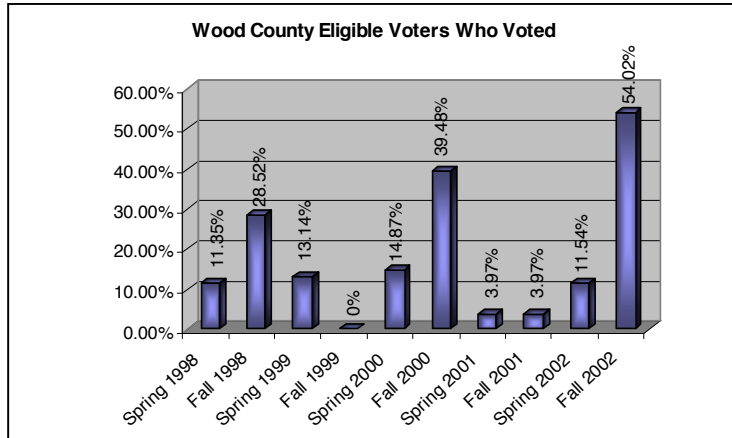


**Wood
County
Outpaces
State in
Voter
Participation**



Key Facts

- Voter participation is generally higher during presidential, gubernatorial and congressional elections, which take place in the fall.
- Of the 48,488 eligible votes in Wood County 26,191 or 54.2% cast their votes in the 2002 fall election. Major elections in Wood County that year included the office of Governor.
- In the 2002 spring election, only 5,587 voters or 11.5% of those eligible went to the polls.

Why is this Information Important?

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as citizens. By casting votes, citizens express their preferences and contribute to the formulation of public policy. Communities with a high percentage of voters are more engaged in civic issues, which results in a stronger quality of life.

Voter Participation

Voter participation is the most basic measure of political and civic engagement. United States citizens 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote. The vote is the most powerful tool citizens can use to hold elected leaders accountable and ensure they are responsible to the concerns of all people.

Wood County citizens cast their votes throughout the county during general elections. Wood County voter turnout in fall elections is consistently higher than the state average.

The percentage of eligible citizens who vote is the broadest possible measure of voting because it is not limited to only registered voters. Instead, it includes all people who could cast a vote if they choose to do so.

Sources: Wood County Clerk; Wisconsin Rapids / Marshfield City Clerks