

YOUTH IN THE 2012 REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

More than 950,000 young people voted in the contested Republican primaries through April 3rd, 2012, which effectively ended when former Senator Rick Santorum dropped out of the race on April 10th. Youth turnout varied by state, ranging from 15% of eligible youth in New Hampshire to 1% in Nevada, with an average youth turnout of 5%. These numbers do not readily indicate much about the 2012 contest overall. It is statistically unlikely that these youth are the same as those who participated in the 2008 primaries. If anything, these data may indicate that Republican candidates did not do a great deal of outreach to youth, nor greatly energize them, including conservative youth.

Table 1: 2012 State Primary Youth Turnout and Total Youth Votes

| State | Youth Turnout | # Youth Votes |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Iowa | 4% | 18,338 |
| New Hampshire | 15% | 29,818 |
| South Carolina | 8% | 54,105 |
| Florida | 4% | 99,882 |
| Nevada | 1% | 2,632 |
| Michigan | 7% | 99,884 |
| Arizona | 6% | 55,035 |
| Georgia | 5% | 70,381 |
| Massachusetts | 3% | 28,910 |
| Ohio | 7% | 131,436 |
| Oklahoma | 5% | 25,767 |
| Tennessee | 5% | 44,014 |
| Vermont | 4% | 3,963 |
| Virginia | 2% | 31,862 |
| Alabama | 8% | 61,494 |
| Mississippi | 5% | 22,422 |
| Illinois | 4% | 73,369 |
| Louisiana | 2% | 14,910 |
| Maryland | 2% | 19,041 |
| Wisconsin | 8% | 71,909 |
| Totals | NA | 959,172 |

Source: CIRCLE analysis using overall vote tallies and National Election Pool Exit/Entrance Polls

ROMNEY WINS MOST VOTES FROM YOUTH, BUT NOT MAJORITY

Former Governor Mitt Romney, now the all-but-official Republican presidential nominee, received the most votes from young voters, capturing 29% of the youth vote. Representative Ron Paul and Santorum were tied for the lead with the greatest

number of states won, with each winning a plurality of the votes in six primary states.

Table 2: Youth Vote Choice

| State | Romney | Santorum | Paul |
|----------------|--------|----------|------|
| Iowa | 13% | 23% | 48% |
| New Hampshire | 26% | 9% | 46% |
| South Carolina | 16% | 21% | 31% |
| Florida | 41% | 13% | 25% |
| Nevada | 36% | 7% | 41% |
| Michigan | 26% | 32% | 37% |
| Arizona | 52% | 20% | 18% |
| Georgia | 22% | 22% | 24% |
| Massachusetts | 50% | 17% | 24% |
| Ohio | 28% | 37% | 25% |
| Oklahoma | NA | NA | NA |
| Tennessee | 16% | 43% | 25% |
| Vermont | NA | NA | NA |
| Virginia | 39% | NA | 61% |
| Alabama | 16% | 41% | 12% |
| Mississippi | 24% | 45% | 9% |
| Illinois | 41% | 36% | 16% |
| Louisiana | 15% | 51% | 23% |
| Maryland | 28% | 37% | 23% |
| Wisconsin | 32% | 28% | 30% |

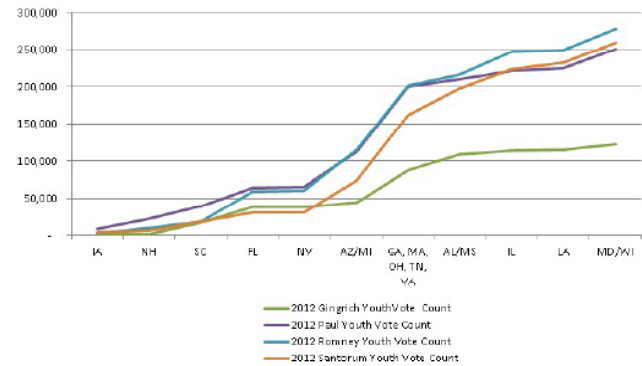
Source: CIRCLE analysis using overall vote tallies and National Election Pool Exit/Entrance Polls

Paul gained an early lead in the youth vote with strong performances in the first primary and caucus states. As the race progressed, Paul's lead among young people began to falter, and Santorum began to catch up with strong performances in the Tennessee, Ohio, Alabama, and Mississippi primaries. In the final weeks of the primary campaign, Santorum was unable to catch up with Romney who captured a significant portion of the youth vote in most of the later contested primaries and caucuses.

PAUL GAINED AN EARLY LEAD IN THE YOUTH VOTE WITH STRONG PERFORMANCES IN THE FIRST PRIMARY AND CAUCUS STATES.

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Figure 1: Cumulative Youth Vote Count in 2012 Primaries

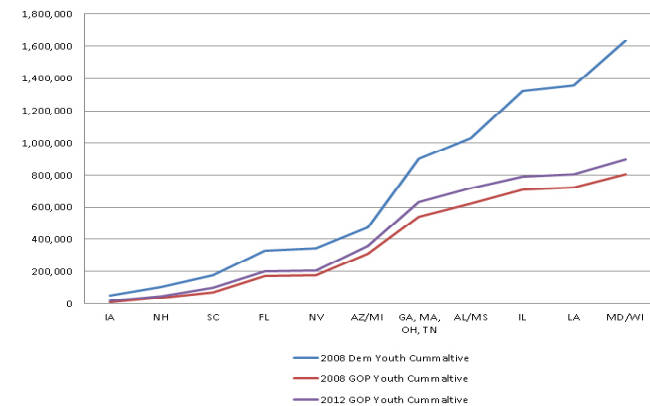


Source: CIRCLE analysis using overall vote tallies and National Election Pool Exit/Entrance Polls

2012 GOP YOUTH TURNOUT SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN 2008; STILL DWARFED BY 2008 DEMOCRATIC YOUTH TURNOUT

In 2012, approximately 90,000 more young people voted in the contested GOP primaries than voted in the 2008 (in the same states). However, far fewer young people voted in the 2012 GOP primaries than voted in the Democratic primaries in the same states in 2008.

Figure 2: Cumulative Youth Vote Count in 2008 Primaries



MORE YOUTH VOTE FOR ROMNEY THAN IN 2008; RON PAUL MAKES DRAMATIC GAINS AMONG YOUNG VOTERS

About 40,000 more young people voted for Romney in 2012 than in 2008, a gain of approximately 21%. Ron Paul more than doubled his youth vote totals 2008 attracting an estimated additional 130,000 voters. ★

ABOUT 40,000 MORE YOUNG PEOPLE VOTED FOR ROMNEY IN 2012 THAN IN 2008, A GAIN OF APPROXIMATELY 21%.

Figure 3: Cumulative Youth Vote Count in 2008 vs 2012 by Candidate

