

CIRCLE RELEASES 2006 NATIONAL CIVIC AND POLITICAL HEALTH SURVEY

CIRCLE's new *2006 National Civic and Political Health Survey* provides the most up-to-date and detailed look at how young Americans are participating in politics and communities. The survey takes a broad look at political and civic activity and finds that many young Americans are involved. For example, 36 percent have volunteered within the last year; 30 percent have boycotted a product because of the conditions under which it was made or the values of the company that made it; and 67 percent have confronted someone who said something that they considered offensive, such as a racist or other prejudiced comment.

However, certain groups of young people are largely *disengaged*, including 17 percent who have not done any of the 19 measured forms of participation within the last 12 month.

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The survey was released on October 3, 2006 at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. It was conducted from April 27 to June 11, 2006 by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (on behalf of CIRCLE) with funding from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The survey focuses on young people but contains a representative sample of older Americans for comparison. It is one of the few surveys of its kind containing over-samples of Asian-American youth. In addition, it also includes over-samples of African-American and Latino youth and was translated into Spanish. The questionnaire largely replicates one designed by Scott Keeter, Cliff Zukin, Molly Andolina, and Krista Jenkins and fielded in 2002.¹

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD

The survey looked at 19 measures of civic engagement. According to CIRCLE director Dr. Peter Levine, "People have numerous ways to influence the world around them, and it is important to look beyond the most frequently measured forms of engagement—voting and volunteering. Our survey found many young people are engaging in a variety of activities

¹ *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation*, available via www.civicyouth.org/research/products/youth_index.htm

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