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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
DISTRICT BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-3084

NEWS RELEASE

From the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics
October 28, 1988

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VOTER REGISTRATION IN DISTRICT UP NINE PERCENT SINCE 1984

Voter registration in the District of Columbia has risen 9.1% since the 1984 Presidential General Election, announced Elections Board Director Emmett H. Fremaux, Jr. today. At the close of voter registration for the November 8th election, 299,757 District residents--nearly 25,000 more than in 1984--were registered to vote. The current registration figure represents 61.4% of the voting age population in the District.

In addition to the increased voter registration for the 1988 Presidential Election, a steady trend towards higher participation by District voters in Presidential Elections has been recorded every four years since 1972--over the same period that participation rates have been falling off nationwide. When compared to the presidential election turnout in 1980, the District's record turnout of 219,193 in 1984 represented a 24.4% increase in the rate of participation by eligible residents--while the national average rose less than one percent. This increase in participation exceeded that of any state, while 32 of the 50 states showed a decline in the turnout of eligibles. Even though D.C. turnout in Presidential elections is on the rise, however, the level of participation by the District's Voting Age Population in 1984--44.8%--still fell below the national average of 53.1%.

The trend towards increasing general election participation in the District is shown in the enclosed extract from the recent Board publication, Voting in the District of Columbia: Development, Programs, and Trends. For a copy of the entire study, please contact Leona Agouridis at 727-2525.

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