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## **EXCLUSIVE RESEARCH: The Youth Vote in South Carolina & Looking Ahead to Super Tuesday**

# ***Youth Turnout High in South Carolina; Young Voters Prefer Different Candidates than Older Voters***

Medford/Somerville, MA – In South Carolina, for the first time in the 2016 contests, [more youth participated](#) in a state’s Republican primary than the Democratic one. Overall youth turnout in the 2016 presidential primaries in [South Carolina was 18%](#), according to exclusive analysis by 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 Citizenship and Public Service.

Though Secretary Hillary Clinton won decisively in South Carolina, young people ages 17-29 continued to prefer Senator Bernie Sanders, 54% to 46%, a far smaller margin of support among youth than he enjoyed in previous 2016 contests. Young Republicans’ vote choice also differed from that of older primary voters, as youth were less likely to support Donald Trump – 26%, compared to 33% of all primary voters – and supported Senator Ted Cruz as their top pick (with 28%).

Nearly 130,000 young people went to the polls in the South Carolina primaries. The Republican primary on Saturday, February 20, drew an estimated 74,000 young people, while roughly 55,000 young people participated in the Democratic primary on Saturday, February 27.

**“Once again, young voters turned out in large numbers in South Carolina, particularly on the Republican side, and expressed a different candidate preference than older voters,”** said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director of CIRCLE. **“This is a story to continue to watch in the Super Tuesday contests: young people are participating and, potentially, gearing up to shape this election.”**

**Immediately following tomorrow’s Super Tuesday contests, CIRCLE will be releasing exclusive analysis of the youth**

## **voter turnout and candidate support data, including:**

- **Number of under-30 voters**
- **Youth turnout percentage**
- **Youth vote choice by party**
- **Support for each candidate among under-30 voters**
- **Comparisons to previous presidential elections**

**This information will be posted as soon as it comes available at [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org).**

Throughout this election season, [CIRCLE's 2016 Election Center](#) will continue to offer new data products and analyses, such as our [full breakdown of the youth vote in the South Carolina primary](#). CIRCLE has also released its exclusive [Youth Electoral Significance Index](#), which analyzes a range of data to generate top-ten rankings for 2016 congressional races and states in the presidential race. You can view historical data on youth turnout via [CIRCLE's interactive maps](#).

**CIRCLE youth vote experts also are available for interviews and/or analysis. Media outlets should contact: Kristofer Eisenla at [kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com) or 202-670-5747**

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*CIRCLE ([www.civicyouth.org](http://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 Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.*

*The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service (<http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/>) is a national leader whose model and research are setting the standard for higher education's role in civic engagement education. Serving every school of Tufts University, Tisch College creates an enduring culture that prepares students to be lifelong 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.*