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'08 Repeat? Data Show GOP Presidential Candidates Have Opportunities With Iowa Youth

*As Barack Obama Saw in 2008, 17- to 29-year-old Iowans Can Give
Candidate Inside Track to Presidential Nomination*

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass. - Next January's youth vote in the Iowa Caucus could predict the Republican Presidential candidate. In the 2008 Democratic Iowa Caucus, when the participation of young Americans in the state [more than tripled](#) compared to previous years, young Iowans overwhelmingly voted for the eventual nominee, President Obama – an indication of what could potentially happen in 2012.

According to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE), Iowa is a state with historically high levels of youth participation. Youth turnout has been higher in Iowa than nationally in every election since at least 1984, and in 2008, 73 percent of Iowa's youth registered to vote - one of the highest rates in the country.

CIRCLE's in-depth study of elections ranging from 1972 to 2010 provides insights into the Iowa youth vote:

- There is a long history of youth participation in Iowa to build on, and research shows that investing in youth outreach is effective,
- Since Iowans who are 17 can caucus if they will be 18 by the general election, campaigns can reach high school-age youth for recruitment and Get Out the Vote,
- Leaning overly conservative may not attract youth, since of those who participated in the 2008 GOP caucus, more youth considered themselves "moderate" than "very conservative" (2008 exit poll data),
- A challenge for GOP candidates: in 2008, 80% of young caucus-goers caucused on the Democratic side. But national data show that the Democratic advantage among young people has shrunk since then.

For more information about the Iowa youth vote in past presidential primaries and general elections, see the [Iowa page](#) in the "Young People and the 2012 Primaries" map on CIRCLE's website.

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@lunamediagroup.com.

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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.