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IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF YOUTH VOTE IN GEORGIA

Youth Voters in Georgia Chose Nunn over Purdue by 18% Points, Strongest Age Group for Democrat *CIRCLE Analysis Shows Strong Age Divide in State Suggest Georgia Could Be Competitive for Democrats in 2016*

Medford/Somerville, MA – Youth vote experts from the [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](http://www.civicyouth.org) – the preeminent, non-partisan research center on youth engagement based at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service – today released in-depth analysis on youth voters in Georgia during Tuesday's highly competitive U.S. Senate election in the state.

In a wave election for the GOP, in which Republicans won the youth vote in some states, young voters (ages 18-29) in Georgia strongly favored the Democratic nominee Michelle Nunn over the winner of Tuesday's election, Republican David Perdue, by a margin of 18 percentage points. According to exit poll data in the state, 58% of young voters chose Nunn, and only 40% supported Perdue at the ballot box. That represents a shift from the previous election for that Senate seat in 2008, when retiring U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) received more support from young voters (47%) than his Democratic opponent Jim Martin (46%).

"Youth voters in Georgia are largely responsible for helping to keep this race as close as it was," said Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE and Associate Dean of Tisch College. **"Youth made up Michelle Nunn's strongest age group. Given this strong age divide in Tuesday's election, Georgia should be seen by national Democrats as a potentially competitive state in the 2016 presidential election."**

Georgia has the 10th highest number of young citizens of any state: 19.8% of the total population of Georgia is made up of young people, ages 18-29. For additional state-specific data on young voters in Georgia, please visit [here](#).

The U.S. Senate election in Georgia was considered a "competitive" race in 2014. In states with "competitive" Senate races in 2014, youth voter turnout was an estimated 26.8%, compared to 17.0% in states with highly-favored or safe Republican candidates, and 23.4% in safely Democratic states.

Today, CIRCLE has also released an exclusive, *national youth turnout estimate* showing that at least 10 million young Americans between the ages of 18 and 29, cast a ballot in Tuesday's elections across the country — a turnout rate of 21.5%. The number of young

voters in Tuesday's election is comparable to the turnout seen in other, recent midterm elections. In 2010, the two-day youth turnout estimate was 20.9%, or around 9.2 million young people.

"In terms of both youth turnout and vote choice, 2014 looks like a typical midterm election year as far as youth are concerned. Young people made up a similar proportion of voters in 2010," said Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE and Associate Dean of Tisch College. **"Although this was a wave election for the GOP, youth still tended to vote Democratic. In the national exit poll data on House races, 18 to 29-year-olds preferred Democratic candidates by 54% to 43%."**

For a full breakdown of the youth vote turnout, as well as historical data comparisons and further sourcing information for the data, please visit [here](#). Further information on the youth share of the electorate can be found [here](#). CIRCLE will release additional analysis of the youth vote over the next week.

**** To speak to CIRCLE's youth vote experts for interviews and/or analysis throughout the week, please contact: Kristofer Eisenla at kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com or 202-670-5747****

Throughout this election season, CIRCLE's [2014 Election Center](#) has offered a myriad of new products providing comprehensive analysis of young voters, both nationally and in targeted states and congressional districts across the country. Some of these products include: an [Interactive Congressional District Map](#) and [Interactive State-by-State Voting Map](#); as well as [The Youth Vote in 2014: Congressional House Races to Watch](#) and [2014 Midterms: Young Voters in Competitive Senate Races](#).

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CIRCLE (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 is part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.

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 (<http://www.tufts.edu/>), 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.