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Exclusive Analysis: Role of Young Voters in Michigan and Mississippi Primaries

Young People in Michigan and Mississippi Vote in Record Numbers; Tremendous Youth Support for Sanders Propels His Upset Win in Michigan

Medford/Somerville, MA – Young people participated in record numbers in yesterday’s Michigan and Mississippi primaries, according to youth vote experts from the [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](#) – the preeminent, non-partisan research center on youth engagement at Tufts University’s Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

In Michigan, the estimated youth turnout of 28 percent was double the previous record set in 2008. Young Democratic primary voters (ages 18-29) there showed overwhelming support for Senator Bernie Sanders over Secretary Hillary Clinton: 81% to 18%, providing Sanders with an estimated one-third of his total votes.

In Mississippi, where Secretary Clinton won young voters (62 percent to 37 percent), overall youth participation estimates also increased over previous years, largely driven by increased Republican primary participation. Among young Republican voters in Mississippi, Donald Trump won 45 percent of the vote and Senator Ted Cruz received 37 percent, mirroring the overall population vote percentages.

“Young people were the surprise of the night in Michigan. Their record turnout, which doubled the 2008 record, far surpassed predictions by pollsters and experts and gave Senator Sanders his victory,” says Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of CIRCLE. **“It is clear that the road to the White House cannot circumvent youth votes. Their voting power should not be underestimated.”**

For CIRCLE’s full Michigan and Mississippi primary analysis please see [here](#).

Throughout this election season, [CIRCLE’s 2016 Election Center](#) will offer new data products and analyses providing a comprehensive picture of the youth vote, both nationally and in

targeted states and congressional districts across the country. The upcoming primaries on March 15th may provide insight into key states where young people have the potential to shape the 2016 election, as rated in CIRCLE's [Youth Electoral Significance Index](#).

CIRCLE youth vote experts also are available for interviews and/or analysis. Media outlets should contact: Kristofer Eisenla at kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com or 202-670-5747

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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 is part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.

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 (<http://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.