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Exclusive Analysis: Role of Young Voters in New York Primary

Driven by Participation in Democratic Primary, Young People in New York Vote in Record Numbers; Youngest Voters Support Sanders

Medford/Somerville, MA – Young people participated in record numbers in yesterday’s New York primary, according to youth vote experts from the [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 Civic Life](#).

In New York, the estimated youth turnout of 14 percent was higher than the 12 percent attained in 2008 and 2000. This participation level was driven largely by the Democratic primary, where young people made up a record-setting 18 percent of all voters. Youth made up 10 percent of New York Republican primary voters, but for the first time in this election season, Republican youth participation did not set a state record.

As with many other states thus far, young people were more likely to support Senator Bernie Sanders (65 percent) than Secretary Hillary Clinton (35 percent) in New York. However, this was largely due to the youngest voters, 18-24 year olds, who supported Senator Sanders at a much higher rate than their slightly older counterparts: 81 percent of 18-24 year olds chose Senator Sanders, while only 53 percent of 25-29 year olds supported him, a more marked split between the two Democratic presidential candidates. Senator Clinton won all other age groups

With an estimated 86,000 young people casting ballots, youth participation in the Republican primary exceeded 2008, but not 2000. The exit-poll sample size for 18-29 year olds was too low to derive reliable estimates of how Republican youth allocated their votes.

“The New York primary results provide another example of young people’s interest in this presidential election, with record-setting participation among young Democrats,” says Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of CIRCLE. **“On the Republican side, any continued decrease in youth participation in state contests beyond today could raise questions about the**

enthusiasm of young Republicans who, overall, have been slower to coalesce around front-runner Donald Trump.”

For CIRCLE’s full New York primary analysis please see [here](#).

Throughout this election season, [CIRCLE’s 2016 Election Center](#) will continue to offer new data products and analyses providing a comprehensive picture of the youth vote, both nationally and in targeted states and congressional districts across the country. CIRCLE researchers also will provide insight into key states where young people have the potential to shape the 2016 election, as rated in CIRCLE’s [Youth Electoral Significance Index](#).

CIRCLE youth vote experts are available for interviews and/or analysis.

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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 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.