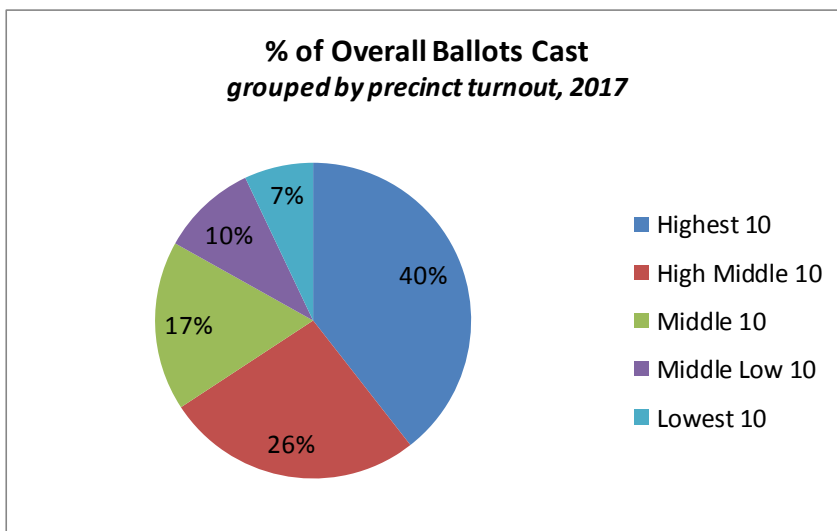
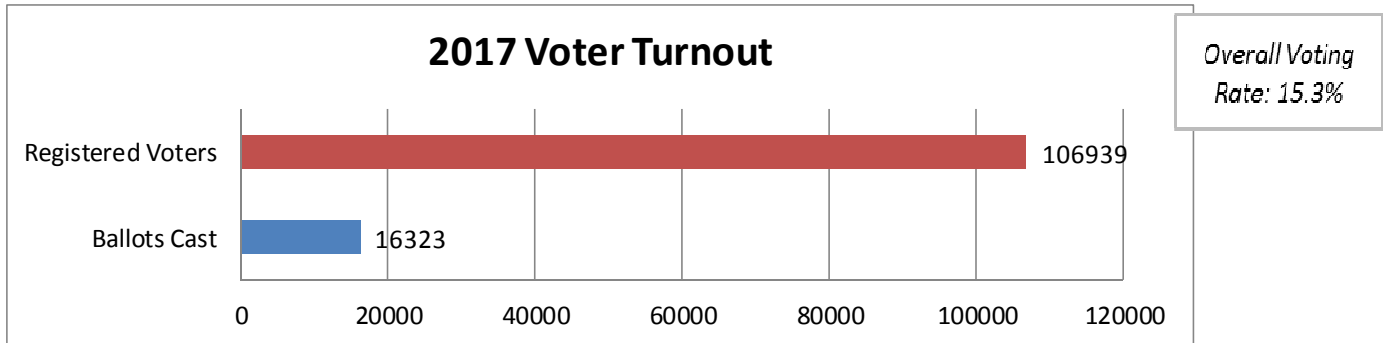


Using data from the 2017 Worcester City Election, this WSU CityLab Infographic focuses on how voting at the highest and lowest turnout precincts impacts overall elections. The assertion that Worcester's voter turnout is exceedingly low is not a new — many reports and researchers show this. Deeper analysis of election results, however, show more significant problems with nature of the city's democracy and voting systems. Looking at the whole city means the analyses took into account only results from citywide races: mayor, 6 at-large council seats, and 6 school committee seats.

Data is from the City of Worcester Election Results available from the Office of the City Clerk and posted on the City of Worcester website.

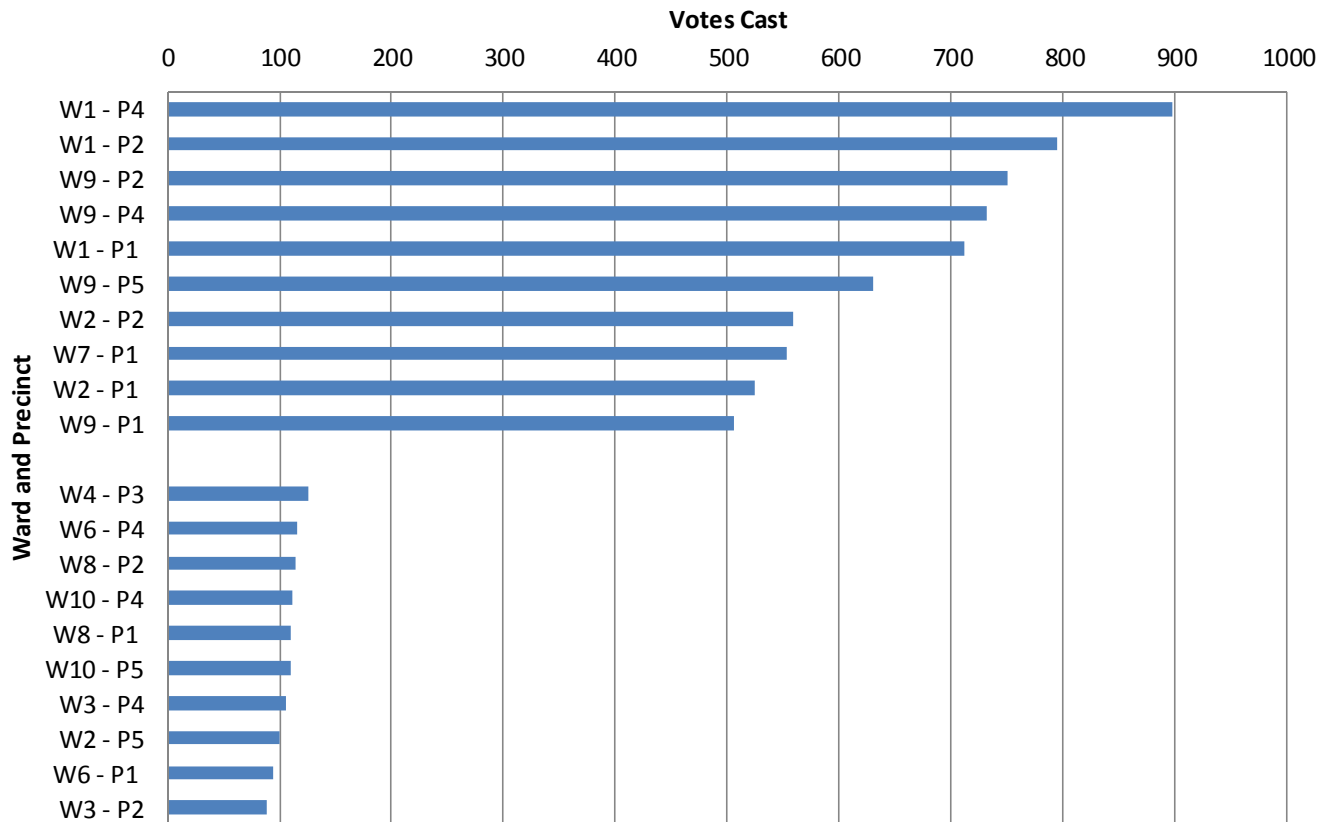


With only 15.3% of the city's registered voters casting ballots in the most recent election, the city's democracy is already seriously limited. But add the fact that only 10 Worcester precincts account for 40% of the vote (and 20 precincts account for 66%) while the lowest 10 account for 7% and it becomes evident the city's democracy is dangerously lopsided as well. As below graphics show, it is weighed toward residents in a handful of precincts within a certain geography.

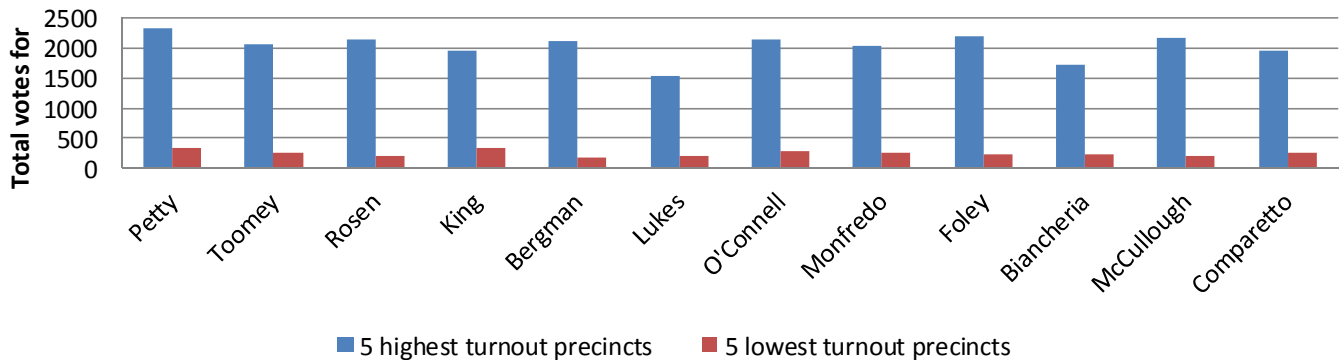
Through various lenses, the following visualizations illustrate how this lopsidedness in voting power affects city elections.

| Highest Voting Precincts, City Election, 2017 | | Lowest Voting Precincts, City Election, 2017 | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ward / Precinct | Name | Ward / Precinct | Name |
| W1 - P4 | Congregational Beth Israel, Library | W4 - P3 | Belmont Tower Apartments |
| W1 - P2 | The Willows at Worcester, Great Room | W6 - P4 | Quinsigamond Village Community Center |
| W9 - P2 | May Street Building, Worcester State University | W8 - P2 | Saint Peter's Church |
| W9 - P4 | Worcester Seventh-Day Adventist Church | W10 - P4 | Mayside Apartments |
| W1 - P1 | Unitarian Universal Church, Fellowship Hall | W8 - P1 | Department of Inspectional Services |
| W9 - P5 | First Congregational Church in Worcester | W10 - P5 | Murray Avenue Apartments |
| W2 - P2 | Zion Lutheran Church Hall | W3 - P4 | Worcester Technical High School |
| W7 - P1 | Big Y World Class Market | W2 - P5 | Multi-Purpose Center (GBV) |
| W2 - P1 | Salem Covenant Church, Social Hall | W6 - P1 | Worcester Senior Center |
| W9 - P1 | May Street Building, Worcester State University | W3 - P2 | Worcester Art Museum |

Vote by Precinct -- 10 highest/10 lowest turnouts Worcester City Election, 2017



At-large Office Winners by Highest/Lowest Precinct Voting 2017 City Election



CityLab Infographics present public data that has been assessed and analyzed by Worcester State University's professors, statisticians, and policy experts in objectively-minded visual formats that make it more digestible and useful. CityLab also conducts independent and interdisciplinary mixed-methods research projects led by university professors and scholars. To inquire about our research agenda or to discuss new projects, contact us at CityLab@worchester.edu or the Department of Urban Studies: (508) 929-8940.