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2012 Post-Election, Youth Voter Fact Sheets to Shed Further Light on Key Voting Bloc

This Week CIRCLE set to Release a Series of Revealing Fact Sheets Analyzing '12 National Exit Poll Data & Young Voters

Released Today: [Overview of Youth Voters - 29 & Under - Shows:](#)

- *Rise to 50% Turnout Rate (58% in Targeted States);*
 - *Slightly Less Enthusiasm than in '08, but;*
- *Still Overwhelming Support of Pres. 's Re-Election & Progressive Policies*

Medford/Somerville, Mass. – Following last week's snapshot analysis on the role young voters played in last Tuesday's presidential election, today the [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](#) -- the preeminent youth research organization at Tufts University -- announced that this week they will be releasing a series of post-election fact sheets on the 23 million young voters who turned out to vote last week. In addition to providing key comparative analysis to 2008's historic youth turnout, the fact sheets are based mostly upon the national exit poll conducted by Edison Research and contain a wealth of data CIRCLE has analyzed on demographic, key issue and vote choice questions.

In conjunction with today's announcement of a series of forthcoming youth voter fact sheets to be made public this week (release schedule below), CIRCLE released an introductory ["Overview of Young Voters in the 2012 Election" Fact Sheet](#) that begins to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the 50% of eligible young voters who showed up in strong numbers on Election Day -- just slightly down from the recent high of 52% in 2008. To view today's fact sheet, the first in a series of three youth voter fact sheets providing in-depth exit poll driven analysis from this year's presidential election, please go to: <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=4968>.

The introduction to today's "Overview of Young Voters in the 2012 Election" Fact Sheet explains that the team of expert analysts and researchers, trained in studying the civic engagement of young voters, focused on trying to provide, "major findings from the 2012 National Exit Polls conducted by Edison Research."

The fact sheet goes on to explain, "The respondents are actual voters; citizens who did *not* vote are excluded. The exit polls attempt to include early and absentee voters in proportion to their numbers. In this fact sheet, we describe young voters as a whole. Subsequent fact sheets will focus on racial and

ethnic analyses by gender as well as analysis by educational attainment (youth with and without college experience).”

On Wednesday, November 14th, CIRCLE will release the second fact sheet – **“Diverse Electorate: A Deeper Look into the Millennial Vote”** -- focusing on breaking down those 23 million youth voters by race and gender, along with the breakdowns for candidate support, issues of importance, party support, etc. On the following day, Thursday, November 15th, CIRCLE will release a third fact sheet – **“Young Voters in the 2012 Presidential Election: The Educational Gap Remains”** – that will focus on using the exit poll data and CIRCLE’s scientific analysis to dispel the commonly held belief that young voters are synonymous with “college voters”.

Today’s announcement also comes with an new, official turnout rate for young voters in 2012, less than a week after CIRCLE announced the exclusive estimate on a national press conference call with reporters. ([Click here](#) to listen to CIRCLE’s national press conference call on Wednesday, November 7th initially announcing the exclusive, estimate – with 95% of the votes being counted nationwide -- the 49% turnout rate for all eligible young voters that had turned out to the polls the day before.) Due to the increase in the number of votes counted since last week’s election, the total vote count for eligible youth voters participating in last Tuesday’s election rose from 49% to a 50% turnout rate (58% in key battleground states where youth turnout was decisive and helped secure President Obama’s victory). The updated estimate brings the total number of youth, ages 18-29, who participated in this year’s 2012 presidential election to 23 million young voters.

In Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, if Romney had won half the youth vote, or if young people had stayed home altogether, he would have won those key battleground states. A switch of those 80 electoral votes would have also changed the presidency, electing Romney as president. To see more on this analysis, please visit: <http://www.civicyouth.org/?p=4905>. Young people represented 19% of the voters in the election, with President Obama winning the majority of those votes over Governor Romney by 60% to 37%, according to the early released National Exit Poll.

There is no official count of voters by age nationally immediately after the election. Therefore, any statistic on youth voter turnout is an estimate based on survey data. Like any survey, the National Exit Poll uses methods that may introduce sampling bias. However, our estimates of youth turnout from the National Exit Polls (shown above) have produced a trend that closely tracks the trend in the Census Current Population Survey (CPS), which is the other reliable source for estimating youth turnout. CPS voting data for 2012 will not be available until spring 2013. Until then, our method produces the only reliable estimate of youth turnout.

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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 has 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 (<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.