

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER: THE 2012 YOUTH VOTE

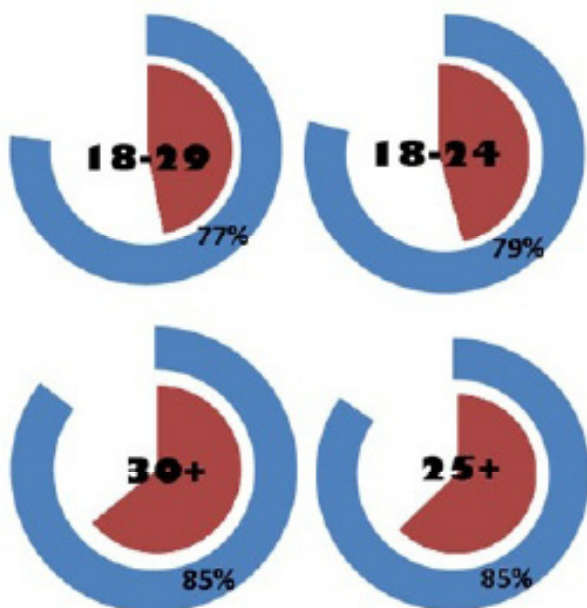
At CIRCLE, we frequently field inquiries about research and data to help inform policy and practice. The CIRCLE blog seeks to log these requests - below are summaries of recent posts. To read them and review the graphs that accompany them, visit the CIRCLE website at <http://www.civicyouth.org/ResearchTopics/circle-blog/>.

MAY 10TH, 2012

Research shows that college-educated youth are more likely to register and vote than non-college youth. In 2008, slightly less than half of non-college youth were registered to vote. However, more than three-quarters of registered non-college youth voted in the Presidential elections.

IN 2008, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF OF NON-COLLEGE YOUTH WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE. HOWEVER, MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF REGISTERED NON-COLLEGE YOUTH VOTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

This illustrates the importance of registering to vote and eliminating barriers to registration.



MAY 4TH, 2012

This year, there will be 46 million youth eligible to vote in the Presidential elections. Out of this group, 16.8 million are new youth voters who were not old enough to vote in the 2008 elections. Both political parties have opportunities to mobilize newly eligible youth voters through voter registration drives, as research proves they are more likely to vote if they are registered.

APRIL 25TH, 2012

Youth approval for President Obama were consistently between 57% and 61%, between 2009 and 2012 - which was made them the most supportive group. Youth, compared to older age groups, were less likely to be affected by specific events. Blacks' (18+) approval ratings were consistently at least 35 points higher than those of Whites and Hispanics. Whites had the lowest approval ratings after every major news event that affected the President's approval.

YOUTH APPROVAL FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA WERE CONSISTENTLY BETWEEN 57% AND 61%, BETWEEN 2009 AND 2012 - WHICH MADE THEM THE MOST SUPPORTIVE AGE GROUP.

MAY 1ST, 2012

In the 2008 elections, the youth vote in three states (North Carolina, Indiana, and Virginia), made the difference for Obama. If the 18-29 year old votes were not included, then John McCain would have won in those states. The infographic for this post shows how the youth vote can make a difference in election results (see page 9). ★

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CIRCLE IN THE NEWS

A SAMPLE OF RECENT ARTICLES:

- "OCCUPY COLLEGES AND THE 2012 ELECTION," BY KRISTIE YANDOLI, *THE NATION*, 2/23/2012
- "WHY DEMOCRATS HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUNG VOTERS," BY RICK PERLSTEIN, *ROLLING STONE*, 2/28/2012
- "RON PAUL NOT A HIT WITH YOUTH VOTERS ON SUPER TUESDAY," BY LAUREN FOX, *US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT*, 3/7/2012
- "HOW CIVICALLY ENGAGED ARE MILLENNIALS?," BY JUDY WOODRUFF, *PBS NEWS HOUR*, 3/29/2012
- "RICK SANTORUM SUSPENDS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN," BY GIL KAUFMAN, *MTV NEWS*, 4/10/2012
- "BAD ECONOMY PUTS OBAMA IN TIGHT SPOT WITH YOUNG VOTERS," BY AMY BINGHAM, *ABS NEWS*, 4/20/2012
- "GOP, ROMNEY HOPES TO RECAPTURE SOME OF THE YOUTH VOTE FROM OBAMA," BY BYRON TAU, *POLITICO*, 4/24/2012
- "OBAMA TALKS LOW LOAN RATES IN PITCH TO COLLEGE STUDENTS," BY RICHARD WOLF, CATALINA CAMIA, AND DAVID JACKSON, *USA TODAY*, 4/25/2012
- "WHY THE GOP'S FUTURE COULD DEPEND ON ROMNEY'S ABILITY TO CONNECT TO YOUNG PEOPLE," BY PETER LEVINE, *FOX NEWS*, 4/27/2012
- "OBAMA MAKING PUSH FOR YOUNG VOTERS," BY ALEXANDRA JAFFE, *NATIONAL JOURNAL*, 5/4/2012
- "FRONTIERS OF DEMOCRACY: INNOVATIONS IN CIVIC PRACTICE, THEORY AND EDUCATION," BY PETER LEVINE, *NCOC*, 5/7/2012
- "FOR ITS 2012 ELECTIONS COVERAGE, MTV SWAPS OUT CITIZEN JOURNALISM FOR GAMIFICATION," BY ADRIENNE LAFRANCE, *NIEMAN JOURNALISM LAB*, 5/16/2012

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