

READING A DOUBLE-LINE GRAPH

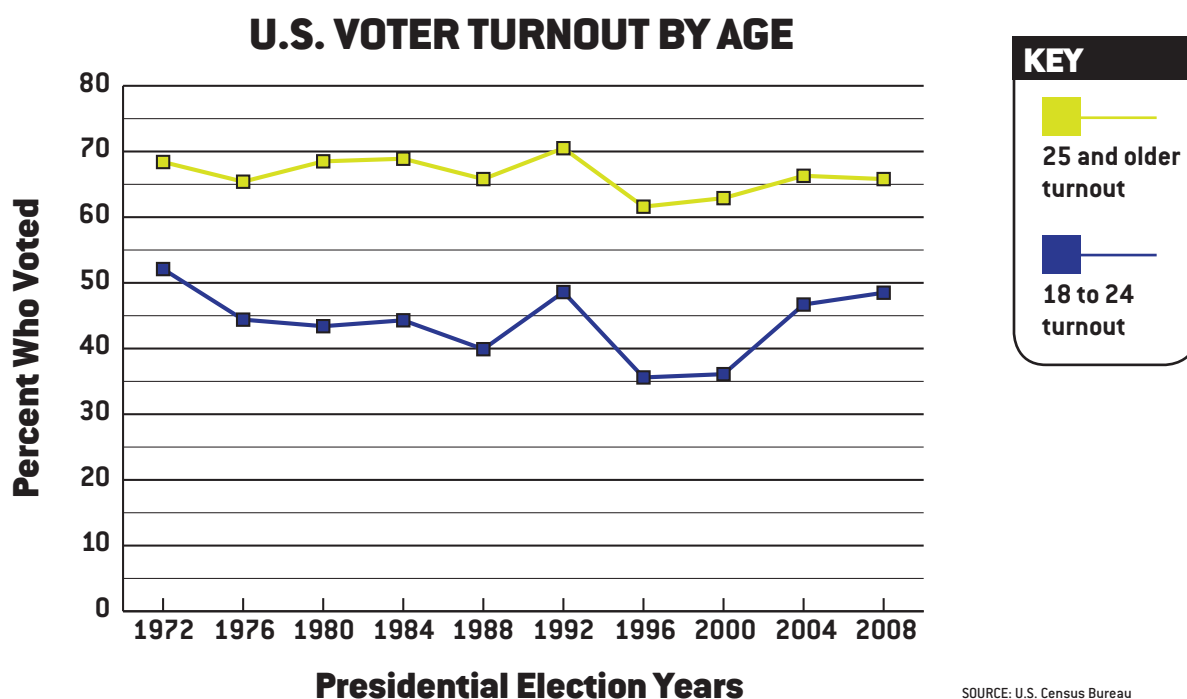
WHO VOTES?

Until 1971, the minimum voting age in most U.S. states was 21. That year, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving the vote to all American citizens 18 and older. But the percentage of Americans ages 18 to 24 who exercise their right

to vote is much lower than the percentage of Americans 25 and older who vote.

This graph compares voter turnout for those two age groups in presidential-election years since 1972, the first year the minimum voting age was 18.

DIRECTIONS: Study the graph, then answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.



QUESTIONS *Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.*

1. The graph shows voter turnout in what kind of election years?
2. Voter turnout for Americans ages 18 to 24 was highest in which year?
3. What happened in the previous year that affected the turnout of young voters?
4. In what year did American voters ages 25 and older have their highest turnout?
5. About what percent of Americans 25 and older voted in that year?
6. How did turnout for voters in the 18 to 24 age group change between 1972 and 1980?
7. The percentage of voter turnout in that age group increased the most between which two years?
8. What year saw the lowest voter-turnout percentage for Americans ages 25 and older?
9. Why do you suppose voter turnout is generally lower among 18- to 24-year-olds than among people 25 and older?
10. Do you think voter turnout will increase, decrease, or stay about the same this year? Explain.