

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### REGISTERED VOTER PARTICIPATION

#### **Description of Indicator**

This indicator measures the percentage of registered voters that participated in general elections from 1980 through 1998.

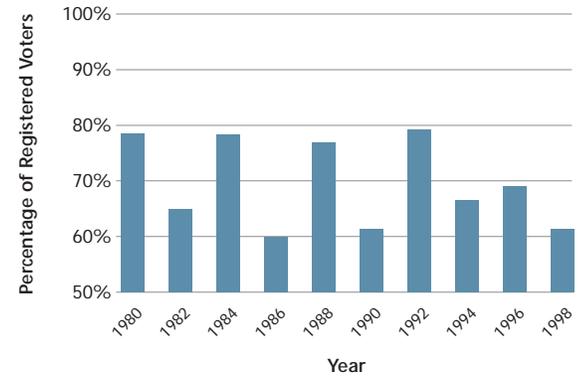
#### **Why is it important?**

Voter participation measures civic participation and the public's optimism regarding their impact on decision-making. A high level of citizen involvement improves the accountability of government and the level of support for community programs.

#### **How is Orange County Doing?**

Although presidential elections tend to increase voter participation, the majority of registered voters in Orange County, more than 60%, have participated in all general elections since 1980.

*Orange County Voter Registration/Election Statistics*



Source: Orange County Registrar of Voters.

### COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

#### **Description of Indicator**

This indicator measures Orange County residents' perception of wellbeing in Orange County from 1989 to 1999.

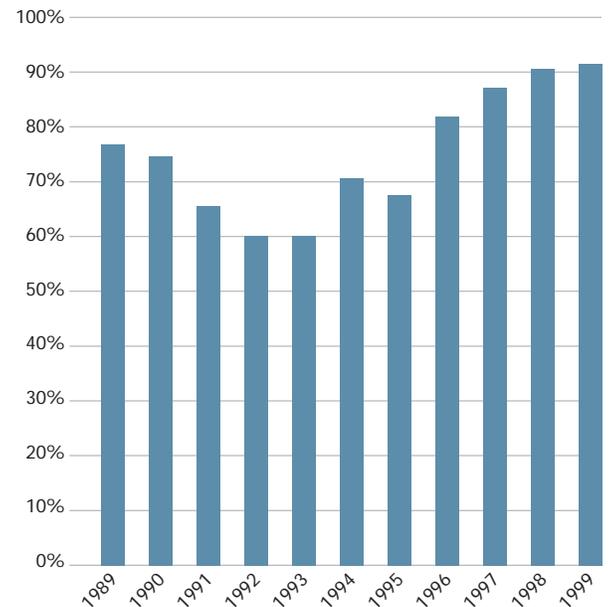
#### **Why is it Important?**

Perception of wellbeing reflects individuals' level of satisfaction with home, work, leisure and finances, and, when taken in aggregate, reflects residents' overall satisfaction with life in Orange County.

#### **How is Orange County Doing?**

In 1999, a strong majority (92%) said that things were going "very" or "somewhat well." This is a 32-point increase from 1992 and 1993, when only 60% felt things were going well. Non-Hispanic whites were more likely to say things are going "very well" (42%) than are Latinos (26%). Those earning \$80,000 or more (48%) are more positive than are those earning less than \$36,000 (29%).

*Percent of Orange County Residents Indicating "Things are Going Well" 1989-1999*



Source: University of California, Irvine, 1999 Orange County Annual Survey