



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, September 20, 2016
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EXCLUSIVE RESEARCH: TOP 50 HOUSE RACES WHERE YOUNG VOTERS COULD MATTER MOST

Index ranks Top 50 Congressional Districts where young voters have the highest potential to sway outcome in 2016

Medford/Somerville, MA – Will the youth vote help shape the next Congress? A new index ranks the top 50 districts where young people could have a significant influence on the outcome of Congressional races across the country. The [Youth Electoral Significance Index Top 50](#) was developed exclusively by 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 Civic Life](#).

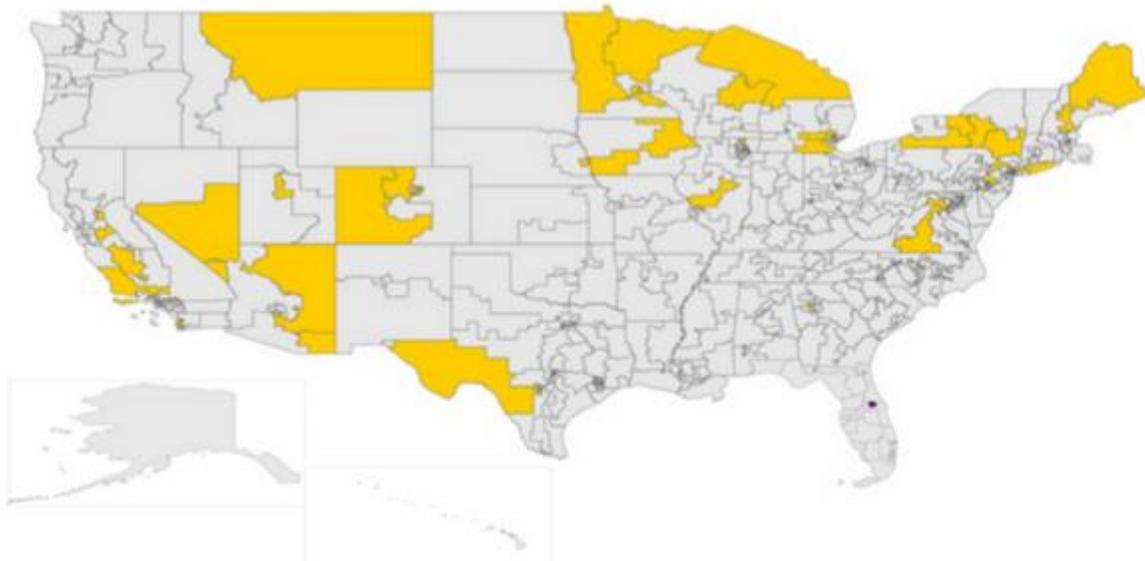
Taking into account the competitiveness of the Congressional races, as well demographic characteristics, the number of higher education institutions in the district, and historical youth turnout data, the [index](#) highlights the districts where young people are poised to have a disproportionately high impact this year.

“Young people can shape our elections and the make-up of Congress, but their potential is limited when campaigns don’t reach out to them,” said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of CIRCLE. **“We hope this tool encourages campaigns, media outlets, and advocates in these districts – and in many others – to engage young people on issues that matter to them.”**

Key findings include:

- **Iowa’s 1st Congressional District comes out on top** due in large part to a large number of college campuses (31) and high percentage of young people enrolled in college in the district.

- **New York has six Congressional Districts in the YESI Top 50**, the most of any state. Though New York tends to be reliably Democratic in presidential and Senate elections, many Congressional races are much more fiercely contested.
- **Colorado has four districts on this list**, including the number 2 spot in the ranking: the Colorado 6th, which includes the eastern part of the Denver-Aurora metro area. This district ranks highly due to its competitiveness: in 2012, the election was decided by only 7,000 votes, young people cast a high number of ballots, and the seat is expected to be highly contested again this year.
- **Four Michigan districts make the Top 50**, including two in the top 15: Michigan's 7th District, which includes parts of Lansing, the western suburbs of Ann Arbor, and the southeast corner of the state; and Michigan's 1st District, in which there are 12 colleges and universities with close to 20,000 enrolled students.



Throughout this election season, [CIRCLE's 2016 Election Center](#) will offer new data products and detailed youth voting analyses.

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 Civic Life.

The only university-wide college of its kind, the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life (<http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/>) offers transformational student learning and service opportunities, conducts groundbreaking research on young people's civic and political participation, and forges innovative community partnerships. Its work is guided by two core beliefs: that communities, nations and the world are stronger, more prosperous, and more just when citizens actively participate in civic and democratic life; and that higher education has a responsibility to develop the next generation of 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.