



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

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Exclusive Analysis on Role of Young Voters in Iowa Caucuses

Young Democrats Propel Sanders to Virtual Tie in Iowa; Record-breaking Participation Among Young Republicans, who Choose Cruz, Rubio Over Trump

Medford/Somerville, MA – Youth turnout in last night’s Iowa caucuses is estimated to be **11 percent**, according to youth vote experts from the [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](http://Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE)) – the preeminent, non-partisan research center on youth engagement at Tufts University’s Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

Highlights of the youth vote in Iowa include:

- An estimated **11.2%** of eligible Iowan youth aged 17 to 29 participated in last night’s Republican and Democratic caucuses.
- On the Democratic side, the youth choice was decisive. Of the estimated 31,000 young people who participated in the Democratic caucus, **84% supported Senator Bernie Sanders**, contributing to a virtual tie between Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator Sanders.
- Young Republicans selected Senator Ted Cruz as their top candidate (with 26%), closely followed by Senator Marco Rubio (23%). **Youth support for Donald Trump, which came in at approximately 20%**, trailed the support he received among older Republicans.
- Since 1996, youth turnout in Iowa has **exceeded 4% only twice**: in 2008 (14%) and yesterday (11.2%).
- A **record-breaking 22,000 young people** voted in the Republican caucus.
- About **31,000 young people** participated in the Democratic caucus, the second highest level since 1996 (behind 2008).

“Last night’s Iowa caucuses demonstrated the potential power of young people to shape elections,” said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of CIRCLE. **“In the Democratic caucus, young voters helped to propel Senator Sanders to a virtual tie, and Republican youth broke their own record of caucus participation. One message is clear: when candidates and campaigns ask young people to participate and inspire them to get involved, they respond.”**

For CIRCLE's full Iowa caucus analysis, please see [here](#). Throughout this election season, [CIRCLE's 2016 Election Center](#) will offer new data products and analyses – such as a [preview](#) of youth participation in the NH primary – providing a comprehensive picture of the youth vote, both nationally and in targeted states and congressional districts across the country. You can view trend data on youth turnout via [CIRCLE's interactive maps](#).

CIRCLE youth vote experts also are available for interviews and/or analysis. Media outlets should contact: Kristofer Eisenla at kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com or 202-670-5747

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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.