

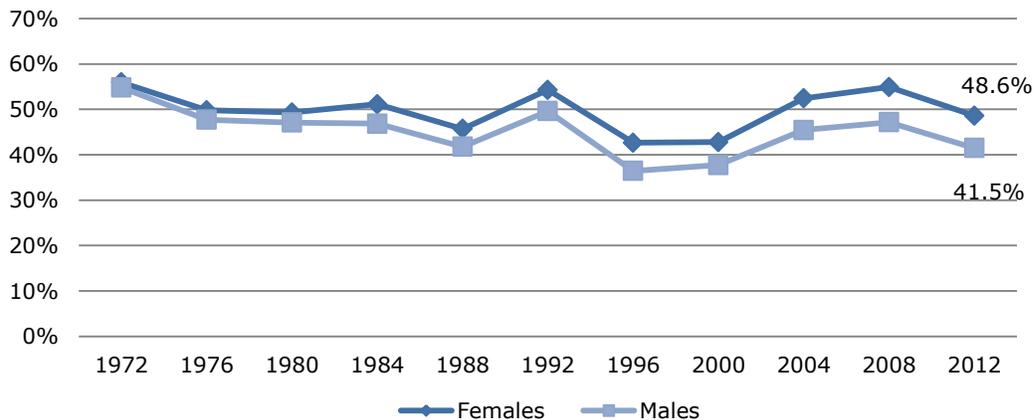
## Voter Turnout Among Young Women and Men in the 2012 Presidential Election

By: CIRCLE Staff  
May 2013

In 2012, 45.0% of young people (ages 18-29) voted in the Presidential election, marking a six percentage-point drop since 2008. While this rate was lower than those observed in 2004 and 2008, it was still higher than in the elections of 1996 and 2000. This fact sheet presents information on voter turnout for women and men, with detailed information about racial and ethnic groups, differences by educational background, and married and unmarried individuals. (See table 1A, 1B, and 1C in the appendix for full voter turnout figures.)



**Figure 1: Voter Turnout Presidential Elections Ages 18-29 by Gender**



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

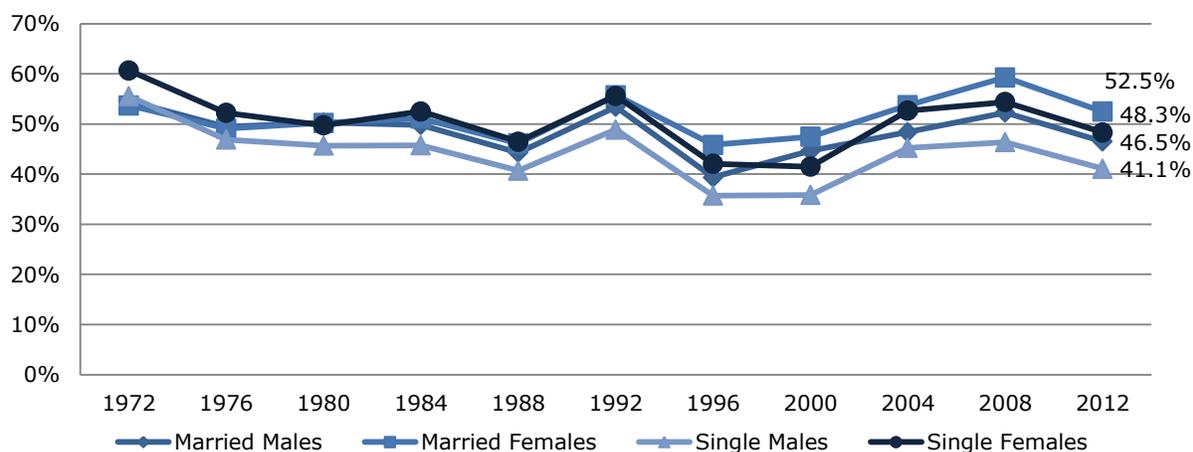
Since 1972, when 18- and 19-year-olds won the right to vote, young women have been more likely than young men to vote. In 2012, this gap decreased by one percentage point compared to 2008, from approximately eight percentage points to seven percentage points (see Figure 1).

## Voter Turnout by Gender and Marital Status

Single young men have consistently voted at lower rates compared to their female or married counterparts (see Figure 3). For example, in 2012 the turnout rate among single young men was 41.1%, compared to a 48.3% turnout rate among young single females. In 2012, nearly 52.5% of young married females voted compared to 46.5% of married men.



**Figure 2: Voter Turnout Among 18-29 Year-Old Citizens, by Gender and Marital Status, Presidential Elections**



Source: CIRCLE analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement 2012

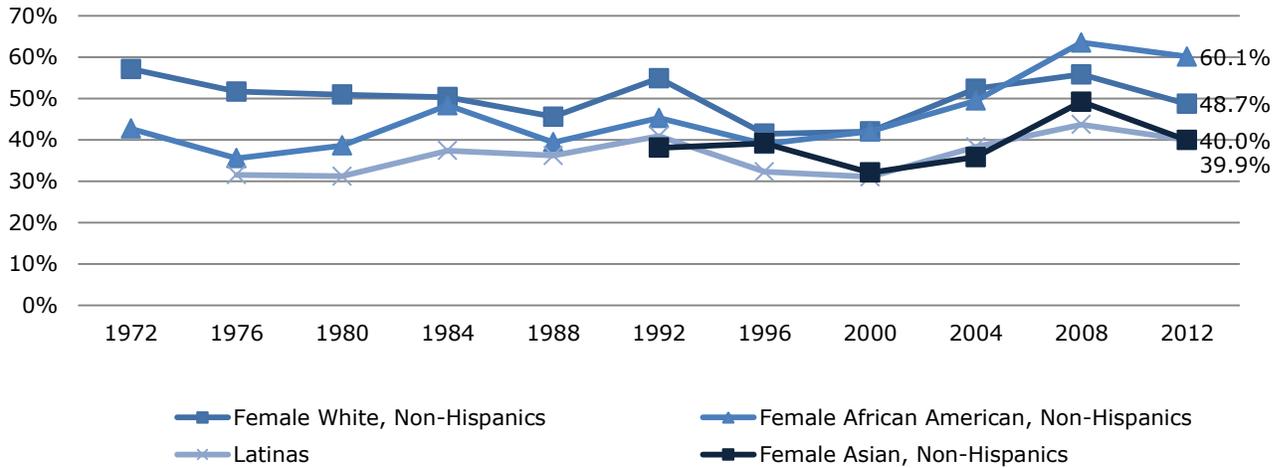
## Voter Turnout among Young Women, by Race/Ethnicity

2008 marked the first time since the voting age was lowered that young African-American women showed higher turnout than white women. Despite the turnout decline among all young women, African-American young women continued to vote at the highest rate among young voters in 2012. Young African-American women had the highest turnout of any gender and racial or ethnic group of young people. However, voter turnout among young African-American women decreased by nearly four percentage points between 2008 and 2012. Young white females' turnout decreased by seven percentage points.

2008 marked the highest turnout for Asian females and Latina youth since group specific data became available. However, both Latina and Asian females saw a decrease in turnout in 2012. Asian females saw the biggest decrease in turnout since 2008 for any gender and racial or ethnic group, with a change of nine percentage points, while Latinas saw a decrease of four percentage points.



**Figure 3: Presidential Election Turnout for 18-29 Females by Race**



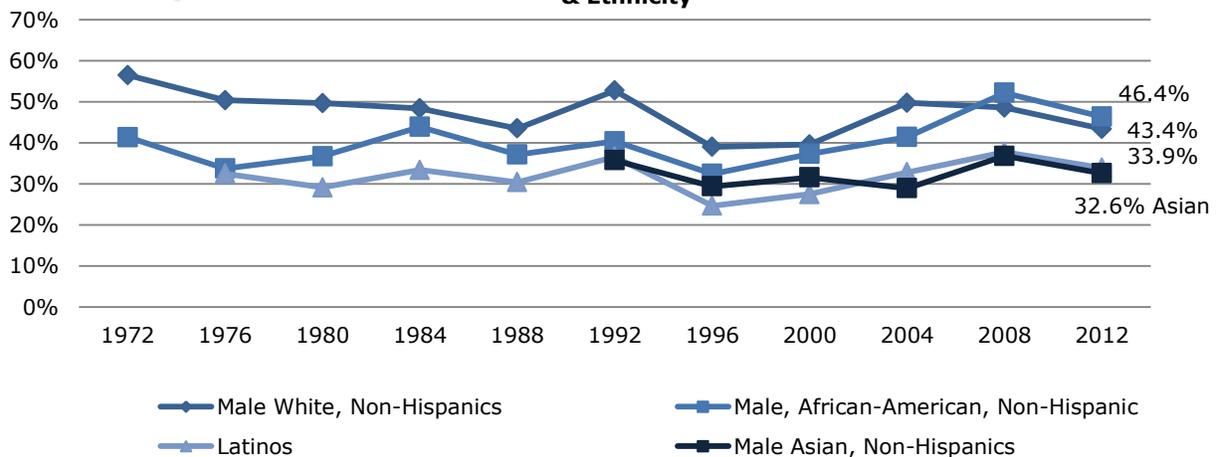
Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

### Voter Turnout among Young Men, by Race/Ethnicity

Young women have consistently voted at a higher rate than men, and the difference is particularly notable between young white females and young white males. Among young men, African-American men voted at the highest rate (46.4%), while Asian men voted at the lowest rate (32.6%). Yet, like women, all young men saw a decrease in turnout. The biggest decreases were among young White men and African-American men (both with a six percentage point decrease).



**Figure 4: Presidential Election Turnout among 18-29 for Males, by Race & Ethnicity**



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

## Age Gap Among African Americans by Gender

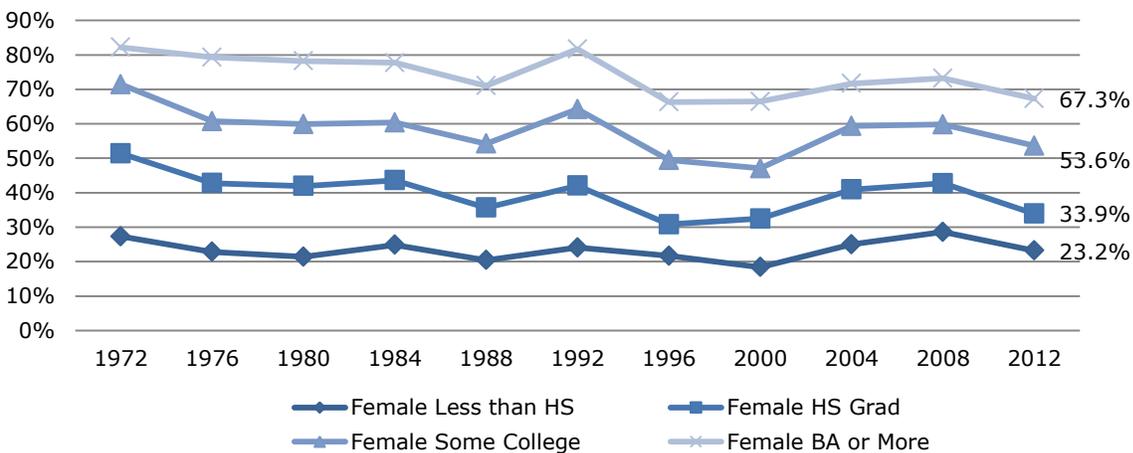
Since 2004, African-American young men and women have increased their voter turnout, but the gender gap among young African Americans grew, reaching 11 points in 2008 and 14 points in 2012. 2008 was also the first time that young African American females voted at essentially the same rate as adult African American males (63.5% vs. 63.9%). This was not the case in 2012; African-American men and women over 30 increased their turnout by three percentage points, while young African-American women decreased their turnout by four percentage points. Despite the 2012 decline, the rise of young African American turnout is unprecedented since 1996 (except for 2008).

## Voter Turnout Among Young Women by Educational Attainment <sup>1</sup>

Consistent with trends observed for all young people, young women with higher levels of education are more likely to vote. Between 2008 and 2012, the gap in turnout between young women with less than a high school diploma and young women who have completed college remained consistent, with a 44 percentage point difference in turnout.

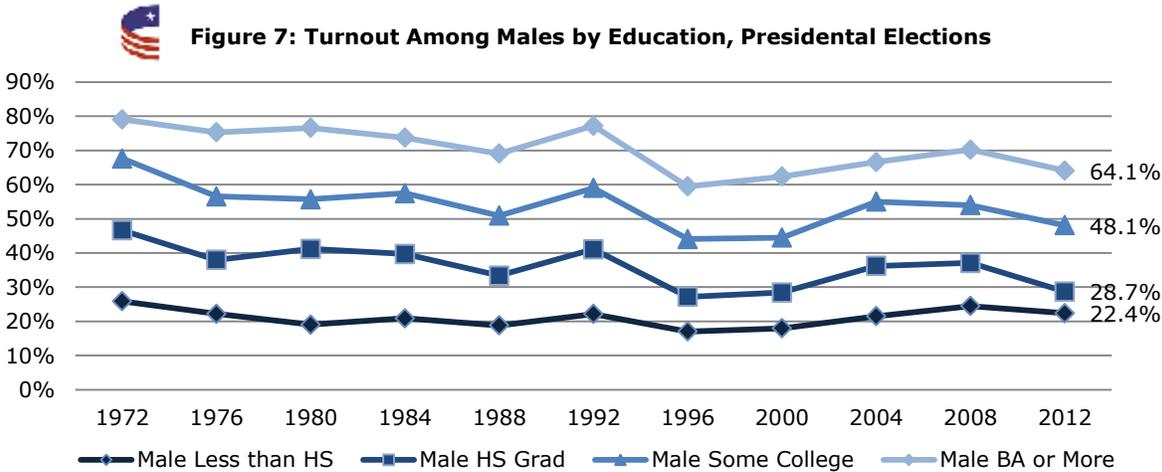


**Figure 6: Turnout Among Females by Education, Presidential Elections**



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

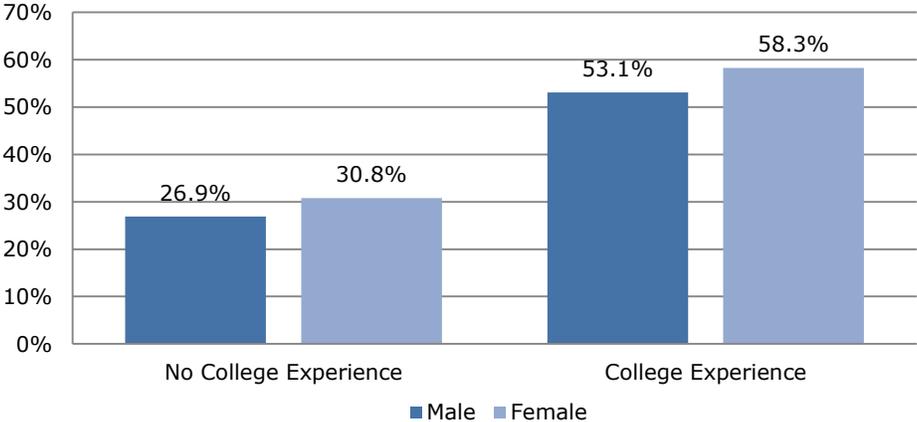
Voter Turnout Among Young Males by Educational Attainment



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

Like their female counterparts, young men with more formal education voted at higher levels in 2012; however, all young men, regardless of educational attainment, decreased their turnout in 2012. The biggest decrease (eight percentage points) was among young men who had graduated from high school but not gone on to post-secondary education. . The gender gap was about the same among young men and women with and without college experience (five percentage points compared to four percentage points, respectively; see figure 8).

**Figure 8: Turnout Among Young Males and Females by Educational Attainment, 2012**



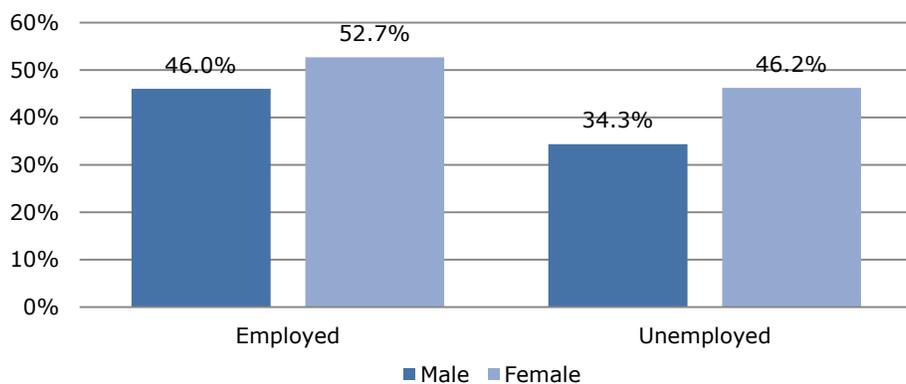
Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

## Voter turnout Among Men and Women by Employment, College Enrollment Status, and Region

In 2008, young women – regardless of employment – voted at higher rates than young men. In 2012, however, young men who were employed and young women who were unemployed voted at the same rate (46.2%). Young women who were employed were the most likely to vote, whereas young unemployed men were the least likely to turn out in 2012. Among the young people who were unemployed, the gender gap in voter turnout was twelve percentage points, only one percentage point less than in 2008.



**Figure 9: 2012 Presidential Voter Turnout by Employment Status and Gender, 18-29**

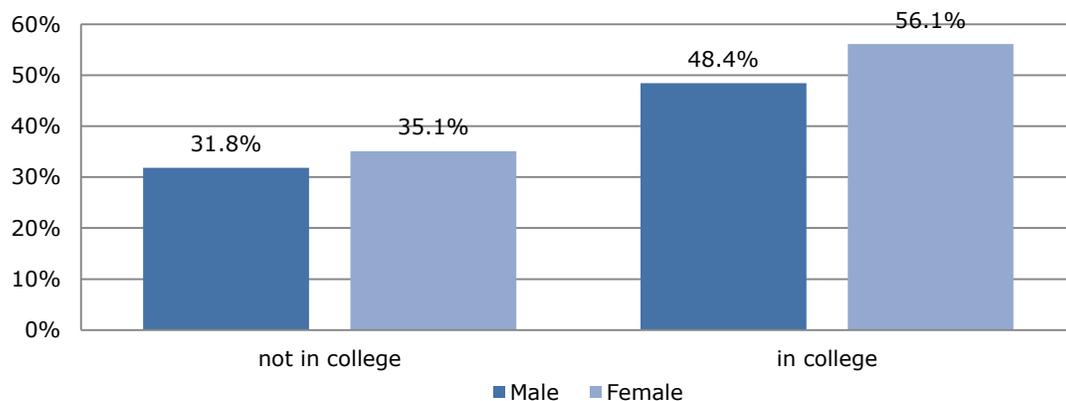


Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

Similar to 2008, young (18-24) women in college were more likely to vote than young men in college (56.1% compared to 48.4%, respectively).<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 10: Presidential Voter Turnout by College Student Status, 18-24**

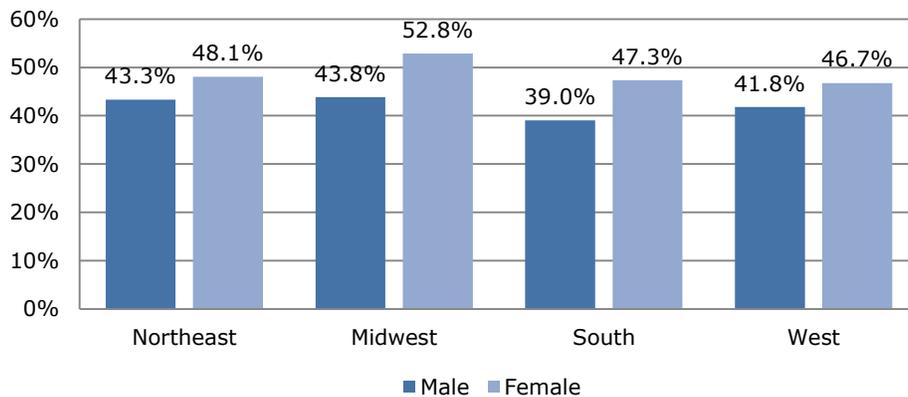


Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November Supplement, 2012

In all geographic regions, women were more likely to turn out compared to their male counterparts. As in 2008, young women from the Midwest were more likely to turn out compared to their male counterparts in 2012. Young women from the Midwest were the most likely to vote (52.8%), whereas young men from the south were the least likely to vote (39.0%). The same pattern was evident in 2008. The smallest gap in turnout by gender (five points) was seen in the Northeast and West.



**Figure 11: Presidential Voter Turnout by Region and Gender, 2012**



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of Census Current Population Survey (CPS) November

### *Support for Presidential Candidates in 2012 by Race and Gender*

According to exit poll data, women voters were more supportive of President Obama than their male counterparts of the same race. Young male voters tended to be more conservative and less supportive of President Obama. Young white men and black men, who both decreased turnout by six percentage points, were less likely than their female counterparts to vote for Obama (41% and 80%, respectively).

In general, young African American women were the most likely to vote for Barack Obama (98%), compared to all other groups. Moreover, Latinas also provided Obama with strong support, with 82% voting for him.

### *Political Party Identification and Ideology by Race and Gender*

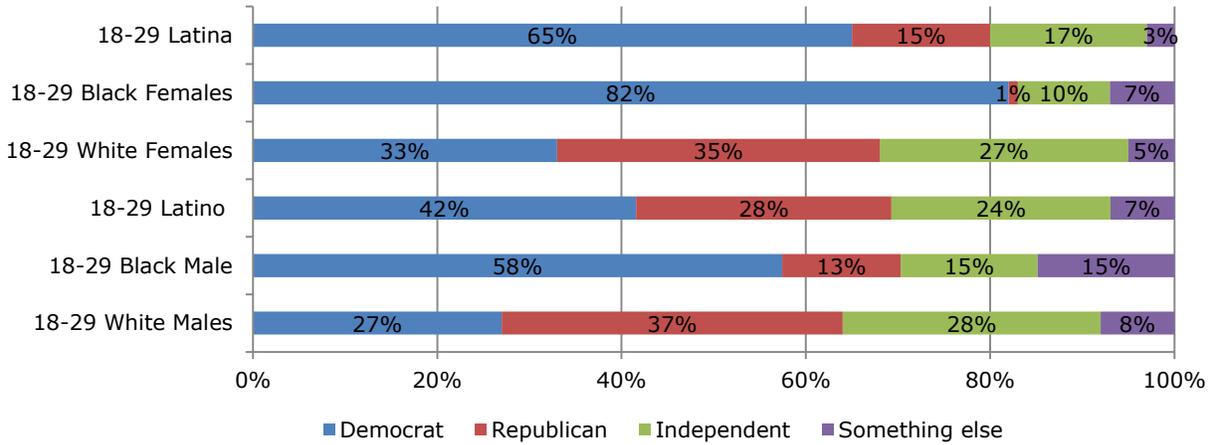
In 2012, young women were more liberal than their young male counterparts. Young Latinas were the most likely to identify as liberal among all groups (Figure 13). Compared to older Latinas (age 30 and above), young Latinas were more liberal in their beliefs and less likely to be religious.

Despite increasing their share of the turnout since 2008, young Latinos decreased turnout by four percentage points. Of non-White young people, Latinos were the most likely to affiliate

with the Republican Party or consider themselves independents; however, two-thirds of them voted for President Obama.



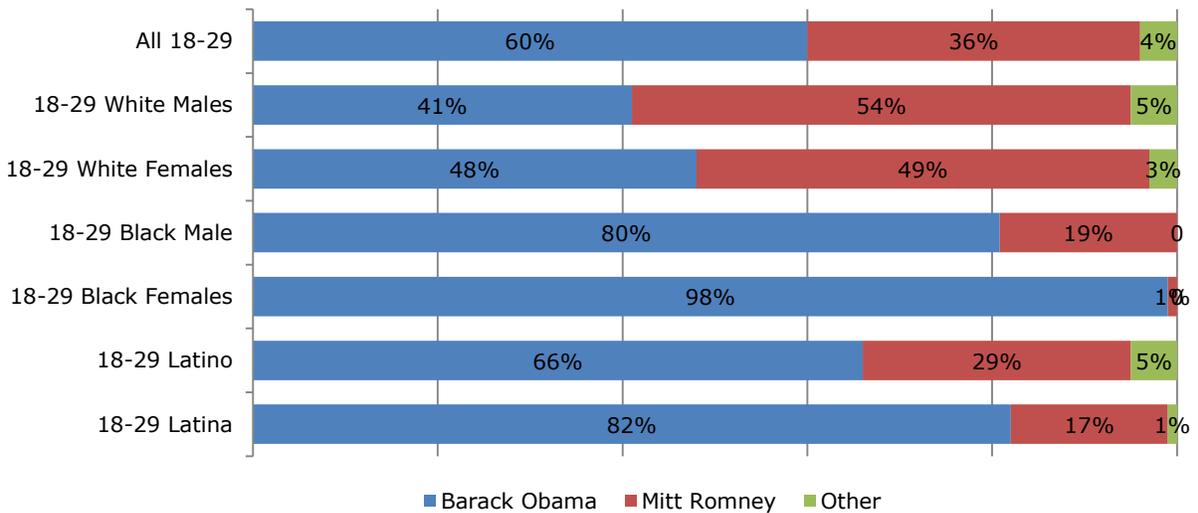
**Figure 12: Youth Party Identification by Race and Gender**



Source: CIRCLE Analysis of National Election Day Exit Poll (2012) Conducted by Edison Research



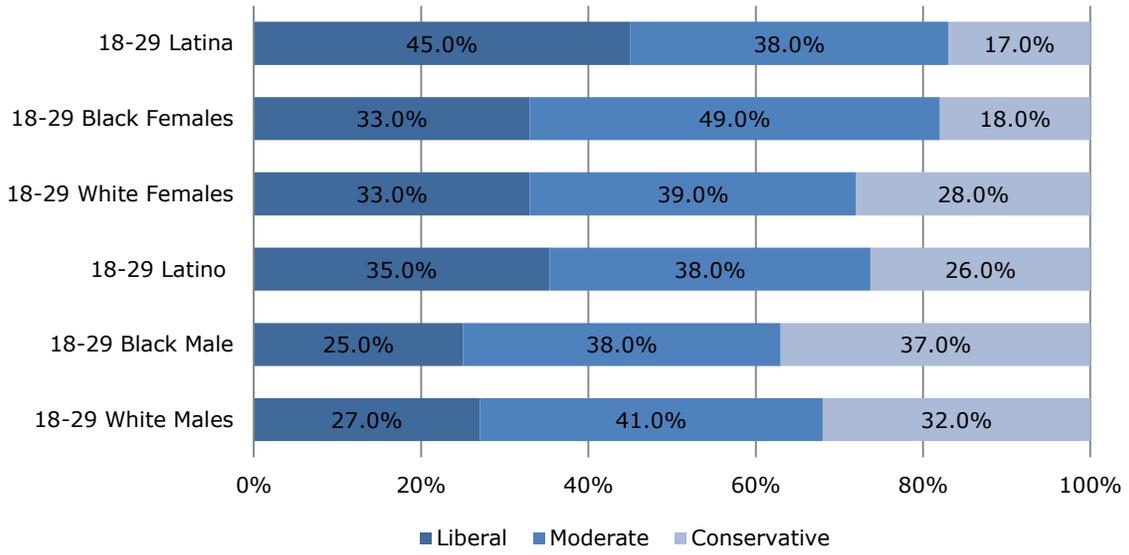
**Figure 13: Youth Vote Choice 2012 by Race and Gender**



Source: CIRCLE analysis of the National Election Day Poll (2012) Conducted by Edison Research



**Figure 14: Youth Ideology by Race and Gender, 2012**



Source: CIRCLE analysis of the National Election Day Exit Poll (2012) Conducted by Edison Research

Appendix

Voter Turnout Tables, 1972 – 2008

|  <b>Table 1a – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012</b><br>Selected Series |                   |                 |                   |                 |           |         |           |         |                         |                       |                         |                       |                 |               |                 |               |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Midterm Years</b>  |                   |                 |                   |                 |           |         |           |         |                         |                       |                         |                       |                 |               |                 |               |
| Year  | Young Women 18-24 | Young Men 18-24 | Young Women 18-29 | Young Men 18-29 | Women 25+ | Men 25+ | Women 30+ | Men 30+ | White Young Women 18-24 | White Young Men 18-24 | White Young Women 18-29 | White Young Men 18-29 | White Women 25+ | White Men 25+ | White Women 30+ | White Men 30+ |
| 1974  | 25%               | 26%             | 29%               | 30%             | 50%       | 54%     | 52%       | 56%     | 27%                     | 28%                   | 31%                     | 32%                   | 53%             | 55%           | 56%             | 58%           |
| 1978  | 25%               | 25%             | 30%               | 29%             | 53%       | 55%     | 56%       | 59%     | 26%                     | 26%                   | 30%                     | 30%                   | 56%             | 57%           | 59%             | 60%           |
| 1982  | 26%               | 27%             | 32%               | 32%             | 57%       | 58%     | 60%       | 61%     | 27%                     | 28%                   | 3%                      | 32%                   | 59%             | 59%           | 62%             | 63%           |
| 1986  | 24%               | 23%             | 29%               | 28%             | 54%       | 54%     | 57%       | 58%     | 24%                     | 24%                   | 28%                     | 28%                   | 55%             | 55%           | 59%             | 59%           |
| 1990  | 23%               | 22%             | 28%               | 26%             | 54%       | 53%     | 56%       | 57%     | 24%                     | 23%                   | 28%                     | 27%                   | 55%             | 55%           | 58%             | 59%           |
| 1994  | 24%               | 21%             | 27%               | 25%             | 52%       | 52%     | 55%       | 55%     | 20%                     | 20%                   | 23%                     | 23%                   | 55%             | 55%           | 57%             | 58%           |
| 1998  | 19%               | 18%             | 23%               | 21%             | 49%       | 49%     | 52%       | 52%     | 20%                     | 20%                   | 23%                     | 23%                   | 51%             | 51%           | 53%             | 54%           |
| 2002  | 21%               | 18%             | 24%               | 21%             | 50%       | 50%     | 52%       | 21%     | 20%                     | 20%                   | 23%                     | 23%                   | 53%             | 53%           | 55%             | 55%           |
| 2006  | 23%               | 21%             | 27%               | 24%             | 52%       | 51%     | 54%       | 24%     | 25%                     | 24%                   | 29%                     | 27%                   | 55%             | 55%           | 57%             | 57%           |
| 2010  | 22%               | 20%             | 25%               | 24%             | 50%       | 49%     | 52%       | 51%     | 22%                     | 22%                   | 25%                     | 25%                   | 52%             | 52%           | 54%             | 54%           |

|  <b>Table 1a – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012</b><br>Selected Series |                   |                 |                   |                 |           |         |           |         |                         |                       |                         |                       |                 |               |                 |               |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Presidential Years</b>   |                   |                 |                   |                 |           |         |           |         |                         |                       |                         |                       |                 |               |                 |               |
| Year  | Young Women 18-24 | Young Men 18-24 | Young Women 18-29 | Young Men 18-29 | Women 25+ | Men 25+ | Women 30+ | Men 30+ | White Young Women 18-24 | White Young Men 18-24 | White Young Women 18-29 | White Young Men 18-29 | White Women 25+ | White Men 25+ | White Women 30+ | White Men 30+ |
| 1972  | 53%               | 51%             | 56%               | 55%             | 67%       | 70%     | 68%       | 72%     | 54%                     | 54%                   | 57%                     | 57%                   | 70%             | 71%           | 71%             | 73%           |
| 1976  | 46%               | 43%             | 50%               | 48%             | 65%       | 66%     | 66%       | 68%     | 48%                     | 46%                   | 52%                     | 50%                   | 67%             | 68%           | 69%             | 70%           |
| 1980  | 45%               | 42%             | 49%               | 47%             | 68%       | 69%     | 70%       | 71%     | 46%                     | 45%                   | 51%                     | 50%                   | 70%             | 71%           | 72%             | 73%           |
| 1984  | 46%               | 42%             | 51%               | 47%             | 70%       | 68%     | 72%       | 71%     | 46%                     | 44%                   | 50%                     | 48%                   | 70%             | 70%           | 73%             | 73%           |
| 1988  | 42%               | 38%             | 46%               | 42%             | 66%       | 65%     | 69%       | 68%     | 41%                     | 40%                   | 46%                     | 44%                   | 51%             | 51%           | 53%             | 54%           |
| 1992  | 51%               | 46%             | 54%               | 50%             | 71%       | 70%     | 73%       | 72%     | 52%                     | 50%                   | 55%                     | 53%                   | 73%             | 72%           | 74%             | 74%           |
| 1996  | 48%               | 33%             | 43%               | 36%             | 63%       | 61%     | 64%       | 63%     | 38%                     | 36%                   | 41%                     | 39%                   | 64%             | 63%           | 66%             | 65%           |
| 2000  | 38%               | 34%             | 43%               | 38%             | 64%       | 62%     | 65%       | 64%     | 38%                     | 36%                   | 42%                     | 40%                   | 65%             | 64%           | 67%             | 66%           |
| 2004  | 50%               | 44%             | 52%               | 46%             | 68%       | 65%     | 69%       | 67%     | 50%                     | 47%                   | 52%                     | 50%                   | 69%             | 68%           | 71%             | 70%           |
| 2008  | 52%               | 45%             | 55%               | 47%             | 68%       | 64%     | 68%       | 66%     | 53%                     | 46%                   | 56%                     | 49%                   | 68%             | 67%           | 71%             | 68%           |
| 2012  | 45%               | 38%             | 49%               | 42%             | 66%       | 63%     | 68%       | 65%     | 45%                     | 39%                   | 49%                     | 43%                   | 68%             | 66%           | 69%             | 67%           |

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the CPS Nov. Voting and Registration Supplements, 1972-2008

**Table 1b – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012**

Selected Series

**Midterm Years**

| Year | African-American Young Women 18-24 | African-American Young Men 18-24 | African-American Young Women 18-29 | African-American Young Men 18-29 | African-American Women 25+ | African-American Men 25+ | African American Women 30+ | African American Men 30+ | Latina Young Women 18-24 | Latino Young Men 18-24 | Latina Young Women 18-29 | Latino Young Men 18-29 | Latina Women 25+ | Latino Men 25+ | Latina Women 30+ | Latino Men 30+ |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1974 | 18%                                | 17%                              | 22%                                | 2%                               | 40%                        | 41%                      | 42%                        | 43%                      | 17%                      | 20%                    | 17%                      | 21%                    | 35%              | 39%            | 39%              | 42%            |
| 1978 | 22%                                | 21%                              | 25%                                | 25%                              | 45%                        | 44%                      | 47%                        | 46%                      | 15%                      | 19%                    | 19%                      | 24%                    | 40%              | 44%            | 43%              | 47%            |
| 1982 | 27%                                | 25%                              | 31%                                | 29%                              | 51%                        | 49%                      | 54%                        | 53%                      | 21%                      | 22%                    | 23%                      | 23%                    | 43%              | 44%            | 47%              | 49%            |
| 1986 | 27%                                | 25%                              | 31%                                | 30%                              | 50%                        | 49%                      | 53%                        | 51%                      | 20%                      | 17%                    | 24%                      | 21%                    | 43%              | 43%            | 46%              | 48%            |
| 1990 | 22%                                | 21%                              | 27%                                | 25%                              | 47%                        | 45%                      | 49%                        | 48%                      | 19%                      | 14%                    | 23%                      | 18%                    | 41%              | 40%            | 44%              | 43%            |
| 1994 | 18%                                | 15%                              | 23%                                | 21%                              | 43%                        | 43%                      | 45%                        | 44%                      | 22%                      | 14%                    | 23%                      | 16%                    | 37%              | 38%            | 40%              | 42%            |
| 1998 | 14%                                | 23%                              | 21%                                | 47%                              | 44%                        | 49%                      | 19%                        | 47%                      | 11%                      | 21%                    | 14%                      | 37%                    | 37%              | 39%            | 40%              | 40%            |
| 2002 | 21%                                | 18%                              | 25%                                | 21%                              | 47%                        | 43%                      | 49%                        | 45%                      | 16%                      | 10%                    | 18%                      | 13%                    | 36%              | 35%            | 38%              | 37%            |
| 2006 | 23%                                | 17%                              | 27%                                | 20%                              | 48%                        | 42%                      | 50%                        | 44%                      | 17%                      | 16%                    | 20%                      | 18%                    | 37%              | 34%            | 39%              | 37%            |
| 2010 | 28%                                | 21%                              | 30%                                | 25%                              | 50%                        | 45%                      | 52%                        | 47%                      | 18%                      | 14%                    | 16%                      | 16%                    | 37%              | 33%            | 39%              | 36%            |

**Table 1b – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012**

Selected Series

**Presidential Years**

| Year | African-American Young Women 18-24 | African-American Young Men 18-24 | African-American Young Women 18-29 | African-American Young Men 18-29 | African-American Women 25+ | African-American Men 25+ | African American Women 30+ | African American Men 30+ | Latina Young Women 18-24 | Latino Young Men 18-24 | Latina Young Women 18-29 | Latino Young Men 18-29 | Latina Women 25+ | Latino Men 25+ | Latina Women 30+ | Latino Men 30+ |
|------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1972 | 38%                                | 35%                              | 43%                                | 41%                              | 59%                        | 61%                      | 60%                        | 62%                      | NA                       | NA                     | NA                       | NA                     | NA               | NA             | NA               | NA             |
| 1976 | 30%                                | 29%                              | 36%                                | 34%                              | 56%                        | 55%                      | 58%                        | 58%                      | 28%                      | 30%                    | 32%                      | 33%                    | 46%              | 51%            | 48%              | 54%            |
| 1980 | 32%                                | 31%                              | 39%                                | 37%                              | 60%                        | 57%                      | 62%                        | 59%                      | 28%                      | 23%                    | 31%                      | 29%                    | 52%              | 53%            | 56%              | 56%            |
| 1984 | 44%                                | 40%                              | 48%                                | 44%                              | 65%                        | 62%                      | 67%                        | 64%                      | 35%                      | 30%                    | 37%                      | 33%                    | 55%              | 55%            | 59%              | 59%            |
| 1988 | 17%                                | 14%                              | 23%                                | 21%                              | 47%                        | 44%                      | 49%                        | 59%                      | 19%                      | 11%                    | 21%                      | 14%                    | 37%              | 37%            | 39%              | 40%            |
| 1992 | 41%                                | 36%                              | 45%                                | 40%                              | 63%                        | 61%                      | 65%                        | 63%                      | 37%                      | 29%                    | 41%                      | 37%                    | 56%              | 55%            | 58%              | 57%            |
| 1996 | 34%                                | 27%                              | 39%                                | 32%                              | 57%                        | 54%                      | 58%                        | 56%                      | 28%                      | 20%                    | 32%                      | 25%                    | 51%              | 47%            | 53%              | 50%            |
| 2000 | 36%                                | 33%                              | 42%                                | 37%                              | 61%                        | 57%                      | 62%                        | 59%                      | 26%                      | 25%                    | 31%                      | 28%                    | 51%              | 49%            | 52%              | 51%            |
| 2004 | 47%                                | 42%                              | 50%                                | 41%                              | 63%                        | 59%                      | 64%                        | 62%                      | 34%                      | 32%                    | 38%                      | 33%                    | 53%              | 48%            | 54%              | 50%            |
| 2008 | 61%                                | 51%                              | 64%                                | 52%                              | 70%                        | 63%                      | 71%                        | 64%                      | 41%                      | 37%                    | 44%                      | 38%                    | 54%              | 50%            | 55%              | 52%            |
| 2012 | 55%                                | 44%                              | 60%                                | 46%                              | 73%                        | 65%                      | 74%                        | 67%                      | 37%                      | 32%                    | 40%                      | 34%                    | 53%              | 50%            | 54%              | 52%            |

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the CPS Nov. Voting and Registration Supplements, 1972-2012



**Table 1c – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012**  
Selected Series

**Midterm Years**

| Year | Single Young Women 18-24 | Married Young Women 18-24 | Single Young Women 18-29 | Married Young Women 18-29 | Single Young Men 18-24 | Married Young Men 18-24 | Single Young Men 18-29 | Married Young Men 18-29 | Single Women 25+ | Married Women 25+ | Single Women 30+ | Married Women 30+ | Single Men 25+ | Married Men 25+ | Single Men 30+ | Married Men 30+ |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1974 | 28%                      | 22%                       | 30%                      | 29%                       | 27%                    | 24%                     | 29%                    | 31%                     | 48%              | 53%               | 51%              | 56%               | 41%            | 56%             | 44%            | 59%             |
| 1978 | 28%                      | 22%                       | 30%                      | 30%                       | 26%                    | 22%                     | 28%                    | 31%                     | 48%              | 57%               | 54%              | 60%               | 44%            | 58%             | 48%            | 61%             |
| 1982 | 28%                      | 23%                       | 31%                      | 33%                       | 28%                    | 24%                     | 31%                    | 33%                     | 50%              | 60%               | 55%              | 64%               | 45%            | 61%             | 48%            | 64%             |
| 1986 | 26%                      | 21%                       | 28%                      | 30%                       | 24%                    | 21%                     | 27%                    | 29%                     | 45%              | 57%               | 52%              | 61%               | 40%            | 58%             | 44%            | 61%             |
| 1990 | 26%                      | 18%                       | 28%                      | 30%                       | 23%                    | 18%                     | 26%                    | 28%                     | 48%              | 58%               | 50%              | 61%               | 39%            | 58%             | 45%            | 61%             |
| 1994 | 25%                      | 23%                       | 27%                      | 30%                       | 21%                    | 23%                     | 24%                    | 30%                     | 43%              | 58%               | 48%              | 60%               | 37%            | 58%             | 41%            | 60%             |
| 1998 | 19%                      | 20%                       | 23%                      | 26%                       | 18%                    | 16%                     | 20%                    | 26%                     | 40%              | 54%               | 44%              | 56%               | 35%            | 55%             | 39%            | 56%             |
| 2002 | 21%                      | 21%                       | 23%                      | 28%                       | 18%                    | 18%                     | 20%                    | 26%                     | 40%              | 55%               | 45%              | 57%               | 34%            | 56%             | 38%            | 58%             |
| 2006 | 24%                      | 23%                       | 26%                      | 31%                       | 21%                    | 23%                     | 23%                    | 29%                     | 41%              | 57%               | 45%              | 59%               | 47%            | 57%             | 41%            | 58%             |
| 2010 | 23%                      | 20%                       | 24%                      | 27%                       | 21%                    | 19%                     | 23%                    | 28%                     | 38%              | 55%               | 43%              | 57%               | 33%            | 55%             | 37%            | 57%             |



**Table 1c – Voter Turnout Among U.S. Citizens, 1972-2012**  
Selected Series

**Presidential Years**

| Year | Single Young Women 18-24 | Married Young Women 18-24 | Single Young Women 18-29 | Married Young Women 18-29 | Single Young Men 18-24 | Married Young Men 18-24 | Single Young Men 18-29 | Married Young Men 18-29 | Single Women 25+ | Married Women 25+ | Single Women 30+ | Married Women 30+ | Single Men 25+ | Married Men 25+ | Single Men 30+ | Married Men 30+ |
|------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1972 | 60%                      | 46%                       | 61%                      | 54%                       | 55%                    | 45%                     | 56%                    | 55%                     | 66%              | 70%               | 66%              | 72%               | 60%            | 72%             | 60%            | 77%             |
| 1976 | 51%                      | 40%                       | 52%                      | 49%                       | 45%                    | 40%                     | 47%                    | 49%                     | 61%              | 68%               | 62%              | 70%               | 56%            | 69%             | 55%            | 71%             |
| 1980 | 48%                      | 41%                       | 50%                      | 50%                       | 44%                    | 39%                     | 46%                    | 50%                     | 64%              | 72%               | 67%              | 74%               | 56%            | 72%             | 58%            | 74%             |
| 1984 | 50%                      | 40%                       | 53%                      | 51%                       | 43%                    | 41%                     | 46%                    | 50%                     | 65%              | 72%               | 67%              | 75%               | 57%            | 72%             | 60%            | 74%             |
| 1988 | 44%                      | 36%                       | 47%                      | 46%                       | 39%                    | 35%                     | 41%                    | 44%                     | 60%              | 70%               | 65%              | 72%               | 51%            | 70%             | 55%            | 72%             |
| 1992 | 53%                      | 45%                       | 56%                      | 56%                       | 48%                    | 39%                     | 49%                    | 53%                     | 65%              | 76%               | 67%              | 78%               | 56%            | 75%             | 59%            | 76%             |
| 1996 | 40%                      | 35%                       | 42%                      | 46%                       | 34%                    | 30%                     | 36%                    | 39%                     | 55%              | 67%               | 58%              | 69%               | 46%            | 66%             | 49%            | 68%             |
| 2000 | 39%                      | 38%                       | 42%                      | 48%                       | 34%                    | 34%                     | 36%                    | 45%                     | 55%              | 69%               | 58%              | 71%               | 47%            | 68%             | 49%            | 69%             |
| 2004 | 51%                      | 44%                       | 53%                      | 54%                       | 45%                    | 38%                     | 45%                    | 48%                     | 61%              | 72%               | 63%              | 73%               | 51%            | 71%             | 53%            | 72%             |
| 2008 | 52%                      | 51%                       | 54%                      | 59%                       | 45%                    | 41%                     | 46%                    | 52%                     | 62%              | 72%               | 64%              | 73%               | 52%            | 70%             | 54%            | 70%             |
| 2012 | 46%                      | 36%                       | 48%                      | 53%                       | 38%                    | 35%                     | 41%                    | 47%                     | 61%              | 71%               | 64%              | 72%               | 51%            | 69%             | 53%            | 70%             |

Source: Authors' Tabulations from the CPS Nov. Voting and Registration Supplements, 1972-2012

## **NOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Youth without college experience are defined as those who have no experience attending technical/vocational programs, associate's degree programs, or four year college programs. This group includes youth who have completed a high school education or GED and those who have not. The college attending group is comprised of young people who have been enrolled in college in the past or are currently enrolled.

<sup>2</sup> College enrollment data are only available for 18-to 24-year-olds.