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IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF YOUTH VOTE IN ALASKA

Alaska Young Voters Back Republican Senate Candidate, One of the Few States in the Country *CIRCLE Analysis Shows Young Voters in Alaska Defied National Trends by Supporting the Republican Candidate for U.S. Senate*

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 Alaska during Tuesday's highly competitive U.S. Senate election in the state.

Young voters (ages 18-29) in Alaska supported Republican nominee, Dan Sullivan, over incumbent U.S. Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), 48% to 44%, making the Last Frontier state one of the few in the country where the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate won young voters. Comparatively, in 2008, Begich won 54% of youth over his opponent's 39% support.

"Youth in Alaska bucked national trends and gave the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in the state their support over the Democratic nominee," said Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE and Associate Dean of Tisch College. **"Incumbent U.S. Senator Mark Begich performed 10 percentage points worse among young voters this time around compared to his race in 2008. Furthermore, Alaska is an interesting state given there was not much of an age divide in the Senate election, as we've seen in other competitive Senate races across the country."**

There are approximately 125,000 citizens aged-18-29 in the state. Young Alaskans make up 25.6% of the total population of the state, which is the second highest proportion in the country. For additional state-specific data on young voters in Alaska please visit [here](#).

The U.S. Senate election in Alaska 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 released 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 myriad 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.