

Youth Vote
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1. Why is youth vote (18-34) important in our work?
 - a. 29% of registered voters in Congressional District 27 are between 18-34 years of age
 - b. Average of the last three general elections: 24% of voters in District 27 were youth
 - c. 27% of registered voters in Congressional District 45 are between 18-34 years of age
2. How the youth vote can affect California elections 2022:
 - a. Early waves of vote-by mail, seniors outpaced youth by 5 to 1. Late-received but post-marked on time ballots were made up of 33% young voters and 15% seniors.
 - b. Katie Porter had a modest lead from mail voting, lost votes during in-person voting, but surged in late-processed mail vote.
 - c. Early votes for Karen Bass mayoral election favored her, but election day gave Rick Caruso a lead. Ballots tallied after election day came in with a wide margin for the more progressive Bass.

History of Youth Vote

3. Youth aged 21 and older were able to vote until 1971
 - a. 26th Amendment to the constitution lowered the voting age to 18.
 - b. Civil Rights and Vietnam war influenced this constitutional change
4. Historical youth (18-29-year-olds) voter turnout in **presidential elections**
 - a. 1972 55%, same as general turnout
 - b. Steadily decreased to 40% in 1996, youth underrepresented compared to 50% overall turnout
 - c. Increased to 51% in 2008 when Obama campaigned reached out to youth, with 62% turnout overall
 - d. Increased to 55% in 2020, whereas overall turnout was 67%
5. Factors that currently affect youth vote in **presidential elections**
 - a. Pre-registration: Youth registration to vote is 9% higher in the states (1/2 of the US states) that allow youth to pre-register at 16 and 17 when getting their driver's license.
 - b. On-line registration –
 - i. Youth voter registration is 10% higher in areas where on-line registration is allowed.
 - ii. Lack of information about voter registration – A 2020 pre-election poll found that 34% of young people ages 18-29 did not know if their state offered online voter registration.
 - c. Same-day registration –
 - i. Twenty-one states and D.C. allow same-day registration

- ii. Same-day registration disproportionately increases the turnout of young people (ages 18-24), especially during presidential elections.
 - d. Automatic Voter Registration at DMV
 - i. In 2020, youth voter registration was 3.5 points higher in places with automatic Voter Registration.
 - e. Mail-in voting –
 - i. In 2020, youth turnout was highest (57%) in states that automatically mailed ballots to voters.
 - ii. States with the most restrictive vote-by-mail policies averaged lower youth turnout (42%).
- 6. Factors affecting youth in 2022 **mid-term elections**
 - a. 27% of youth (18-29) voted vs. 46% overall turnout
 - b. As with presidential elections, states with automatic and same-day registration had greater youth turnout.
 - c. There is a broad trend for increased youth turnout over the past decade.
 - d. National youth vote choice for the U.S. House of Representatives as 63% for Democrats and 35% for Republicans.
 - i. The choice of young women was 71% for Democrats and 26% for Republicans.
 - ii. For youth of color, 87% voted for Democratic House candidate compared with 57% of young white youth.
 - iii. Youth identified as LGBTQ voted 93% for Democrats and 5% for Republicans.
 - iv. Youth from small towns or rural areas voted for Republicans 64% vs. 33% of urban youth.
 - v. Only 12% of youth who voted in 2022 had not attended college; they make up 40% of the population.
- 7. What issues are important to youth? National poll by the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School surveyed 2,069 young Americans 18- to 29- years old between March 12-22, 2023.
 - a. President Biden’s job performance stands at 36% among youth, slipping 5 points since spring 2022; approval is 38% among registered voters
 - b. What issues are important to youth:
 - i. Abortion
 - ii. 40% are concerned about being a victim of gun violence. 63% support stricter gun laws.
 - iii. Half support implementing law enforcement policies similar to England where firearms are not provided to regular police officers.
 - iv. 65% of youth believe basic health insurance is the right of all people.
 - v. 62% feel the government should provide food and shelter to those unable to afford them.
 - vi. 59% believe the government should spend more to reduce poverty.
 - vii. 50% believe the government should do more to curb climate change

8. I recently rode home from the airport with a lovely 21-year-old (parents immigrants from Afghanistan) who knew a great deal about local and national politics but had never voted. His parents were not citizens. I texted him the next day with voter registration information. He promised me he would vote.

<https://circle.tufts.edu/2022-election-center>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/younger-voters-are-poised-to-upend-american-politics/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/11/10/1135810302/turnout-among-young-voters-was-the-second-highest-for-a-midterm-in-past-30-years>

<https://iop.harvard.edu/youth-poll/45th-edition-spring-2023>

<https://voiceproject.ucsf.edu/what-unique-about-young-voters>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/06/1191961698/youth-voter-registration>