

Camden Voter Participation in 2009 Elections

City turnout rate continues to lag behind state and county averages but increased over three of the four most recent elections for the same offices.

Overview: Is non-voting alienation, satisfaction, or confidence that other forms of participation will be more productive? The meaning of low turnout is unclear in Camden, where 83.7% of registrants are Democrats and the victory of the party's candidate is often discussed as a foregone conclusion. Turnout nonetheless demands attention as one of the few frequently updated measures of civic engagement.

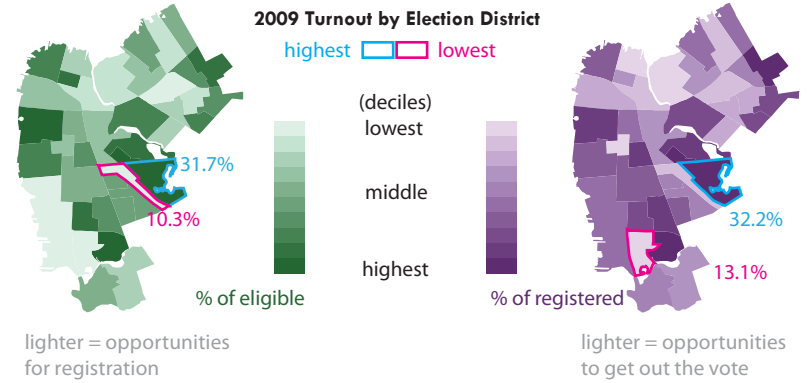
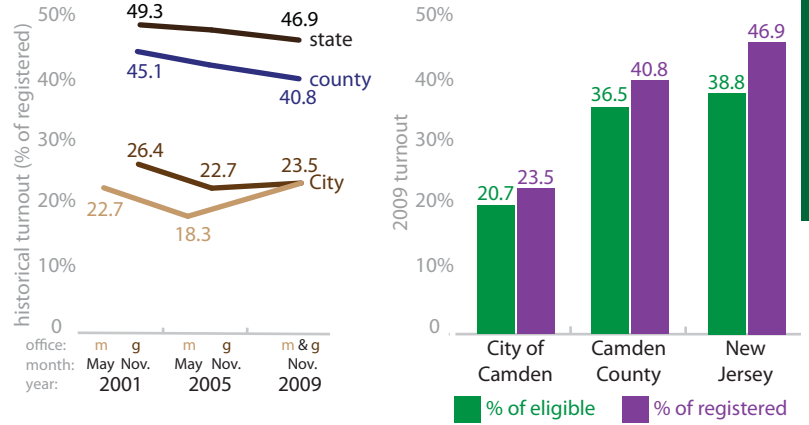
Camden Continues to Lag Behind County and State in Turnout

For the first time since the City of Camden returned to partisan elections, the 2009 Mayoral contest was held in November with the 2009 Gubernatorial election. Despite declining state and county turnout between 2001 and 2009, the City's turnout rate remains half the state average.

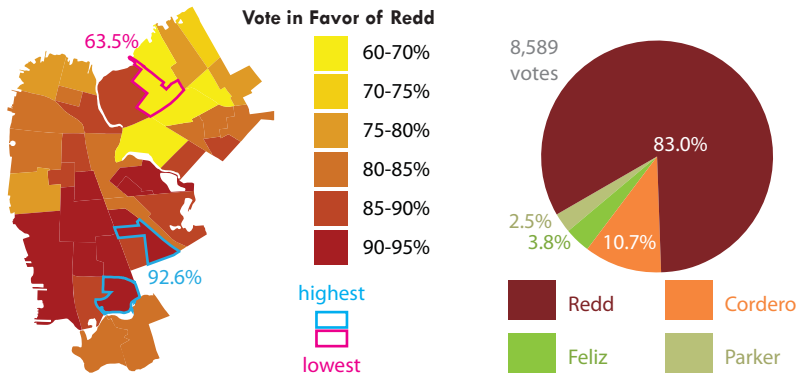
There are two methods of measuring turnout: as a **percentage of eligible voters** (over the age of 18 and not including disenfranchised felons) and as a **percentage of registered voters**.

In both measures of turnout, Camden significantly lags behind both county and state levels. For the 2009 elections, only **20.7% of eligible voters** cast a ballot, representing **23.5% of the registered voting population**.

In the district maps of Camden to the right, darker areas show relatively higher and lighter areas show relatively lower turnout. The southern portion of Parkside exhibited the **highest district turnout** by both measures. Meanwhile portions of Whitman Park and Gateway displayed the **lowest eligible turnout** and the western section of Morgan Village had the **lowest registered turnout**. Taken as a whole, the central eastern section of Camden generally turned out the highest percentage of voters and North Camden turned out the lowest numbers. There are only slight differences between the two versions of the map, yet these differences can help determine areas where voter registration efforts might prove most useful.



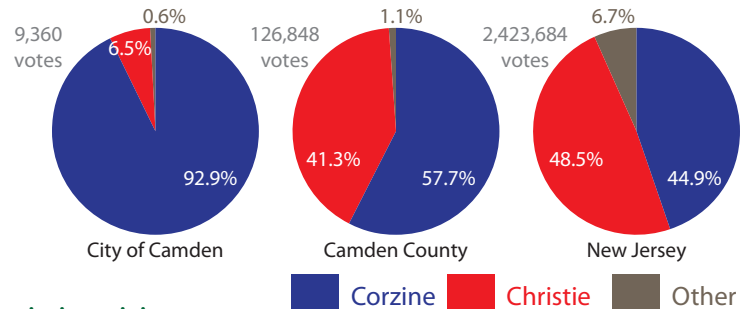
Mayor Redd's Strongest Support Comes from South Camden



While newly-elected Mayor Dana Redd claimed 83% of the overall vote, she did not carry all districts evenly. Redd, who grew up in Waterfront South, polled most strongly in South Camden. Her **strongest district performance** occurred in portions of Morgan Village and Whitman Park where she obtained 93% of the vote. Cordero and Feliz, on the other hand, performed best in East Camden (accounting for up to 36% in some districts), also corresponding to Cordero's place of residence. The single **highest percentage of opposition** votes originated in a section of Cramer Hill.

Camden City and County Buck State Trend, Vote Heavily for Corzine

Both Camden City and the county voted heavily in favor of incumbent candidate **John Corzine**. Despite losing Camden County, Republican candidate **Chris Christie** managed to secure 48.5% of the state vote to become the 55th governor of New Jersey. Camden voters were reluctant to support Independent candidates at only .6% of the total vote compared to the state average of 6.7%.



for more info and historical voting statistics, visit:
CamConnect.org/fact/VoterParticipationReport.htm