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CONTACT:

Amy Steele, Luna Media Group

amy@lunamediagroup.com or 208-301-0846 (cell)

New Hampshire Youth Turnout: 15%

*29,000 New Hampshire Citizens Under Age 30 Participated in Primary;
Strong Showing for Paul*

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass. – Fifteen percent of eligible voters under the age of 30 in New Hampshire participated in last night’s primary, according to preliminary analysis by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE). Numbers may change slightly as the last 5% of precincts report their votes.

Young voters supported Ron Paul by a margin of 22 percentage points and he more than doubled his youth votes since the 2008 New Hampshire primary, drawing about 13,700 votes from under-30s. Mitt Romney came in second among young voters with 25% of their vote. Compared to 2008, Mitt Romney drew about as many young voters again in 2012: about 7,500 both years.

Additional data on the New Hampshire primary are available on the CIRCLE website at <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=3248>.

“Although young voters did not turn out at a particularly high rate this year, they did have an impact by concentrating their votes for Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), helping him come in second behind former Gov. Mitt Romney (R-MA),” said CIRCLE Director Peter Levine. “Dr. Paul’s 47% support from 18- to 29-year-olds was the strongest level of support for any candidate by any age group.”

Youth turnout declined from the 2004 New Hampshire primary, when it was 18%. Although no two primary years are the same, 2012 is best compared to 2004 because only one party had a competitive race during both years. In election years in which both Republicans and Democrats held competitive races in New Hampshire, 2000 and 2008, youth turned out to vote at a rate of 28% and 43%, respectively. The total number of young voters in yesterday's Republican primary, approximately 29,000, is comparable to the number of young people who voted for Barack Obama in the 2008 New Hampshire primary: 26,000.

Because of a lack of available data, the CIRCLE turnout estimates do not include young people who participated in yesterday's uncontested Democratic primary.

Definitions

Youth: For the purpose of this press release and estimation of youth participation in the New Hampshire primary, we define "youth" as citizens who were eligible to vote on January 10, 2012, as permitted by state election law.

Number of youth who participated: An estimate of how many youth participated in primaries.

Youth share: An estimate of the number of young people who participated in the primary as a percentage of the number of all people who participated.

Youth turnout rate: An estimate of the number of young people who participated in caucuses or cast ballots as a percentage of the total number of young people who were eligible to participate on January 10, 2012.

The youth turnout rate is the best indicator of how young Americans are engaging in the political process. The other statistics—the sheer number of youth participants and the youth share of the electorate—can change because of factors unrelated to youth engagement.

To sign-up to receive copies of CIRCLE's cutting-edge research on young Americans and next-day voter turnout estimates for the 2012 elections, please email amy@lunamedia.com.

To obtain more extensive information about New Hampshire's young voters and historical voting trends, click [here](#).

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CIRCLE (www.civicyouth.org) is a nonpartisan, independent, academic research center that studies young people in politics and presents detailed data on young voters in all 50 states. CIRCLE was founded in 2001 with a generous gift from the Pew Charitable Trusts and is part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University. CIRCLE's reputation for reliable, independent, timely research has been hailed by experts in the field of civic partnership, such as Harvard University professor Robert Putnam who said CIRCLE had brought "the best and most serious research to one place."

The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service (<http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/>) is a national leader whose model and research are setting the standard for higher education's role in civic engagement education. Serving every school of Tufts University, Tisch College creates an enduring culture that prepares students to be lifelong active citizens.

Tufts University (www.tufts.edu), located on three Massachusetts campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, and in Talloires, France, is recognized as one of the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.