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**CONTACT:** Kristofer Eisenla, [LUNA+EISENLA media](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com)  
[kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com) | 202-670-5747 (mobile)

## **IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF YOUTH VOTE IN FLORIDA**

### **Florida Youth Supported Crist over Scott, Helped Keep Gubernatorial Election Close**

*CIRCLE Analysis Shows Young Florida Voters, Ages 18-29, Gave Democratic Nominee Largest Margin of Support of Any Age Group*

**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 Florida during Tuesday's highly competitive Gubernatorial 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 Florida favored Democratic candidate Charlie Crist by a margin of 51% to 41% over incumbent Florida Governor Rick Scott (R-FL). Those 10 percentage points were Crist's largest margin of support of any age group of Florida voters.

**"Young Florida voters likely played a key role in keeping this election as close as it was on Tuesday night,"** said Peter Levine, Director of CIRCLE and Associate Dean of Tisch College. **"In addition to favoring Charlie Crist by 10 percentage points over incumbent Governor Rick Scott, young Floridians also voted overwhelmingly in favor of the ballot measure on marijuana legalization, which narrowly missed the 60% threshold needed to pass. In fact, about 4 out of 5 young Florida voters supported the marijuana legalization measure."**

Florida's referendum on marijuana falls into a category of what CIRCLE analysts refer to as "high-profile" ballot measures. In states with these "high-profile" ballot measures on controversial issues that also had a competitive statewide race, CIRCLE's research estimates that youth voter turnout was 27.9%, compared to the estimated 26.0% youth turnout in states that were competitive but had no such ballot initiative.

For additional state-specific data on young voters in Florida, please visit [here](#).

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](mailto: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](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 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.*