



CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research
on Civic Learning & Engagement

For Immediate Release
February 6, 2008

Contact:
David Roscow
703-276-2772 x21

Over Three Million Citizens Under the Age of Thirty Participate in Super Tuesday Primaries

Young Voters Support Obama and Huckabee and McCain

Youth Voter Experts Available for Interviews
Contact David Roscow at 703-276-2772 x21

Washington, DC – More than 3 million eligible citizens under the age of 30 participated in the Super Tuesday contests, according to preliminary estimates by CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement). Over 2 million young people participated in the Super Tuesday Democratic contests compared to roughly 900,000 in the Republican contests. (See Table 2.) Of the eight states that were also part of Super Tuesday in 2000, seven saw increases in youth turnout, and in some of these states, youth turnout tripled or quadrupled. In the Democratic contests, Obama won the largest share of the youth vote in ten Super Tuesday states. Clinton won the youth vote in three states (MA, CA, and AR). In the Republican contests, youth support varied by state. (See Table 3.)



Table 1 –Super Tuesday Presidential Primary Participation in 2008
18-to-29-Year-Old Citizens

| Super Tuesday Primary | Youth Turnout Rate | Youth Turnout Rate in 2000 | Turnout Rate of Age 30 and Over | Overall Turnout Rate | Number of Youth Who Voted | Youth as Share of All Voters |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| AL | 19% | N/A | 36% | 32% | 135,597 | 13% |
| AR | 11% | N/A | 29% | 25% | 48,112 | 9% |
| AZ (17-29) | 7% | N/A | 25% | 21% | 59,267 | 7% |
| CA | 17% | 13% | 32% | 29% | 873,508 | 14% |
| CT | 12% | 7% | 22% | 20% | 51,436 | 10% |
| GA | 21% | 7% | 34% | 31% | 281,724 | 14% |
| IL | 18% | N/A | 37% | 32% | 377,996 | 13% |
| MA | 25% | 11% | 40% | 37% | 231,022 | 14% |
| MO | 21% | 7% | 35% | 32% | 190,863 | 14% |
| NJ | 18% | N/A | 32% | 29% | 187,889 | 11% |
| NY | 12% | 12% | 20% | 18% | 311,833 | 13% |
| OK | 14% | 4% | 33% | 29% | 82,609 | 13% |
| TN | 15% | 3% | 30% | 27% | 139,831 | 12% |
| UT | 15% | N/A | 29% | 25% | 66,248 | 16% |
| TOTAL | | | | | 3,037,935 | |

Source: The share of primary voters is obtained from the states respective Republican and Democratic National Election Pool exit polls conducted by Edison/Mitofsky. The numbers of votes cast are obtained from the CNN.com (2/ 6 /2008; vote counts represent at least 95% of precincts reporting.) Estimated voter turnout is obtained by taking the estimated number of votes cast and dividing it by the estimated population of 18-to 29-year-old citizens and citizens over the age of 30 from the Current Population Survey (2007). ID, KS, MT, WV and NM are not included in Table 1 because they only held a Democratic or a Republican contest. AK, CO, ND, and DE are not included because they did not have exit polls for both races. MN was not included because no vote tally was available.

"Young Americans have been turning out to vote at remarkable rates in these primaries. This reflects their deep concern about the critical issues at stake and the impact of this election on our country's future," said CIRCLE Director, Peter Levine. "Since 2000, young people have been volunteering at high rates and are becoming more interested in news and public affairs.

Page 2/ Super Tuesday Results

Now they are ready to consider voting as a way of addressing major problems. The Millennials are beginning to make their distinctive and lasting mark on American politics."

The results from the Super Tuesday contests punctuate the findings of national focus groups that CIRCLE conducted last fall. The research showed that college students are deeply concerned about issues, involved personally as volunteers, and ready to consider voting. But they want political leaders to be positive, to address real problems, and to call on all Americans to be constructively involved.

Comparisons to other caucuses and primaries must be made with caution, because turnout is affected by the date of the primaries and by the nature of the Democratic and Republican presidential campaigns, which are different in every state. "Closed" primaries and caucuses tend to depress turnout since Independents cannot participate.

Because there is no actual count of the number of votes cast by young people in the primaries, we can only estimate their level of participation. Our turnout estimates are based on early vote tallies reported by the media, the share of voters who are young calculated by the National Election Pool exit/entrance polls, and an estimate of the eligible voting population obtained from the Census Current Population Survey (CPS). The 2008 voter turnout rate may rise as more votes are tallied. (The early vote tally does not include such votes as absentee ballots and provisional ballots.) As a result, our 2008 turnout rate likely underestimates the level of participation in the 2008 Super Tuesday primaries. The following table provides estimates of youth participation in the each primary by party.



**Table 2 – 2008 Super Tuesday Presidential Primary Participation
By Party
18-to-29-Year-Old Citizens**

| State | Democratic Primaries | | Republican Primaries | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Number of Primary Participants | Share of Primary Participants | Number of Primary Participants | Share of Primary Participants |
| AL | 71,574 | 13% | 64,023 | 12% |
| AR | 26,517 | 9% | 21,595 | 10% |
| AZ | 31,201 | 8% | 28,066 | 6% |
| CA | 645,965 | 16% | 227,543 | 10% |
| CT | 34,929 | 10% | 16,507 | 11% |
| GA | 176,948 | 17% | 104,775 | 11% |
| IL | 290,660 | 15% | 87,337 | 10% |
| MA | 168,863 | 14% | 62,159 | 13% |
| MO | 114,863 | 14% | 75,870 | 13% |
| NJ | 143,497 | 13% | 44,392 | 8% |
| NY | 257,719 | 15% | 54,114 | 9% |
| OK | 36,149 | 9% | 46,451 | 14% |
| TN | 79,663 | 13% | 60,366 | 11% |
| UT | 20,847 | 17% | 45,401 | 16% |
| TOTAL | 2,099,395 | | 938,599 | |



**Table 3 – Super Tuesday Youth Vote Choice
by Party**

| State | Democratic Candidates | | | Republican Candidates | | |
|-------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------|------------|
| | Clinton | Obama | Huckabee | McCain | Paul | Romney |
| AL | 32% | 64% | 51% | 22% | 4% | 24% |
| AR | 56% | 43% | 68% | 16% | 6% | 7% |
| AZ | 37% | 59% | 15% | 32% | 9% | 43% |
| CA | 51% | 47% | 22% | 34% | 8% | 31% |
| CT | 39% | 58% | 11% | 51% | 18% | 9% |
| GA | 23% | 75% | 43% | 23% | 8% | 24% |
| IL | 29% | 69% | 28% | 30% | 13% | 22% |
| MA | 49% | 48% | 4% | 36% | 7% | 52% |
| MO | 30% | 65% | 43% | 27% | 9% | 18% |
| NJ | 39% | 59% | 8% | 46% | 17% | 19% |
| NY | 43% | 56% | 15% | 43% | 11% | 21% |
| OK | n/a | n/a | 38% | 26% | 3% | 28% |
| TN | 44% | 53% | 38% | 25% | 14% | 15% |
| UT | 25% | 70% | 2% | 6% | 4% | 88% |

Source: www.cnn.com

This increase in youth turnout in the early primary season continues a trend observed in other elections since 2000. In the 2006 congressional elections, the voter turnout rate among 18-to-29-year-olds increased by three percentage points compared to the previous congressional election of 2002. And in the 2004 presidential election, the national youth voter turnout rate rose 9 percentage points compared to 2000, reaching 49 percent. In 2004, under-30-year-olds were registered to vote at the highest rate in 30 years.

Definitions

Youth: For the purpose of the Super Tuesday primaries, we define “youth” as citizens between the ages of 18 and 29 on February 5, 2008.

Number of youth who voted: An estimate of how many youth participated.

Youth share primary participants: An estimate of the number of young people who participated in the primaries as a percentage of the number of *all people* who participated in the primaries.

Youth turnout rate: An estimate of the number of young people who participated in the primaries as a percentage of the total number of young people who were eligible to participate in either primary.

The youth turnout rate is the best indicator of how young Americans are engaging in the political process. The other statistics—the sheer number of youth participants and the youth share of the electorate—can change because of factors unrelated to youth engagement.

CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) promotes research on the civic and political engagement of Americans between the ages of 15 and 25. Since 2001, CIRCLE has conducted, collected, and funded research on the civic and political participation of young Americans. CIRCLE is based in the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy and is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, Carnegie Corporation of New York and several other foundations.