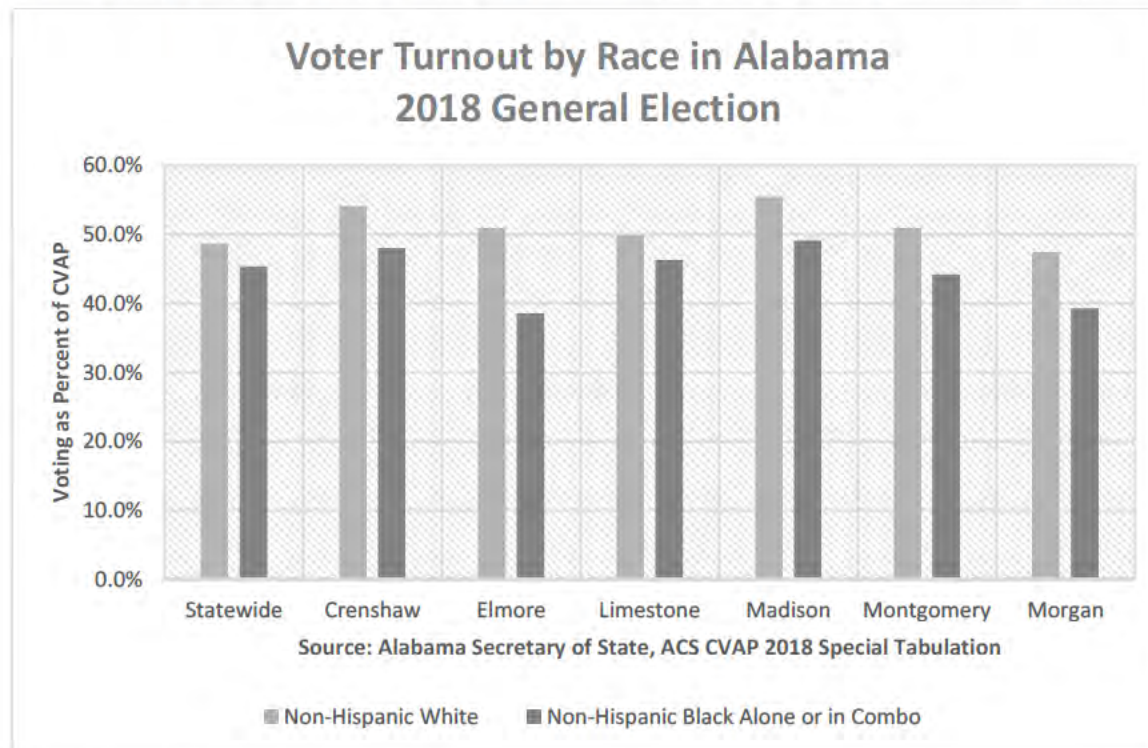


Figure 2: Voter Turnout by Race in Alabama 2018 General Election. Source: Alabama Secretary of State Voter Data and 2018 American Community Survey Special Tabulation CVAP.



Educational Attainment and Race

Verba, Schlozman, and Brady explain in one of the most widely cited books in American politics, *Voice and Equality*, that resources such as time, money, and civic skills are important to voting and other forms of political participation precisely because such resources allow people to surmount the costs of participation more easily.²³ Socioeconomic status is an important factor in whether an individual votes²⁴ because socioeconomic status is related to the available time, money, and civic skills an individual can devote to overcoming the costs of voting.²⁵ These costs can include the time it takes to acquire information about the candidates and issues or the process of registering, as well as the time or lost wages required to vote in person.²⁶

Of the components of socioeconomic status, educational attainment is the most important predictor of voting. In fact, "The powerful relationship between education and voter turnout is

²³ Verba, Sidney, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady. *Voice and equality: Civic voluntarism in American politics*. Harvard University Press, 1995.

²⁴ See Verba, Schlozman, and Brady 1995; See also Burden, Barry C. "The dynamic effects of education on voter turnout." *Electoral studies* 28, no. 4 (2009): 540-549.

²⁵ Smets, Kaat, and Carolien Van Ham. "The embarrassment of riches? A meta-analysis of individual-level research on voter turnout." *Electoral studies* 32.2 (2013): 344-359.

²⁶ Verba, Schlozman and Brady 1995.