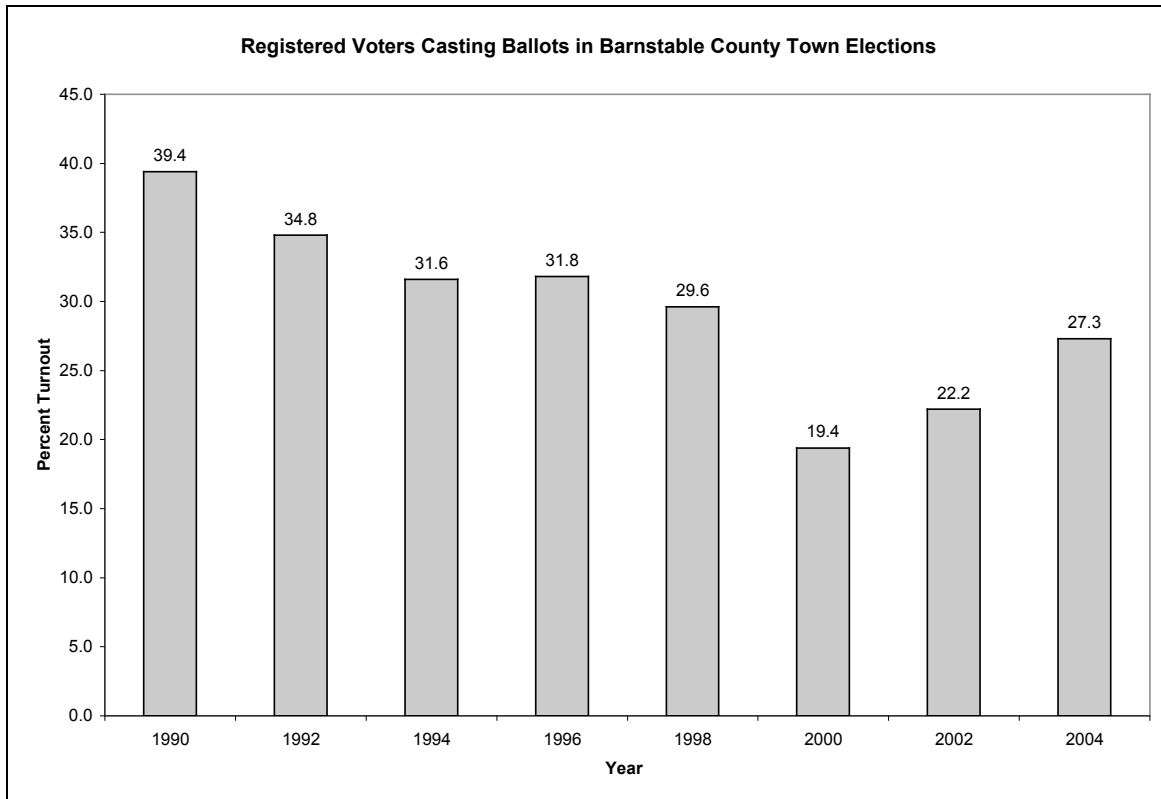


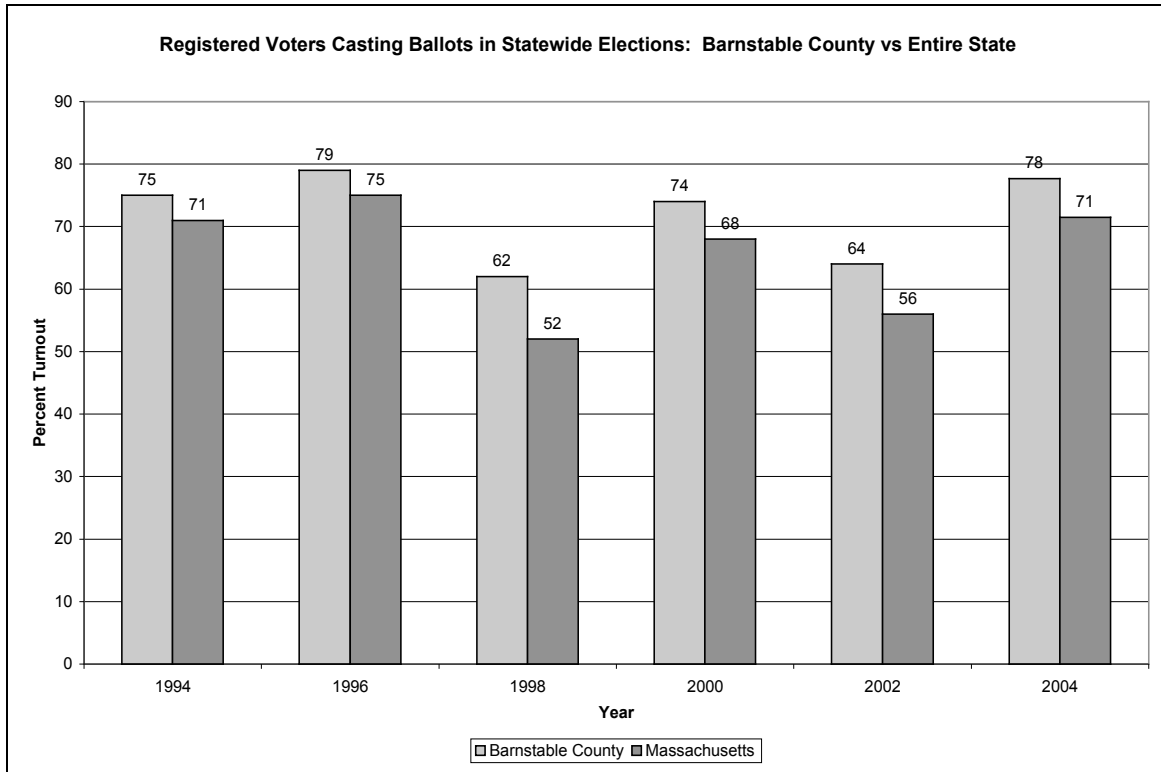
Voting and Civic Participation

By Charlotte Stiefel
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Also see 2003 Voting and Civic Participation Indicator at
<http://www.capecodedc.org/documents/2003IndicReptIndicator1.pdf>)



While Barnstable County post-2000 voter turnout for town elections totals remain below 1990s levels, they are rising: from 19.4% in 2000 to 22.2% in 2002 and 27.3% in 2004. [Data represent towns' spring elections, plus the prior year's fall election in Barnstable: i.e., 2004 spring elections plus Barnstable's 11/4/03 election.]



The Barnstable County voter participation of 78% in 2004 continued to exceed the Statewide rate of 71%, as it had consistently in each of the prior five biennial Statewide elections beginning with 1994. Both County and Statewide voting rates increased from 2002: Barnstable County's from 64% to 78% and the State's from 56% to 71%. The County rate of 78% in 2004 fell just one point below its peak for this series of 79% in 1996. The State's 71% in 2004 matched its 71% in 1994, but fell four points short of its 1996 peak of 75%.

The data indicate that the turnout for presidential elections (1996, 2000 and 2004) is 4% to 14% higher than voter turnout in off-election years (1994, 1998, 2002). Looking only at presidential elections, the Cape's turnout is fairly consistent over time (79%, 74% and 78%), as is turnout for the entire state (75%, 68% and 71%).