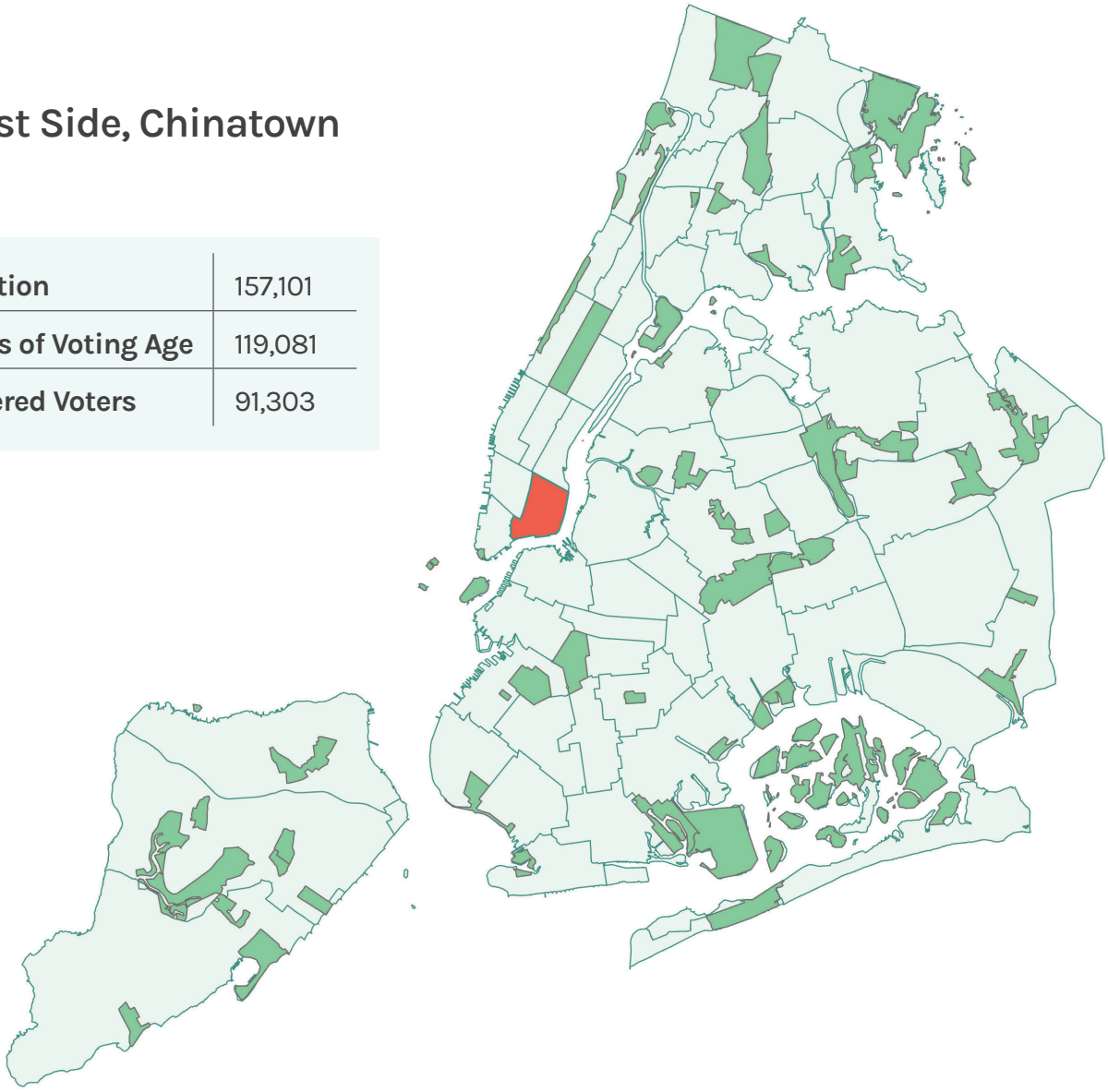
NYC VOTES

Community Profiles
Manhattan Community District 3

Lower East Side, Chinatown

Total Population	157,101
Total Citizens of Voting Age	119,081
Total Registered Voters	91,303



Your community at a glance

- General **election 2022 turnout** was **lower** than the city average.
- Percentage of **contributions matched** with public funds was **lower** than the city average.
- **Youth registration rate** was **lower** than the city average.

This Community Profile reviews voter turnout and other key statistics that impact civic participation across New York City, broken down by Community District (CD). NYC Votes created this resource to help community-based organizations effectively engage voters in every neighborhood across New York City.

Voter Registration Rate

Voting Participation Score

NYC Votes constructed a "voting participation score" for every active voter in the city, ranging from 0–100. These scores are calculated by dividing the number of elections a voter was eligible to vote in by the number of elections they actually voted in. Individual scores are averaged to determine a community district voting participation score. The Community District with the highest score was Manhattan CD 7 (Upper West Side and West Side) at 41.6 and the lowest was Bronx CD 5 (Morris Heights, Mount Hope) at 17.4. The citywide score was 27.4.

$$\textbf{voting participation score} = \frac{\text{\# of elections a person voted in}}{\text{\# of elections a person was eligible to vote in}}$$

All voting behavior statistics are calculated from the City's voter file. Each Community Profile includes metrics from Manhattan CD 7, which has the highest voter turnout in the City, as well as county and citywide metrics, for comparison purposes.

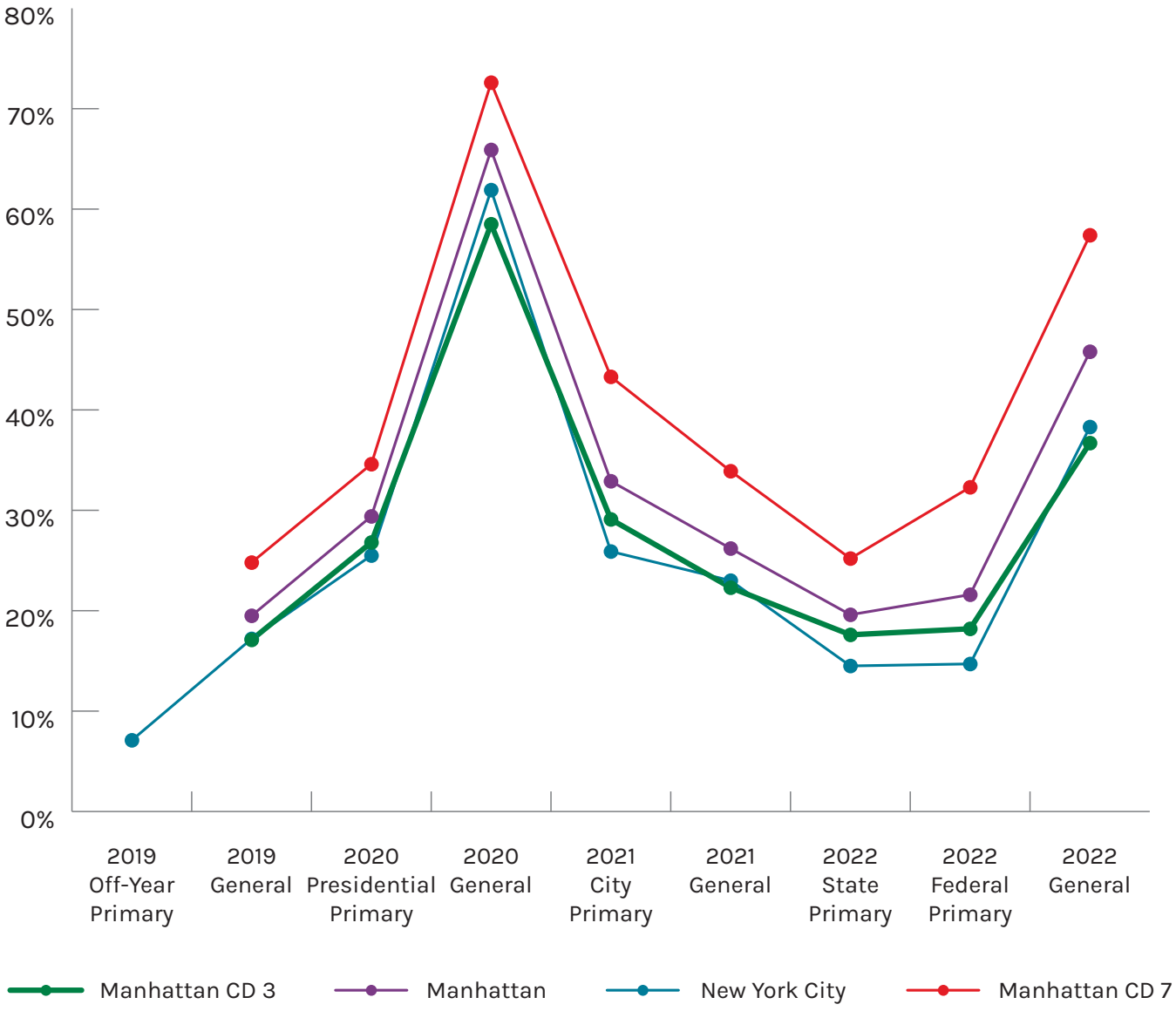
Voter data and engagement

	Average participation score	Voters not registered to a political party	Percentage of early voters in general election 2022
Manhattan CD 3	28.4	18.8%	20.9%
Manhattan	33.2	17.7%	29.6%
New York City	27.4	19.2%	23.9%
Manhattan CD 7	41.6	15.9%	35.7%

Voter Turnout

Across the city, turnout for primary elections is typically lower than general elections. Overall voter turnout is also lower when only state and local offices are on the ballot compared to when the President is on the ballot. The chart below shows voter turnout in this CD from 2019–2022.

Turnout 2019–2022



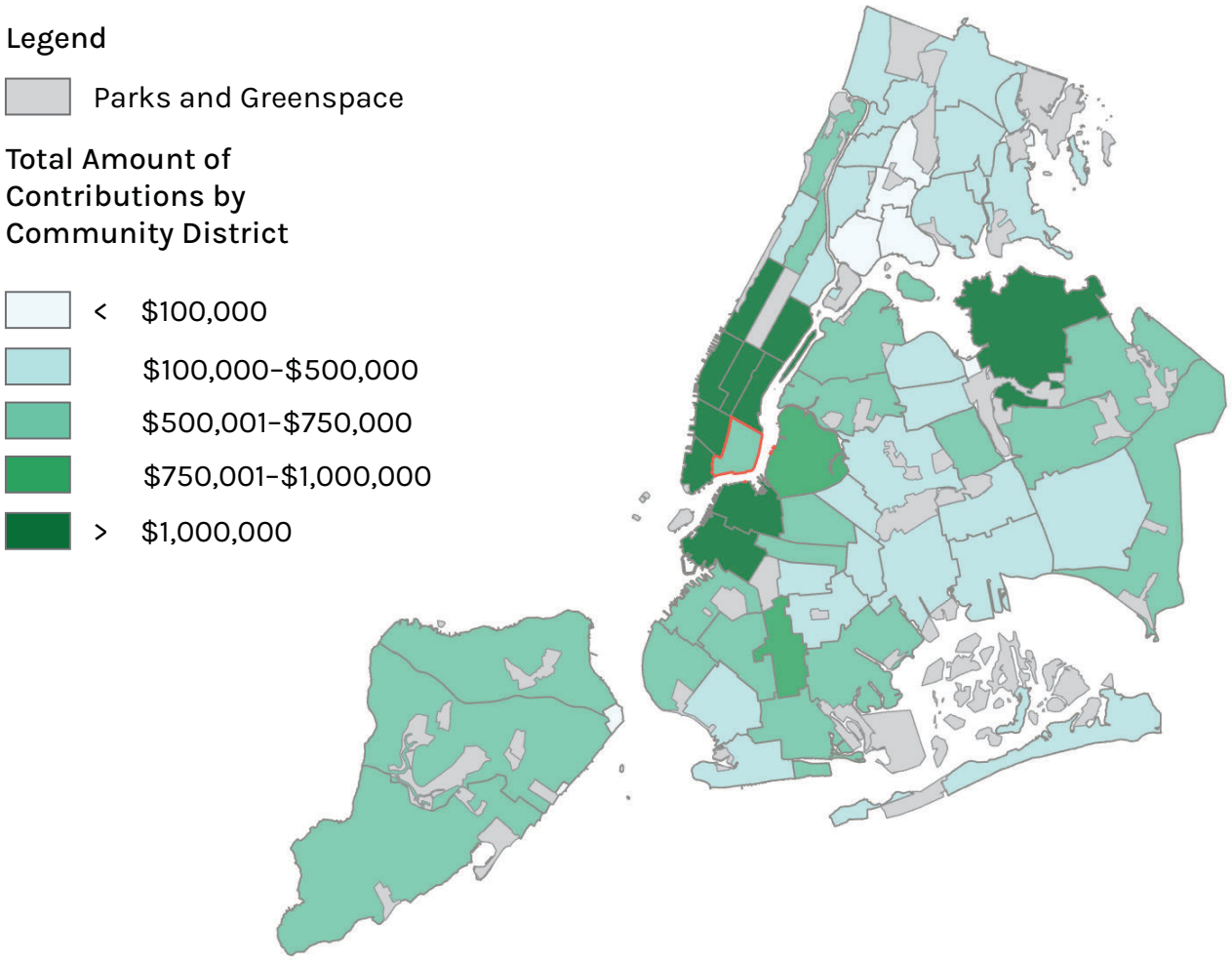
Note: Some districts did not hold a 2019 and/or 2022 Primary Election.

NYC Public Matching Funds Program in 2021

The New York City Campaign Finance Program strives to achieve a democracy that is more representative of our diverse communities. The program incentivizes candidates to focus campaign activities and engagement on everyday New Yorkers, rather than relying on raising large donations from wealthy special interests. The CFB's landmark small-dollar program matches eligible contributions from New Yorkers $8 to $1, meaning a $10 contribution can be worth $90 for a candidate.

The 2021 New York City election cycle featured many open seats due to term limits, making it highly competitive with substantial campaign finance activity and voter participation. In response, New York City broke voter turnout records in the primary, ultimately electing the most diverse and first ever female-majority City Council.

The map below illustrates the geographic landscape of monetary contributions from individuals in the 2021 election cycle. In the map, darker shading represents a higher total dollar amount of contributions. While further research is needed to determine how contributions to candidates is correlated with turnout, this map indicates that districts with higher patterns of campaign contributions follow similar patterns of voter turnout and other civic engagement activities.



NYC Public Matching Funds Program in 2021

The table below provides statistics on monetary contributions from residents in this community district during the 2021 election. The table includes the following calculations:

- **Total contributions to city candidates:** Indicates the total dollar value of contributions made to candidates
- **Total number of contributions to city candidates:** Indicates the total number of contributions made to candidates
- **Average contribution amount:** Indicates the mean dollar amount of the contributions
- **Percentage of contributions matched with public funds:** Indicates the percentage of the contributions qualified for public funds matching, either in full or in part. Only contributions to participating candidates in our program can be matched with public funds. For Mayoral, Public Advocate, or Comptroller candidates, only the first $250 from a contributor is eligible for matching and for City Council or Borough President candidates, only the first $175 is eligible for matching

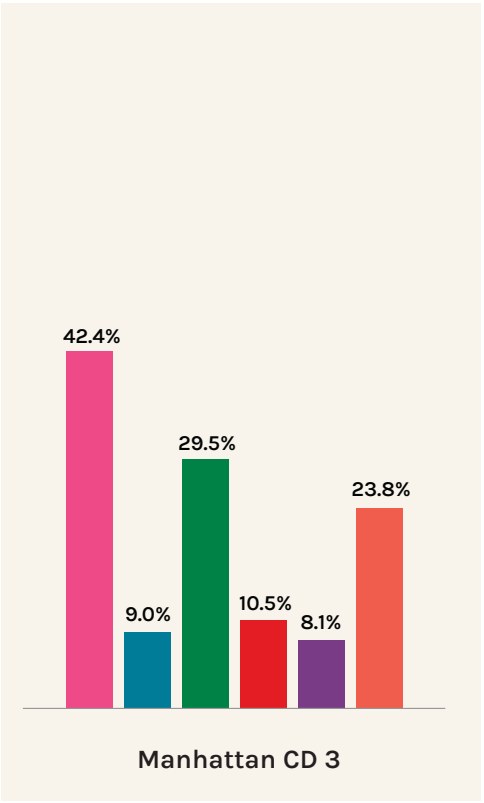
2021 campaign contributions by Community District

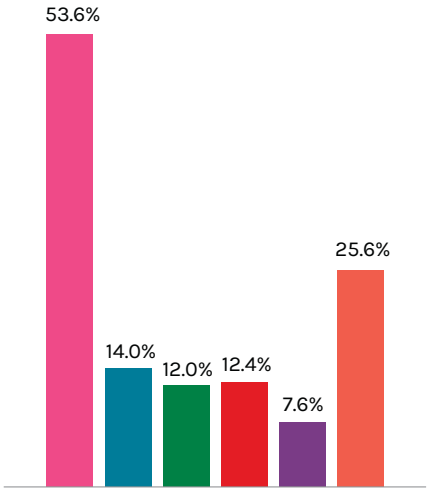
	Total contributions to city candidates	Total number of contributions to city candidates	Average contribution amount	Percentage of contributions matched with public funds
Manhattan CD 3	$682,572	7,121	$96	81.5%
Manhattan			$185	78.2%
New York City			$129	82.1%

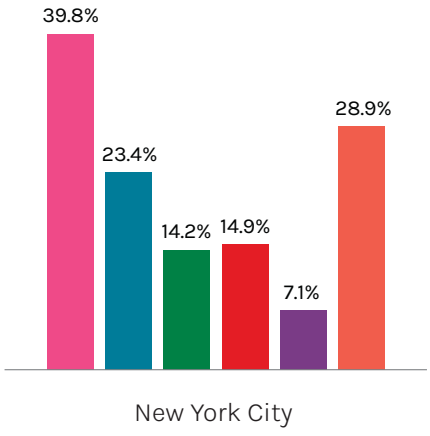
Demographics

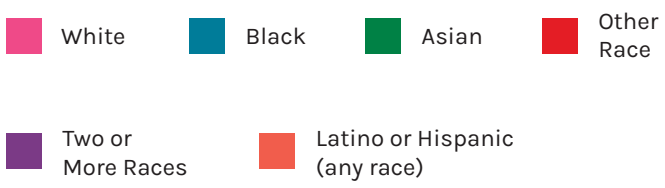
Our voter participation research indicates that there is a relationship between certain demographic statistics and voter turnout rates. For example, CDs with a high voter turnout rate are more likely to have higher percentages of white residents and U.S.-born citizens. CDs with a low voter turnout rate are more likely to have higher percentages of Latino or Hispanic residents and residents born in other countries. Information on languages spoken and countries of origin are provided for additional context.

Racial and ethnic demographics



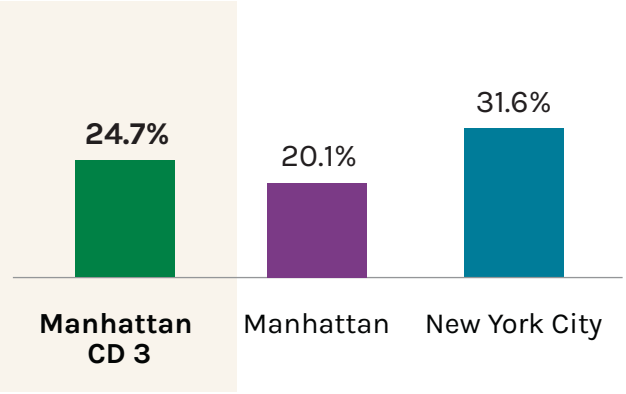




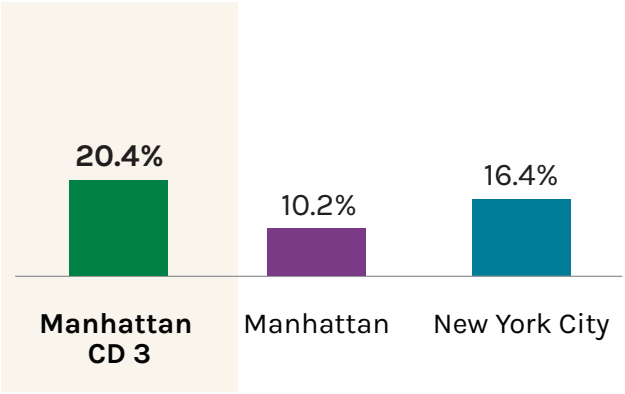


Demographics

Percentage of naturalized citizens of voting age

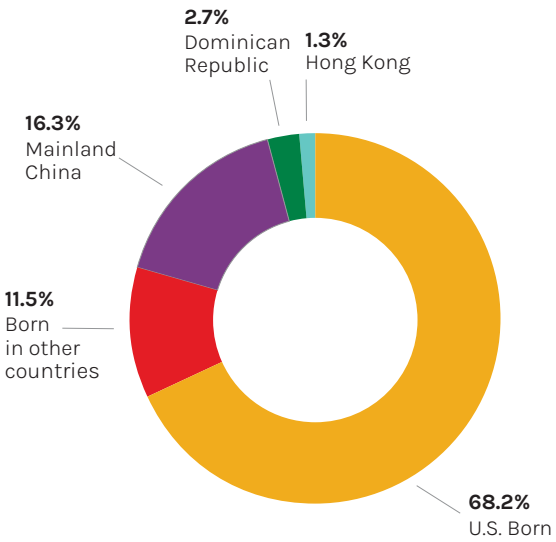


Citizens of voting age who have Limited English Proficiency

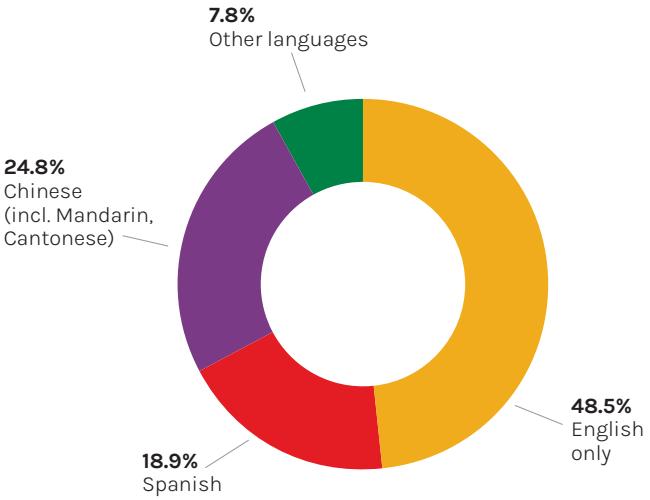


Note: Limited English Proficiency is defined in the American Community Survey as "speaks English less than very well."

Top countries of origin in Manhattan CD 3



Top languages spoken in Manhattan CD 3

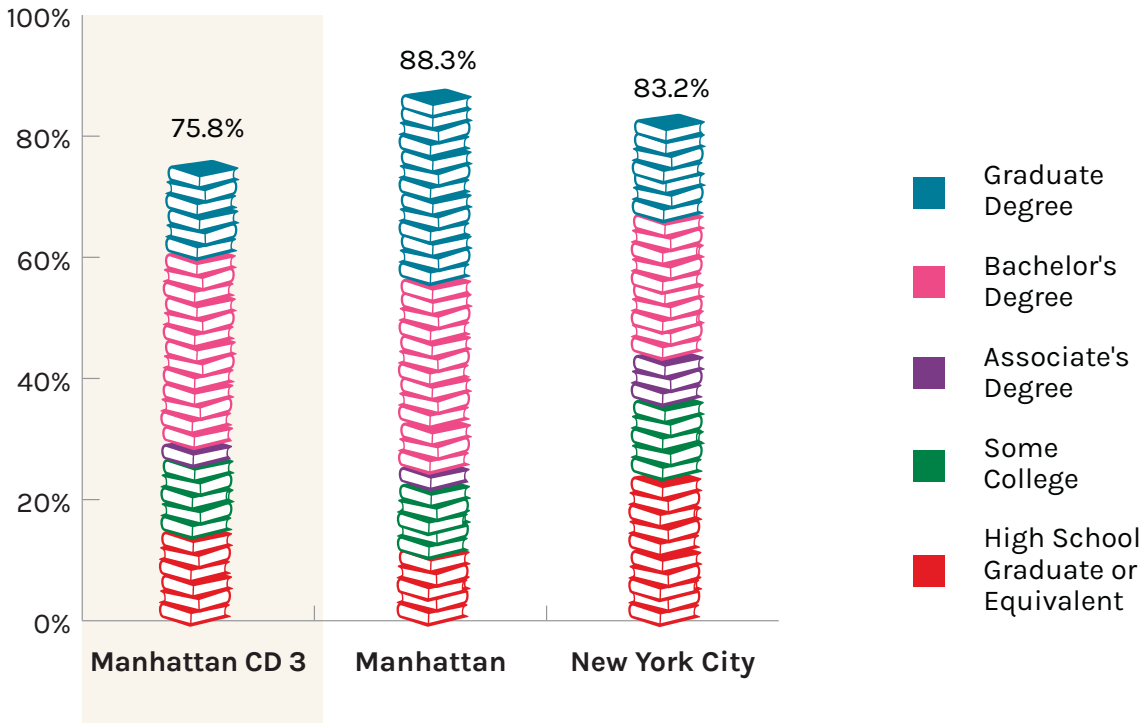


Note: Percentages in pie charts may total greater or less than 100% due to rounding.

Socioeconomic Indicators

Our voter participation research also indicates that some socioeconomic indicators impact voter turnout rates. For example, residents in CDs with high voter turnout rates are more likely to have achieved higher levels of education than residents in CDs with lower turnout rates. CDs with low voter turnout rates are more likely to have lower annual median household incomes and higher percentages of people living in poverty.

Highest level of education



Income and Poverty Level

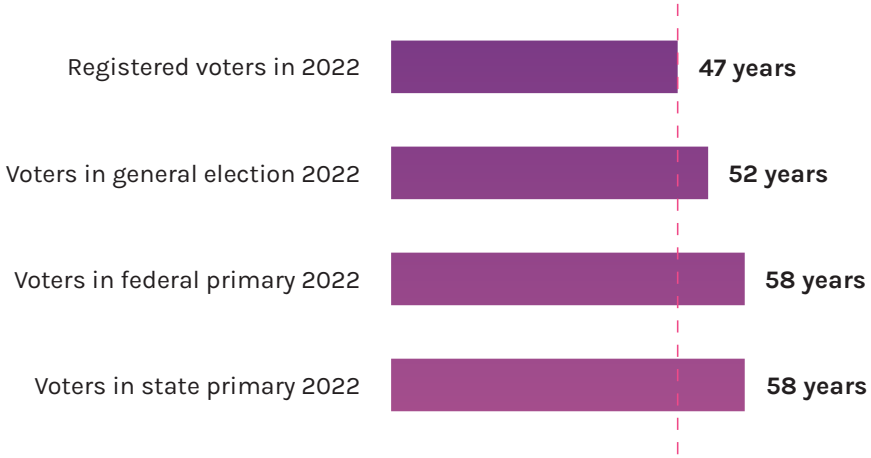
	Annual median household income	Percentage of U.S. citizens living below poverty level
Manhattan CD 3	$68,537	25.7%
Manhattan	$93,956	15.1%
New York City	$70,663	16.7%
Manhattan CD 7	$136,549	10.5%

Note: Percent living below poverty level is defined by the American Community Survey as the percentage of people with a household income below a federal poverty threshold that varies based on family size.

Youth

Our voter participation research indicates that young people, ages 18–29, vote less often than older voters. Youth voter turnout in most CDs is consistently lower than turnout for the overall voting population in general elections during non-presidential years. Furthermore, the median age of the average primary and general election voter is older than the median age of registered voters; this means that younger voters are registered but are not turning out. The chart on the next page shows youth voter turnout in this CD from 2019–2022.

Median age of Manhattan CD 3 registered and actual voters in 2022 elections



12,783

Youth who are eligible to vote in Manhattan CD 3 but not registered

1,097

Number of residents turning 18 in 2024

1,083

Number of residents turning 18 in 2025

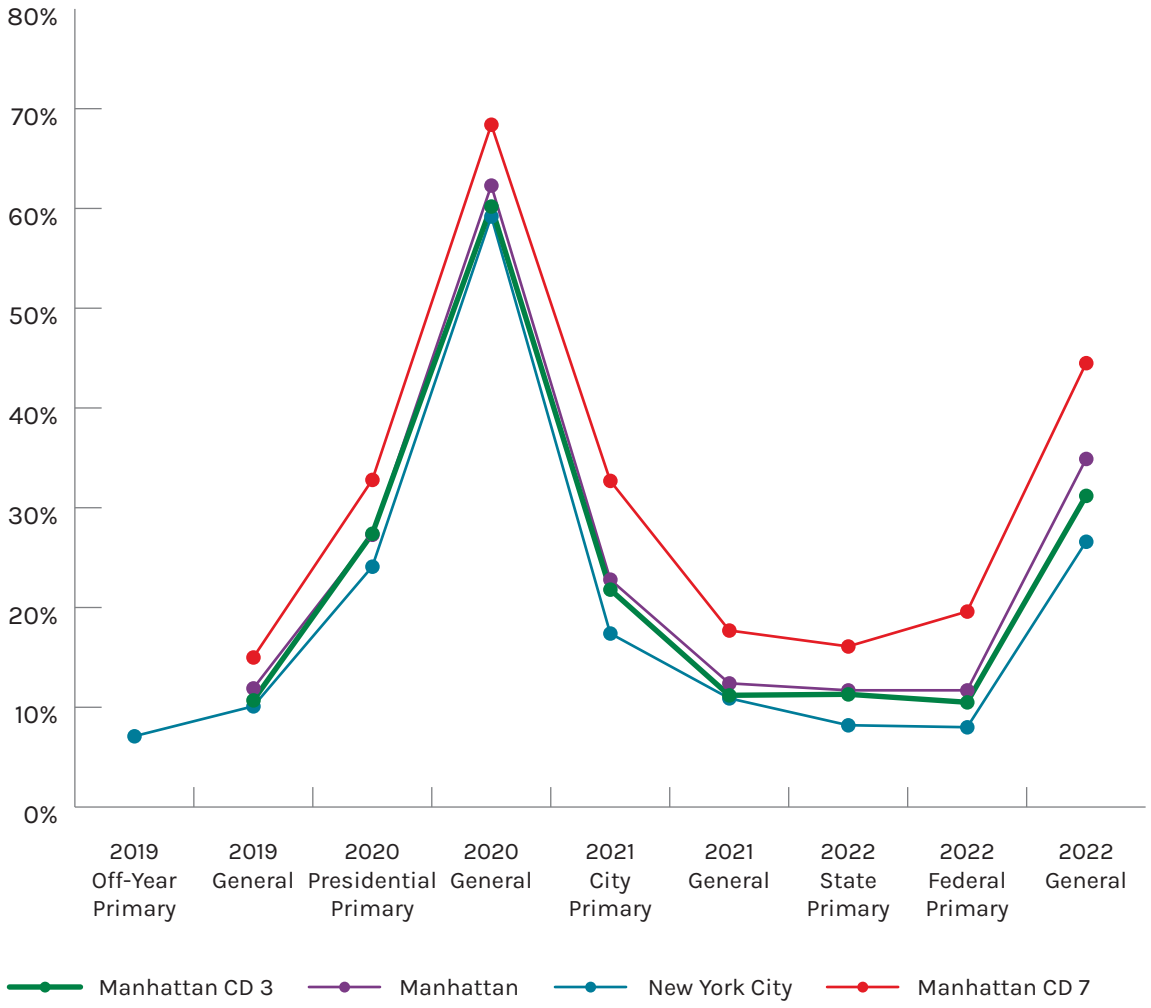
Source: Number of projected residents turning 18 in 2024 and 2025 from the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census

Youth Voter Activity

	Registration rate for youth voters	Average participation score for youth voters	Percentage of residents ages 16–17 who pre-registered to vote
Manhattan CD 3	59.2%	24.8	5.5%
Manhattan	69.2%	26.4	6.4%
New York City	73.6%	20.9	7.5%
Manhattan CD 7	79.2%	33.0	8.8%

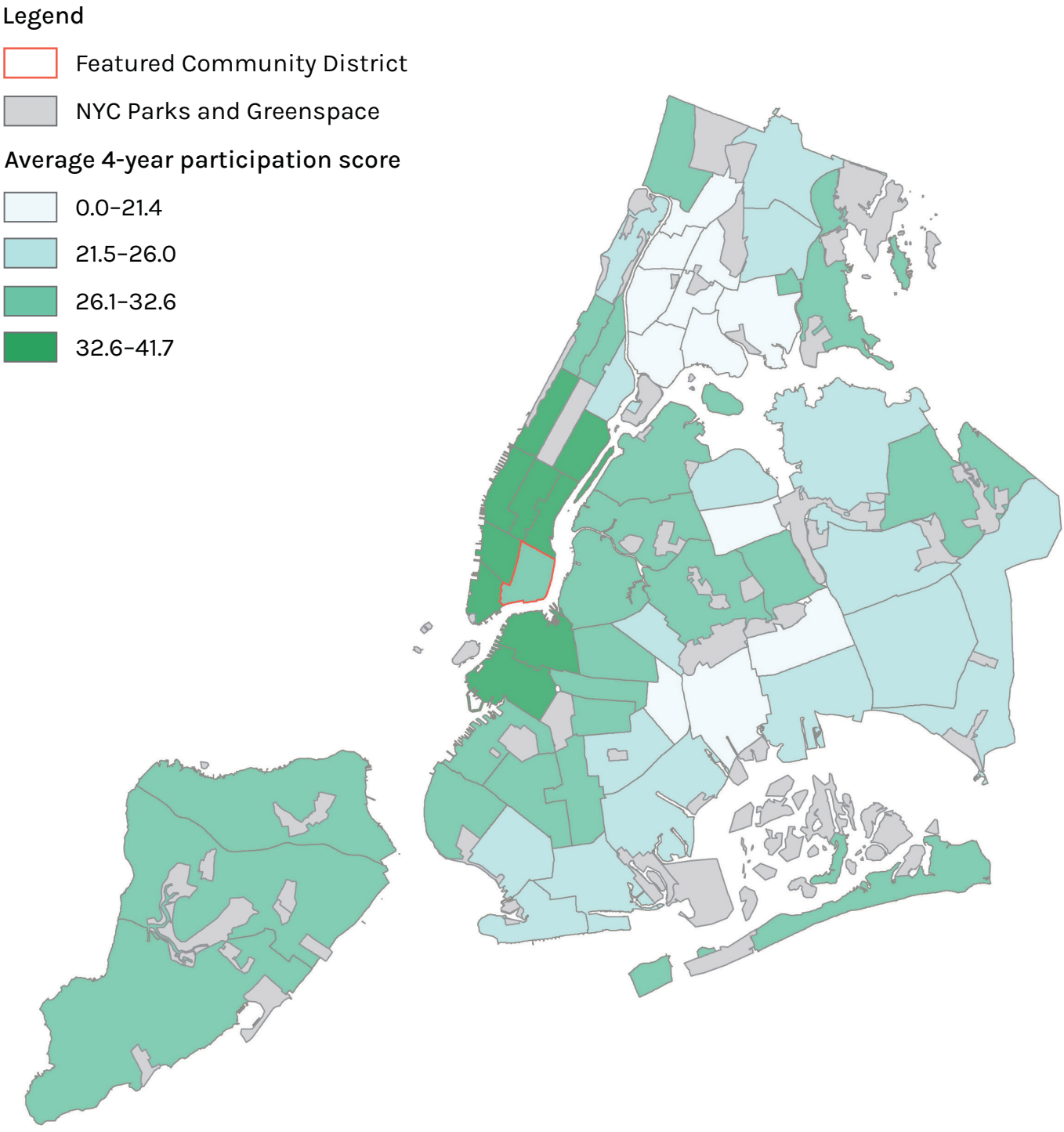
Youth

Youth turnout 2019–2022



Note: Some districts did not hold a 2019 and/or 2022 Primary Election.

Average 4-year Participation Score by Community District



NYC Votes is the nonpartisan voter engagement initiative of the New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB), an independent agency that administers the city's small-dollar matching funds program for city elections. NYC Votes gives New Yorkers a voice in shaping their city by connecting them to their elections. Together with our partners and volunteers, we engage underrepresented communities through outreach initiatives and provide New Yorkers with the information they need to participate in our democracy.