

CIRCLE Growing Voters: Community Organizations and Local Institutions

Community groups, organizations, and local institutions are a key part of the ecosystems that can grow voters. Both overtly political nonprofits or issue-advocacy organizations as well as student clubs, local museums, health centers, libraries, art spaces, and more can directly reach and engage young people—and often serve as a political home that nurtures their civic development.

THE FACTS

80%

of 18 to 29-year-olds agreed with the statement “It is my responsibility to get involved and make things better for society;” they’re ready for opportunities to engage in community efforts.

46%

of young Black people were contacted about the election by a youth-serving organization in 2020, highlighting the key role these groups can play in reaching otherwise underserved youth.

65%

vs. 36% of youth ages 18-21 with a Bachelor’s or Associate’s degree were almost twice as likely as youth without a degree to be contacted by community organizations. They must redouble efforts to reach young people who aren’t in college.

The CIRCLE Growing Voters is a paradigm shift to transform how policymakers and many other stakeholders can strengthen young people’s equitable engagement in democracy. Learn more, engage in this work, and share it with others at:

circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters

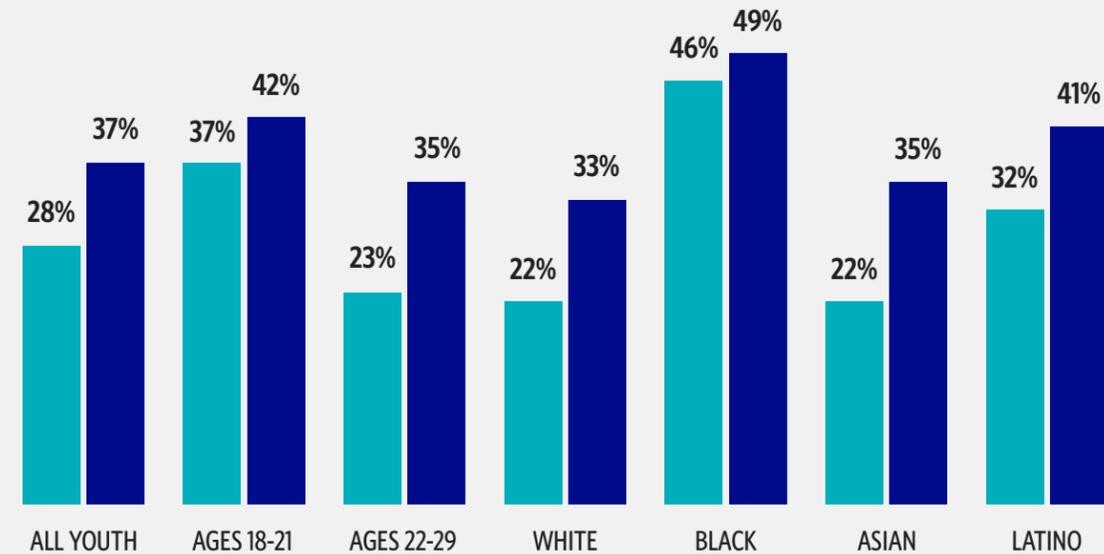


Youth-Focused Organizations Must Do More:

Young people were more likely to be contacted about the 2020 election by a community group that doesn't focus on youth than by a youth-focused organization. The latter must further embrace their role in growing voters among their core constituency.

YOUNG PEOPLE CONTACTED BY YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, BY GROUP

By age and by race/ethnicity, youth-focused organizations lag behind other community organizations in reaching out to young people about elections



■ Percentage Contacted at Least Once by Youth Organization
■ Percentage Contacted at Least Once by Community Organizations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION: HOW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS CAN GROW VOTERS



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