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## **Exclusive Analysis: Role of Young Voters on Super Tuesday**

# ***Record-Setting Republican Youth Participation Continues; Youth Turnout Figures Rival or Exceed 2008***

*Medford/Somerville, MA* – Youth participation in yesterday’s Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses reinforced young voters’ eagerness to influence both parties’ nominating contests, particularly on the Republican side, 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 the Republican primaries and caucuses, young people continued to participate in record numbers. In particular, youth participation in the Republican contests increased dramatically in Texas and Virginia. Youth supported Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio at virtually the same amount in Texas, while youth were more likely to have preferred Senator Rubio in Virginia. Young people in Republican primaries are still not as keen on Donald Trump as are older voters, supporting him at about the same level as the overall electorate in only two of yesterday’s primaries (Arkansas and Tennessee).

On the Democratic side, young people made up a larger proportion of voters than in the corresponding state primaries in 2008, suggesting that young people are continuing to be a bigger presence this year. Young Democratic primary voters supported Senator Bernie Sanders on Super Tuesday at varying degrees – ranging from more than 80 percent in Vermont and Oklahoma, to 54% in Georgia, to only 38% in Alabama, the one state in which young people favored Secretary Hillary Clinton. Among Super Tuesday states, Georgia and Alabama have the highest proportion of African American youth (36% and 32%, respectively).

**“On Super Tuesday, young voters demonstrated that they are paying close attention and want to be heard,”** says Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of CIRCLE. **“While young Republicans are voting in truly record-shattering numbers, Democratic youth are continuing to show their enthusiasm by increasing their vote-share in these primaries.”**

For CIRCLE's full analysis of these state contests [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, including the [Youth Electoral Significance Index](#).

**CIRCLE youth vote experts also are available for interviews and/or analysis. Media outlets should contact: Kristofer Eisenla [kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com) | 202-670-5747 (mobile)**

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*CIRCLE ([www.civicyouth.org](http://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.*