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Exclusive Analysis: Role of Young Voters in Indiana

High Youth Turnout Compared to Other States in 2016; Young Voters Favor Trump, Sanders

Medford/Somerville, MA – Driven by participation in the Republican primary, **estimated youth turnout reached 25% in Indiana**, 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](#).

Overall, an estimated 247,000 young people (17-to-29 year olds) cast ballots in Indiana, accounting for an estimated 14% of all voters. More youth participated in the Republican primary (133,000) than in the Democratic primary (115,000). With an estimated one-quarter of youth casting a ballot, Indiana is at the higher end of youth turnout compared to other states this year. It is higher than states like Maryland (18%), Florida (17%) and New York (14%), similar to Michigan (27%), Illinois (26%) and Missouri (27%), but surpassed by New Hampshire (43%) and Wisconsin (33%).

On the **Republican** side, Donald J. Trump received an estimated 46% of young votes, while Senator Ted Cruz garnered 39% and Governor John Kasich received 11%. As in most other state contests, young people were somewhat less supportive of Mr. Trump than older age groups. Indiana marked the third state in which Mr. Trump has received as high a proportion of young votes in a Republican primary, in addition to Pennsylvania (52%) and Mississippi (45%).

On the **Democratic** side, young voters favored Senator Bernie Sanders over Secretary Hillary Clinton (74% to 26%). As in New York, 18-24 and 25-29 year olds are estimated to have supported Senator Sanders at different levels, with the younger group most supportive of him (81% for 18-24 year olds vs. 64% for 25-29 year olds). Yesterday's Democratic primary represented a considerable drop from the estimated number of youth (115,000) who participated in the 2008 Indiana Democratic primary (213,000). However, because the overall number of Democratic voters decreased, the youth share of voters in Indiana (18%) actually increased slightly over 2008 (17%). Young people made up a larger portion of the Indiana Democratic primary electorate than voters 65 and over (18% vs. 16%).

"Yesterday's results in Indiana reinforced some of the trends we have seen throughout

2016: high youth turnout – particularly among young Republicans – and an enthusiasm gap for both parties’ front-runners,” said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of CIRCLE. “With the focus now turning to the likely nominees and the general election, the question for young people is: what’s next? Will they maintain or increase their level of engagement and assert their influence to shape the election? And importantly, how will campaigns reach out to them and address the issues they care about?”

For CIRCLE’s full analysis of the Indiana primary, 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 general 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.