



For Immediate Release
November 3, 2010

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Young Adults (age 18-29) Represented 11% of All Voters, According to Exit Poll Data. They Were 12% of Voters in 2006

Preliminary Exit Poll Estimate Was Raised Last Night

**Experts to Offer Youth Vote Analysis of Midterm Election Results
On Press Conference Call Briefing, Wed., 10 am ET
(Call Details Below)**

Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Medford, MA – Youth represented 11% of all voters, compared to 12% in 2006, according to the National Election Pool exit poll conducted by Edison Mitofsky Research. The preliminary exit poll results released on Nov.2 suggested that youth were 9%-10% of voters, but they were adjusted late on Nov. 2.

At this time we cannot yet determine whether youth *turnout* rose, stayed the same or declined in comparison to the 2006 midterm elections. Youth share of voters is widely reported in the media but is not a good measure of turnout. The youth share of voters is strongly influenced by how other groups turn out, whereas youth turnout is a measure of youth participation.

CIRCLE will release an estimate of youth turnout later today based on the youth share of voters, vote tallies reported by the media and youth population estimates obtained from the US Census (see below for call details).

“Youth share of the vote appears to be lower than in 2006 and the same as in 2002, but that could be because of extraordinarily high turnout among older citizens,” said CIRCLE director Peter Levine. “We caution against drawing the conclusion that youth participation was down this year.”

Table 1: Youth Voter Share According to Exit Polls, 1994-2010

<i>Year</i>	Youth Share of Electorate <i>Source: National Election Pool, National Exit Poll</i>
2010	11%
2006	12%
2002	11%
1994	13%

Source: NEP National Exit Poll, 1994-2010. Exit polls are conducted by Edison Research http://www.edisonresearch.com/election_polling.php.

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Tomorrow at 10:00 am ET CIRCLE, Rock the Vote, and The Generational Alliance will provide an in-depth analysis of young voter turnout in the November 2nd midterm elections at an audio press briefing.

WHO:

- Peter Levine, Director, **CIRCLE**
- Heather Smith, President, **Rock the Vote**
- Rob Biko Baker, Executive Director, **League of Young Voters Education Fund and Generational Alliance board member**

WHEN: Wednesday, November 3, 10:00 am ET

DIAL-IN:

866-790-1863

PASSCODE:

72915128

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:

<http://www.800rollcall.com/webpresenter>

Under “join a meeting” enter the participant code of 72915128 and your name

RSVP in advance to maegan@rockthevote.com.

About Rock the Vote

www.rockthevote.com

Rock the Vote engages young people in our democracy and builds their political power by registering, educating and turning them out to vote, by forcing the candidates to campaign to them, and by making politicians pay attention to youth and the issues they care about once in office. For 20 years, we have used music, popular culture, new technologies and grassroots organizing to engage and mobilize young people to participate in every election, and provide the information and tools they need to do so. And we amplify the actions of those young people who step up to claim their voice in the process in order to create political and social change.

About Generational Alliance

www.generationalliance.org

The Generational Alliance is a collaboration of 15 national youth organizations building collective power for underrepresented & low-income communities. We're working together to make sure our communities are voting and engaged on the issues that are impacting our everyday lives before and after the election.

About CIRCLE

www.civicyouth.org

CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) conducts and promotes research on the civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25. A part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University, CIRCLE has received funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Carnegie Corporation of New York and several other foundations.