

## CIRCLE IN THE NEWS

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- **"THE MILLENNIALS IN MASSACHUSETTS,"** BY MARK BAUERLEIN, *CHRONICLE OF HIGH EDUCATION*, 1/23/2010
- **"YOUNG VOTERS WERE NO-SHOWS IN MASSACHUSETTS,"** METEOR BLADES, *DAILY KOS*, 1/21/2010
- **"YOUTH STILL INSPIRED BY OBAMA, BUT IMPATIENT FOR CHANGE,"** BY KEVIN SIMPSON, *DENVER POST*, 1/20/2010
- **"COAKLEY, OBAMA, AND HEALTHCARE: LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS,"** BY JEREMY BINCKES, *HUFFINGTON POST*, 1/20/2010
- **"DEMOCRATS STRUGGLE TO RALLY BASE FOR UPCOMING VOTES,"** BY SUSAN MILLIGAN, *BOSTON GLOBE*, 1/17/2010
- **"RUNNING SCARED, RUNNING HARD,"** BY SUSAN MILLIGAN, *BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE*, 1/17/2010
- **"SENATE ELECTION TUESDAY,"** BY DONNA WHITEHEAD, *MANSFIELD NEWS*, 1/16/2010
- **"YOUNG VOTERS MAY NOT OVERWHELM THE POLLS,"** BY COURTNEY CAMERON, *MANSFIELD NEWS*, 1/12/2010
- **"COMMENTARY: GOP NEEDS TO CATCH UP TO OBAMA'S WEB SAVVY,"** BY LESLIE SANCHEZ, *CNN INTERACTIVE*, 1/7/2010
- **"CI RECIEVES RECOGNITION IN '08 CAMPUS VOTES CHALLENGE,"** *VENTURA COUNTY STAR*, 12/15/2009

### DIRECTOR PETER LEVINE DISCUSSES THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE YOUTH VOTE FOR CONSERVATIVES

In 2008, President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party were especially successful at engaging young voters through grassroots mechanisms such as social media and the internet. Discussed in NPR's segment "Tea Party Weighs How to Win Over Young Voters,"<sup>1</sup> the Tea Party movement – a group comprised of those opposed to big government and the U.S. stimulus package – seeks to engage conservative youth, using similar strategies as the Democrats used in 2008. CIRCLE director Peter Levine touches on the fact that youth enthusiasm for President Obama in the past election does not guarantee continued faith in the Democratic Party among youth. Levine acknowledges that young voters are "faced with a lot of things including a high unemployment rate," and that "it would be very easy to change their minds about the effectiveness of government." Moreover, Republican Bob McDonald's victory among voters under 30 in the Virginia's 2009 Gubernatorial Election illustrates that young voters' support for the Democratic Party may be fragile. However, Levine notes that focusing on social issues could be detrimental to the Republican Party, as generally, liberal young voters might view conservatives' positions as intolerant. "Young people, surveys show, are quite tolerant, especially toward gays, minorities and immigrants," he says. Conservatives now seek to minimize the margin that was built up in the last election, whereas Democrats are hoping for continued engagement among the young liberal voters who came out in 2008. To hear the complete story, visit NPR's Web site at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123399679>.

<sup>1</sup> February 5, 2010 Morning Edition

