



Vote Goal Calculator

A vote goal is a calculated estimate, based on past voter turnout, of the number of votes needed to win an election. This worksheet walks you through calculating a vote goal for an electoral win by simple majority (50% + 1 of the vote). Consult your local board of elections for the rules governing your election.

To calculate your vote goal, you will need some election data. Election information is public information, available at your local board of elections:

1. Voter turnout for the past three (3) relevant elections

For example, if my city council seat is up for election every two years in June, to calculate a June 2018 vote goal, I would need data from June 2016, June 2014 and June 2012.

2. Voter registration totals for the past three (3) relevant elections and the current total number of registered voters

i.e: today, 2016, 2014, 2012

Fill in your election year, turnout and registration totals here.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Turnout</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Turnout %</i>

3. Total number of candidates running in your election

For our example, three.

Step One: Projected Turnout Percentage

Take the voter turnout for each relevant election and divide it by the voter registration total for that same year.

i.e: June 2016 Turnout / 2016 Voter Registration Total → 15,000/270,000 = 0.056 or 5.6%



Add up the turnout percentages from the most recent elections and divide that total by three.
That is your **Projected Turnout Percentage**.

$$(turnout_1 + turnout_2 + turnout_3)/3 = AverageTurnout$$

Step Two: Projected Voter Turnout

Multiply your projected turnout percentage by your current registration total for your **Projected Voter Turnout**.

i.e.: 2016 Voter Registration Total * Turnout Percentage → 288,000 * 0.056 = 16,128 votes

Year	Turnout	Registration	Turnout %
2018	*16,128	288,000	*5.6%
2016	15,000	270,000	5.6%
2014	14,500	255,000	5.6%
2012	13,750	240,000	5.7%

*projected

Step Three: Vote Goal

The steps you use depend on the number of candidates in your race. For all of these examples ‘#’ is the number of candidates in your election. It is highly recommended to check past election results to compare your vote goal to number of votes received by past winners.

For two candidates races:

$$Projected\ Voter\ Turnout * .52 = Vote\ Goal$$

For three-five (3-5) candidate races:

$$i.e. [16,128\ projected\ votes / 3\ candidates] \rightarrow 5,376 + 1 = 5,377\ Votes$$

$$[Projected\ Voter\ Turnout / (\#-1)] + 1 = Vote\ Goal$$

For a six-nine (6-9) candidate race

$$[Projected\ Voter\ Turnout / (\#-3)] + 1 = Vote\ Goal$$

For a 10+ candidate race

$$[Projected\ Voter\ Turnout / (\#-7)] + 1 = Vote\ Goal$$