

EQUALITY IN AMERICA: WHAT REALLY CONSTITUTES THE AMERICAN DREAM?

Wendy J. Schiller

Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy
Brown University

Wendy_Schiller@Brown.edu

Twitter: @profwschiller

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DEFINING THE AMERICAN DREAM

- ⦿ Economic Mobility and Income Inequality
- ⦿ Educational Opportunity
- ⦿ Equal political influence
- ⦿ Social and Civil Equality
- ⦿ Religious Freedom

UNEMPLOYMENT 1923-1942

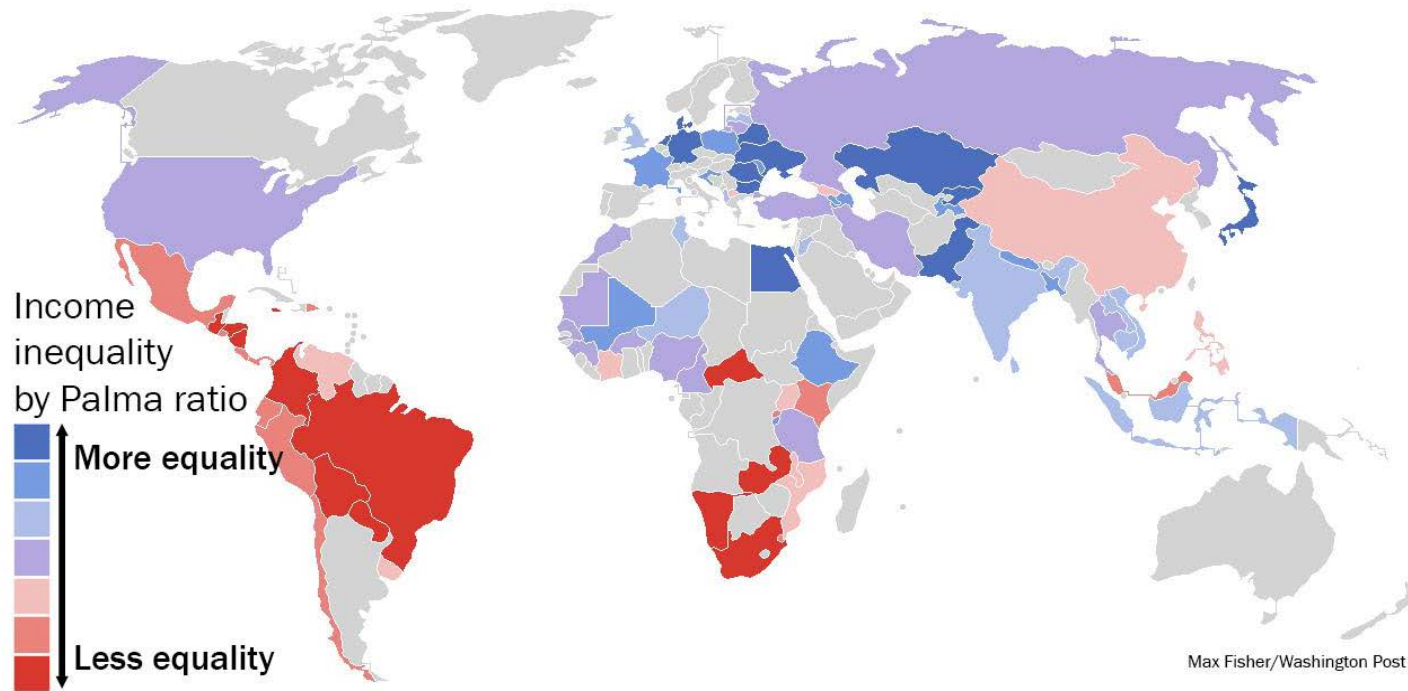
Year	Unemployment rate
1923-29	3.3
1930	8.9
1931	15.9
1932	23.6
1933	24.9
1934	21.7
1935	20.1
1936	17.0
1937	14.3
1938	19.0
1939	17.2
1940	14.6
1941	9.9
1942	4.7

Annual Adjusted Unemployment 1948-2012 www.bls.gov

Year	Annual
Truman	
1948	3.8
1952	3.0
Eisenhower	
1956	4.1
1960	5.5
Johnson	
1964	5.2
Nixon	
1968	3.6
1972	5.6
Ford	
1976	7.7
Carter	
1980	7.1
Reagan	
1984	7.5
1988	5.5
GHWBush	
1992	7.5
Clinton	
1996	5.4
2000	4.0
GWBush	
2004	6.0
2008	4.6
Obama	
2012	8.3

November 2 , 2012 unemployment rate 7.9%

INCOME INEQUALITY



Global Income Inequality

BASIC ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- ◉ Wages
 - Median Weekly \$775
 - Men \$863 Women \$705
 - Median Yearly \$40,300
 - Men \$44,876 Women \$36,660

- ◉ Gender Gap - Globally, average women earn 17.6% less than men earn; in U.S. women earn 19.0% less than men earn.

- ◉ Average Annual Expenditures
 - Food \$6,599
 - Housing \$16,887
 - Health Care \$3,556
 - Transportation \$8,998
 - Personal Insurance and Pensions \$5,591

 - Source Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov;
<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/the-gender-wage-gap-around-the-world/>

EDUCATION AS A PATH TO POWER

- ◎ The people “have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge - I mean, of the character and conduct of their rulers....And the preservation of the means of knowledge among the lowest ranks is of more importance to the public than all the property of all the rich men in the country...” John Adams
- ◎ Education translates into the power to preserve liberty through political participation and accountability.

STATE OF EDUCATION

- Percent High School Graduates (ages 25-29)
 - Total = 87.0
 - White = 93.5
 - African-American = 87.7
 - Hispanic = 65.0
- Percent 4 Year College Graduates (ages 25-29)
 - Total = 29.6
 - White = 35.5
 - African-American = 18.1
 - Hispanics = 11.6
- Source: Department of Education Institute of Educational Sciences

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- 2012 - 3.2 million high school graduates
- 2.1 million enrolled in college (66%)
 - 60% in 4 year college, 40% in 2 year college
- Ethnic and Racial breakdown
 - White - 67%
 - Black - 58%
 - Hispanic - 70%
 - Asian - 82%
 - Women - 71%
 - Men - 61%
- College Affordability
 - 4 year public college \$22,261 Tuition + \$9,200 Room and Board
 - 4 year private college \$29,056 Tuition + \$10,460 Room and Board
 - Sources: www.bls.gov, the College Board

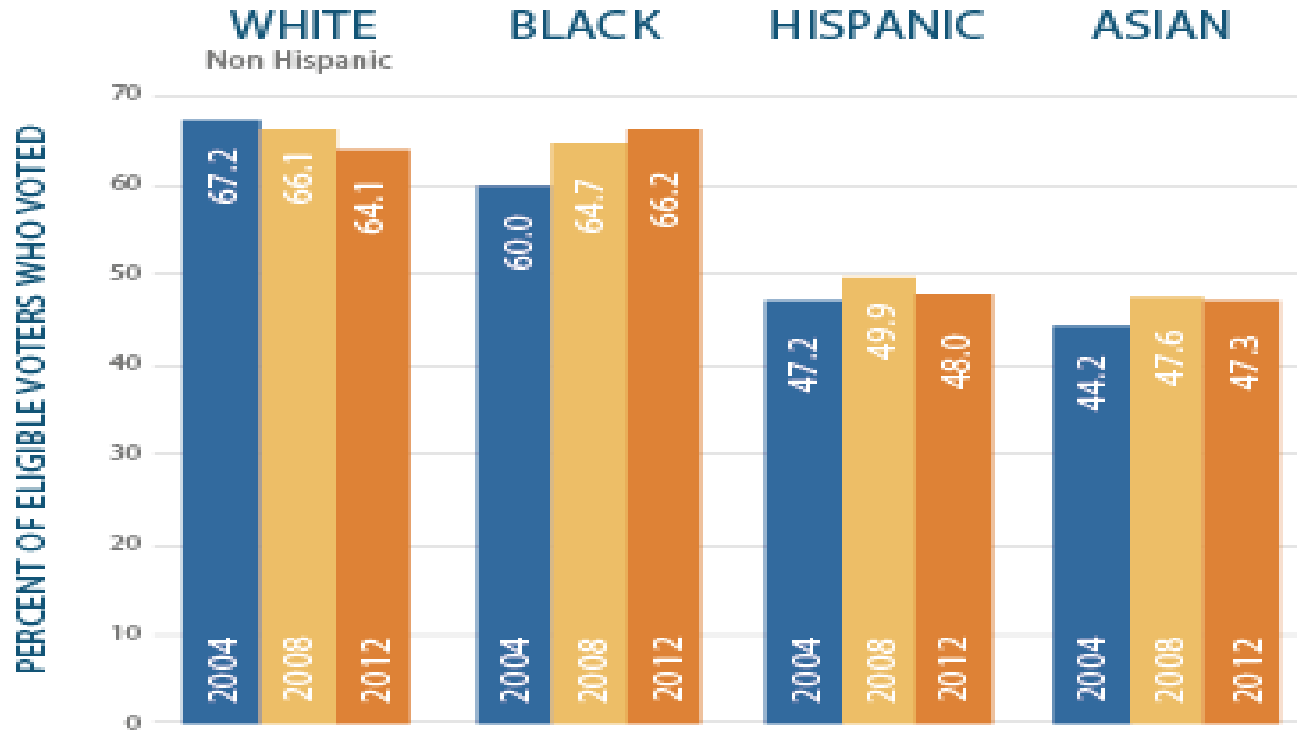
ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- ◉ “I am persuaded myself that the good sense of the people will always be found to be the best army. They may be led astray for a moment, but will soon correct themselves. The people are the only censors of their governors: and even their errors will tend to keep these to the true principles of their institution.” Thomas Jefferson

2012 ELECTION OVERVIEW

- 58.2% of Voting Eligible Population (VEP) voted (approximately 129 million votes).
Obama (D) 51.1% > Romney (R) 47.2%

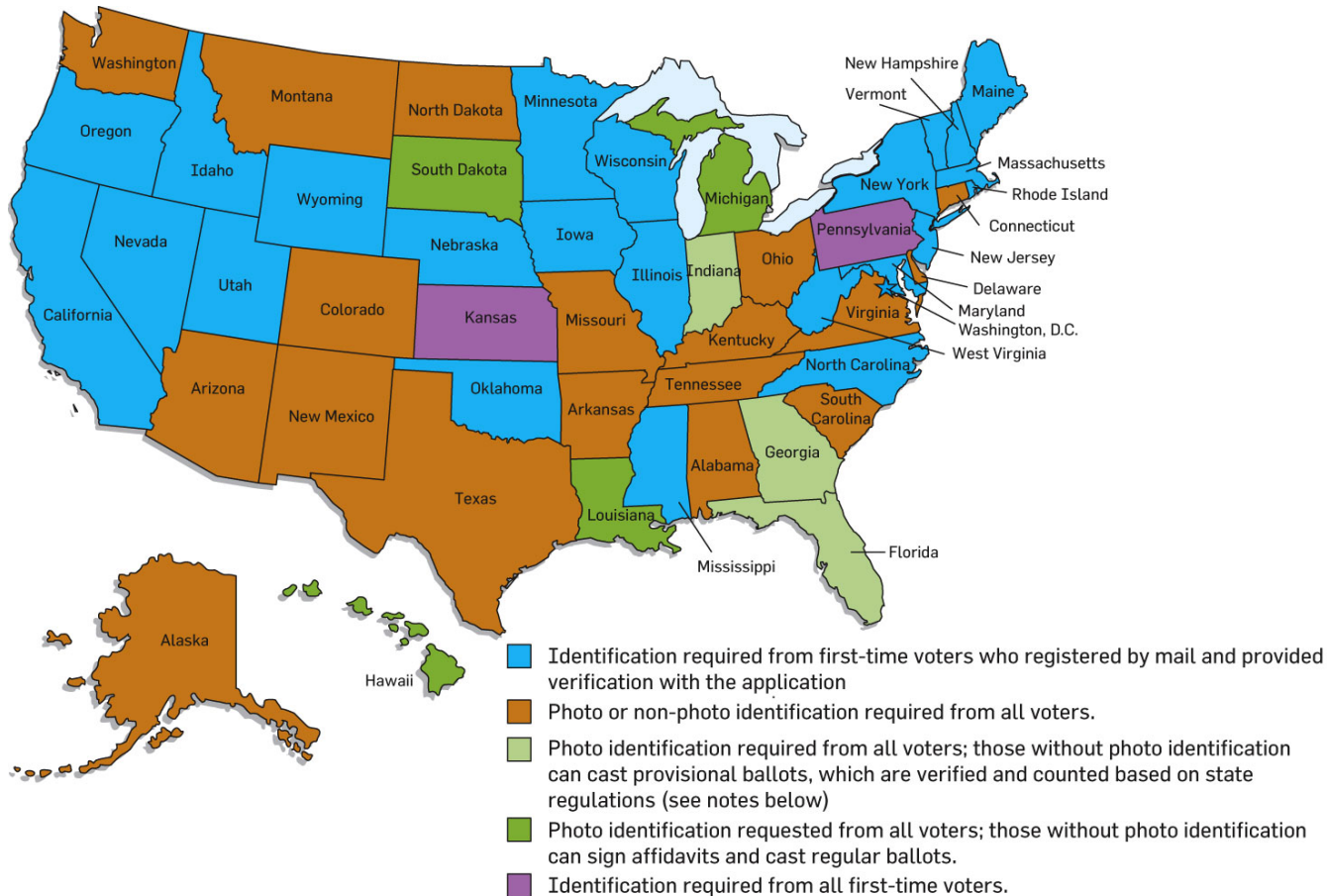
Figure 2- Turnout Rates



Source: Current Population Survey November 2004, 2008, and 2012 Supplements

VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Voter ID Laws 2012



Notes: Florida voters lacking required ID must cast provisional ballots. The canvassing board determines the validity of the ballot. In Indiana, if voters are unable or unwilling to present photo ID on Election Day, they may cast a provisional ballot. They have until noon 10 days after the election to follow up with the county election board and either provide photo ID or affirm one of the law's exemptions applies.

IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL AND MORAL ENGAGEMENT

- ◉ “...above all things lose no occasion of exercising your dispositions to be grateful, to be generous, to be charitable, to be humane, to be true, just, firm, orderly, courageous, etc. Consider every act of this kind as an exercise which will strengthen your moral faculties, and increase your worth.” Thomas Jefferson

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

- ◉ U.S. Supreme Court decision *United States v. Windsor* decided on June 26, 2013 held that it was unconstitutional for the federal government to declare that only heterosexual marriage could be recognized for the purposes of eligibility for federal benefits.

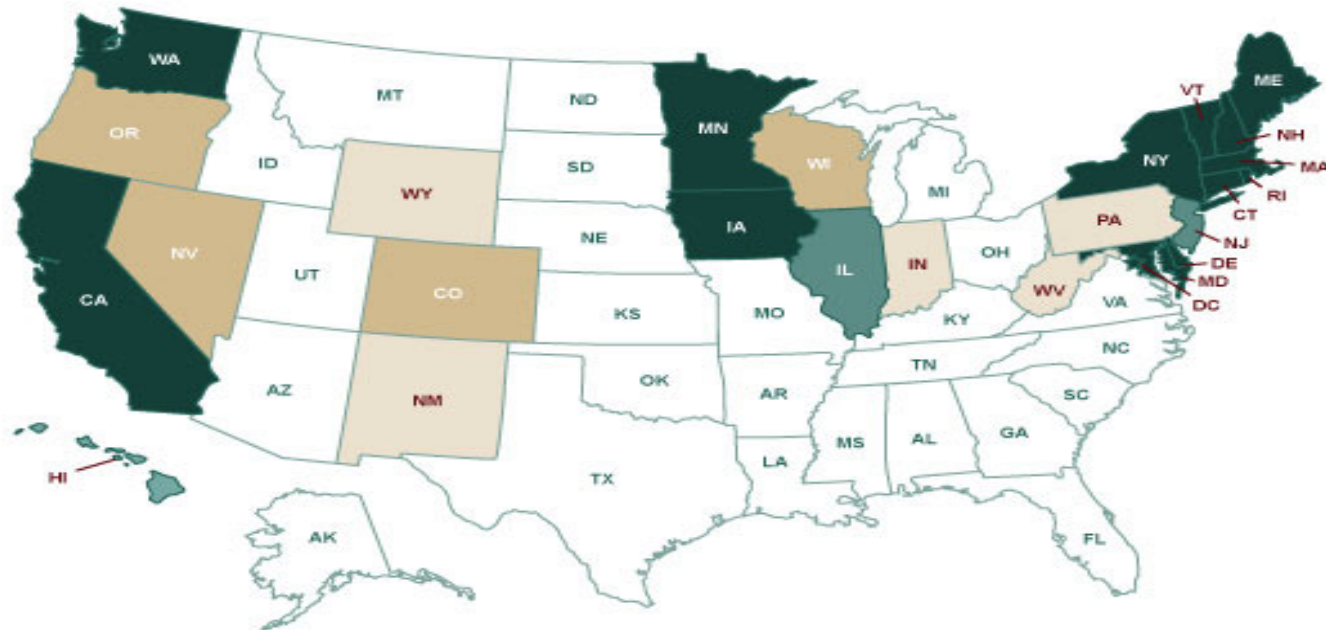
RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL TOLERANCE

- ⦿ “It is true that in some of our states there are parties, and discords...Such will exist wherever there is liberty; and perhaps they help to preserve it. By the collision of different sentiments, sparks of truth strike out, and political light is obtained. The different factions which at present divide us aim all at the public good; the differences are only about the various modes of promoting it....”

Benjamin Franklin

STATUS OF MARRIAGE LAWS

Winning the Freedom to Marry: Progress in the States



- Marriage
- Broad Domestic Partnership / Civil Union
- Some Protections for Same-Sex Couples
- Broad Domestic Partnership / Civil Union and Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment
- Neither Relationship Recognition nor Constitutional Amendment
- Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment

Last Updated June 26, 2013

STATE OF RELIGION

- ⊙ Percent of Americans who report a religious affiliation
- ⊙ 78.4 Christian
 - 51.3 Protestant
 - 23.9 Catholic
 - 1.7 Mormon
- ⊙ 1.7 Jewish
- ⊙ 0.7 Buddhist
- ⊙ 0.6 Muslim
- ⊙ 0.4 Hindu
- ⊙ **16.1 No Religious Affiliation**
- ⊙ Source: <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>

HOW FREE IS RELIGIOUS WORSHIP?

- ◉ Prohibition of prayer in public school
- ◉ Borden v. School District of the Township of East Brunswick, 08-482 issued March 2, 2009
 - Court ruled that a coach could not take part in, or lead, prayer with his players. The school district had a policy forbidding teachers and staff from participating in student led prayer, and both the Federal Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court upheld the school district's policy.
- ◉ Limitations on religious displays on public lands
- ◉ Allowing religious apparel in public school
- ◉ Religion and the military

SOURCES AND SUGGESTED READINGS

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