

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457705103321
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Titolo	Voter turnout and the dynamics of electoral competition in established democracies since 1945 // Mark N. Franklin ; with assistance from Cees van der Eijk [and five others] [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2004
ISBN	1-107-14927-4 1-280-54083-4 0-511-21398-0 0-511-21577-0 0-511-21040-X 0-511-31482-5 0-511-61688-0 0-511-21217-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 277 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	324.9/045
Soggetti	Voter turnout - History - 20th century Political participation - History - 20th century Democracy - History - 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 251-262) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Figures; Tables; Preface; The Authors; Introduction; 1 Confronting the Puzzles of Voter Turnout; 2 A New Approach to the Calculus of Voting; 3 The Role of Generational Replacement in Turnout Change; 4 Rational Responses to Electoral Competition; 5 Explaining Turnout Change in Twenty-Two Countries; 6 The Character of Elections and the Individual Citizen; 7 Understanding Turnout Decline; 8 The Turnout Puzzles Revisited; appendix a The Surveys Employed in This Book; appendix b Aggregate Data for Established Democracies, 1945-1999 appendix c Supplementary Findings Bibliography; Author Index; Subject Index
Sommario/riassunto	Voting is a habit. People learn the habit of voting, or not, based on

experience in their first few elections. Elections that do not stimulate high turnout among young adults leave a 'footprint' of low turnout in the age structure of the electorate as many individuals who were new at those elections fail to vote at subsequent elections. Elections that stimulate high turnout leave a high turnout footprint. So a country's turnout history provides a baseline for current turnout that is largely set, except for young adults. This baseline shifts as older generations leave the electorate and as changes in political and institutional circumstances affect the turnout of new generations. Among the changes that have affected turnout in recent years, the lowering of the voting age in most established democracies has been particularly important in creating a low turnout footprint that has grown with each election.
