

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sunday, March 25, 2012

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Louisiana Youth Turnout 2%

15,000 Louisiana Citizens Under Age 30 Participate in Primary; Santorum Wins About Half Youth Vote

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass. – Two percent of eligible voters under the age of 30 in Louisiana participated in last night’s primary, according to preliminary analysis by CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement). The youth turnout rose slightly between 2012 and 2004 (from 1% to 2%). While no two primary years are the same, we compare the 2012 primary to 2004 since in both cases only one party had a competitive race. Overall youth turnout was 7% in 2008 and 3% in 2000, but in those years both the Republicans and the Democrats held competitive races in Louisiana.

For full details on youth participation in the Louisiana primary, CIRCLE’s post on the topic is here: <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=3712>

Fifty-one percent of young voters supported former Senator Rick Santorum; Rep. Ron Paul gained the second most youth votes with 23%, while former Governor Mitt Romney received 15%. This is the fifth state in the 2012 Republican contests where Santorum has won the largest percentage of youth support (OH, TN, AL, MS, LA). For more details on youth participation in other state contests, see CIRCLE’s summary here: <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=3485>

Former Senator Santorum received roughly 7,600 votes from young people in yesterday’s primary in Louisiana. Compared to the 2008 Republican primary, Rep. Paul and former Governor Romney received more youth support than in 2012. Senator McCain received almost 5,000 votes from young people in the 2008 Republican primary, and then-candidate Obama received 23,600 votes from young people in the 2008 Democratic primary in Louisiana.

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

Comparisons to past years must be made with caution, because turnout is affected by the date of the caucuses and by the nature of the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns, which are different in every cycle. For example, in 2008 both the Republicans and Democrats held primaries, but in 2012 only the Republicans held a competitive primary. Table 4 provides estimates of youth participation in Louisiana primary by party and year.

Definitions

Youth: For the purpose of this press release and estimation of youth participation in the Louisiana Primary, we define “youth” as citizens who were eligible to vote on March 24, 2012, as permitted by state election law (18-29 year-old citizens).

Number of youth who participated: An estimate of how many youth participated in caucuses or 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 March 24, 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 Louisiana'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.