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## **Nevada Youth Turnout: One Percent**

*Just 2,600 Nevada Citizens Under Age 30 Participate in Caucus; Paul Wins Youth Vote with 41%*

**MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE, Mass.** – One percent of eligible voters under the age of 30 in Nevada participated in Saturday’s Republican caucus, compared to the 2008 caucus, when 5% of eligible young Nevadans participated in the Democratic and Republican caucuses combined, according to preliminary analysis by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement ([CIRCLE](http://www.civicyouth.org)).

This year, Rep. Ron Paul won the youth vote in Nevada after also earning the majority in both Iowa and New Hampshire. CIRCLE estimates that only approximately 1,000 young voters supported him in this year’s caucus (see Table 2), while former Gov. Mitt Romney drew slightly less than 1,000 votes from Nevadan caucus-goers under 30. By comparison, more than 15,000 young people participated in the 2008 Nevada Democratic caucuses (see Table 3).

“These very low numbers raise questions about whether Ron Paul can compete in big-state primaries and whether Mitt Romney can draw significant youth support,” said CIRCLE director Peter Levine. “The McCain/Palin campaign performed poorly among young people in 2008, and Mitt Romney has an opportunity to improve, but so far, the primary and caucus turnout rates provide no evidence that he has connected with young people.”

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**Table 1 – Nevada Presidential Caucus Participation  
17-to 29-Year-Old Citizens\*\***

<i>Year</i>	<i>Youth Turnout Rate</i>	<i>Number of Youth Who Participated</i>	<i>Youth as a Share of Caucus-goers</i>
2012***	1%	2,632	8%
2008*	5%	19,848	12%

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Youth turnout rate and number of youth votes are based on CIRCLE analysis of publicly available information (see Sources below).

\*Combines the Democratic and Republican figures. For separate results by party, see Table 3

\*\*Youth turnout statistics from 1996 to 2004 are not available for Nevada caucuses due to lack of available data.

\*\*\*2012 statistics only include the Republican Caucus. In these years, there was no Democratic Caucus, because there was an incumbent president from the Democratic Party that took the nomination.

**Source:** The share of Caucus participants is obtained from the 2012 and 2008 Nevada entrance poll conducted by Edison Research. The numbers of votes cast are obtained from NYtimes.com (as of 4:05 a.m. ET, 2/6/2012). The number of votes cast in the 2008 NV caucuses was obtained from CNN.com (2008). Estimated voter turnout is obtained by taking the estimated number of votes cast by young people and dividing it by the estimated population of the 17-to 29-year-old citizens from the Current Population Survey (2007-2011). See p. 2 for definitions.

Because of a lack of available data, the CIRCLE turnout estimates do not include young people who participated in the uncontested Democratic primary.

**Table 2 - Nevada Youth Vote Choice by Party, 17-to 29-Year-Olds**

	<i>Gingrich</i>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Romney</i>	<i>Santorum</i>
<b>Nevada</b>	16%	41%	36%	7%

Source: National Election Pool Nevada Entrance Poll 2012

**Table 3 – Comparison of Youth Vote in the 2008 and 2012 Nevada Republican Caucus**

	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Romney</i>	<i>McCain</i>
2008 Youth Vote Count	911	2,397	647
2012 Youth Vote Count	1,079	947	N/A

Source: CIRCLE analysis of National Election Pool Florida Exit Poll 2008 and 2012

Comparisons to past years must be made with caution, because turnout is affected by the date of the caucuses and by the nature of the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns, which are different in every cycle. For example, in 2008 both the Republicans and Democrats held caucuses, but in 2012 only the Republicans held a competitive caucus. Table 3 provides estimates of youth participation in Nevada caucus by party and year.

**Table 4 – Nevada Presidential Caucus Participation By Party  
17-to 29-Year-Old Citizens**

<i>Political Party</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Caucus-Goers</i>	<i>Youth as Share of Caucus-Goers by Party</i>
Democratic	2012	N/A	N/A
	2008	15,054	13%
<b>Republican</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>8%</b>

Source: CIRCLE analysis of National Election Pool Florida Exit Poll 2008 & 2012

### Definitions

**Youth:** For the purpose of this press release and estimation of youth participation in the Nevada Caucus, we define “youth” as citizens who were eligible to participate in caucus on February 4, 2012, as permitted by state election law.

**Number of youth who participated:** An estimate of how many youth participated in caucuses or primaries.

**Youth share:** An estimate of the number of young people who participated in the caucus as a percentage of the number of all people who participated.

**Youth turnout rate:** An estimate of the number of young people who participated in caucuses or cast ballots as a percentage of the total number of young people who were eligible to participate on February 4, 2012.

The youth turnout rate is the best indicator of how young Americans are engaging in the political process. The other statistics—the sheer number of youth participants and the youth share of the electorate—can change because of factors unrelated to youth engagement.

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@lunamediaingroup.com](mailto:amy@lunamediaingroup.com).

To obtain more extensive information about Nevada's young voters and historical voting trends, click [here](#).

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*CIRCLE ([www.civicyouth.org](http://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](#) (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.*