

**Daniel J. Douglas / Low voter turnout in N.J. elections was alarming**

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districts and 25 percent in safe districts.)

In gubernatorial election years - when voters typically have a clear choice - there was virtually no difference on the legislative level in turnout between the districts. Turnout in 2001, 2005, and 2009 averaged 47 percent in the five safe districts and 46.3 percent in the competitive areas.

You cannot blame politicians for wanting to remain in office. They can advance their policy goals only by getting re-elected.

But leaders should be alarmed at such abysmal turnout numbers for such important representative positions.