

~~bloc; opinions mixed~~

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“I’m excited,” she said, “I can’t wait to vote.”

For years, political science scholars believed that unemployment tended to drive down voter participation, because people become concerned with their personal economic concerns and they simply cannot afford the time to cast a ballot.

Other, more recent studies have indicated different trends.

In a 2010 study, Princeton University graduate student Matthew B. Incantalupo found that voter turnout in national elections increased when people lost their jobs during times of high unemployment near the election.

He estimated the bump at as much as 10 percent. At the same time, he found the opposite happened during times of low unemployment. Then, turnout decreased by as much as 5 percent.

Similarly, political scientists Barry C. Burden and Amber Wichowsky wrote earlier this year they found that the turnout gap between the unemployed and employed shrinks as state unemployment increases. They wrote, “We contend that rising concern about unemployment is a signal to potential voters that they should take electoral action.”

Daniel J. Douglas, the director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton

that to be more actively engaged than we've seen in years past.”