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## **EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS: An Estimated 24 Million Young People Vote in 2016 Election**

*Young people support Clinton 55% to Trump's 37%, with differences by race, state*

Medford/Somerville, MA -- The [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](#)—the preeminent youth research organization at Tufts University—this morning released [an analysis of 2016 exit poll data](#) in historical context. While young voters supported Hillary Clinton by a wide margin, there were big differences depending on their race and ethnicity, as well as their state. Overall, **young people voted drastically differently than older voters**, a trend that some will no doubt compare to the Brexit vote earlier this year.

**“In 2016, young voters were a substantial voting bloc and they influenced the outcome, although a majority of them ended up on the losing side of the presidential race,”** said CIRCLE director Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg. **“Young voters supported Hillary Clinton more than any other age group did. However, they are a heterogeneous generation, and their choices in 2016 differed greatly depending on their own race, gender and where they live, among other factors.”**

### **Youth Presidential Vote Choice**

Our [pre-election poll of Millennials](#) ages 18-34 had Clinton leading 49% to Trump's 28%, a 21-point preference for the Democratic candidate. The National Exit Poll analysis suggests that the actual split in the election was 55% for Clinton to 37% for Trump (an 18-point gap) among youth aged 18-29. However, Millennials are a demographically and ideologically diverse generation, and [their vote choice was varied](#):

- This year, 43% of young Whites voted for Clinton, while Black youth supported her by almost double that margin (83%). However, it's worth noting that young African Americans were notably less likely to support Clinton in 2016 (83%) than Obama in 2012 (91%). 70% of young Latinos supported Clinton.
- Nationally, compared to 2012, youth support for Republicans remained relatively constant among Whites (-3 points), African Americans (+1 point), and Latinos (+1 point).
- The national exit poll suggests that there were more youth in 2016 who supported a third-party candidate, did not vote for a presidential candidate, or specifically chose not to answer this poll question, totaling 8% of all young voters.

- White youth have been markedly less likely than youth of color to support Democratic candidates.

### **Youth Affect Presidential Competitiveness in Key States**

Young voters played an important role in some key states, including Michigan, New Hampshire, and Nevada.

- In **Nevada**, Hillary Clinton won by an estimated 26,000 votes. Youth decisively favored Clinton in Nevada (52% to 35%), and this resulted in a net gain of 34,000 votes for Clinton. If young people had voted in equal number for Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, Clinton's victory would have been by an even narrower margin of less than 10,000 votes.
- In **Michigan**, which has not been called yet, young voters' decisive support has played a major role in keeping the race close. Currently, Donald Trump is leading Hillary Clinton by about 12,000 votes, but youth favored Hillary Clinton by over 232,000 votes (57% to 34%). If young voters' support for her were even slightly less decisive, Donald Trump would have won the state handily.
- In **New Hampshire**, where the vote is also too close to call with just about 1,400 votes separating Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, young voters also gave the Democratic candidate a boost. Youth gave Clinton a net of 12,000 votes by favoring her 49% to 41%, and if young people had chosen instead to split their votes equally between Trump and Clinton, she would currently be behind by almost 5,000 votes. In New Hampshire, young voters were the only group that gave a significant edge to Clinton.

### **Youth Voter Turnout**

Each year CIRCLE calculates a very preliminary estimate of youth voter turnout. We estimate that **23.7 million young voters participated in the 2016 presidential election, which is 50% of citizens aged 18-29 in the United States.** We estimate that 13 million youth voted for Secretary Clinton and almost 9 million youth voted for Donald Trump. An additional 2 million young people either voted for third-party candidates or chose not to vote for any of the Presidential candidates on the ballot.

“Turnout” is the percentage of age-eligible citizens who voted, and we define “youth voter turnout” in this instance is the percentage of eligible 18 to 29-year-olds who voted. CIRCLE's preliminary turnout estimate uses data from the National Exit Polls conducted by Edison Research, the number of ballots cast in the United States (aggregated from data provided by local election officials), and current Census data on the number of young citizens in the United States.

Read the [full analysis here](#) and follow our [Election Center](#) for upcoming analyses of demographics and down-ballot races.

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

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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 Civic Life.*

*The only university-wide college of its kind, the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life (<http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/>) offers transformational student learning and service opportunities, conducts groundbreaking research on young people's civic and political participation, and forges innovative community partnerships. Its work is guided by two core beliefs: that communities, nations and the world are stronger, more prosperous, and more just when citizens actively participate in civic and democratic life; and that higher education has a responsibility to develop the next generation of 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.*