM
59	Civic duty	1/13/2020 9:15 AM
60	Anything to beat the former mayor - he was killing the city	1/13/2020 7:52 AM
61	We need transparency, no more back room deals and one-time, short-sighted decisions regarding the budget. No mass transit. No raising taxes until the tourism dollars going to music City Center is addressed.	1/12/2020 10:53 PM
62	Civic duty	1/12/2020 9:27 PM
63	Civic duty	1/12/2020 8:55 PM
64	Civic duty	1/12/2020 8:07 PM
65	I can't complain if I didn't vote	1/12/2020 4:37 PM
66	Civic duty	1/12/2020 4:36 PM
67	Transportation referendum	1/12/2020 1:12 PM
68	Didn't like briley but likes cooper	1/12/2020 1:12 PM
69	To help insure that the candidate that best represents my values is elected	1/12/2020 10:22 AM
70	I always vote in all elections.	1/12/2020 9:42 AM
71	Both	1/12/2020 9:20 AM
72	I always vote and was especially supporting a specific candidate this round	1/12/2020 8:24 AM
73	Because we should and it's one way to make my voice heard.	1/12/2020 7:55 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

74	Civic duty, I care!	1/12/2020 7:35 AM
75	I liked the person and his views on several issues. I liked his honesty and sincerity	1/12/2020 2:30 AM
76	Civic duty and privilege	1/11/2020 11:29 PM
77	Civic duty so I voted for who I thought would do the best job	1/11/2020 11:28 PM
78	Relevant issues around city growth, salaries. Etc.	1/11/2020 11:05 PM
79	Civic duty	1/11/2020 10:33 PM
80	Homelessness	1/11/2020 10:00 PM
81	Civic duty	1/11/2020 9:14 PM
82	Can't have a voice if you don't vote	1/11/2020 9:14 PM
83	Civic duty	1/11/2020 8:53 PM
84	My duty as a citizen and my right to vote.	1/11/2020 8:36 PM
85	civic duty etc.	1/11/2020 8:31 PM
86	Civic duty	1/11/2020 8:30 PM
87	civic duty	1/11/2020 8:22 PM
88	civic duty	1/11/2020 8:21 PM
89	I always vote no matter what	1/11/2020 8:03 PM
90	I care	1/11/2020 8:00 PM
91	Civic duty. I always vote!	1/11/2020 7:51 PM
92	Civic duty!	1/11/2020 7:45 PM
93	Civic duty. Care about how my money is spent & how issues are dealt with.	1/11/2020 7:34 PM
94	Civic duty. Never missed an election in 55 years	1/11/2020 7:32 PM
95	It's my duty	1/11/2020 7:13 PM
96	Civic duty	1/11/2020 7:11 PM
97	a particular person	1/11/2020 7:03 PM
98	I always vote	1/11/2020 6:29 PM
99	Interested in the future of the city and i have a right to vote so i exercise it.	1/11/2020 6:23 PM
100	Civic duty	1/11/2020 6:16 PM
101	civic duty	1/11/2020 6:09 PM
102	Civic duty, interest in and concern for my city, particular candidate	1/11/2020 6:09 PM
103	Wanted to vote against Mayor Bailey!	1/11/2020 6:01 PM
104	civic duty	1/11/2020 6:01 PM
105	always vote	1/11/2020 5:36 PM
106	I never don't vote, but this election was especially important because of the budget, development, and education issues our city is facing.	1/11/2020 4:57 PM
107	Voting is a liberty, a right and a responsibility	1/11/2020 4:51 PM
108	civic duty	1/11/2020 4:45 PM
109	Civic duty, particular person	1/11/2020 4:15 PM
110	Habit of duty. Duty of habit.	1/11/2020 4:08 PM
111	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:52 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

112	I try to vote in every election because it's my right.	1/11/2020 3:51 PM
113	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:39 PM
114	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:37 PM
115	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:35 PM
116	civil duty, person, debt	1/11/2020 3:33 PM
117	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:23 PM
118	I did not want Mayor Briley to remain our mayor.	1/11/2020 3:11 PM
119	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:08 PM
120	Civic duty	1/11/2020 3:04 PM
121	My duty.	1/11/2020 2:58 PM
122	To let my voice be heard. Too many complain without ever taking action and voting.	1/11/2020 2:48 PM
123	As a woman who knows that my foremothers were starved, beaten and died so I could vote, I vote in every election and I always make it fun and go with a friend	1/11/2020 2:48 PM
124	Civic duty	1/11/2020 2:34 PM
125	Democracy	1/11/2020 2:33 PM
126	Choose mayor & council	1/11/2020 2:29 PM
127	Candidates	1/11/2020 2:29 PM
128	Civic duty	1/11/2020 2:21 PM
129	Civic duty, everyone should be an informed voter. Elections matter and apathy/disfranchisement is a problem.	1/11/2020 2:15 PM
130	Civic duty, to be a good example and encourage others	1/11/2020 2:12 PM
131	Civic duty	1/11/2020 2:08 PM
132	New mayor	1/11/2020 2:06 PM
133	Civic duty	1/11/2020 2:05 PM
134	A new MAYOR	1/11/2020 2:04 PM
135	Civic duty	1/11/2020 1:49 PM
136	Issues	1/11/2020 1:46 PM
137	Civic duty and Carfool Swain as mayor scared the poop out of me	1/11/2020 1:43 PM
138	It is our duty to vote!	1/11/2020 1:41 PM
139	Civic duty, Nash hunger/homelessness, economic inequality.	1/11/2020 1:12 PM
140	Civic duty, media advertising voting, issues concerning Nashville	1/11/2020 1:10 PM
141	Civic duty and to have my voice heard.	1/11/2020 1:08 PM
142	Civic duty particular person	1/11/2020 12:49 PM
143	Always vote. Duty	1/11/2020 12:42 PM
144	Civic duty as well as having the ideal that if you don't vote you have zero rights to complain, advise or have an option on outcomes.	1/11/2020 12:40 PM
145	Duty, future of the city = not partisan, but person	1/11/2020 12:32 PM
146	All 3.	1/11/2020 12:29 PM
147	The old mayor had to go.	1/11/2020 12:26 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

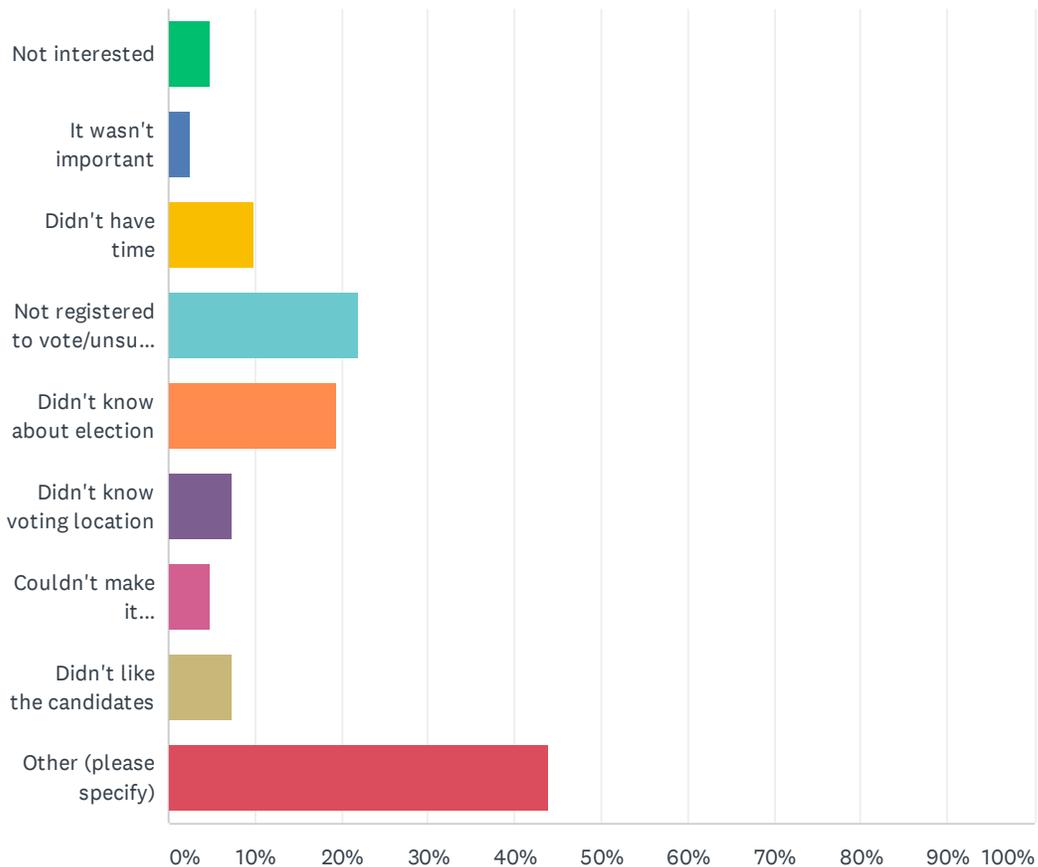
148	Civic duty	1/11/2020 12:17 PM
149	Wanted to stay involved in local politics	1/11/2020 12:15 PM
150	Civic duty	1/11/2020 12:07 PM
151	Civic duty, life long resident of this city	1/11/2020 12:03 PM
152	All the above	1/11/2020 12:01 PM
153	Felt strongly that the candidate for whom I voted was the best choice for mayor and wanted to give my support	1/11/2020 11:51 AM
154	I've realized in the past few years that if I don't vote, I have no reason to complain about the outcome.	1/11/2020 11:49 AM
155	What I think is best for Nashville locals	1/11/2020 11:43 AM
156	Civic duty....I always vote, it's my only voice in government!	1/11/2020 11:40 AM
157	I always vote	1/11/2020 11:35 AM
158	Civic duty	1/11/2020 11:32 AM
159	Civic duty	1/11/2020 11:31 AM
160	Civic duty	1/11/2020 11:30 AM
161	Civic duty. I am female and I feel too many people worked too hard to allow me to vote. Also, I want my voice heard.	1/11/2020 11:29 AM
162	civic duty	1/11/2020 11:27 AM
163	I didn't care for Briley as Mayor and wanted John Cooper in.	1/11/2020 11:27 AM
164	Critical need for a change in leadership. Mayor Cooper had the experience and judgment needed for the position.	1/11/2020 11:17 AM
165	Civic duty, much moreso than the candidates we had to choose between.	1/11/2020 11:09 AM
166	To have the best qualified person in the office or position.	1/11/2020 11:07 AM
167	Civic duty	1/11/2020 11:03 AM
168	All the above!	1/11/2020 11:02 AM
169	Duty and always vote in every election big or small	1/11/2020 11:00 AM
170	Civic duty & I liked my candidate a lot	1/11/2020 10:57 AM
171	how broken our city government is and how poorly they listen to the voice of neighbors vs big business.	1/11/2020 10:57 AM
172	Issues and civic duty for as long as we are a free country	1/11/2020 10:56 AM
173	It is a privilege to get to vote!	1/11/2020 10:54 AM
174	Civic duty	1/11/2020 10:53 AM
175	I wanted to be part of a change that betters my community.	1/11/2020 10:50 AM
176	civic duty, a particular person and issues	1/11/2020 9:41 AM
177	Issues	1/11/2020 9:11 AM
178	Nashville Sucks and needs to change	1/11/2020 9:02 AM
179	Civic duty	1/11/2020 8:47 AM
180	Particular person	1/11/2020 8:44 AM
181	Civic duty	1/11/2020 8:43 AM
182	It's my responsibility and I want to take advantage of my rights and every opportunity to have a voice in our government.	1/11/2020 8:33 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

183	Dislike of the incumbent	1/11/2020 8:17 AM
184	I felt my candidate would be the best choice for Nashville and yes I take voting very seriously.	1/11/2020 8:16 AM
185	I want to have a voice in my own government. I always vote.	1/11/2020 8:02 AM
186	Civic duty	1/11/2020 7:59 AM
187	Civic duty	1/11/2020 7:46 AM
188	Civic duty	1/11/2020 7:37 AM
189	I care about my community	1/11/2020 7:34 AM
190	Civic Duty	1/11/2020 7:14 AM
191	Civic Duty	1/11/2020 7:13 AM
192	I was just raised that way	1/11/2020 6:51 AM
193	To be a part of what I believe in choosing the best candidate I think will do the best job	1/11/2020 3:42 AM
194	I always vote	1/11/2020 3:02 AM
195	I always vote	1/11/2020 3:01 AM
196	Duty	1/11/2020 1:06 AM
197	My right	1/11/2020 12:24 AM
198	Civic duty, issues	1/10/2020 10:15 PM
199	Issues	1/10/2020 10:14 PM
200	civic duty	1/10/2020 9:40 PM
201	Civic duty	1/10/2020 9:17 PM
202	Civic duty	1/10/2020 8:00 PM
203	Particular issues	1/10/2020 7:50 PM
204	Civic duty	1/10/2020 7:13 PM
205	I was running, sort of expected	1/10/2020 7:12 PM
206	Civic duty	1/10/2020 7:08 PM
207	Personal	1/10/2020 6:59 PM
208	The metro council race actually got me to the polls. Briley and Cooper are interchangeable. Meh.	1/10/2020 6:54 PM
209	Civic duty.	1/10/2020 6:53 PM
210	Civic duty	1/10/2020 6:49 PM
211	Civic duty	1/10/2020 6:49 PM
212	It's import to vote not a duty.	1/10/2020 6:47 PM
213	Supporting a force for good in the 16th... and earning my right to complain. (Aka civic duty)	1/10/2020 6:45 PM
214	Supported cooper	1/10/2020 10:53 AM
215	Civic duty	1/9/2020 10:54 PM
216	I know the history of voter suppression and black people not being able to vote. So every chance I get to vote I do.	1/9/2020 3:17 PM
217	Civic duty	1/9/2020 10:13 AM

### Q4 If no, can you tell us why not? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 287



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Not interested	4.88% 2
It wasn't important	2.44% 1
Didn't have time	9.76% 4
Not registered to vote/unsure of registration status	21.95% 9
Didn't know about election	19.51% 8
Didn't know voting location	7.32% 3
Couldn't make it (transportation, childcare, etc.)	4.88% 2
Didn't like the candidates	7.32% 3
Other (please specify)	43.90% 18
Total Respondents: 41	

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ineligible	1/16/2020 7:56 AM
2	student in nashville - didn't know I could vote here since I was just student	1/16/2020 7:55 AM
3	Didn't make it a priority - sorry!	1/16/2020 7:33 AM
4	assumed the liberals would dominate	1/16/2020 7:30 AM
5	I wasn't eligible to vote	1/13/2020 5:50 PM
6	age	1/13/2020 4:50 PM
7	age	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
8	I wasn't old enough	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
9	Not able to vote	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
10	Wasn't old enough	1/13/2020 4:45 PM
11	Many local and statewide elections in prior year and a half	1/11/2020 5:11 PM
12	Didn't learn enough about the candidates to make an informed decision	1/11/2020 4:07 PM
13	Had to work late and pulled into the polling place just as they closed	1/11/2020 12:20 PM
14	I couldn't choose between the two. Voter fatigue	1/11/2020 12:19 PM
15	Lung transplant recovery.	1/11/2020 11:34 AM
16	Out of town	1/11/2020 11:28 AM
17	Did not know the last day for voting. Did not understand that there was a run—off election	1/11/2020 11:11 AM
18	Out of town	1/11/2020 10:51 AM

## Q5 What would make you more likely to vote in the next local election?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 291

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	1/16/2020 7:56 AM
2	None	1/16/2020 7:55 AM
3	Knowledge of election and voting via social media. Also never got anything in the mail	1/16/2020 7:48 AM
4	More convenient location - more notice	1/16/2020 7:46 AM
5	More coverage on TV to learn about candidates	1/16/2020 7:42 AM
6	I will now - registered here	1/16/2020 7:39 AM
7	Missing this last one made me realize I needed to get registered correctly for the next. I'm ready now.	1/16/2020 7:38 AM
8	pay more attention	1/16/2020 7:37 AM
9	All depends on who is running	1/16/2020 7:34 AM
10	I just need to pay better attention	1/16/2020 7:33 AM
11	better candidates	1/16/2020 7:30 AM
12	1 - a good conservative candidate and 2 - easier voting process	1/16/2020 7:30 AM
13	Good Republican candidate	1/14/2020 3:02 PM
14	If i did more research and spent time looking at local politics.	1/13/2020 10:16 PM
15	Learn more about the candidates and accessible location	1/13/2020 5:50 PM
16	I would be old enough to vote in my community library	1/13/2020 5:05 PM
17	yes	1/13/2020 4:50 PM
18	Knowing the importance, and how it affects me. (also being registered)	1/13/2020 4:50 PM
19	Age 17 voting age change	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
20	Being registered	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
21	Yes	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
22	Better understand of the candidates	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
23	I will vote next.	1/13/2020 4:48 PM
24	Making elections more accessible	1/13/2020 4:45 PM
25	yes	1/13/2020 3:40 PM
26	Online voting from an app	1/12/2020 1:09 PM
27	online voting	1/11/2020 5:11 PM
28	Having more interest. Knowing that a candidate has similar beliefs, similar goals for our city. Example - Megan Berry was outspoken and accessible, making it easy to know what she stood for, what she supported, opposed, etc. She was engaged with the community. I'm not interested in politics and government and typically don't follow either. But she was often in the news (before the scandal) so it was easy to learn about her.	1/11/2020 4:07 PM
29	I've voted in almost every election except the last one. I don't work close to my polling station and don't have time to vote in the morning and still get to work on time, especially if traffic is bad. In the last election I went directly to the polling station when I got off work and it was closing. Maybe if the polling stations were open later that would help.	1/11/2020 12:20 PM
30	I will likely vote. I rarely miss	1/11/2020 12:19 PM
31	Times, location	1/11/2020 11:46 AM
32	Times, location	1/11/2020 11:45 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

33	Recovery from surgery. If not, will vote absentee.	1/11/2020 11:34 AM
34	Being in town	1/11/2020 11:28 AM
35	I wasn't sure the hours that the voting locations were open and didn't want to take time off work. I remember receiving the voter ballot book with the options up for vote, but maybe including an additional mailer with the location of my voting spot and it's hours.	1/11/2020 11:11 AM
36	Getting registered. I should really get that done.	1/11/2020 10:56 AM
37	Not applicable	1/11/2020 10:51 AM

**Q6 Is there anything else you would like to share with us about local elections, voter registration, polling places, etc.?**

Answered: 170 Skipped: 158

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	no	1/16/2020 7:56 AM
2	No. I vote in every election	1/16/2020 7:55 AM
3	no	1/16/2020 7:54 AM
4	no	1/16/2020 7:54 AM
5	I always vote. Polling places are convenient. Should broaden what IDs can be used to vote.	1/16/2020 7:53 AM
6	I understand the process, but many don't. Should try to keep it simple and help people understand process more.	1/16/2020 7:53 AM
7	Need more direct meetings with people running for office. We also need more services to help get older people to the polls.	1/16/2020 7:52 AM
8	Need more candidates I can personally believe in.	1/16/2020 7:51 AM
9	we need candidates who will help the homelessness in Nashville and surrounding counties	1/16/2020 7:50 AM
10	I am politically engaged so that pushes me to vote	1/16/2020 7:49 AM
11	people running should look out more for low income people.	1/16/2020 7:48 AM
12	Just more marketing. Use to broadcast elections more.	1/16/2020 7:48 AM
13	no - everyone should always vote	1/16/2020 7:47 AM
14	better clarification of candidate views and more local panels	1/16/2020 7:46 AM
15	no	1/16/2020 7:42 AM
16	need to consolidate - too many elections, even though we have had unique circumstances	1/16/2020 7:41 AM
17	People need to seek candidate engagement beyond commercials. My polling location has great poll workers. I'm not sure everyone feels invited at their location. This may be due to knowledge of what a valid ID is for voting	1/16/2020 7:41 AM
18	no	1/16/2020 7:39 AM
19	Polling places and staff have all been great	1/16/2020 7:38 AM
20	no	1/16/2020 7:38 AM
21	No, but I do believe people need to think of voting in terms of voting people OUT as much as voting people IN	1/16/2020 7:36 AM
22	I always vote and feel everyone else should too	1/16/2020 7:36 AM
23	i haven't voted before because I thought I was too young to understand issues	1/16/2020 7:35 AM
24	no	1/16/2020 7:34 AM
25	more polling places with adequate parking - also we should have online voting	1/16/2020 7:34 AM
26	I think I haven't lived here long enough to really know what challenges there are in the city	1/16/2020 7:33 AM
27	More social media to promote voting sites, early vote locations and times	1/16/2020 7:32 AM
28	I like my polling place and early vote locations	1/16/2020 7:31 AM
29	need to get more young people to care about voting	1/16/2020 7:31 AM
30	would like to see more options to vote at colleges	1/16/2020 7:29 AM
31	always vote	1/16/2020 7:25 AM
32	Conservatives have no chance here! Hate it ,	1/15/2020 7:21 PM
33	Nope	1/15/2020 6:11 PM
34	No	1/15/2020 7:23 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

35	No	1/15/2020 12:45 AM
36	No	1/14/2020 3:53 PM
37	Nashville needs a newspaper.	1/14/2020 3:02 PM
38	No	1/14/2020 2:54 PM
39	All early voting should begin on the same day. Hours should be the same every weekday or weekend.	1/14/2020 2:35 PM
40	Offer free busing to polling places in low income areas. Set up mobile units in low income areas and near homeless shelters to help with getting photo IDs. Make sure that there are polling places in low income areas that would be walk-able for those without transportation.	1/14/2020 11:12 AM
41	Early voting places open longer	1/13/2020 10:30 PM
42	No	1/13/2020 10:16 PM
43	?	1/13/2020 10:10 PM
44	I think we could have fewer polling places at least in my area. It seems that most people early vote and there's never a line	1/13/2020 8:23 PM
45	Having access to location polls is the most important thing. Transportation is an issue or how far the poll location is also an issue. If we advertise voting more for the community to be interested will help the people get involved. Give them a reason and show them the consequences of what could happen if we don't vote.	1/13/2020 5:59 PM
46	No	1/13/2020 5:42 PM
47	No	1/13/2020 5:05 PM
48	Voter mobilization and turnout is vital to democracy and social justice.	1/13/2020 5:00 PM
49	I did research which was nice and helpful	1/13/2020 4:52 PM
50	Make voter registration at the very least convenient and quicker	1/13/2020 4:50 PM
51	More voter registration drives can ensure more teens and young adults are registered. This in turn may lead to more voters if the registration process is done.	1/13/2020 4:50 PM
52	Be more engaged in bringing in new voters	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
53	Not really	1/13/2020 4:49 PM
54	The Election Commission did not put my registration through	1/13/2020 4:46 PM
55	I would like to see rank choice voting be implemented in local Nashville elections. I think it would greatly increase voter turnout.	1/13/2020 11:05 AM
56	No	1/13/2020 10:15 AM
57	will some decent republicans please run for mayor...	1/13/2020 9:55 AM
58	The polling place I went to had an issue with a candidate blocking a handicapped area. But more importantly, election day I saw many people who didn't realize that the early polling place was not their actual polling place. I recommend a sign that lists other polling places. It was especially important because many people were looking for a polling place that had just changed. We should be encouraging people to vote, not making it more difficult to do so....	1/13/2020 9:18 AM
59	People do not vote because it does not help. The counsel still does what it wants (not what the voters want). The city employees have been cheated too long.	1/13/2020 7:55 AM
60	It's nice to see transparency in our mayor. There was almost no need to vote before this most recent mayoral race because it was all "fixed" by the good old boy/friends for profit by the previous administrations. Embarrassing. Briley and Barry should be prosecuted for ethics violations and their friend network needed to do business with the city. But they got away with it.	1/12/2020 10:57 PM
61	Thanks for doing this!	1/12/2020 9:27 PM
62	Too many elections and too strict rules make turnout low. Do ranked voting, make Election Day a holiday, expand early and mail-in voting. It's too confusing and burdensome the way it	1/12/2020 8:56 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

	currently is	
63	It should be at the same time as other elections	1/12/2020 8:07 PM
64	Nashville government is too big, to many representatives for our population. Local elections should be help on the same Tuesday in November as the national elections. I would imagine that the savings would not be in-significant.	1/12/2020 4:38 PM
65	local elections should be held at the same time congressional elections happen.	1/12/2020 4:36 PM
66	My dads family is very poor. No cars, no education. Never has transportation been an issue. I feel we focus on transport to get there when it is really just time. Whether time off from work or time away from kids. That's our experience.	1/12/2020 1:11 PM
67	Love the early voting sites - my work schedule doesn't always allow time to vote on election day itself	1/12/2020 10:24 AM
68	There's a huge disconnect between voter turnout and folks constantly grouching and complaining about the direction of the city	1/12/2020 8:25 AM
69	The church polling location in Elm Hill Pk is difficult to use in every way.	1/12/2020 7:56 AM
70	So many have become cynical - I constantly hear "my vote won't make a difference, my elected officials don't listen." We need to figure out how to get more people involved, maybe more citizen committees that actually have input to our elected officials, including folks that aren't selected by those officials, get a better representation of our diverse community.	1/12/2020 7:45 AM
71	N/a	1/11/2020 11:30 PM
72	Wish you could mail in forms! Having to take time off work to vote is ridiculous.	1/11/2020 10:34 PM
73	no	1/11/2020 9:14 PM
74	The new voting machines are disconcerting- why did we get them?	1/11/2020 8:23 PM
75	The election commission is disconcertingly unethical- and though it's not a Davidson-County specific issue, gerrymandering in this state is despicable.	1/11/2020 8:22 PM
76	No	1/11/2020 8:04 PM
77	I love early voting!!!	1/11/2020 7:51 PM
78	Traffic control on Elm Hill Pike, Whitwell church voting.	1/11/2020 7:47 PM
79	Ive always had good experiences voting in Davidson Co - respectful poll workers, small lines, ease of using the machines.	1/11/2020 7:35 PM
80	Need more conservative representation	1/11/2020 7:33 PM
81	The new polling machines are terrible, and seem like a step backwards in technology. It was a painfully slow process this time, causing a much longer line. Very inefficient it seemed.	1/11/2020 7:14 PM
82	The new polling machines are very slow. I had to wait longer than I should to vote.	1/11/2020 7:12 PM
83	No	1/11/2020 6:29 PM
84	Modernize the entire process and make it easier to vote	1/11/2020 6:24 PM
85	Very convenient and well staffed. There's no barrier to voting that I see.	1/11/2020 6:16 PM
86	Too much paper work and signings except proper ID, some repetitious, I think.	1/11/2020 6:11 PM
87	We do most everything else on computers which makes me wonder when we can avoid all the details involved in voting in person and do it on computer, although I doubt it can be done but it does seem there is some repetition of filling out papers and giving info, except proper ID, in person.	1/11/2020 6:04 PM
88	I know it's come up in council before, but I feel like we need a legitimate consideration of ranked choice voting. Even as someone who is engaged and never misses out on voting, it starts to feel exhausting with the number of special elections and runoffs we've had. I can see how many would have some voting burnout.	1/11/2020 4:59 PM
89	Never look forward to the parking issues, long lines, standing in the weather if you have to go	1/11/2020 4:49 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

early; long wait waste of time -- sometimes tracking 15 potential candidates for diff offices, OMG

90	My early voting poll (Hermitage library) and regular polling place (Two Rivers MS) are easily accessible for me. Don't change that! Jeff Syracuse did a great job before his reelection with the meet & greets beforehand (one was at Scoreboard). With the various times & places, he was accessible for anyone to meet. I liked that. I never hear about voter registration drives. Can more of these be done? Maybe at places people often frequent, like the parking lots of Kroger, Publix, Target, etc.	1/11/2020 4:11 PM
91	Please find a way to recruit younger poll workers.	1/11/2020 4:09 PM
92	They aren't very well publicized	1/11/2020 3:52 PM
93	Fewer elections please. Be efficient.	1/11/2020 3:40 PM
94	Establish ranked choice voting	1/11/2020 3:38 PM
95	It should not require multiple voter turnouts to choose a mayor or CM. Establish ranked choice voting	1/11/2020 3:37 PM
96	I think, that people that do not feel, they have say...or a responsible to vote....	1/11/2020 3:35 PM
97	You hear about how difficult it is for people to register, get to the polls, etc. I offered 'free' rides to the residents of the local senior high-rise and got no takers. When I asked a group of residents if they were registered to vote, they said, "Yes." So 'why' are you not voting, "Nothing changes." If I had that apathetic attitude, I'd never vote either. Instead, as a daughter of someone who immigrated to the US and became a citizen when doing so was far HARDER than it is today; along with a Father who served in the military, I was raised with an appreciation for the act of voting. Kids are not taught how valuable voting is; nor, are they shown what happens in countries where voting is prevented. I believe there is corruption throughout businesses and our government, but I refuse to give up such a valuable 'right' as the ability to vote. If enough people believed as me, and the laws about funding campaigns were changed, anyone would be able to run for office and change would occur. The public gives lip service to not wanting "old, white men, who have been in politics their whole lives," getting elected, but who are the presidential front-runners? The one person I believe would be a breath of fresh air in the WH, Tulsi Gabbard (a Hindu, Samoan, member of the military, and a female), does not have the "money" to fund a campaign like Biden, Sanders, and Bloomberg (self-funded) do. The lack of name recognition prevents any substantial run for the WH. Sadly, too many voters rely on name-recognition as the factor they use to decide who they will vote for. This includes local elections. Also, too many voters rely on what they hear and read as their determining factor. Too much false information is circulated during elections and it factors into the end result.	1/11/2020 3:25 PM
98	Love the diversity that I saw in the voting location!	1/11/2020 3:24 PM
99	I think Nashville's early voting hours are great! I wish people all over had the option to go vote on a weekend, not always on Tuesdays. Good work!	1/11/2020 3:10 PM
100	It's hard too hard for college students to vote.	1/11/2020 3:06 PM
101	Discouraged by low voter turnout in all elections	1/11/2020 3:05 PM
102	I think part of the problem is that often there are so many elections in a short time period that it leads to voter fatigue and confusion	1/11/2020 2:49 PM
103	Not particularly	1/11/2020 2:30 PM
104	Early voting is amazing, however awareness is low. This should be rectified.	1/11/2020 2:20 PM
105	Early voting is awesome!!! We always early vote at the Hermitage library and it is always quick, easy, and efficient!	1/11/2020 2:13 PM
106	Past 2 elections I did early voting at the Hermitage Library. Both times I had issues with poll workers. There is not a way to complain or express concerns about poll workers through Davison Co election commission website. I sent an email to general address but did not get a response. The 2 incidents really made me concerned and angry	1/11/2020 2:13 PM
107	Only people voting are older where are the hipsters	1/11/2020 2:06 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

108	All I see is older people doing their civic duty !!! Where's all the hipsters???	1/11/2020 2:05 PM
109	No	1/11/2020 1:46 PM
110	We need to be able to vote via mail in ballot like all other states.	1/11/2020 1:43 PM
111	I have always had a positive and easy voting experience in many years of voting in Davidson county. No problems or complaints.	1/11/2020 1:11 PM
112	Wish there were more early voting places.	1/11/2020 12:50 PM
113	No one believes their vote counts & many won't take their "me time" to be bothered to go do something that they feel does not benefit them directly. The understanding of government and its role is not important to the majority.	1/11/2020 12:44 PM
114	Very easy here	1/11/2020 12:43 PM
115	Less money spent on advertising and more information about issues should help bring more voters out to the polls.	1/11/2020 12:33 PM
116	No.	1/11/2020 12:29 PM
117	Our polling place (Blind School) has a wonderful crew that works there.	1/11/2020 12:27 PM
118	Would be great if early voting could be setup at places that people frequent, & hours they do so, so that they don't have to make a special trip. Grocery stores, Music City Central, etc.	1/11/2020 12:20 PM
119	Sometimes lines are long. I always early vote.	1/11/2020 12:08 PM
120	I've always moved quickly through my voting places	1/11/2020 12:03 PM
121	No	1/11/2020 12:01 PM
122	I'm put off by candidates that stand near polling places to try to gather votes. If I'm heading to vote, chances are I know for whom I'm voting and 9/10 it isn't for the person parked outside. It makes it pretty uncomfortable to walk into vote.	1/11/2020 11:51 AM
123	No	1/11/2020 11:46 AM
124	No	1/11/2020 11:45 AM
125	No	1/11/2020 11:43 AM
126	We need voter turn out and I am not sure how we can get it!!! Maybe someday we can figure out how to do it safely on-line!	1/11/2020 11:41 AM
127	We need transit	1/11/2020 11:35 AM
128	I think Davidson County does a good job. I would have voted for Mayor Copper.	1/11/2020 11:34 AM
129	Not really. It is pretty easy and straightforward. Polling places are convenient for me.	1/11/2020 11:33 AM
130	no	1/11/2020 11:32 AM
131	I feel like it is very easy to vote. I think most people who don't vote think that their vote isn't enough to make a difference. Maybe do some advertising that focuses on if everyone who felt a certain way on an issue didn't vote then the other side would win.	1/11/2020 11:31 AM
132	need more media coverage of what we are voting on way AHEAD of Election Day.	1/11/2020 11:30 AM
133	More media coverage way AHEAD of Election Day would be nice. Listing who is running and/or what we are voting on. Early voting is great, please continue or expand.	1/11/2020 11:29 AM
134	Voting for me is convenient. I can't think of anything I would change.	1/11/2020 11:29 AM
135	No	1/11/2020 11:28 AM
136	I prefer not taking time off work ( I got paid hourly) to vote in elections.	1/11/2020 11:12 AM
137	N/A	1/11/2020 11:10 AM
138	None	1/11/2020 11:07 AM
139	I really like the early voting option. I rarely vote on Election Day.	1/11/2020 11:03 AM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

140	Need more than two machines, so the wait is not so long	1/11/2020 11:03 AM
141	Fewer council members	1/11/2020 11:00 AM
142	they are really no longer about issues but simply mimic the national politic (are you on the left or right? does my candidate support or oppose trump?)	1/11/2020 10:59 AM
143	The limited number of locations for early voting is an impediment. I also question the insistence on Election Day being a weekday when many voters' work places are distant from their homes. Extended commuting times in the Nashville area make it difficult to make it to polling places and jobs in the same day.	1/11/2020 10:58 AM
144	Pls let early voting begin just a little sooner?	1/11/2020 10:57 AM
145	Not really.	1/11/2020 10:56 AM
146	Better dissemination of information on candidate views and principals. This should be short and concise; a quick read.	1/11/2020 10:52 AM
147	No	1/11/2020 10:51 AM
148	stop trying to appease a particular agenda....you know what I mean....	1/11/2020 9:03 AM
149	There needs to be more sign about WHEN to vote. Not just WHO to cite for. We don't watch local news, we don't get the newspaper. We rely on social media and simple signs. Needs to be obvious	1/11/2020 8:44 AM
150	Need to get into high schools and talk with the Seniors as they will be voting soon after they graduate. I got my voters registration card my Senior year.	1/11/2020 8:17 AM
151	In early voting, we can vote at any polling place. But on election day, we have to go to a particular polling place. We should be able to vote at any polling place, early or election day. The technology already exist to do that, and we already use it.	1/11/2020 8:03 AM
152	No	1/11/2020 7:46 AM
153	No I am happy with the voting location and options	1/11/2020 7:37 AM
154	No	1/11/2020 7:14 AM
155	None	1/11/2020 3:42 AM
156	Nothing comes to mind	1/11/2020 3:03 AM
157	N/A	1/11/2020 3:02 AM
158	Registration should be automatic ... voting day should be a holiday & you should be required to vote to access public services	1/11/2020 1:07 AM
159	No	1/11/2020 12:25 AM
160	None	1/10/2020 10:15 PM
161	No	1/10/2020 8:01 PM
162	Early voting lines are always super long	1/10/2020 7:50 PM
163	Your survey loops back after the end	1/10/2020 7:13 PM
164	You have to get the people running to stop blocking the entrances	1/10/2020 7:12 PM
165	Can we stop with the old white men as Mayors? We have the most diverse and progressive metro council ever and a 1990s throwback mayor.	1/10/2020 6:58 PM
166	No	1/10/2020 6:53 PM
167	Love my polling place!	1/10/2020 6:50 PM
168	Yes some people break the distance line law on election day I think they should be removed from the site completely all their signs and helpers too.	1/10/2020 6:49 PM
169	I'm almost always the only person (besides the volunteers) in my voting location when I'm there. It's disheartening. I think one deterrent may be when the reminder of the dates arrives	1/10/2020 6:48 PM

## Nashville Voter Engagement Survey

late. I once received that letter with only two days remaining in early voting, but I'm lucky I live around the corner from my polls.

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170	I think election days should be holidays. Gives everyone working an opportunity to cast their vote without missing work and jeopardizing a pay check. and gives people time to get to the polls without being in a hurry.	1/9/2020 3:19 PM
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MAYORS YOUTH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
January 13, 2020

TOPIC: Why young people don't vote; what can Metro Council do to engage young voters.

- **Issue: People put off voting until a presidential election every 4 years.**

Solution: Need consistent, ongoing activities that focus on local issues to remind people to vote in not just Presidential elections. Voter registration events every year and involve everyone in the school, not just Seniors so when it's their turn, they're ready. School assemblies throughout the year; "Specials" with the Mayors Office and a local news outlet to highlight upcoming elections or special issues affecting the community.

- **Issue: Too many barriers to voting.** People can't get to their voting location; opening and closing times don't always work with people's schedule; for example, too difficult to vote before school because the polls aren't open; transportation issues to get to their voting location, even with early voting locations, it makes the polls even further away than their normal polling place.

Solution: Expand number of polling places; organize Lyft subsidies to get to the polls; arrange buses to polls; **allow for school field trips to vote.** When people receive their voter registration cards in the mail, provide further information about upcoming election schedules, how to request absentee ballots, importation information about polling locations, ect.

- **Issue: Most people think their vote doesn't matter because they're just one person – just one vote.** People don't seem to understand why their vote matters. People don't see the incentive to vote. If people are not passionate, they're not willing to take the extra effort to vote

Solution: Messaging on voting should always be focused on giving people a reason to vote. Make people see the consequences of not voting and perhaps making voting records much easier to access and publicize how to access. "Guilt" people into voting helps hold people accountable.

- **Issue: Politics is just not a cool thing, so it's hard to get people to care. Messaging on politics in voting is old and boring and doesn't speak to young people.**

Solution: Change the culture of voting; making it a trend, like a cool thing to do. People need to realize that if they want their community to change, they need to vote. Messaging on issues and voting should be done with cartoons and humor and fun videos created by youth; messaging should come from people that they respect, can relate to, and that are cool: athletes, leaders, young people are more likely to listen to people they know and respect as opposed to strangers and politicians in suits. Young people are also more likely to vote for people like them. Gender, race, religion – need to encourage diverse candidates.

- **Issue: General Lack of information. A teacher told a classroom if they don't know what they're voting for, don't vote. It's a lot of work to research candidates; if they see a commercial, they could be easily swayed.**

Solution: Zero tolerance policy for voter suppression in the classroom. Metro Council needs to help get information out including posters of candidates. Schools should help inform students. Schools are

meant to prepare you for life outside of school and they're not doing enough. Civics classes should be required.

- **Issue: Schools, even if they're polling places, they don't encourage students to vote.**

Solution: All schools that serve as polling places should encourage teachers to take their students to observe the polling starting very young so kids grow up understanding the process. Encourage schools to offer "mock voting" to get students involved.

- **Issue: Voting is an outdated system underutilizing technology.**

Solution: Utilize technology, social media to disseminate more information on candidates including their names and facts about them. Why can't we vote online? People don't know about absentee ballots. Need to utilize technology. Need to be able to vote online.

- **Issue: Few places to turn for information. Total apathy in the schools with no direction on where to turn for information or motivation to vote**

Solution: Engage community leaders to determine ways to increase civic involvement. Create go to people at schools such as coaches, guidance counselors, librarians to be a point of reference. Can't depend on teachers or school principals but other leaders in the school to teach them the importance of voting to provide that little bit of motivation people need. We can't shy away from conversations with people that aren't civically engaged. We need to reach all people, not just those that we're comfortable with who will agree with us and won't reject us.

**A question was proposed to the group, here are the answers:**

**Why do you vote?**

- I vote for other people because others can't. And we want people in office who will advocate for others that can't vote
- To get the people I want in office
- I want people like me to get elected that care about issues I care about.
- I want to be part of my community – my opinion has to be out there.
- I want someone with the same goals as me in office
- I want my vote to be part of something bigger
- I vote because I like to complain, and I can't just complain I have to vote
- I want to be involved
- To create a positive change in this country and I want the government to be held accountable
- I vote to speak up and I don't want incarceration to increase
- These issues are getting voted on and I need my voice
- I want to take advantage of the rights I have and be a voice for my community
- I vote because I want to show that youth do care about this country
- I vote because I was taught to vote by my mom; it's what makes my community better. It gives me a sense of pride
- I wanna vote because I want my voice and goals
- I vote because if you don't take a part you can't complain. If you don't vote, you help someone else get into office you may not agree with

- I vote for progress to make change
- I vote because it seems fun. If you make it fun, more people will want to do it.
- I want to vote because it's the least I can do for my community