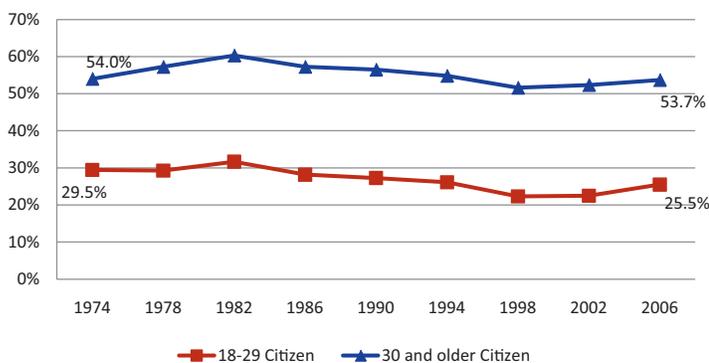


YOUNG VOTERS IN MIDTERM ELECTIONS

As we approach the midterm election of November 2010, CIRCLE is focusing on 2006, the most recent midterm election, as a comparison year. In 2006, turnout among 18-to-29-year-olds increased—up three percentage points from 2002, which broke a trend of declining electoral participation in midterm elections among young people since 1982. The youth voter turnout rate was highest in Minnesota (43 percent), Wisconsin (40 percent), and Montana (49 percent). The states with the lowest turnout were West Virginia (16 percent), Texas and Utah (tied at 17 percent). The metropolitan areas with the highest turnout in 2006 were the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St.Paul, 47 percent), Milwaukee (39 percent), and Detroit (38 percent). Interested in learning more facts about young voters in the midterm elections? CIRCLE has a variety of fact sheets showing youth participation in past midterm elections. All fact sheets cited in this article can be downloaded from <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=377>.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Midterm Years Among Citizens, by Age



Source: Authors tabulations from the Current Population Survey, November Supplements, 1974-2006

YOUTH VOTER TURNOUT TRENDS IN MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The fact sheet “Youth Voter Turnout Increases in 2006” shows that the voter turnout rate among 18-to-29-year-olds increased by three percentage points between 2002 and 2006. The percentage point increase in turnout posted by the youngest voters, ages 18 to 29, was higher than any other age group for the second election in a row. Voter turnout among voters under 30 rose three points from 22.5 percent to 25.5 percent between 2002 and 2006. In contrast, for all voters the overall turnout rate grew by 1.7 percentage points from 46.1 percent to 47.8 percent (see Table 1).

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Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Citizenship
and Public Service

OCTOBER 2010

THE RESEARCH ROUNDUP COLUMN HIGHLIGHTS RECENT RESEARCH FINDINGS COMMISSIONED OR GENERATED BY CIRCLE. ALSO INCLUDED IS AN UPDATE ON NEW CIRCLE PRODUCTS SUCH AS FACT SHEETS, RESEARCH ARTICLES, RESEARCH ABSTRACTS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES, AND DATASETS.

Table 1 - Change in Voter Turnout Among Citizens, by Age, 2002 and 2006

Age Groups	2002	2006	Percentage Point Increase
18-29	22.5 percent	25.5 percent	+3.0 points
30-44	42.2 percent	43.0 percent	+ .8 points
45-59	55.0 percent	56.0 percent	+ 1.0 points
60+	62.4 percent	63.1 percent	+ 0.7 points
All Ages	46.1 percent	47.8 percent	+ 1.7 points

Source: Authors Tabulations from the 2006 and 2002 November Supplements of the Current Population Survey

Other highlights from the fact sheet include:

In 2006, young adults voted for the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate in races for the House of Representatives (58% vs. 38%), the Senate (60% vs. 33%) and Governor (55% vs. 34%). Young voters were more racially and ethnically diverse than older voters. Eleven percent classified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (larger than the proportion in the electorate as a whole by six percentage points). Young Latinos increased their voter share by eight percentage points since 1992, more than any other minority racial/ethnic group. Thirteen percent of young voters self-identified as Black, compared to 10% of all the voters. Five percent identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, compared to three percent of the whole electorate. The share of young white voters has decreased from 84% in 1992 to 71% in 2006.

YOUNG LATINOS HAVE INCREASED THEIR VOTER SHARE BY EIGHT PERCENTAGE POINTS SINCE 1992, MORE THAN ANY OTHER MINORITY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP.

Young voters were the most likely age group to make their voting decision on Election Day. Forty-four percent of young voters decided for whom to vote in the U.S. House election within a week of Election Day, compared to 28% of the electorate as a whole.

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STATE BY STATE ANALYSIS OF YOUTH VOTING TRENDS IN THE MIDTERMS

“Quick Facts About Young Voters by State: The Midterm Election Year 2006” is a series of 50 fact sheets, based on data from the 2006 Census CPS, November Supplement, that examine voter turnout rates from 1978-2006, turnout rates by subgroup, and partisanship (where available from the National Election Pool, Exit Poll surveys).

Highlights from this series include:

- In 2006, the three states with the highest level of youth voter turnout were Minnesota (43 percent), Wisconsin (40 percent), and South Dakota (39 percent). In contrast, the three with the lowest youth turnout rates were West Virginia (16 percent), Texas (17 percent) and Utah (17 percent). These differences were most likely driven by high profile gubernatorial and Senate races as well as statewide ballot initiatives in the higher turnout states.
- In 27 states the female youth turnout rate was higher than the male youth turnout rate.
- In nine states the male youth turnout rate was higher than the female youth turnout rate.
- In nine states the female youth turnout rate was the same as the male youth turnout rate.

YOUTH TURNOUT IN METROPOLITAN AND URBAN AREAS

“Quick Facts About Young Voters by Metropolitan Area: The Midterm Election Year 2006,” is a fact sheet that analyzes voter turnout rates by metropolitan area. “Young Urban Voters in the Midterm Election Year 2006” presents youth voter turnout data for the 2006 midterm elections by urban, suburban, and rural areas as well as information for select metropolitan areas.

Highlights from these two fact sheets include:

- The five metropolitan areas with the highest youth turnout in 2006 were: Minneapolis, MN (47%); Milwaukee, WI (39%); Detroit, MI (38%); Seattle, WA (38%); and Atlanta, GA (36%).

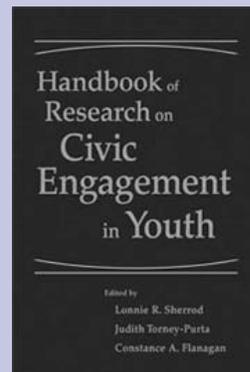
- Young people in rural areas had a slightly higher voter turnout rate, 27 percent, compared to 26 percent for young people who live in suburban and urban areas.

YOUNG LATINOS HAD THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT RATES IN URBAN AREAS (22 PERCENT) AND LOWEST IN RURAL AREAS (11 PERCENT).

- However, for some subgroups of young people, there were larger differences in voter participation by type of community. For example, among black non-Hispanics, voter turnout rates were highest among those who resided in rural areas (30 percent). In contrast, the pattern of participation was reversed for Latinos. Young Latinos had the highest voter turnout rates in urban areas (22 percent) and lowest in rural areas (11 percent).★

NEW BOOK: HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN YOUTH, EDITED BY LONNIE R. SHERROD, JUDITH TORNEY-PURTA, CONSTANCE A. FLANAGAN (JOHN WILEY & SONS, 2010)

Engaging youth in civic life has become a central concern to a broad array of researchers in a variety of academic fields as well to policy makers and practitioners globally. This book is both international and multidisciplinary, consisting of three sections that respectively



cover conceptual issues, developmental and educational topics, and methodological and measurement issues. Broad in its coverage of topics, this book supports scholars, philanthropists, business leaders, government officials, teachers, parents, and community practitioners in their drive to engage more young people in community and civic actions. Thirteen of the authors are present or former CIRCLE grantees, board members, or staff.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES MAY INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING

A new CIRCLE Working Paper (#73) finds that extracurricular participation in general promotes voting, though some activities (notably, some sports) decrease it. Specific activities that encourage voting often have no political content, and their effects are not explained by the influence of voting rates of peers in these groups. One of the biggest and most robust effects is for the performing arts: participation in high school performing arts is related to a higher rate of voting in early adulthood.

Furthermore, some activities affect political ideology and party membership in adulthood. The overall pattern is that religious attendance and a few sports steer students to the conservative end of the political spectrum and into the Republican party, while academic clubs, drama clubs, and honor societies steer students towards the liberal end and/or into the Democratic party.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST ROBUST EFFECTS IS FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS IS RELATED TO A HIGHER RATE OF VOTING IN EARLY ADULTHOOD.

The working paper, "CIRCLE Working Paper #73: Joining Young, Voting Young: The Effects of Youth Voluntary Associations on Early Adult Voting," was written by Reuben J. Thomas of The City College of New York and Daniel A. McFarland of Stanford University. The researchers used two nationally representative datasets to test the relationships between extracurriculars and youth voting: the National Educational Longitudinal Study (NELS) (U.S. Department of Education 2004) and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) (Udry 2003).

PARTICIPATION TEACHES DEMOCRATIC SKILLS

The researchers suggest that certain extracurricular activities provide young people with the opportunity to learn important democratic skills. Performing arts clubs show the strongest relationships to early adult voting, while some sports are actu-

ally related to a lower likelihood of voting young. Moreover, those who do not participate in any extracurricular activities show lower voting rates than those who participate in at least one activity. The researchers hypothesize that the, "performing arts can be venues for civic learning, by teaching skills in public speaking, and engaging with dramatic material that often has strong civic and political themes. Even when there is no political content at all to the activity, students may still be learning political engagement by developing what Bandura (2001) calls 'collective efficacy,' the perception that the members can work together to affect their environment. Any activity that improves students' sense of being able to make a difference can increase their likelihood of voting, regardless of the overt mission of the activity."

Additionally, Thomas and McFarland suggest that one reason different types of extracurricular activities may have varying effects on voting patterns could be that different activities require different levels of commitment to credibly claim participation. They point out, "It may be common practice among students who show up to one language club or history club meeting to list it among their activities, particularly on college applications. But participation in a performing arts club implies participation in an actual performance, which typically requires many hours of rehearsal beforehand." Yet even when activities involve a strong commitment and teach collective efficacy, they might still discourage early voting among their participants if they instill cultural priorities that don't emphasize political participation. This may be why some sports show lower levels of youth voting.

EFFECTS ON POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

Different extracurricular activities tend to move students toward different ends of the political spectrum. While no explanation was given for this finding, the researchers suggest that those working with young people need to be aware of this pattern.

Continued on Page 5



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IN GENERAL, THEY FOUND THAT RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE AND A FEW SPORTS ACTIVITIES PRODUCE STUDENTS WHO ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CONSERVATIVE AND IDENTIFY WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WHILE ACADEMIC CLUBS, DRAMA CLUBS, AND HONOR SOCIETIES ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TOWARDS THE LIBERAL END AND/OR INTO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

By providing different types of extracurricular activities, organizations help to build a strong base of future voters representing both sides of the political spectrum.

To download CIRCLE Working Paper #73, please visit http://www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/WorkingPapers/WP_73_Thomas_McFarland.pdf. ★

CIRCLE HOSTS A GATHERING FOR ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH NON-COLLEGE-ATTENDING YOUTH

On June 14-16, CIRCLE met with 12 organizations that work directly with young adults (age 18-29) who have never attended college. All of these groups engage their participants in civic or political work. The meeting was intended to learn from each other's work, identify possible collaborations and inform current research.

CIRCLE has also been conducting qualitative and quantitative research about this demographic group.

CIRCLE is committed to conducting future research on non-college-attending youth and their political participation. If you have questions regarding CIRCLE's research on this topic, please contact Abby Kiesa, CIRCLE Youth Coordinator & Researcher, at Abby.Kiesa@Tufts.edu.



NEW CIRCLE FACT SHEET SHOWS DISPARITIES IN VOTER TURNOUT BASED ON COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

According to the new CIRCLE fact sheet, "Electoral Engagement and College Experience," young people with college experience continue to be more likely to vote than those who don't attend college. Data also shows that membership in unions, religious congregations and community groups among young people without college experience has fallen drastically since the 1970's. Despite these trends, research shows that there are effective strategies and initiatives that can be used to help bridge this gap. "Electoral Engagement and College Experience," can be found at <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=380>.

FURTHER EDUCATIONAL BREAKDOWNS PRESENT DEEPER GAPS

Research shows that many more young Americans are attending college, but 22 million (nearly half) of 18-to-29 year-olds are not enrolled in higher education programs. Since 2000, voter turnout among college-educated youth has increased by 12 percentage points and non-college youth turnout has increased by nine percentage points. In 2008, the turnout rate of college-educated 18-to-29 year-olds was 62 percent - 26 percentage points higher than the rate of non-college youth. Also, midterm turnout disparities are equally drastic: in 2006, there was a 17 percentage point gap between the two groups.

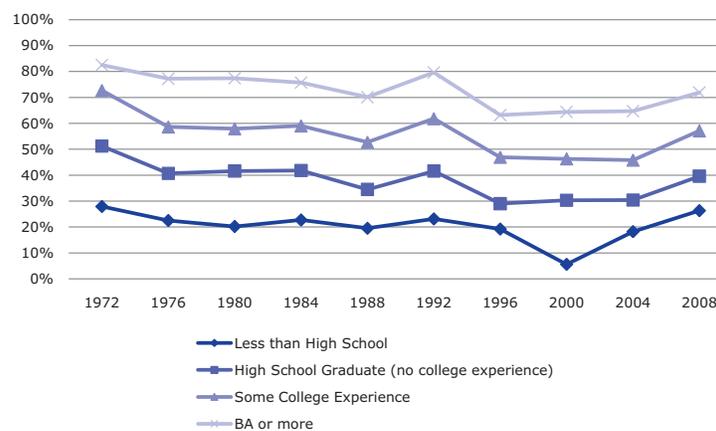
SINCE 2000, VOTER TURNOUT AMONG COLLEGE-EDUCATED YOUTH HAS INCREASED BY 12 PERCENTAGE POINTS AND NON-COLLEGE YOUTH TURNOUT HAS INCREASED BY NINE PERCENTAGE POINTS.

Youth voter turnout disparities are even higher when broken down further into four more specific categories. In 2008, 72 percent of those with a Bachelor's degree or higher voted, which is 21 percentage points higher than the national average for young people. Fifty seven percent of young people with some college experience voted. Among high school graduates, 39 percent went to the polls. Slightly more than a quarter of young people with less than a high school diploma voted in 2008.

STATE LAWS CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON NON-COLLEGE YOUTH VOTER TURNOUT

Research shows that strategies can be leveraged to overcome turnout disparities. In recent elections, some states have implemented election reform laws, including Election Day registration, mail-in ballots, early voting, absentee voting laws and extended poll hours.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout Among 18- to 29-Year-Old Citizens in Presidential Years, by Educational Attainment



Source: Authors tabulations of November Supplements current population survey 1972-2008

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In fact, in 2008 among 18- to-29 year-old citizens who are in the labor force, implementation of longer polling hours was associated with a seven percentage point increase in the voting rate for full-time (35 or more hours per week) workers and a five percentage point increase for part-time workers.

IN 2008 AMONG 18- TO 29-YEAR-OLD CITIZENS WHO ARE IN THE LABOR FORCE, IMPLEMENTATION OF LONGER POLLING HOURS WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A SEVEN PERCENTAGE POINT INCREASE IN THE VOTING RATE FOR FULL-TIME (35 OR MORE HOURS PER WEEK) WORKERS AND A FIVE PERCENTAGE POINT INCREASE FOR PART-TIME WORKERS.

The research also looked at the political party affiliation and ideology of young people in the 2008 election. Almost half of 18-to-29 year-old voters identified with the Democratic party, compared with a third in 2004. However, those with no college experience were slightly more likely (47 percent) to call themselves “Democrat” than their college-going counterparts (45 percent). Nearly four in ten self-identified as “politically moderate,” roughly a third as “politically liberal,” and a quarter of non-college youth identified as “politically conservative.” ★

CIRCLE’S NETROOTS NATION PANEL ON JULY 24, 2010 IN LAS VEGAS DISCUSSED HOW THE “FORGOTTEN HALF” – NON-COLLEGE YOUTH – ARE AN IMPORTANT VOTING BLOC FOR THE 2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

.....

The panel “Mobilizing the Forgotten Half: Outreach Strategies for Non-College Youth” discussed effective strategies to close the voter turnout gap between young people with college experience and those without college experience. Panelists Biko Baker (The League of Young Voters Education Fund), Tarik Ross (Amer-I-Can Foundation and Pasadena youth organizer), Surbhi Godsay (CIRCLE), moderator Abby Kiesa (CIRCLE) and participants discussed how state policies, electoral campaigns and non-profits can engage this cohort of young voters.

To watch the panel, go to:

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/8490406>

To see CIRCLE’s research presentation from the panel on the political engagement of non-college youth, go to

<http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=381>



YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTIVE OF COMPROMISE AND MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION'S ROLE IN PROMOTING CIVILITY IN POLITICS

CIRCLE Working Paper #71, "Youth Attitudes toward Civility in Politics," builds upon a recent report entitled "Nastiness, Name-calling & Negativity: The Allegheny College Survey of Civility" which found that average citizens are upset about the incivility in politics, but their views of civility differ by ideology, gender, and media use. CIRCLE Working Paper #71 focuses on new voters and how they differ from their older counterparts. Authors Melissa S. Kovacs and Daniel M. Shea find that overall, younger voters are less likely to believe that civility is possible; however, they do believe that higher education can be gauged to encourage civility.

PERCEPTIONS OF UNCIVIL BEHAVIORS DIFFER BY AGE

According to the analysis, 58% of all Americans say they pay attention to politics "most of the time." The research shows, however, that this rate differs based on generation. Young people, 18-to 29-year-olds, were the least likely to say they pay attention to politics. Moreover, the authors found age differences in feelings about the civility of the recent healthcare debate. According to the data, young people were the most likely to say that Americans should be proud of the way our elected officials dealt with the health care debate.

ACCORDING TO THE DATA, YOUNG PEOPLE WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT AMERICANS SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE WAY OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DEALT WITH THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE.

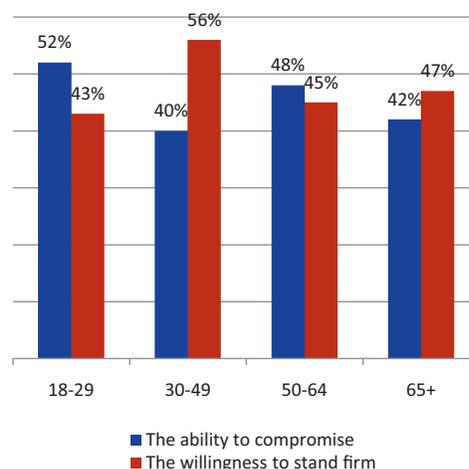
To measure the respondent's perceptions of what "incivility" constitutes, the survey asked what characterizes uncivil behavior. Across all generations, "shouting over someone you disagree with during an argument" was cited as the most uncivil behavior. "Disruptive but nonviolent forms of protest, such as sit-ins," were the least likely to be chosen as an uncivil behavior across all generations.

YOUNG PEOPLE VALUE COMPROMISE IN POLITICS

When asked about the possibility of "disagreeing respectfully," adults age 30 to 49 were the most likely to respond that disagreeing respectfully is possible; young Americans 18-to 29-years-old were the least likely to say that it's possible.

Despite this, young people were the most likely to say that the ability to compromise is an important quality in a politician. More than 52 percent of 18-to 29-year-olds chose compromise, compared to the 39.9 percent of 30-to 49-year-olds. In fact, respondents age 30 to 49 and age 65 and above were more likely to say that the willingness to stand firm is a necessary quality in a politician, over the ability to compromise (see Figure 1). The research does not indicate why young citizens feel that respectful politics is possible.

Figure 1: Compromise or Stand Firm by Age



Source: Allegheny College Survey of Civility and Compromise in American Politics

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CIRCLE IN THE NEWS

- "YOUNG VOTERS ARE IGNORING MIDTERM ELECTIONS, ISSUES," BY JACK BROOM, *THE SEATTLE TIMES*, 8/6/2010
- "CALLING ALL YOUNG VOTERS TO GET RE-ENGAGED WITH POLITICS," *THE SEATTLE TIMES*, 8/6/2010
- "TRICK OR TREAT: ROCK THE VOTE LAUNCHES VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE," BY NAOMI JAGODA, *USA TODAY*, 8/3/2010
- "ROCK THE VOTE LOOKS TO OVERCOME YOUTH ENTHUSIASM GAP BY MIDTERMS," BY QUINN BOWMAN, *PBS NEWSHOUR*, 8/3/2010
- "POLITICAL PARTIES TRY TO DRAW YOUNG VOTERS TO POLLS," BY NAOMI JAGODA, *USA TODAY*, 7/1/2010
- "A FIRST GLIMPSE AT NOVEMBER'S FIREWORKS," BY HEATHER SMITH, *THE HUFFINGTON POST*, 7/5/2010
- "CALLING ALL APOLOGISTS: APATHETIC ANTHEM UNDERCUTS YOUNG-VOTER ENGAGEMENT" BY ADAM SMELTZ, *STATE COLLEGE NEWS*, 6/21/2010

Continued from Page 8

INSTITUTIONS HAVE POTENTIAL TO MAKE POLITICS MORE CIVIL

In addition to measuring perceptions of the current levels of civility in politics, the survey also measured who the respondents felt should take the lead in making politics more civil. Opinions on this matter, like perceptions of incivility, differed based on age. Young people were the most likely to say that colleges and universities should take initiative on curbing the incivility in politics. In comparison, respondents aged 50 and above said that families should take the lead in making politics more civil, and those 30 to 49 were almost as likely to say that it is the duty of political parties and elected officials to make politics more civil. In general, young people favored the role of higher education in decreasing the incivility in today's politics.

YOUNG PEOPLE WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE ON CURBING THE INCIVILITY IN POLITICS.

For a complete copy of CIRCLE Working Paper #71 "Youth Attitudes toward Civility in Politics" please visit:
<http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=379>.★



CIRCLE WORKS WITH NCO C TO PRODUCE STATE-LEVEL REPORTS ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The landmark and bi-partisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, signed into law in April of 2009, directed the Corporation for National and Community Service and the National Conference on Citizenship to collect and report data on our nation's civic health. The first Civic Health Assessment, "Civic Life in America: Key Findings on the Civic Health of the Nation" was released on September 16. To read the issue brief, and for a state- and city-level breakdowns of the data and rankings, please visit <http://civic.serve.gov>

To further expand the work of the Civic Health Assessment, CIRCLE has partnered with NCoC to help release 17 local civic health reports in partnership with institutions across the country. These reports will be released throughout the fall of 2010. For more on these localized reports, visit <http://NCoC.net/states>.

FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE, A COLUMN DEDICATED TO RECOGNIZING SUCCESSFUL “BRIDGES” BETWEEN RESEARCHERS AND PRACTITIONERS, REPORTS ON RESEARCH WITH PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The 2008 election saw youth voter turnout for 18- to-29-year-olds exceed 50% for the first time since 1992 and for only the third time since 18-year-olds were given the right to vote.¹ Many are wondering what will happen at the polls on November 2nd, and whether young people will follow 2008 with significant turnout in a mid-term election. This article presents examples of just a few of the many organizations that are investing time and energy in reaching out to young people to encourage them to vote in the 2010 mid-term elections. Many of these organizations rely on peer-to-peer canvassing to reach potential voters, a strategy that research suggests can increase turnout among young voters.

COLLEGE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

In August 2010, the College Republican National Committee (CRNC) will be launching a new awareness program and ramping up infrastructure in the lead-up to the 2010 elections.

The CRNC will be deploying over 20 highly-trained young people with campaign experience to act as advisors and to support and work on behalf of the College Republican chapters. The focal areas include campuses in six states – MI, OH, PA, FL, CO and NV. Each campus will determine the specific strategies they will utilize to “Recruit, Train, Engage, Mobilize,” according to Rob Lockwood, CRNC Director of Communications.

Lockwood said that even though CRNC’s main focus is on six states, every chapter has a Facebook group and will use this and YouTube as tools to help them meet their 2010 goals. CRNC is also launching a year-long awareness program that will provide talking points and content for 2010 election outreach. Lockwood says “Don’t Put It On Our Tab” seeks to build awareness about the national debt. The campaign will have a specific Web site and a video that will summarize the overall message the CRNC is trying to get across.

NATIONAL STUDENT/PARENT MOCK ELECTION

First held in 1980, the National Student Parent Mock Election (NSPME) has grown significantly since then, engaging 15,000 schools and five million young people in 2008 election programming. “Since the first Mock Election, nearly 50 million young voters have cast their ballots and, in the process, discovered what it means to be an American citizen and the value of citizenship in our democracy.”

In 2010, the NSPME is gearing up to provide schools, parents and young people with resources for elections in their state. This effort will include state-based ballots, curriculum materials, a free online game called “The Road to the Capitol” and more. NSPME

has a long list of partners, including many state election officials, who act as voluntary state coordinators for NSPME in over twenty states.

Gloria Kirshner, co-founder of the NSPME, reports that evaluation of the project shows increased discussion of national issues between students and parents, a “decreased sense of powerlessness among students” and an “endless anecdotal record of parents voting for [the] first time because youth have campaigned for them to do so.”



VOTEAGAIN2010.COM

VoteAgain2010.com is a "joint website representing over 30 501(c)(3) youth organizations, and several media partners, working to increase youth turnout in the 2010 midterm elections....The site was developed to serve as an online destination that connects young voters with the many midterm election efforts taking place across the country. The site is powered by the understanding that action on an array of issues will be decided in the halls of Congress, by members of Congress that we have the power to elect."

There are more than 30 collaborating organizations that will be coming together to implement a National Voter Registration Day on September 28th and that will also be promoting a video contest on the site. The site has information on how to register or pledge to vote, as well as materials on how to run a voter registration campaign, volunteer with a youth organization and learn about national issues.

"Vote Again 2010 is driven by the understanding that while members of Congress may have the power to vote for or against legislation, we have the power to vote for or against everyone of them," says Sara Haile-Mariam, Communications and Outreach Associate at Campus Progress, a collaborating organization. "There's a power in simply acknowledging the influence of the midterm elections and the potential for young [people] to impact the individuals who get elected, and subsequently the decisions that they make, in a way that resonates for years and decades to come."

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

The American Democracy Project (ADP)¹ is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy.² Every year campuses who participate in the program (220 campuses at this time) host events that engage and mobilize their campus. This fall many campuses across the country will be involved in efforts focused on voting and voter registration.



The ADP chapter at William Paterson University is running a campaign called *Youth Vote 2K10: No Vote, No Piece*. The campaign will involve "Youth Vote Zap Teams" who will be "conducting youth voter education and registration outreach" around campus and in three Paterson, NJ area high schools.

According to the organizers, another aspect of the initiative will be to employ a "text-based 'Youth Vote Facts' campaign that will disseminate important information regarding registration and absentee ballot application deadlines along with facts about the power of the youth vote in NJ."

ENDNOTES

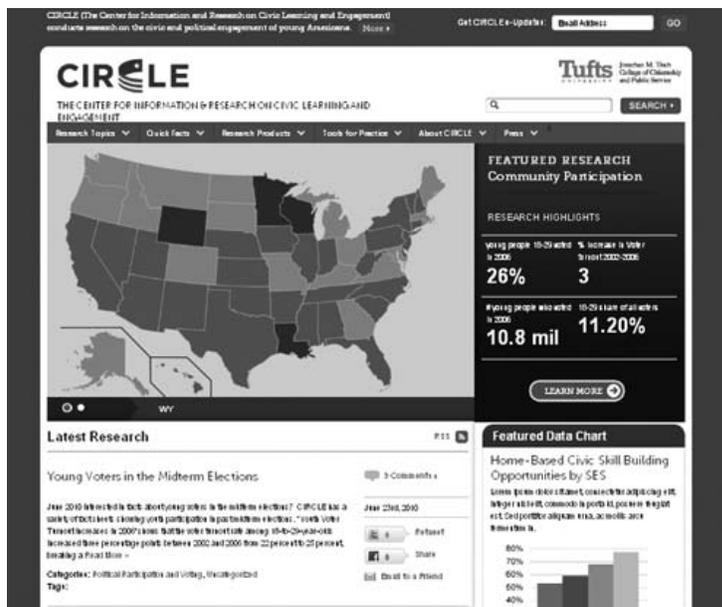
- 1 Youth voter turnout for 18- to 29-year olds was 51% in 2008, 52% in 1992, and 55% in 1972.
- 2 <http://www.aascu.org/programs/adp/about.htm>
- 3 http://www.nationalmockelection.org/why_latest.html
- 4 <http://www.voteagain2010.com/about/>



CHECK OUT CIRCLE'S NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.CIVICYOUTH.ORG

New features include:

- *Interactive maps
- *New and improved search function with more tags for very specific searches
- *Social media sharing



OCTOBER 2010
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